

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT-4-B

CLARA C. YORK- NEGRO HOME AGENT

HERTFORD COUNTY

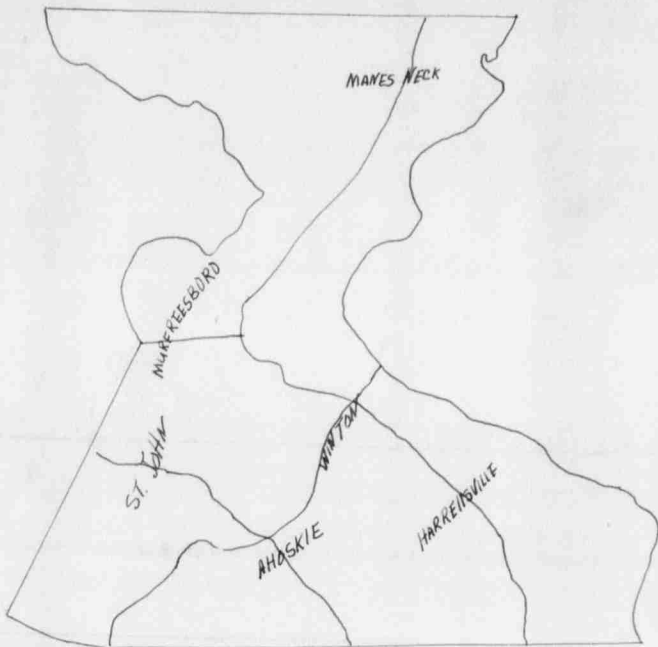
DECEMBER 1, 1946-NOVEMBER 30, 1947

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Hartford County
Map Of Hartford County

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No. 4-H Clubs covering each community 11
No. Girls enrolled 364 No. Boys enrolled 302

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Brown's <u>35</u> | 3. H'ville C. <u>36</u> | 5. Menola <u>30</u> | 7. Mt. Sinai <u>33</u> |
| 2. Catherine H. <u>30</u> | 4. Mapton <u>30</u> | 6. Mt Neck <u>33</u> | 8. M'boro <u>37</u> |
| | 9. New Hope <u>32</u> | | |
| | 10. Y'town <u>28</u> | | |
| | 11. St. John <u>40</u> | | |

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Introduction

We have eleven 4-H clubs in the county with an enrollment of 364 girls and 364 boys. These members are the elementary school, high school and out of school youth. This year we organized a new club in the St. John School. We hope to strengthen the 4-H program during this year. The girls and boys are showing greater interest in the work and hope to make some outstanding accomplishments and to attend some of the district and state activities. Club work has been organized for several years and is far reaching among the youth.

We have the cooperation of the parents, teachers, leaders and ministers. Our membership has increased for both boys and girls. The 4-H neighborhood leader system has been completed and the leaders have cooperated in carrying out the program. 4-H club meetings are held in the community schools and are held at a definite hour and date. This year our girls took up work in four major projects: Foods and Nutrition, Food Preparation, Gardening, and Room Improvement.

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Organization

There are eleven 4-H clubs organized in the county with an enrollment of 728 members both boys and girls. Each club is organized with a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, song leader, and reporter.

4-H Achievement Day

Each club has a 4-H Achievement day at the local school or a designated place in the community. All members take part in it. The community people were interested in the project work being done by their boys and girls and they show it by coming out to enjoy the program activities. A County Achievement Day is held on the same plan as the local ones but it includes the winners of the local clubs. We had Girls' Team Demonstrations, Girls' Dress Revue, Boys' Team Demonstration, and Boys' Good Grooming Contests

4-H County Council

The 4-H County Council is organized with a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, song leader, and reporter. These officers are elected by popular choice of the officers of the various local clubs. Programs were conducted for the three meetings held.

Schedule Of Meetings

County Council- Three times a year; February, May, and August.

Local Clubs- Once each month during the week following the third and fourth Sundays.

| Days | First Week | Second Week | Third Week | Fourth Week |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday | | | Vaughtantown 10:30 | Mapleton 10:30 |
| | | | Murfreesboro 1:00 | Browns' 1:00 |
| Tuesday | | | | Mt. Sinai 10:30 |
| | | | | Mt. Hill Neck 1:00 |
| Wednesday | | | St. John 10:30 | Menola 10:30 |
| | | | | |
| Thursday | | | | H'ville. Chapel 10:30 |
| | | | | C. Haynes 1:00 |
| Friday | | | New Hope 10:30 | |
| | | | | |

Special 4-H Activities

There are many enjoyable activities in which 4-H clubbers may refresh themselves as a reward for completing good projects. This year we had a special joint outing which is always welcomed by all the members; a long trip out of town. They accompanied the adults on the trip to Mantoo to see the parent The Lost Colony. No member was eligible unless he or she had participated in some phase of the Extension Program. The home agent assisted the members in planning the program and men and women attended. Evora Stephenson, Rt. 1, Come, said, I had never seen so much water and sand in all my life. I didn't know people could find such a cool place to spend hot summer days. That play about the first people coming to America was just like we read it in history books at school. I have never had so much fun and seen so many different sights in all my life as I saw in that one day." George Stephenson also of Rt. 1, Come, said, "I didn't go to sleep during the five hours ride back home

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and although I had only two hours to sleep I didn't mind going to work the next morning to see some of my friends to tell them about the wonderful time we had on the trip."

At Christmas and Thanksgiving each club carries out a special holiday program for the club members and help needy people in the community by giving them gifts, performing special services for them, and cheering them up.

Neighborhood Leader System

The plan is that we have a women neighborhood leader in each neighborhood of each local club for the purpose of helping to put over string and outstanding programs of work. They assist members in filling out and keeping records and in planning and completing projects. These leaders have really been a great help this year in the following:

1. Helping with the club, county, district, and state 4-H club activities.
2. Helping to provide better recreational facilities for the young people.
3. Becoming familiar with projects offered the girls and helping them with them.
4. Holding meetings with the girls on subjects suggested in the State Wide Homemaking program.
5. Giving canning demonstrations.
6. Reporting to the home agent of activities of their group.
7. Helping the girls keep their records.
8. Encouraging parents to cooperate in project work.

As a result of the services rendered by the 4-H neighborhood leaders we have an increase in membership, better project work reported, more members being personally supervised, and greater interest in the program.

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Monthly Programs as Executed

Joint Programs:

A ten minutes educational program is a part of each monthly meeting. Both boys and girls take part on the programs. Once each year they present an all girls' program and an all boys' program to see which can give the better presentation. This creates a lot of interest and oftentimes bring out some good hidden talent. As a result of the programs the members develop more poise and self control. The business part of each meeting is conducted jointly so that each member can have a voice in it and serve wherever needed.

Project Programs:

Project instruction was presented by the home agent and the farm agent. The groups meet together when the lesson is one that is of interest to boys and girls, if not they separate, the girls with the home agent and the boys with the farm agent.

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Team demonstrations were given on Milk and Milk Dishes for the girls and Marketing Sweet Potatoes for the boys.

The home agent gave the following demonstrations during the year. Picking the School Lunch- January, A Quick and Sure Method of Making a Dewas - February and March, Measuring Happiness in Our Home - April, Canning - May, Care of Furniture - September, Home Beautification Flower Arrangement and Spraying Peach Trees for Borers- October, Preparation of Vitamin C Foods - November.

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Projects

Clothing

No. enrolled 364

No. completein 119

A club dress revue was held in each of our eleven 4-H clubs in April. Following the club dress revue we conducted a county dress revue in Winton. The girls winning first, second and third place for the county were Georganna Anderson, Elsie Anderson and Etta Anderson. These were all three sisters from the Vaughantown school. Their dresses were cotton school dresses, of red and white flowered print. Two patterns were shared by the three, the style was very fitting for them as they were of a slender build which goes well with durndies.

The plan was to have atleast 100 girls make dresses and enter the club revue. All materials and patterns were selected by the members themselves. The agent, leaders, and teachers assisted them in cutting and fitting their dresses. Half of them had never done any sewing at all except for making doll clothes. The results was that they took more interest in their work and did a better job than many of the older girls who had had some experience in sewing.

Demonstrations Given

Quick and Sure Method of Making a Dress:

This demonstration was given in February and March as preparation for the girls to enter the dress revues. Last year they learned about color combinations and suitable styles, so they made better selections of patterns and materials. Their first step was to learn how to follow instructions on a pattern then follow the guide sheet throughout the sewing process. Basting, pressing and fitting were stressed from the start as they are a secret to a well finished look.

4-H Uniform Construction:

The specialist gave the first demonstration on 4-H Uniform Construction and following that, the agents learned the kind color, and style of the newly adapted 4-H girls uniform. It was not easy to find materials even for demonstration purposes. After continually combing the local stores and factories throughout the state the agent secured enough material for the completion of about fifty complete uniforms. Neatness, fit, and completeness was stressed about every thing else. The members were not always encouraged to make their uniform if they were not fare enough advanced to do the job. It was done in many instances by parents, leaders, or a hired seamstress.

Foods and Nutrition

No. girls enrolled 364

No. girls completing 254

No. Meals and dishes prepared 1862

Two very helpful demonstrations were given on this project by the agent and where ever possible they were followed up during the home visits. The demonstrations were #2 (1) Packing The School Lunch and (2) Preparation of Vitamin C Foods.

I. Packing The School Lunch:

Packing the School Lunch was demonstrated by the home agent in ten 4-H clubs. There is only one school in the county in which a well balanced lunch is provided and most of the children have to bring lunch from home. This is often gotten very hurriedly with little thought of what to include and how appealing to the appetite it will be when lunch time comes. It was found that most of the families had enough food of the right kind on hand as it was produced on the farm or was included on the regular market order. A surprising small number of children were bringing lunch from home and the reasons given for doing this was that they didn't like cold food or it was too much trouble to fix it.

During the demonstrations they learned what to include on the lunch shelf as foods, wax paper, napkins, and lunch box. Paper bags were commonly used to carry lunchin, but it was decided that a good lunch box should be easy to sterilize, easy to carry, and large enough to carry the foods needed. Some of these were made at home while others were purchased.

As a follow up of the lesson the clubbers were asked to bring a lunch every day and by the next meeting try to provide all the supplies needed and bring a lunch to be served for a check up on what habits they had improved.

II. Preparation of Vitamin C Foods:

The basis of this demonstration was taken from the results of a three day dietary survey made in the county in the early spring with school children ranging in ages from 8-11 years. Along with other problems the survey showed that families are not eating enough foods which contain Vitamin C such as green leafy vegetables and the raw and yellow vegetables. All of these are foods which may be produced at home or on the farm.

The agent gave fourteen demonstrations and the local leaders gave three demonstrations. Attendance was very good, over three hundred were present. Meetings were held in the schools with proper equipment for the preparation.

Demonstration materials consisted of fresh raw vegetables purchased from local stores or home growers. These were carrots, cabbage, turnips, collards, sweet potatoes, green pepper, lettuce, tomatoes, white potatoes, and citrus fruits. To make canned milk dressing we had carnation milk, vinegar, salt, sugar, and paprika.

Not many of the members knew that veg tables should be cooked quickly, in a tightly closed pot, with as little water as possible, and eaten fresh to get all the benefits from them. As a result of this lesson I find that more families are serving raw vegetables for atleast one meal a day. " Bennie Porter of Rt. 1, Murfreesboro, said, " I didn't know people could eat raw vegetables like chickens and hogs do without it making them sick. I believe they taste as good raw as cooked and left to eat cold, just give me plenty salt and pepper."

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Family Relationship and Child Development

No. enrolled 364

No. completing 119

The agent gave the club program. It was given to both boys and girls. The program was followed up for the second month check up. Parents were given the same questions or a similar set which applied solely to adults. It was accepted as a school or training meeting of every day problems and how to solve them. Many of the questions asked had been done by coincident but after recalling them they had brought about very satisfactory results.

4-H club members (boys and girls) have been helped with the following problems.

- a. 22 personal relationship with own family.
- b. 55 assumed additional responsibility in the home.
- c. 24 social relationship between boys and girls.
- d. 10 courtship and preparation for marriage.

Problems of young people which seem to be most significant in my county.

1. Finding some wholesome way of entertaining.
2. Do not like spending long hours at home with the family.
3. Finding friends that parents approve of.
4. Parents are too critical of friends.

About 182 four-H members are assisting in the care of young children. They are helping in the home with their younger sisters and brothers or a close relative.

FOOD PRESERVATION

No. enrolled 364

No. completing 250

In every 4-H club in the county the girls did some work in food preservation. The plan was to have each girl to learn the importance of canned food in the home and to get some practical information and experience in canning. With the rising cost of living and the limited amount of food to be found on the market, a pantry stacked full of foods will add to a well planned diet including the basic seven foods in addition to improving the family's standard of living.

The girls who had been in 4-H club work before had already had some lessons on canning methods. The agent and 4-H neighborhood leaders gave more instructions on methods and details in relation to spoilage and poor quality canned foods. Canning demonstrations were given at school using the school lunchroom or a portable oil stove or in the home of a member. Girls assisted by seeing that the containers and canning equipment was clean and thoroughly sterilized, they graded and prepared the foods for packing, and did some actual cooking and processing. Duties were changed frequently to see that each girl had a chance to learn every part of the canning process. Where they could be trusted or thought they had mastered the job they were encouraged to can alone at home, while the others assisted their mothers or some adult by doing the things they could do.

Instructions on drying fruits and vegetables were given along with the canning lessons and every girl had something to do. as I visited one of the girls' home when she and her mother were canning, the mother was hurrying to finish in order to show me

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her pantry and get some advice on how to arrange for a window and more shelf space, she began to put tops on without sterilizing them and wiping the top of her jars and the twelve year old daughter had been watching her, she said, "Wait mother you should never put tops on jars without first cleaning the food spilled off the tops and putting the tops in boiling water to kill the germs."

Number quarts of food canned.

Number pounds of food dried.

Fruits 1940 quarts
Vegetables 1500 quarts
Meats 455 quarts

Fruits 40
Vegetables 20
Meat and fish 40

Number pounds food stored

Vegetables 1272 pounds.

HOME MANAGEMENT FOR YOUNG GIRLS

Room Improvement

No. enrolled 310

No. completing 191

We still have rooms in the home that are far from being livable and attractive. The girls in the club enrolled in this project to see what they could do to help out in the situation. One hundred and ninety one did something about it. The living-room, kitchen and bed room were the rooms in which most of the work was done. General clean-up was stressed for all the rooms. In the major project rooms they beautified the walls, rearranged the furniture into units, as sleeping, study, dress, and bath; provided storage space and painted.

In the rooms where fire could be had they provided convenient wood boxes. The boxes were made or picked up after serving some other purpose. Legs and covers were added, then painted, some added a cushion to make a seat of it.

The men were not always willing to help when it came to making a few changes in the home but we find that one of the best ways to get them interested is to start it off ourselves. "I got the paint and painted my room as far as I could reach," said one member, "but when it came to reaching up higher, my father did the rest". A mother, father, or brother had to do the rest in many situations.

Money for supplies to improve the rooms came from various sources; some was earned from the sale of goods and services while the parents furnished it in a number of instances.

In every instance where the desired affect was accomplished the member and her family were very pleased and each felt proud of the part they had in doing it.

Results:

24 painted furniture
28 bedrooms painted
30 floors painted
31 hung curtains

22 rugs placed
12 pairs curtains made
16 arranged units
26 hung pictures

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Home Management

No. enrolled 312

No. completing 111

We put special emphasis on the need for making out plans for the use of money, as past debts, saving for the future, and present needs. This was to be a joint project of boys and girls. Their plan was not to last for a year but for a week or month at a time. Some articles saved for were clothes, school supplies, recreation, gifts, and foods.

Personal Records

The members kept their records in notebook pads or composition books. The money which they had came from no definite source or in no definite amounts; it was earned by working at home, working away from home, the sale of goods, and as gifts from others.

Rural Electrification

There was a very large number of members interested in rural electrification in the county during the year, but these groups of people experienced difficulty in securing the materials needed for wiring the homes and building the lines, and there was not enough available transformers to add new patrons to the lines already built. The agent looked into the matter of securing current. People were so eager to hasten the coming of the current that they payed little attention to the uses of electricity and how to select and care for electrical appliances.

Members were taught where to find good information to read about electricity. Books, magazines, and bulletins were collected and kept on hand. Demonstrations were given on how to repair electric cords.

As a result of the assistance on electrification more precautions were taken in selecting and caring for electrical appliances.

Farm And Home Safety

Farm and home safety was taught all our 4-H club members along with each demonstration. They checked for accidents and fire hazards around the farm and home, then figured out how they could be removed and prevent accidents from happening and practiced care and safety in the use of all things that might cause accidents.

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GARDENING

No. enrolled 364

No. completing 147

The farm and home agent did a fine piece of work throughout the year in making 4-H club members realize that gardening means the difference between well balanced meals and poor meals and that wise planning for marketing the surplus can furnish the cash needed for school and luxuries as well as the family's health will be better.

Every one was interested in producing all the vegetables they could because it was so much needed to prevent hunger during the food shortage. Many of the fathers and brothers assisted with the plowing and cultivation. The gardens were started early in the year and worked regularly throughout the growing season. The vegetables from the gardens were harvested by the 4-H members and used by the family for canning and for the table. Sixty girls canned vegetables from their garden. Geneva Gatling canned 40 quarts of tomatoes from her garden, she said, "would have sold some of them but we were busy working in tobacco and I did not have time to get them to Norfolk".

Many of the school lunch rooms in the county have been discontinued because they can't get labor and food. Marfree's club has a school garden this year for the first time, it is a new school, in a new location which replaces the old one destroyed by fire. The P.T.A. decided that a school garden would be a great help in supplementing money paid by students and the gift from a local basket company in providing a well planned lunch program throughout the year. A member was appointed to take complete charge during the summer months and supervise the work being done by the boys and girls. They purchased the seed and fertilizer with funds from their treasure. The 4-H girls are assisted by home demonstration women in preparing the lunches.

Home Beautification

No. enrolled 118

No. completing 70

Good projects in home beautification are usually by the entire family rather than the individual. These girls ranging in age from 10-15 years and old whose surroundings did not have all the features of a well kept livable home decided to do something about it. After the demonstration on planting native shrubbery they talked with the family and made plans for the part they could do. Some of the conditions which existed were, yards full of holes, big trees with roots all around, water standing in holes, no planned walk ways and drive ways, and very unsightly articles under the house and about the yard.

At the end of the year when reports were made the following reports are given.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 32 cut grass, or planted grass | 10 painted yard or porch furniture |
| 30 arranged wood piles | 30 planted shrubbery |
| 40 filled holes and made drains | 40 cleaned under and around the house |
| 2 church yards cleaned and planted | 5 school yards cleaned and planted |

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Home Poultry

No. enrolled 20

No. completing 15

In 1947 the home agent carried on work with twelve girls raising chicks for feed and three producing eggs.

We instructed the members on correct feeding and proper care of chicks; treatment for disease and sickness. The farm agent gave demonstrations on culling chicks to get rid of the poor quality ones which do not show signs of a prosperous animal. Feed was not as plentiful as in previous years but the members were able to produce most of the feed at home. They used milk and vegetables wherever possible as a supplement to corn and grain.

Seven hundred and fifty birds were raised for home use and for sale.

Leaders' Schools

Since the year 1944 four-H club work has been organized with neighborhood leaders selected from each community to assist in making a success of the program and projects. These women and men are leaders in the county communities and are skilled in these things which the members are engaged in.

In order to keep the leaders abreast in what was expected in gardening, canning, food preparation, clothing and home beautification they were called together in small groups and instructed on these projects by the agents.

We now have about 60 leaders on the job. The number has increased since last year because of the organization of a new club. The old leaders have grown more efficient in their ability to teach others. In 1947 they held 22 schools with an attendance of 2200.

Contests

1. Local:

Kind Dress Revue

No. participating --- 44

2. County

Kind Dress Revue

No. participating 14

Honors won:

Georganna Anderson, first place in county revue
Elsie M. Anderson, second place in county revue
Etta Anderson, third place in county revue.

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Community Projects

The 4-H community projects center around improving grounds of community buildings. This year we have a continuation of the projects started last year and the addition of a new one which is landscaping and grading the Warrenton school grounds. Mt Sinai club rearranged the school park, painted the park furniture and posts that stake off the area. Mill Neck assisted with cleaning the cemetery. New Hope put up more play ground equipment.

Recreation

During the month of July the 4-H club officers and members join the officers and members of the home demonstration clubs in giving a well rounded program. This year they took a trip to Manteo to see the pageant "The Lost Colony". We traveled by buses and automobile. It took about a day and a night, leaving home early in the morning of Thursday July 17 the day was spent sight seeing. Some of the things we saw were "Kill Devil Hill", little islands of water, long bridges, and thousands of curious people coming to see the same sights we were there for. The pageant was shown at night in the outdoor theater, for a while we were threatened by rain but it all turned out in our favor and we had a chance to attend the program in its' full entirety.

Aside from the annual county recreation we spend the month of December in partying the christmas way. The home agent assist the leaders in planning just the amount of activities that can be enjoyed in the time allotted for the meeting. There is always a danger of wanting to stay over time. Christmas trees are set up, gifts are exchanged, needy people are assisted, and a program is presented all by the members of the clubs.

Recreation is a part of each of the regular 4-H club meetings and the last ten minutes are used for songs and games.

Demonstration Teams

Twenty eight girls were trained in giving Team Demonstrations. They used as their subject, "Milk and Milk Dishes". They made creamed white sauce for meats and vegetables using milk as a basis of the white sauce. Each team gave its' demonstration to the club members, the local home demonstration club and the general public for the county elimination.

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Considerable progress was made in 4-H Club work during 1947. The organization of a new club increased the number of Clubs from ten to eleven and our membership went up as this is our second largest Club. New leaders have new interest and are very eager to work to make their Club the best in the County. Most of our members are young coming from the elementary schools and they carry out projects in a small way, but on the whole they are interested in the work. We have a moving picture machine, purchased through the neighborhood leader system, and it is very helpful as well as entertaining to the members. Pictures of 4-H Club work and project work from the State Office are shown to them very often. We have a group of local leaders and neighborhood leaders who are eager to make progress in the communities and they want to compete with Clubs members all over the state. The County Commissioners gave us a small budget for supplies and our demonstration materials have been more and better. The County have been greatly benefited by such an organizations and we look forward to increase our enrollment and solve more problems and bigger problems in 1948 than in 1947.