Girls' 4-H Club

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A Message from Dean Fisher

There is a tradition that a college education spoils a girl for life in her home town; that somehow she is different, maybe a bit snobbish. Perhaps this is sometimes the result of college life, but as I sat recently with the 4-H club girls at Iowa State College and heard the splendid reports of what had been accomplished during the summer vacation, I felt assured that no 4-H'er would be a misfit when she went back home.

There was that same spirit of helpfulness, of sharing with her family, with the girls who may never be fortunate enough to go to college, and with the community the advantages they have received while a college student.

The record of one girl illustrates well the type of service many girls reported. She is just entering the junior year. Last summer she worked with the regular club and acted as assistant leader. She helped her home club outline its program for the year. She organized telephone committees to get work done; helped girls make posters, and conducted parliamentary drills. She helped plan and furnish material for health talks. She secured books on music for the club members and helped outline a year's program for a neighboring club. She gave a talk at a county-wide 4-H meeting and at the County Farm Bureau meeting. She helped train a demonstration team in her own club and helped with work at the county fair on County Rally Day.

Altogether, here are at least a dozen different ways in which she was cooperative with others back in her home community. What a splendid record and how truly typical of the spirit of the 4-H club work.

Madame Sykora

With a feather bed and a desire to make good, Madame Sykora, Des Moines designer, came to America from her girlhood home in Czechoslovakia.

At the campus 4-H party, Oct. 10, she told in a faltering way of the struggles in her climb to success. "Little girls in my home all learn needlework. Everyone makes her own design, too," Madame Sykora told the girls.

"When I was twelve years old I went to a school to study designing. With a piece of crochet thread and some beads, I fashioned a little bag for grandmother's birthday. The method was my idea. Proudly, I showed it to the teacher. "What a silly thing to do!" was her only comment on the little purse which was so dear to me."

In the shop of the designer, the little Czechoslovakian girl fashioned her ideas into new gowns all day long, and late into the night.

Helen Melton

Madame Sykora then compared the hardships of her childhood to the opportunities of the American 4-H girl. Because she is interested in 4-H girls, she wanted to do something for them as a token of her friendship.

A "tall corn dress" in green silk was the outcome of Madame Sykora's plan. Amber sets, and a conventionalized corn design gave distinction to the formal dress which was awarded at the party to Theo Norman, of Greene County, for her outstanding 4-H work in her community.

"Because the 4-H girls in that group had a chance to look into her past, they realize the value of sticking to a job when others would have quit," said one college 4-H girl. "When they compare their own opportunities and Madame Sykora's and see what she has done in the face of difficulties, they realize the wonderful privilege of being an Iowa 4-H girl."

Gleanings from Records

"At one of the club meetings, three of us walked three miles, one of which was mud. We weren't discouraged. We all felt that Mrs. Minor depended on us to 'carry on' during her absence and we would not have failed her."

"In our club each girl resolved to break her worst habit, and at the end of the year each girl had accomplished her resolution."

"Our club was proud to be strong enough to help other clubs when they asked for our assistance."

"I am majoring in extension work. When I finish school I hope to help farm people. They are my people."

"When a girl enters college she has already learned through 4-H work to value sportsmanship, to work for courtesy, to assume responsibility, and to develop initiative."

"I was happy to find that my club elected me president, not because I wanted the office, but because I knew my club members felt there had been no change in me since I had gone to college."

"My courses in Home Economics at college have been made more interesting after having had 4-H work in these lines."

A 4-H'er Looks at the Student Conference

"After the American Country Life Association conference, I had a finer appreciation of what country life really means, and a new pride in belonging to the farm," says Helen Melton, junior home economics student and Cherokee County club girl and leader.

Helen was elected chairman of the student division of the American Country Life Association, and will represent Iowa State College at the next annual convention of the organization, which will be in West Virginia.

"During the next year, I am going to do my part to make the Country Life program function in the lives of rural students in our country," Helen said, in speaking of her responsibility during the next year, in her radio talk broadcast over WOI on the 4-H club program, Saturday, Nov. 2.

In reviewing the conference for her radio audience, Helen said:

"It gave me a great thrill to sit in on my first session of the conference.
The enthusiasm of the people, the eager, informed attitude of those who took part, sort of got hold of me and ‘picked me up,’ I think that the fortunate thing about meeting people with the same interests, is the stimulating way it helps one to rise where she can see the whole situation, and appreciate it.

"The student group of the conference is a group of college students who have lived in farm homes and who have not forgotten their organizations a collegiate country life club; others a college 4-H club, but all mean the same thing; namely, that the members are farm youths who have not lost interest in the young people at home, even tho they have had the opportunity of attending college.

"One delegate came from Georgia. He was a negro boy from the Georgia Agricultural College for negroes. I don't believe that there was anyone at the conference who impressed me more than the young man from Georgia. He didn't talk very often, but when he did, we all listened because we knew that something very worthwhile would be said. His purpose was to learn something that would help his negro brothers be better farmers, with a higher standard of living.

"At the 4-H breakfast presided over by Ray Turner, national leader of 4-H club work, from the United States Department of Agriculture, every 4-H'er told some 4-H experience. I was impressed with the way club work had helped all of them to have a greater appreciation of their farm homes, and had given them a determination to carry back to the farm the advantages and opportunities they were getting in college."

Good Times

"'Playing together is as important as working together,'" believes Eva Lan ning, a Monroe County club leader.

There are ten girls in the club. Two girls are responsible for a party each month, until the rounds have been made.

This is the way the hobo party was carried out. Invitations requested hobo costumes. When everyone had assembled at the back door one evening, they sanned up the railroad track and by spooky routes to another home, where fruit drinks were served. At the next stop a tiny wafer was the hand-out. Mystical signs guided them to another home, where apples were given to the hungry 'tramps.' At the final stop, a saw and wood pile were introduced to the hoboes, and after earning their supper, by taking turns sawing, a real hand-out was in order. No hobo convention would be complete without a bonfire, where food and stories are the center of attraction.

May I Help You?

4-H college girls who were hostesses to visiting students during the American Country Life Conference, October 17-20, wore 4-H tags, which asked, "May I Help You?"

This question is one that college 4-H girls ask of every 4-H reader of this page. If our college classes and experiences can help you in any way in your organization or social activities, or if you 4-H'ers at home are wondering just what college is like and 'why go to college,' will you not write to us? Address inquiries to Esther Sietmann, in care of the IOWA HOMEMAKER.

Another Score for Homemaking

Nearly 300 of the 1,396 registered delegates at the recent conference of the American Homemakers Association at Iowa State College, representing twenty-seven states and forty types of rural workers, were "homemakers."

Furthermore, the banquet given in recognition of Iowa Homemakers was one of the best attended events of the conference. Of course, Governor Lowden attributed the largest number, while Secretary Hyde was conceded a close second in popularity. But Homemaking came into easy third place with a banquet attendance of over 750.

The wide variety of occupations; the number of states represented; and the cooperation of Iowa counties in sending delegates and participating in programs, all combined to make the conference a great success, according to W. H. Stacey, extension professor of rural organization.

Rural problems in all of their phases were discussed at the various meetings, all with the ultimate aim, as stated by Dr. H. C. Taylor in his opening address: "Efficiency in production; justice in distribution; success in living—these three; and the greatest of these is success in living."

—Lucile Spencer.

"‘There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip,’” originated in Samos with Anaeus, king of Leleges. One of his heavily oppressed slaves prophesied that he would never live to taste the wine of his vineyard. When the wine was made, the king sent for his slave, and said, "What do you think of your prophesy now?" The slave answered, "‘There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip.’" The words were scarcely uttered when Anaeus was informed that a wild bear had broken into his vineyard, and was laying waste to it. Anaeus rushed out of the house and into the vineyard. Shortly afterward he was killed in the attack.