

Narrative Report

of

4-H Club Work

in

Alexander County

1937

Agnes Williams

Home Demonstration Agent

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Map.....	2
Organization.....	3
Achievement Day.....	4
Monthly Programs as Executed.....	5
4-H Club Programs.....	6-8
Projects	
Clothing.....	9
Expressions of 4-H club girls....	10-11
Canning.....	12
Health.....	13
Contests.....	14
Honors Won.....	14
Recreation.....	14
State Short Course.....	14
Demonstration Teams.....	14
4-H Camp.....	15
Exhibits.....	16
Outlook and Recommendations.....	17

## ALEXANDER COUNTY



• 14 H-H Clubs — Enrollment 253

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT OF 4-H CLUB WORK

Organization:

There were fourteen (14) 4-H clubs organized in Alexander County with an enrollment of 253 girls. Eight of these clubs were very active and were held jointly with the Farm Agent.

Federation:

County:

A county wide achievement day was held August 13th for 4-H girls and Farm Women. About twenty boys and girls were present.

State:

In July the Home Agent and two 4-H members attended the State Short Course in Raleigh.

Schedule of Meetings:

A definite regular schedule of 4-H meetings was followed. The meetings were held once a month during the school months beginning in September and running through April. There were ninety (90) 4-H meetings held with an attendance of 1912.

Special 4-H Activities:

Club picnics in May.

Camp in June.

Short Course in July.

County-wide Achievement Day and picnic in August.

Canning Contest in August.

Dress Contest in October.

4-H girls serve at the County Official Dinner.

4-H boys and girls give Table Manners Drill at Achievement Day and Brushy Mountain Fruit Growers Convention.

### ACHIEVEMENT DAY

About twenty boys and girls were present at the first county-wide Achievement day for Home Demonstration and 4-H Clubs of Alexander County.

They assisted with the program by putting on a Table Manners Drill. Those putting on this drill were: Kate Vestal, Johnny Stevenson, Hazel Watts, Eddie Campbell, and John Charles Echerd, all of the Taylorsville Junior Club. It came off well and everybody seemed to enjoy it.

The King, Argyle McLead, and Queen, Faye Barnes, of Health were crowned by Mr. Shiver, the Farm Agent, and a yearly report of 4-H club work in Alexander County was given by Jane Alspaugh. Three other 4-H girls assisted with the registration and with the picnic lunch.

Miss Reba Lackey of the Stony Point Senior 4-H Club won first place in the canning contest, and Polly McHargue of the same club won second place.

## Monthly Programs as Executed.

### Joint Program:

A short joint meeting of 4-H boys and girls was held at the beginning of each 4-H club meeting. Some of the joint programs were:

- (1) Organization of the Club.
- (2) Introduction to 4-H Club work.
- (3) Parliamentary Procedure.
- (4) Christmas Program.
- (5) The Meaning of the 4-H's.
- (6) Debate: Farm versus, City Life.
- (7) Team Demonstration on "Table Manners."
- (8) Team Demonstration on "Standing Up to the World."

The joint meetings seem to make the 4-H club meeting more interesting; it unifies the problems of boys and girls; it makes a stronger club; and it gives an opportunity to cooperate with Farm Agent and boys for mutual benefit.

### Project Programs:

Alexander County 4-H girls carried clothing as their major project this year, and since so many of the clubs were new we began with very simple things. Their requirements were:

- (1) A tea towel made from flour sacks and hemmed by hand. Scarf optional for older girls.
- (2) Study of the Sewing Machine.
- (3) Study of patterns.
- (4) Making a Gertrude slip.
- (5) Making a pair of pillow cases.

The things listed above in addition to a scrap book and clothing and health record books were required before the girl could go to camp. This information was presented to the 4-H girls through demonstrations and discussions.

#### 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

"Do We Want To Become Farmers" was the program topic for discussion in February.

Five boys and girls discussed the following topics:

- (1) The Farmer Has Better Food.
- (2) Clothing and Homes Not So Good.
- (3) The Farmer Lives Longer.
- (4) The Farmer Accumulates More Wealth.
- (5) The Farmer May Enjoy His Work.

After these discussions, the Home and Farm Agents led a general discussion among all the boys and girls in the clubs. The discussion was first taken up as to the disadvantages of living on a farm as compared to the city. After this was fully discussed, and then the opposite side was taken up and discussed, the boys and girls discovered that most of the advantages lay on the farming side.

A vote was taken to see who preferred to stay on the farm and who preferred to move to the city. The farming side was very much in the majority. Many of them said they had not realized just how fortunate they were, living on a farm.

#### 4-H HEALTH PROGRAM

"Standing Up To The World" was given as a team demonstration in all the clubs. In most of the clubs, this was ably presented. We noticed the most improvement in the Little River 4-H Club. This is a small club, and at the beginning of the year, it seemed almost hopeless. The children had to be told everything, and then shown everything. At the time, it seemed a very slow process, but upon the conclusion of their April program, we felt that alot had been accomplished. The president took charge and conducted the meeting beautifully, with no help at all. The secretary had very good minutes, and the members went right ahead with the demonstration as nicely as any one could ask. Instead of using posters to illustrate the various postures, they illustrated by assuming these postures themselves, which brought the matter "right home". We are quite proud of this club.

Another outstanding small club in the county is the Oxford 4-H club. This club always has their programs up and their work ready to hand in. Out of seven members of the club, five handed in dish towels which were scored "excellent". They have a fine leader-- Mrs. George Childress.

#### 4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

During January the program for the combined groups was the presentation of the meaning of the 4 H's: Head, Heart, Hands, Health.

For the girls alone, Health was taken up and discussed. In this discussion, I tried to bring out two main points:

- (1) Health as a means to happiness.
- (2) Health as a means to success.

I tried to make them feel that they are laying the foundation for their future lives, and upon this foundation depends their happiness, and success. In applying health to their daily lives at the present time, I likened Health to a game and compared it with the game of basket ball. We found that the same rules applied to each:

- (1) One must have certain rules to follow.
- (2) One must know these rules before trying to play the game.
- (3) One must practice these rules until they become a habit before being able to play the game well enough to win.

During January each of the health rules were discussed, also bringing in the fact that clean hose and underclothes are a daily necessity.

The girls seemed extremely interested in this discussion and were very anxious to begin practicing the rules of health. The Health Record Books were given out, along with various leaflets on the care of the teeth, hair, skin, etc., which they plan to put in their scrapbooks.

# Clothing Projects:

Number enrolled 243

Number completing 175

The following articles from the Junior 4-H clubs were on exhibit during Farm and Home Week at Raleigh.

Slip	Lena Belle James	Little River Club
Slip	Joyce Brookshire	Taylorsville Club
Tea towel	Johnny Stevenson	Taylorsville Club
Tea towel	Linda Sue Cloer	Taylorsville Club
Pillow cases	Oriel Russell	Oxford Club
Pillow cases	Louise Adams	Hiddenite Club
Doll Outfit	Oriel Russell	Oxford Club

Several 4-H club girls have realized some small prizes on their last year's clothing project. Alexander County girls, Lena Belle James and Joyce Brookshire respectively won first and second place on their slips at the Catawba District Fair which was a nice record competing with Catawba and Caldwell Counties.

Wilma Crouch who is eleven years old and a member of the Stony Point 4-H club won third place on her cotton school dress.

There was some beautiful work done on pillow cases; seven girls received small special prizes for displaying their pillow cases in the 4-H club booth even though they were not listed in the handbook of the Fair Association.

There were five entrants from the county in the State Clothing Contest:

Frances McHargue	Stony Point Club
Barbara Grey Norton	Stony Point Club
Faye Barnes	Taylorsville Club
Ruth Lackey	Stony Point Club
Wilma Crouch	Stony Point Club

Each of these girls made their dresses, and underwear. Frances McHargue won first place in County and Barbara Grey Norton second place. Both of these girls got a trip to Raleigh where the first place winner competed in the State Contest. This trip created a lot of interest in 4-H club work in the county, neither of the girls had ever been to Raleigh before.

Ruth Lackey made a very nice two piece dress out of fertilizer sacks and dyed it brown so it would be suitable to wear to school this fall and winter.

30

### What My Club Work Has Meant To Me

I have greatly enjoyed this club. It has taught me so many things. Since I have been in the club I have been able to help my mother. Now, since I have made a slip, I think I can make my own all the time.

I am also glad we had a program on table manners. We go on so many trips I'm sure it would pay to learn them. I watched the program very carefully. Mother said it helped me alot.

I was glad when we learned different things about the sewing machine, and different stitching too.

Since I need some more pillow cases I think I will make another set. They were very easy to make.

Best of all I enjoyed making my dish towel. When you said we had to make one I thought it would be very hard. But it happened it was very easy. I had never heard of the blandet stitch until you told us we had to use it on our dish towel. When mother was telling me how to do it I thought I could never learn how, but it was the easiest of all the stitches.

I think one reason was that caused me to like the work so well was because of my teacher, Miss Gordon. I hope I shall have her next year for my teacher. I am sure every one enjoyed her.

By:

Christine Zachary  
Junior 4-H Member

42

### What My 4-H Work Has Meant To Me

During my first year of 4-H work I have learned many new things.

In making my Tea Towel, Slip and Pillow Slips I learned how to make several new stitches. The new stitches are the invisible hemming stitch, the outline stitch, the blanket stitch, the satin stitch and others.

In making my slip I learned how to lay a pattern on cloth, make French seams and sew straighter.

I have also learned better table manners since a few members of the 4-H club gave a program about table manners and then Miss Row talked to us.

I am very interested in the 4-H club work and have enjoyed all we have done this year.

By:

Johnny Stevenson  
Junior 4-H Member

Canning Project:

Number enrolled 10

Number completing 10

Results:

Reba Lackey of the Stony Point club watched an adult demonstration on canning corn and acquired very good skill last summer in canning it herself. She won first place in the County Canning Contest with a jar of peaches and corn, and she won second place at the Catawba District Fair.

These ten girls canned 200 quarts of fruits and vegetables. Technique of these girls in canning procedures was greatly improved.

### Health Project:

Good Health was one of the most important items in 4-H club work. Some feature pertaining to good health was stressed practically at every meeting. Special emphasis was placed on the improvements of posture.

A health contest was held in the 4-H clubs in the spring.

Argyle McGleod and Faye Barnes were our Health King and Queen this year, so they were taken to Charlotte to compete in the District Health Contest. Faye won first place and Argyle tied with Jay Tucker from Mecklenburg County. They were re-examined at Salisbury where Jay won first place. However we were very proud to have both of them win so high a rating. Faye was taken to Raleigh where she competed in the State Health Contest.

Contests

County Health	Number Participating	220
County Canning	Number Participating	10
County Clothing	Number Participating	5
State Health	Number Participating	1
State Clothing	Number Participating	Approximately 65

Honors WonCounty:

Faye Barnes who was selected as Queen of Health of Alexander County entered District Health Contest and won first place. Then entered State Contest but did not receive a placing.

Reba Lackey won first place in the County Canning Contest and second place at the Catawba District Fair.

Frances McHargue won first place in the State Clothing Contest in Alexander County. Then she went to Raleigh but did not receive a placing there.

Lena Belle James and Joyce Brookshire won first and second places respectively on their slips at the Catawba District Fair. Second and third placings were won on underwear and dresses.

Recreation

In May each one of the clubs had a picnic about 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon. These were thoroughly enjoyed; it was such a nice occasion for training in recreation and fair play. Each member supplied something toward the picnic supper.

State Short Course

Number attending from Alexander County Girls: 2 .

Number clubs represented 2 .

Demonstration Teams

- 11 Team Demonstrations trained in "Standing Up to the World" and given in their respective clubs.
- 11 Team Demonstrations trained in "Table Manners" and given in their respective clubs.
- 1 Team Demonstration trained in "Table Manners" and given at the Achievement Day program and also at the Brushy Mountain Fruit Growers Convention.

4-H CAMP

Where held Swannanoa.

Attendance: Boys 12 ; Girls 6 ; Others 3.

Eighteen (18) Alexander County boys and girls went to the 4-H camp at Swannanoa, where they were joined by the 4-H boys and girls from Hokecomb County.

During the week, various activities were enjoyed, such as: swimming, hiking, playing games, and etc. Classes on the following subjects were conducted: Leaf Study, Table Manners, Everyday Manners, Personal Health, First Aid, and Swimming.

At night, a program of fun, preceded by a devotional period was enjoyed by all.

Exhibits

## County:

Clothing and canning exhibit at the Achievement Day and also at the Catawba District Fair in a 4-H Booth. Articles of the best work selected from all clubs.

## State:

Clothing exhibits at the Farm and Home Week in Raleigh.

### Outlook and Recommendations

For 1938 the Farm Agent and I plan to concentrate our time to eleven 4-H clubs rather than trying to have a larger number. All of the clubs will be held jointly.

Clothing is the major project with the Junior 4-H Clubs and Room Improvement with the Senior 4-H Clubs. The Stony Point Junior 4-H Club will have a few lessons in Foods since they are so extremely interested.

We have some very fine prospects for 4-H Club work. I believe we will be able to get some good results during another year.