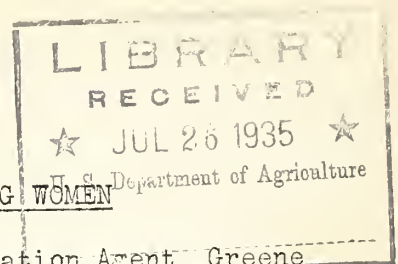


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HOME MANAGEMENT CLUBS FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

A radio talk by Miss Ruth Radford, Home Demonstration Agent, Greene County, Ohio, delivered in the July 6, 1935, National 4-H club radio program, and broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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Management makes a decided difference in our every day living. Through management we determine to a certain extent if we live comfortable lives or get along with the bare necessities. You no doubt know folks in your circle of acquaintance who plan their mode of living in every detail. For many this is a natural accomplishment, for others of us it is a habit to be developed. Organizations that emphasize ways and means of managing are most helpful to either group mentioned.

I am interested in reviewing with you problems of Home Management Clubs, which include keeping record of expenses, but I'm sure you will see how the same habit formation would assist members in planning for "energy spending" as well as money spending. We also believe that habits of careful planning will help us to raise our standards of living.

In Ohio, we believe one way to interest young women to develop the habit of record keeping is through a 4-H club project called Personal Accounts. Twenty-six counties have asked for subject matter in this project in 1935. Girls in the Greene County Club first became interested because their mothers were enrolled in the Household Accounts group and their fathers were keeping Farm or Business Records. The girls or boys said, "May I have a book all my own in which to keep my own accounts?" With the assistance of our Home Management Department and 4-H Club Department at Ohio State University we were very glad to supply the materials that were needed. One member may have an allowance and keep an accurate record of its use, while another may record just the amounts of money spent for her, for items of clothing, school books, recreation and food. The girls tell me that they find their accounts very helpful in deciding whether certain garments are the best they could buy for the amount of money spent. Don't you think this kind of reasoning will be an advantage of each of these girls in the future? I am sure that the habits formed now in observation and in keeping records will help each of these girls in "home" later.

The members in the Personal Accounts Club are very able to take part in a family council at which such problems as family needs, individual need and personal responsibilities are discussed. These girls and boys understand the value of money and how they may share in family responsibility. In the past few years we have seen many examples of heads of families trying to maintain a standard of living. This problem has been made easier if there were accurate records available and a sympathetic understanding among various members of the family. With all this experience we will all be better able to plan for the future.

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Although this is an individual project we find those enrolled enjoy the group discussions. At meetings they discuss such problems as "Does it pay to make print dresses rather than buy them ready made? What kind of hose are most practical for me? Should I bake cookies for my party or buy them at the store?" The mechanics of keeping records and other such problems that are of interest to their age group. The members of this project group make an exhibit at the County Fair and participate in all State and County activities just as members of other projects. The demonstration team that represented Greene County at the Ohio State Fair in 1934 was from this group. Some of the members say that they are helped by belonging to a group rather than keeping records personally because it keeps them encouraged to keep records up to date. I personally believe that this project is one of the most helpful that has been developed through the 4-H Club work. It not only is an active force in the members' education now, but means so much for her future.

Each year there are more girls and boys enrolling in the Personal Accounts group. This educational advantage is made possible through the Extension division of Ohio State University. We hope each one will continue record keeping and record studying, so that they may adjust their spending in order to get the best quality and most satisfaction from amount spent. I am reminded of Miss Agnes S. Donham's statement in "Spending the Family Income:" "Too many people live according to the conventional standards of their social set without consciously defining their own standards, counting the cost of maintaining them, and balancing the cost with the return in 'the durable satisfactions of life.'"

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