

COLUMBUS COUNTY

July 15 - September 15, 1941

**REPORT FILES**  
**EXTENSION WORK**

Hettie Pearl Mallard

Home Demonstration Agent

*Nothing  
in case  
H. P. M.*

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Organization. For nine years Columbus County was without a Home Agent, and organized Home Demonstration Work was at a standstill during that period of time. An appropriation of \$1100.00 for the work for 1941-42 was made in the budget of county finances by the Board of Commissioners at their June meeting and on the first Monday of July, Hattie Pearl Mellard was officially elected and accepted the position of Home Demonstration Agent of Columbus County. On July 16, 1941, Miss Mellard began the job of familiarizing the people with the program and reorganizing the work in Columbus County. Visits were made in all sections of the county--18 communities--and there were community meetings held in eight of these during the two months. Four clubs were actually organized, electing officers who would lead these communities. They were: Pinesy, Cerro Gordo, Bolton and Cranoe Island.

2. Home Demonstration Projects. During all visits and at all meetings special emphasis was placed on the growing of fall gardens and the canning of surplus foods. News articles were published in regard to the need of a more nutritious diet and how this might be accomplished. Two canning demonstrations were given.

Home Furnishings was an outstanding topic, especially along the line of good bedding and the proper care of beds, since so many were receiving mattresses. One other mattress center was opened at Freeman, making a total of three centers in the county.

In explaining Home Demonstration Work in general, all the projects were discussed at each of the community meetings. Each community meeting ended with recreation, thus bringing about the realization of the importance of the recreation project.

3. Cotton Stamp Program. One meeting was held in connection with the Cotton Stamp Program at which both white and colored people eligible for receiving cotton stamps were invited. Eighty attended. An exhibit of cotton garments, articles, and materials was displayed and at the close of the meeting the following song was sung:

(Tune: Pack Up Your Troubles)

Get out your cotton stamps and go to town  
And buy, buy, buy  
Household articles and clothes to wear.  
Cottons are more in style,  
You can wash and wear them  
In comfort, joy and pride.  
So, get out your cotton stamps and go to town  
And buy, buy, buy.

Pack up your bundles in your market bag  
And smile, smile, smile.  
We can wear more cottons and be happier too  
For cottons are in style.  
We have grown and made it.  
So, why not use it too?  
For cotton is our product  
To wear, wear, wear.

4. Farm and Home Week. Eight women attended the conference held during Farm and Home Week at State College in Raleigh. These women represented five communities: Fireway, Evergreen, Cerro Gordo, Acme Calico, and Cherry Grove.

5. 4-H Short Course. To help in arousing the interest in 4-H Club work special effort was made during the short time before the State Short Course was held to get boys and girls to attend the State 4-H Short Course in Raleigh. Two girls and one boy, accompanied by a good prospective adult 4-H leader and the Home Agent, attended the State 4-H Club Health Pageant and the Coronation of the State King and Queen of Health.

6. Cooperation with Other Organizations

a. Federated Women's Club. The Home Agent visited three Federated Women's Clubs and was appointed recreation leader of the Whiteville Women's Club.

In making plans for the annual Flower Show of the Chadbourne Women's Club, suggestions were given and an outline of the necessary organization of committees was submitted. Judges were secured by the Home Agent and the programs were planned and made in the County Extension office.

b. Girls' Scout Camp. Instructions and assistance were given at the annual Girl Scouts' Camp held at Lake Waccamaw at the request of the Whiteville Women's Club, who are sponsors of the organization. Eleven 8-ply board book backs were made during the week of the meeting.

c. Farm Security Administration. Two Farm Security homes were landscaped by the Home Agent after going on the Fara and Home Tour with representatives from seven of their tenant purchase families. The Home Agent and Home Supervisor of the F. S. A. made two community visits together.

d. Rural Electrification Association. The Home Agent accompanied the County Agent to one community in regard to informing the people of the possibility of getting an R. E. A. line through the community. In the Fireway community effort was made to interest the people already on an R. E. A. line in using other labor saving electrical equipment. (Picture showing use of washing machine.)

e. Work Projects Administration. Visits were made to the WPA community cannery to give suggestions and assistance. WPA was cooperating with the managers of the County Fara in saving surplus produce grown on the farms by canning this food on shares.

f. National Youth Administration. Mattress ticks were made by colored NYA youths for the cotton mattress program. The Home Agent supervised the making and also gave suggestions as to the making of mattresses which the youths were making for the County Welfare Department. The Home Agent secured the Singer Sewing Machine Company agent to service all the machines used at the NYA center, both NYA and those rented by the Extension Department.

g. The Rotary Club. The Home Agent attended and participated in the Whiteville Rotary Club program, explaining Home Demonstration work in general and what was hoped to be accomplished in Columbus County.

h. Two-County Home Economics Organization. At the beginning of the school year the Home Economics teachers of Bladen and Columbus Counties met in Whiteville, at which time a plan for closer cooperation between the teachers and Home Agents was worked out. The discussion was led by the Columbus County Home Agent, since the other agent was unable to be present. Adult classes were discussed and the monthly topics planned by the Home Agent were presented for their consideration. Extension bulletins and information were distributed for class room use. Following the meeting the Home Agent worked with three new Columbus County teachers in pressure canning, so that they might teach the method in their food preservation unit.

i. County Welfare Department. The County Welfare Superintendent and the Home Agent had two conferences, discussing general conditions of the county and the needs of various communities. Suggestions for cooperation between the two departments were given. Both realized the need of working together.

j. County Health Department. Information was received by the Home Agent from the County Health Department as to sanitary conditions of the county. It was decided that instead of taking the cabinet which was being used by the Health Department (although it belonged to the Home Demonstration Department) the County Health Department would pay for the building of another cabinet to be placed in the Home Agent's office.

k. Parent-Teachers Association. At the Evergreen P. T. A. meeting, the Home Agent explained Home Demonstration Work in general, and then led the groups in community singing for about thirty minutes.

7. Changes in County Extension Organization. On July 1, 1917, Columbus County made an appropriation for a Home Agent. For sixteen years the work was carried on and much progress was made. But in July 1933 the Commissioners failed to plan for Home Demonstration Work in their budget, so for nine years Columbus County was without the services of a Home Agent. In June 1941 plans were made for the work to be continued, and on June 15 Hattie Pearl Wallard came to the county as the Agent.

Columbus County is one of the four largest counties in the State. It is a very rural county, Whiteville being the largest town. Other small towns are Cerro Gordo, Chadbourn, Evergreen, Bolton, Acme Delco, Hallsboro, Tabor City, and Lake Waccamaw.

The chief crops grown in the county are tobacco and strawberries; however, the climate and soil are suitable for most any crop and a well-rounded live-at-home program can be conducted on any farm in the county.

Some communities are organized but most of the county lacks organization. However, the people appear very interested and from the visits and contacts made

there will be at least twenty wide awake, very active large clubs in the county, and could be more should the Home Agent have the time to work with more communities.

To arouse interest in the Extension organization, there was an effort made to get as many women to attend the conference held during Farm and Home Week in Raleigh for the men and women of the State. Eight women attended: Mrs. Emma Williamson from Evergreen, Mrs. Harry Bullock from Cerro Gordo, Miss Mary Lemmon from Acme Delco, Mrs. A. P. Worley and Mrs. H. E. Deese from Cherry Grove, Mrs. B. B. Formy Davall from Old Dock, Mrs. Willie Jacobs from Pireway, and Mrs. C. D. Branch from Oakdale Community. These women were to act as leaders in the clubs which were to be organized in their communities. Mrs. Harry Bullock represented the county at the State luncheon and also at the tea, held on the campus at State College during Farm and Home Week.

Since the Home Agent was new in the county the Farm and Assistant Farm Agents went with the Home Agent in all communities, introducing her to some of the outstanding families.

Having organized the mattress program which was under way, the County and Assistant Farm Agents helped with this program, especially in familiarizing the Home Agent with the present setup and in locating and in making preparations for new centers. They assisted in delivering supplies and equipment to the various units and in seeing the program run smoothly.

There was splendid cooperation among the Extension agents working in the county and every consideration of the other agents was given by each.

After making contacts and visits and after much study and consideration as to the need of the county on the part of the County Extension workers, it was decided that the project which should receive the most attention were Food



Preservation, Gardening, Clothing, House Furnishing, Home Beautification, Poultry, Health and Sanitation, and Recreation. The suggested monthly topics for the year were:

- September - School Lunches  
Fall Styles  
Canning - The Pantry Shelf.
- October - Whole Grain Cereal Dishes (Use of Home Grown Wheat)  
Way of bringing style to old garments.
- November - Christmas cakes (from the pantry shelf)  
Pruning and setting trees and shrubs  
Exhibit of Christmas gift suggestions
- December - Christmas Party  
Decorating for Christmas (demonstration)
- January - Outlook for 1942 (?)  
Record Books - Keeping Accounts  
Canning meats
- February - Making Common Winter Vegetables Uncommon  
The Easter Poultry Flock (Poultry notes)  
The Permanent Lawn
- March - The Importance of Milk in the Diet  
Planning the Easter Suit (colors, styles, etc.)
- April - Kitchen Sanitation (general arrangement)  
Milk dishes (cottage cheese)
- May - Covering furniture for summer
- June - Yeast breads (whole grain)
- July - Canning fruits and vegetables
- August - Community meetings
- September - Children's school clothes  
Preserves, jams, jellies
- October - Breakfast Cereals
- November - Christmas cooking
- December - Christmas Decorations  
Christmas party

These subjects were discussed and considered very carefully. It was felt that they would be most worthwhile and interesting to most of the people in the county because of existing conditions and the lack of proper training on these subjects.

Many results of the past Extension work can be seen in the county; however, there is a great need for further work and with a great deal of effort on the part of a Home Agent in interesting and organizing the people one might expect splendid results from the people in Columbus County in Home Demonstration Work in general.

It is deeply regretted that the Home Agent left after only two months of service. It appears that plans were being made for a well organized program in the county and it is felt that it would have been better to have never started again in July than for the efforts to have resulted as they did.

Having visited in each of eighteen communities, work was begun in the organization of these people. Four clubs were organized in Pireway, Cerro Gordo, Crusoe Island and Bolton. Plans were made for other community meetings and the organization of other clubs when the work was again discontinued, due to the fact that the Home Agent resigned and the county officials were unable to secure another person to fill the vacancy. The plans were <sup>to</sup> organize clubs in each of the named communities; Pireway, Old Dock, Naminas, Cerro Gordo, Evergreen, Cherry Grove, Bolton, New Hope, Clarendon, Oakdale, Crusoe Island, Whiteville rural community, Boardman, Freeman, and Acma Delco, as early as possible. Leaders were to be appointed in each club for the major and minor projects. There were to be monthly meetings in each community.