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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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Z U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World" - Information from  
Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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For more than thirty years...rural women of this country have studied and worked together in their home demonstration clubs. And an impressive array of home and community improvements are the results of their efforts.

This year--for the first time--home demonstration club members have set aside a week when they invite all of us to take a look at their accomplishments. They will observe National Home Demonstration Week, May 5 to 12. Taking part will be more than three and a half million rural women living in almost every county in the 48 states and in many counties in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

One of the interesting aspects of home demonstration work in the United States is the way activities carried on by the clubs have expanded beyond the rural home to the whole community and beyond.

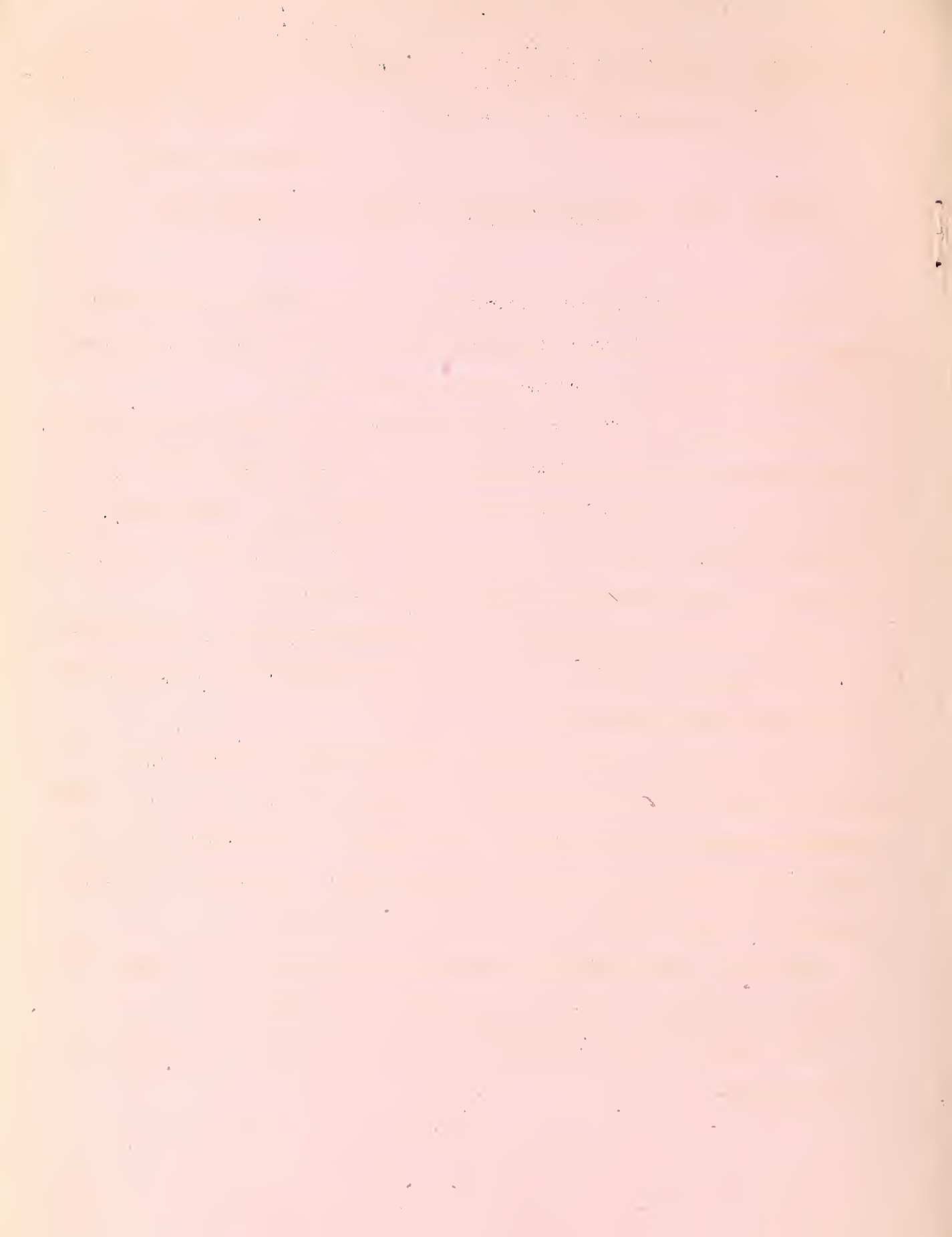
In the beginning...rural women were concerned chiefly with ways they could improve their homes. They were interested in learning how they could put up garden surpluses by approved canning methods. They wanted to learn practical nutrition in planning and preparing well-balanced, healthful meals. They did a lot of work toward improving their farm homes for comfort and convenience.

Well--all of these activities and many more for making the rural home a pleasant place to live still occupy home demonstration club members.

And in addition...the club members for many years--have been carrying on community projects.

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For example....home demonstration clubs in all parts of the United States help to hold health clinics for young and old in their communities. More than that..... home demonstration clubs have done the spadework to get hospitalization programs set up. Their efforts have made it possible for farm families in many states to buy group health insurance.

These rural club women have also taken the responsibility of bringing better recreation facilities to their communities. Thanks to their work, hundreds of rural neighborhoods now have club houses, libraries, playgrounds, and--in some cases-- organized recreation programs.

If you have lived in a rural community....very likely you know how successfully home demonstration clubs have worked in behalf of the school lunch. The records show that these groups helped schools in more than 18 thousand communities to equip and operate lunchrooms.

But the interest of rural women in education goes beyond the local school. Many clubs have set up loan funds and scholarships to make it possible for farm girls to go to college. In three states....home demonstration clubs are raising money to build a 4-H cooperative residence on the state college campus.

This ever-widening circle of interest...from the home to the community to state and national affairs...has extended through the war years to the international scene. Today....home demonstration clubs are meeting throughout the country to study organizations of the United Nations ....to learn ways that will enable the peoples of the world to live in peace.

The slogan they have chosen for this first National Home Demonstration Week expresses that wide interest. They say, "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World."

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