

Homestead Notes

Pat Erway, Editor



A Look at the Mount Joy Club. . .

Round-Up - The Fun, Excitement and Worry of a Year in 4-H

By Sally Bair
Feature Writer

Round-up is the most important day of the summer for most 4-H'ers. This is the day they exhibit their finished projects and get the reward for their labors.

In Lancaster County individual clubs hold their own round-ups, and it is there that 4-H'ers receive their completion certificates and are awarded ribbons based on the Danish system of judging.

The Mount Joy 4-H Club is an outstanding example of a local 4-H round-up. The club is one of the largest in the county, with about 100 girls completing over 150 projects.

Round-up at the Mount Joy Club is an interesting montage of

fashions, presentations in each project area, and talent numbers by the members. It provided a showcase for members to exhibit their projects and gave parents and friends an overall view of what 4-H is all about.

This club is unique in several ways. For one, the club members are divided according to projects taken, and each project area elects officers for that group. Therefore there are officers for each year of sewing and cooking and for other project areas.

Organizational leader for the club, Mrs. John H. Nissley, Jr., Mount Joy RD1, says, "We decided to organize in this way to develop leadership positions and gain experience."

While the club is basically a

sewing and cooking club, it also offers knitting, photography and for the past two years, macrame. There is not even a 4-H project book for macrame but an enterprising leader teaches the basics.

Another extra is a project in cake decorating, where each girl brings a baked cake to the meetings and learns to decorate it in different ways. Again, there is no project book.

Extension Home Economist Doris Thomas praised the Mount Joy club for its initiative in adopting projects in which there are no printed guidelines available. She said several other clubs have also added crafts, such as crewel embroidery, and added, "The important thing is to keep the interest of the youngster, and having crafts helps achieve this goal." She said completion certificates are awarded in these project areas just as in the more conventional projects.

Ruth Nissley has been a 4-H leader for over 26 years, and has been with the Mount Joy Club for the last eight years. Assisting her are 16 sewing leaders, eight cooking leaders, two in knitting, two in photography and one in macrame. She says the leaders usually stay in the same project area each year, but "I go wherever I am needed." All club meetings are held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Mount Joy.

A native of Lampeter, Mrs. Nissley was selected to attend National 4-H Club Congress in



Mrs. John Nissley (left) goes over some last minute details with mistress of ceremonies Geri Kauffman and Mrs. Roy Sauder, one of the leaders.



Cake decorating is a project unique to the Mount Club, and judging cakes is usually a happy experience. Here Mrs. Albert Brennehan (left) and Mrs. Roy Sauder taste the cakes which have been baked and decorated especially for Round-Up.



Parents and friends enjoy the whole program at Round-Up which included much more than just showing off projects.

Here Jamie Flowers accompanies Marcia and Sherry Groff and Jean McDermott on the guitar.

Washington, D. C. as a 4-H'er. She said she enjoys being a leader "to help see children receive what I received from 4-H." Mrs. Thomas said, "if we had one leader like Mrs. Nissley in

every community, 4-H would really flourish."

One of the purposes of local round-ups according to Mrs. Thomas, is to "focus attention on

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An interesting highlight was the presentation of a blue ribbon junior demonstration on photography. Laurie McIntyre (left) and Trudy Nissley gave many good pointers for the amateur photographer.