

## Home Demonstration Clubs Active In County

### Growth Of HD Work Reviewed By Nan Ratliff

Home Demonstration Agent reviews progress of program as it has developed during the past year.

By Nan Ratliff, Home Demonstration Agent, Columbus County.

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### Columbus HD Agents



Nan Ratliff, Home Demonstration Agent, and Gayle Wells, assistant agent, who are the county's team in working with rural women for the betterment of farm life.

### New 4-H Council President Sets Fine Club Work Record

#### Fourteen Year-Old High School Freshman Writes And Narrated Dress Revue; Serves As Officer For Group

Marjorie Ward of Williams Township, incoming president of the 4-H County Council, has an unusually fine record of achievement in 4-H work.

In the three years she has been active in the club she was secretary of the group her first year, vice president for two years, local program chairman for two years, attended 4-H

Marjorie Ward of Williams Township, who was recently named president of the Columbus County 4-H Council.

camp at White Lake, and wrote and acted as narrator for the Williams Township 4-H Dress Revue in 1949.

In addition Marjorie served on the 4-H County Council Social Committee for 1948-49 and was county winner in the frozen foods contest in 1947 and 1948.

### Collect

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

We had a fine encampment at Lake Waccamaw for the Columbus and Robeson 4-H groups.

### Drive For Agent In Columbus Led By Mrs. Powell

Mrs. A. Elmo Powell, Sr., a past president of the Whiteville Women's Club, may be designated properly by historians as the "mother" of Home Demonstration work in Columbus County.

The County fathers, when presented the petition, took favorable action. J. C. Stanley, C. D. Harrelson and F. B. Pierce composed the board then.

Miss Lucille Clark of Anson County was employed as the first Columbus Home Agent in 1917.

Mrs. Powell had previously spoken extemporaneously at a Achievement Nights, County

### Unpaved Roads Lent Adventure To Early Days

Mrs. Fuller Began Work As Miss Conrath In 1919; Worked During Postwar Recovery Period

By Miss Ruth Conrath Fuller (Former County HD Agent) 1919 found Columbus County in a postwar recovery state when I arrived in the fall.

My nurse's training at Johns Hopkins came into good use. Clubs were organized at Tabor City, Bolton, Evergreen, Chadbourne, Hallsboro, Guideway and Boardman.

During my stay which lasted until May 1, 1921 a great many projects were started. A roads rally was held in Whiteville which interested the farm agent and myself because there was not an inch of paved road in the county.

We had a fine encampment at Lake Waccamaw for the Columbus and Robeson 4-H groups.

The first county fair was also held that year. My clubs made many of the dress forms now so popular. I believe I was the first in the State to make them.

You should have seen our maroon outing flannel sailers with gold braid bands. They were something to be proud of. We even made all of the hats.

And we cooked—fireless—in coopers the husbands made—the soapstone variety—and they really were fine. Our iceless refrigerator.

### It's Super-Women In This Case

On the radio it's "Superman Is On the Air," but in Home Demonstration work, it is super-women who are required.

The home agents are members of and must attend meetings for most of the following clubs and organizations: State HD Association, National HD Association, District HD Association, State HD Association, State Home Economics Association, Yam Festival Committee, U. S. Department of Agriculture Council, Farm Bureau, Business and Professional Woman's Club, Red Cross Executive Committee and the Better Farming for Better Living Council.

Present officers for the organization are: Mrs. Dewey Long, president; Mrs. Eula Gray Register, vice president; Mrs. Carson Etheridge, secretary and treasurer.

### First HD Agent



Mrs. Lucile Clark Ford, who served as Columbus County's first Home Demonstration Agent from July 1, 1917 to Nov. 1, 1919.

### Long Lapse In HD Work Was Ended In 1941

Hattie Pearl Mallard Elected As First Home Agent After Service Was Discontinued During Depression Years

For nine years Columbus County was without a Home agent and organized Home Demonstration work was at a standstill.

An appropriation of \$1100 for the work in 1941 and 1942 was made in the budget by the County Commissioners at their June meeting and Hattie Pearl Mallard was officially elected as Home Agent in July to reinstate the Extension service here.

Miss Mallard began familiarizing the people with the program and started reorganizing the work in Columbus County. Visits were made to all sections of the county to 18 communities.

To arouse interest in the Extension program there was an effort to get women to attend the conference held during Farm and Home Week in Raleigh.

Plans were made for other community meetings and the organization of other clubs were made.

Thirty women entered their kitchens in a county-wide kitchen improvement campaign early in 1926.

Twenty-three women attended the first encampment for club women held at Lake Waccamaw.

### Former Agent Writes History From 1925-1932

County Council Organized In 1925 To Get Clubs Off To A Good Start; Mrs. Frank Covington Named President

#### FARM, HOME AGENTS WORK HAND IN HAND

Flower Shows, Poultry Sales, Kitchen And Yard Contests And Other Projects Combined To Make For Successful H.D. Work Under Mrs. Smith

By Mrs. David Smith (Former Columbus County Home Demonstration Agent) The Extension program in Columbus County beginning January 1, 1925 was under the direction of J. T. Lazar, County Agent since 1918, and myself.

There had been the usual political game of saving tax payers of the county tremendous amounts of money by discontinuing the office of Home Agent but after the opposition had been satisfied by discontinuing the work for a month, work got off to a good start.

Realizing that the success of Extension work in Columbus County depended on a unified program, the Farm Agent and I worked jointly on the program.

During 1925 poultry was shipped by car loads from the county. Club women received a big part of the \$8,387.94 for the 30,000 lbs. shipped the first time.

Following the organization of the County Council Home Demonstration Clubs were started in fifteen communities in the county, thus changing the previous program of individual instruction to group instruction.

A curb market was conducted by the club women in the spring and summer of 1925. It was a success on a limited scale because little support was given it by Whiteville citizens.

By the close of 1925 a large number of women had become interested in Home Demonstration Clubs and county officials realized the value of group activities.

Decomposed feed materials and polluted water are sources of many digestive disorders in chicks this time of year.

### Building New Club House Is Now Project For Crusoe Island Club

The Crusoe Island Home Demonstration Club was first organized in 1941 with 15 members enrolled and Mrs. Dewey Long as president.

Present officers for the organization are: Mrs. Dewey Long, president; Mrs. Eula Gray Register, vice president; Mrs. Carson Etheridge, secretary and treasurer.

Leaders for projects are: Mrs. Dewey Long, Foods; Mrs. Ada Etheridge, Gardens; Mrs. Dewey Long, Dairy; Mrs. Lizzie Suggs, Food Preservation, House Furnishings and Home Management; Mrs. Pauline Clewis, Family Life; Mrs. Ada Spivey, Home Beautification; Mrs. Eula Gray Register, Clothing; Mrs. Carson Etheridge, Recreation and Poultry.

Club members are Mrs. Johnny Register, Mrs. Dewey Long, Mrs. Ada Etheridge, Mrs. Carson Etheridge, Mrs. Dalton Godwin, Mrs. Pauline Clewis, Mrs. Laura Duncan, Mrs. Ida Spivey, Mrs. Duff Etheridge, Miss Isele Etheridge, Mrs. Lizzie Suggs, Mrs. Hattie Etheridge, Miss Lena Mae Long, Miss Edna Ward, Miss Dottie Simmons, Mrs. Osie Long, Mrs. Percy Gore, Mrs. Agnes Canady and Miss Hattie Gore.

### Former HD Agent



Mrs. David Smith, who was Home Demonstration Agent for Columbus County from January 1, 1925 to July 1, 1932. She was then known as Miss Emiline Cleveland.

### Miss Rainwater Served 1 Year As Home Agent

Office Discontinued In July Of 1932 During Depths Of Great Economic Depression

Lois Rainwater began work as Home Agent for Columbus July 17, 1932 to succeed Emiline Cleveland.

First year clothing was then the project and the club women did a great deal of sewing for the county Welfare Department.

Miss Willie Hunter, State Clothing Specialist, conducted clothing schools for leaders on March 30, 1932. Thirty-five women met for the regular quarterly business session of the County Council.

A spring flower show was held May 19, 1932 in the court house with J. E. L. Wade of Wilmington as speaker.

On the first Monday of July of 1933 the Board of County Commissioners voted to discontinue the office of Home Demonstration agent. This was during the depths of the depression and only a few months before the "banking holiday."

Mrs. R. F. Benton, president of the County Council, and scores of others pleaded for the work but the Commissioners were unanimous in their vote.

Miss Rainwater was immediately given a position as Home Agent of Jones County. She died in the fall of 1948 while on a visit to relatives in Florida.

### Leaders Aim At Goal Of One In Each Community

Miss Nan Ratliff Explains Purposes Of Program And What Various Units Are Striving For

First HOME AGENT WAS HIRED IN 1917

First Assistant HD Agent Went To Work In September Of 1948; History Is Reviewed Briefly

BY MISS NAN RATLIFF (Columbus County Home Demonstration Agent) Who are we? How long have Home Demonstration Agents been in Columbus County? What have we done? What are we doing? What do we want to do in the future?

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Secondly, how long have Agents been in the county? Since 1917 Columbus County has had a Home Demonstration Agent "off and on".

From July 1, 1917 until May 17, 1921, Columbus County was without an agent for a period of only four days; the county was again without an agent from May 17, 1921, until July 1, 1922.

Since that time, Columbus County has maintained an Extension Worker to help the rural women with the exception of only three months. On September 15th, 1948, the first Assistant Home Demonstration Agent in the history of local Extension Work began her duties. The Assistant Home Agent is Miss Gayle Wells.

What has been done? The Extension groundwork first began under the capable leadership of Mrs. Lucille Clark Ford who was followed by such outstanding leaders and agents as: Misses Florence Ruth Conrath, Lottie Kholer, Laura Emaline Lemly, Lillie Langford, Emiline Cleveland, Lois Rainwater, Hattie Pearl Mallard, and Genevieve Eakes. The results of their leadership and untiring efforts still remain as a beacon

(Continued on Page 7)

### "Thank You"

We, Nan E. Ratliff and Gayle Wells, Home Demonstration agents of Columbus County, want to express our appreciation to Mr. Leslie S. Thompson, publisher, Mr. Willard G. Cole, editor, and Miss Mary Joe Cole, reporter, of The News Reporter for featuring the history of Home Demonstration work in Columbus County in the tobacco edition of the paper.

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### Hallsboro— Oldest Home Demonstration Club In County



### What's In A Name—Nancy (Ratliff) Gayle (Wells) Williamson (LeRoy)

A pig named Nancy Gayle Williamson... the tag that belongs to a... property of LeRoy Williamson... Gayle is not quite a pig but she is expected to be quite a hog.

the two lady members of the Extension Service, Nan Ratliff, Home Demonstration agent, and Gayle Wells, assistant Home Demonstration agent.

LeRoy had a pig... It was a lady pig... Nancy Gayle was a pretty name... and there you have it.