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Little Stories of Community Cooperation

School Consolidation Put New Life Into This Community

ABOUT five years ago a few of the more progressive citizens of our neighborhood began to advocate combining the three one-teacher schools, which ran about four months each year, and have instead a good graded school of several teachers which could run for eight months. At first they met with a good deal of opposition, but finally succeeded in getting enough interested to begin definite plans for a new building.

A site was selected as near the center of the district as possible, and work began on the new house which, when completed, presented quite a pleasing contrast to the former buildings. It consisted of three large classrooms, well equipped as to heating, light and ventilation, a lunch-room, cloak-room and a large auditorium.

The ladies soon organized a school improvement society and discussed plans for beautifying the grounds, etc. In order to raise money to help furnish the building, they gave oyster suppers, box suppers, bazaars and, with the help of the young people, had several good plays for which they charged a small admittance fee.

The girls have organized tomato clubs, and each week the county demonstrator comes one day and teaches domestic science in the nice room fitted up for the purpose in the basement.

The boys have joined the corn, poultry, and pig clubs, and have won several prizes at the annual county fair. They are planting a school orchard and vineyard and hope to have a small farm soon.

Literary Societies have been organized to meet every Friday night. Once each month they have an extra program and invite the public.

There is a decided improvement in the whole community. The farmers have painted their houses, bought improved tools, taken up modern methods of farming, subscribed to papers and magazines, some have bought autos, and in general all have a broader view of life. The women

have water in their kitchens, lights, and many of the modern things by which their work is lightened. They all find time to read some each day, and also to praise The Progressive Farmer, through which their community was brought to life.

MRS. H. A. W.
South Carolina.

What the Progressive Women of a Neighborhood Can Do

IN AUGUST, 1916, Miss Hyde, then a member of Winthrop College faculty, attended one of our farmers' institutes. While here she suggested and assisted in the organization of our club, to be known as "The Home Makers' Club." The object of this club was to broaden the outlook of home and family life, to encourage a social spirit, to consider the home a part of the community, having relation to church, school, and social well being.

This Club flourished beyond our most sanguine expectations. Beginning with few members, it now has an enrollment of thirty-two. And every member can be counted on to work for the interest of Pleasant Valley.

Under the management of this Club, we have since organized a Girls' Sewing Club, with Miss Verda Wolfe as instructress. The work of this Club has also been very gratifying. These girls, from six to sixteen years of age, have been taught to do not only darning, patching, and plain sewing, but fancy work, tatting, crochet and embroidery. Their work has been highly praised by visitors, not only at our community fairs, but, also at our county fair.

Soon after the organization of the Home-makers' Club, a School Improvement Association was organized. Joint meetings are held and each member of the Home-makers' Club is a member of the School Improvement Association. In 1914 we held a floral fair, giving premiums for the finest chrysanthemums, roses, dahlias, ferns and other pot plants. A premium was also given for the greatest improvement in front and back yards that year. Encouraged by the success of our first effort, we decided in 1915 to have a community fair, uniting with the Farmers' Club in this work.

On October 27 of this year we again had a community fair at the schoolhouse. In the women's department there was a fine display of canned fruits, vegetables, plain sewing and fancy work, showing marked improvement on work of former years. The flowers also were very fine. The farm products were in a large room of the building, and consisted of corn, oats, alfalfa, peas of all kinds, soy beans, potatoes, beets—in fact everything a farmer should raise. The livestock exhibit was excellent.

A CLUB MEMBER.

School Consolidation and Neighborhood Cooperation

FIFTEEN years ago we had four small country schools within a radius of five miles. These schools had one teacher each and terms of from three to five months. The salaries were small and the attendance indifferent. Some time later two of these schools got together and secured a good teacher for an eight-months term. This lasted awhile, and then the movement for consolidation was agitated. A meeting of all the

patrons of the three schools was held that resulted in their consolidation to form a good graded school. A suitable lot was obtained near a spring—Healing Springs—and a modern three-room schoolhouse built.

As a good school was the desire and ambition of the community, it was decided never to elect any but first-class teachers. Consequently, Healing Springs graded school has a good reputation, and has sent out boys and girls that are making good in their chosen occupations. Several have won scholarships to state schools.

We have a good library of carefully selected books, and the pupils are encouraged to read as many as they will. Anyone can have the use of books by filing for and returning same. There is an inspiration for children to go to such a school, and many walk three miles to get to this school.

Last year we organized a community improvement association that has helped unite the people to some extent, but there is much need for cooperation. In November we had our first community fair. It was a revelation as to what could be done by a few on short notice. Next year we expect to have better exhibits, for the people will know what to take to a fair. There is a stimulus for better grades in all kinds stock and products. We hope much good has been done through our association, and the future holds bright promise for more.

"A MEMBER."

What the S. I. A. of Prospect Is Doing

ON SEPTEMBER 29 a school improvement association was organized at this place. There was no one in the community that really knew what we were to do. We first decided to put patent desks in our school (we just lacked \$20 having enough).

Hallowe'en was not very far off, so we decided we would have an intertainment.

We decorated the room in autumn leaves and Jack-O-lanterns and hung curtains over the windows. Five cents admission was charged. First we had the president to tell what the S. I. A. was, and what the money would go for that we made that night.

Then we had a young man tell us all about Hallowe'en, at the close of which all the ghosts and witches came in, marched around and went back out.

There were several old men of the community who volunteered to tell us about their boyhood days, their going to school and the tricks they played.

Now the ghosts and witches came in and took possession.

In one corner of the room lunches, sandwiches and cake were sold. In another corner a bazaar was arranged at which pincushions, handkerchiefs and ties were sold. Then we had a guess cake which brought 40 cents in guesses. Then the guesser auctioned it off to the highest bidder for 45 cents, realizing 95 cents on the cake.

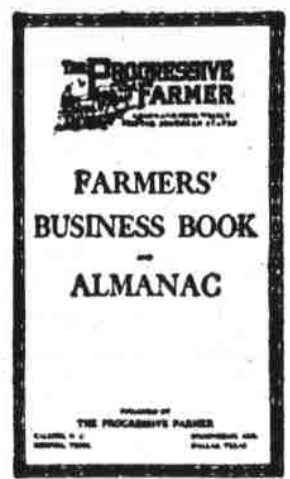
In all we made \$17, clearing \$13. Any organization could have something like this. It is easy, new and simple.

MRS. F. L. SMITH.

Prospect, Ala.

Coming Farmers' Meetings

- Meeting of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, New Orleans, La., January 24, 25, 26, 1917.
- North Carolina Stock Breeders' Association, Winston-Salem, January 9 to 12, 1917.
- Georgia Stock Breeders' Association, Athens, January 15 to 17, 1917.
- Florida Stock Breeders' Association, Gainesville, January 16 to 19, 1917.
- Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, New Orleans, January 24, 25, 26, 1917.



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The Progressive Farmer

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