

## WORK OF COUNTY 4-H CLUB GIRLS

Miss Laura Howard, Home Demonstration Agent, Teaches Members to Make Attractive Pieces

(By Maude Minish Sutton)

"Playing House" is the most fascinating game that little girls play. The instinct for home creation is born in them and its vital elemental appeal makes all their other games seem hopelessly tame and artificial. Miss Laura Howard, home demonstration agent for Rutherford county, makes use of this home-making instinct in her work with her 4-H club girls.

### Pretty Furniture

These girls are designers and making, under her direction, some extremely pretty and attractive furniture for their own rooms. The furniture is durable, practical and artistic. It adds comfort and charm to the homes in which it is used. The materials of which it is made are so inexpensive that they are easily within reach of any of the 305 girls in Miss Howard's eleven clubs and the pride that they take in their pretty dressed up, rooms is most refreshing.

A girl's room is far more interesting to her when it is an expression of her own creative effort. Miss Howard recognizes this fact and, as far as possible, she lets each girl plan and design her own furniture. The success of this method was demonstrated in a booth at the Rutherford County Fair, in which the 4-H girls from all the clubs exhibited some of their furniture. The display of this work attracted a great deal of favorable comment.

### Old People Wonder

I wish I'd had the chance that girl's have this day and time", sighed one middle-aged woman as she regarded thoughtfully the pretty artistic display. "There's no sense in any girl who comes up today not knowing how to do anything there is to do. If I could have made pretty things like that when I was first mar-

ried, it would have been a sight of satisfaction to me."

"What I like about it," her neighbor replied, "is that the agent teaches them how to make use of things they've got on hand. My Bessie never comes home from one of the club meetings that she's not got some plan to fix up something we've got on hand."

"Ruth took grandma's old bureau and bed that we'd set out in the granary, and made some rugs and curtains and a screen, painted a couple of old chairs and made some cushions for them and her room is the prettiest room in the house," a third woman said with great pride. "She never spent five dollars and I'd declare I'd rather take company in that room than in my parlor."

### Girls Make Display

Miss Howard came up then and showed the woman the different articles in the booth. Three of them avowed their intention of making some of the articles displayed, and the cheery little home agent told them she'd be glad to help them plan the pieces.

The booth was one of the regular spaces in the long exhibit hall. The girls had covered its rough sides with builders paper and one of the members had lent her own curtains, made at a club meeting. They were made of unbleached sheeting bought at a remnant sale at one of the big textile mills in the county. They were draped with the daintiest tie backs imaginable. These tie backs of hand made flowers in exquisite shades were also made of remnants from the same mill. The little girl who had made these attractive hangers of her room had spent less than a dollar and secured an usually beautiful effect.

Under the double windows was a chest that, aside from its convenience and usefulness, was an ornament to the room in which it belongs. It was made of a long goods box, lined with builder's paper and thin cedar chips had been placed inside the lining. The chest was upholstered in shirting from Avondale. In the room of the little girl who made it, the chest sets under two windows that overlook the orchard, with a far view of the Chimney Rock mountains as a background. With some richly

colored pillows of Spindale Rayon it forms a window seat where the little owner may read, study or dream.

### Screen and Chair

The most unusual group in the booth was a screen and chair. The screen was a triumph of inventiveness. It was made of three panels of beaver board sawed in attractive shapes and put together with brass hinges. The girl who made the screen has a good deal of talent in painting and plans to study interior decorating. She wanted to paint a design on her screen and had no paints. A package of Easter egg dyes for paint and a sure sense of color and line resulted in a lovely screen that serves as a background for her pretty chair and conceals her washstand.

The chair, made of an orange crate, and upholstered in chambray, was also attractive and quaint. With a foot stool of a square block with doorsteps for feet and the most brilliant scrap of rayon taffeta for upholstery, this particular group was the most effective thing in the booth. But, the girl who made the screen, has an unusual gift.

It is the fact that these directed group of girls are able, because of the guidance of the home agent, to find an outlet for their talent and energies in creative home making that makes this work so worth while. Miss Howard is doing wonderful work with these Rutherford county girls, and she is one of a host of home demonstration agents who are giving just such sane, wholesome, common-sense, leadership to girls in the rural sections of the county. It would be hard to find a more constructive piece of legislation on our national statute books than the Smith-Lever bill, or a finer body of woman than the home demonstration agents in America.

### Inexpensive Things

There was a little dressing table in the booth with a stool that matched it. These two pretty articles were made by some sixth grade girls at Bostic and they used a goods box a nail keg, a small mirror and a few yards of gingham to make them. This group also showed inventiveness and skill for they had made two colonial candle brackets of wood and put them on either side of the mirror. The brackets stained a dark color and holding rose-colored candles gave a quaint individual charm to the owner's room.

None of the furniture is commonplace and in most instances, it is used in rooms that without it would be both drab and commonplace. The girls are encouraged to experiment, Miss Howard directs their experimenting unobtrusively and lets them do their own designing whenever possible, so that they have all the thrill and joy of creative accomplishment. Their intimate possessions take an added value and meaning to them when housed in an attractive room which they planned, worked for and made.

### Good For The Soul

A 4-H club meeting in Rutherford county would be good for the immortal soul of the most pessimistic critic of the younger generation. The most convenient and practical article in the booth was made out on highway 19 one July afternoon. Twenty-eight girls had assembled when the home agent got there. Gay greetings and happy discussions of the club camp planned for August took up a few moments and the work began.

A discussion of the piece of furniture to be made brought out different ideas, and the girl who was hostess and Miss Howard assembled the materials. A goods box, a small can of ten cent store paint, a strip of two by two lumber, some nails, and tacks, a hammer, a saw and several bundles of remnants from the county mills. It was most interesting to see how deftly the girls were guided into making the right selection of material and color to be used in the display and how tactfully the "jobs" were apportioned to the group.

### On Carpentry Work

Two girls were assigned the carpenter work, and in the most matter of fact way imaginable they went about sawing the lumber, nailing on hinges and putting a shelf, a towel rack, a soap box, and glass holder inside the box. The girl who had assembled the hardware, remarked as she screwed a mirror in the boxlid with toothbrush holders:

"Necessity is the mother of invention. I walked around in the 10-cent store a half hour before I saw any screws that would hold this mirror in place and look well."

In an hour's time, the curtains for the washstand and stool were hemmed and hung, the tops were padded and covered, the inside was painted white and left to dry. The completed furniture fitted into the girl's little room and added much to its beauty and attractiveness.

## MRS. ZULA GUFFEY DIED SATURDAY

Spindale Woman Succumbs to Complication of Ailments —Funeral Sunday

Spindale, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Zula Guffey died at the home of her daughter here, Mrs. Lydia Souther Saturday night. Mrs. Guffey had been in ill health for sometime, suffering from a complication of ailments.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 3:30 at Pisgah Methodist church, in upper Rutherford county. Rev. W. A. Barber, of the Spindale Methodist church, being in charge.

Mrs. Guffey is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Lydia Souther and Miss Ruth Guffey. Her husband preceded her to the grave about fifteen years ago.

## GASTONIA LOSES TO FOREST CITY 28 - 21

The Golden Tornado of Forest City Hi swept the fast Gastonia hardwood quint off their feet in a hard fought game on Gastonia's court 28-21. The game was hard fought from the start to the finish. Dorsey and Moss were leading scorers of the game. Whitlock and McKeithan played outstanding ball at guard. This is the third game for Forest City and the third straight win. The Golden Tornado will play Lattimore Hi on the local court Thursday night at 7:30. Come out and support your home team.

## SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER FOR LOCAL KINDERGARTEN

The Merry Sunshine Kindergarten will close Friday for the Christmas holidays. The children are expecting great times as they are planning a big Christmas tree and all mothers are invited and are urged to come and see their little ones enjoy this.

The kindergarten has had a very successful half year and it will reopen on December 31st as far as is known now.

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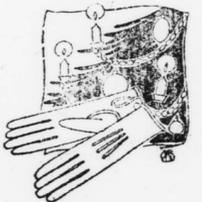


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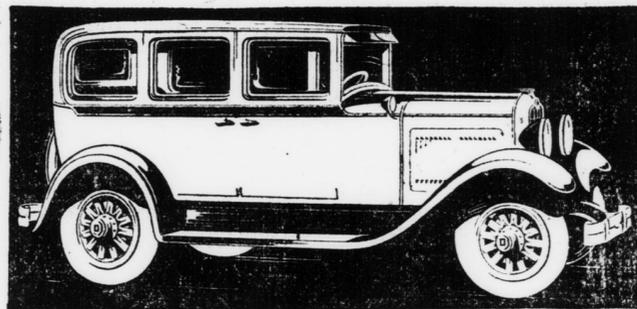
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