

# Mastersonville 4-H Club attracts members

**BY SALLY BAIR**  
Staff Correspondent  
**MASTERTONVILLE** — With millions of 4-H members across the nation observing National 4-H Week with the theme "Expanding Horizons", it is worth noting

that at least one section of Lancaster County afforded youngsters their first opportunity to expand their horizons this year. Mastersonville has a Community 4-H Club for the first year and nearly 100

young people came out to sign up for projects.

According to Organizational Leader Mrs. Paul Hoffer, Manheim R4, "It was not difficult to start. The difficult part was realizing I was in it. It was really challenging to see the cooperation of parents."

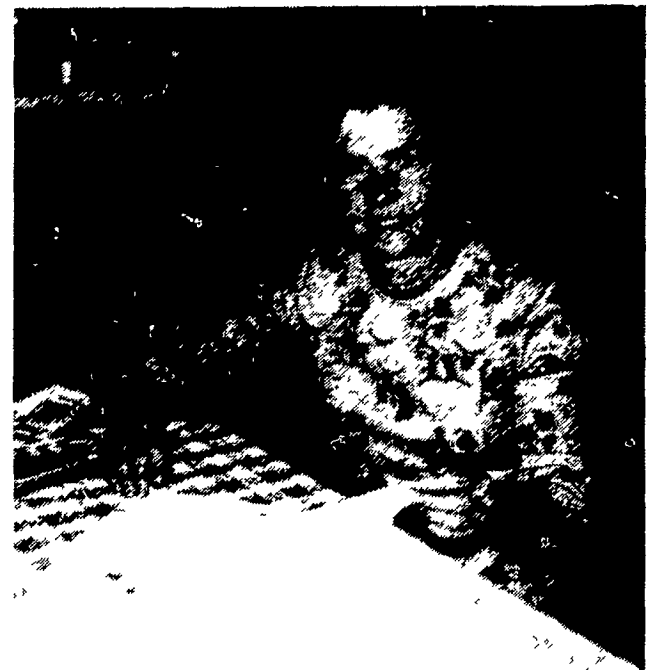
Ruth Hoffer credited the community for backing the club, saying that the area is made up of "strong, Christian families" who work together. She said it is vital for parents to be interested for a club to be successful.

A need for the club in that area was felt because several area youngsters, including the Hoffers' two children, were traveling to Elm-Penryn to participate in the very large, very active club there. Several families

had called Extension 4-H Agent Nancy Meyers and asked that a new club be organized. Nancy called upon Ruth, who agreed to help "just to get it started." Ruth says now, "I could see the need for it and the benefits if offered, but I felt my time was limited."

Eventually, however, Ruth became involved in the club and never did get out of the job. In fact, she not only carried out the duties of organizational leader, but when the need arose, she also served as a leader for a cooking project.

How did they find youngsters to form the nucleus of the club? Ruth explained that a letter was sent to grades three through six at the Mastersonville Elementary School and a notice was put in Manheim's



Ruth Hoffer, organizational leader for the Mastersonville 4-H Club, looks over her membership list. In the first year the club attracted nearly 100 members and offered 10 different project areas.

weekly paper. Interest began at that point, and at the first meeting at the Mastersonville Fire Hall, Ruth recalls, "It was really packed with parents and children. Ninety-four members signed up."

"We had a fairly young representation in the club, and I feel that is good. We have a lot of future leaders," Ruth states. "There were a few junior high school youth who had prior 4-H experience."

It was decided to offer 10 projects and it was up to Ruth to find the leaders to carry out the work of teaching the projects. She says, "I had four good people in mind, and I know they would be good if they were

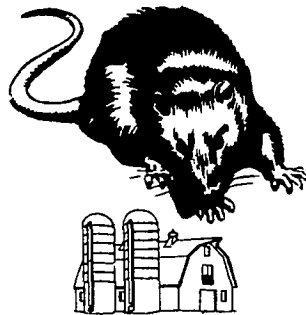
willing. I asked everybody I knew. When I talked with someone I asked them if they knew someone else."

In the end, getting the leaders was easier than she had expected, but Ruth acknowledges that it is easier to find leaders for traditional girls' projects than for some of the other. Her one disappointment was in not being able to offer the handyman project for lack of a leader.

Nevertheless, the club offered a wide variety of projects, including electricity, swine, macrame, three levels of sewing, ceramics, pet care, cake decorating, capons, indoor

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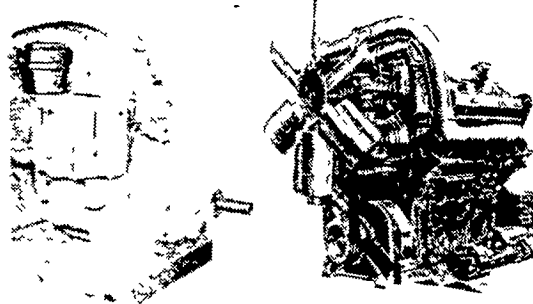
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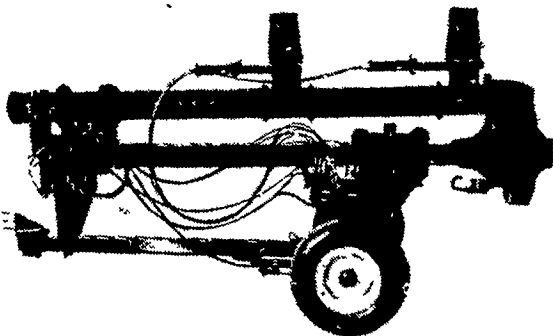
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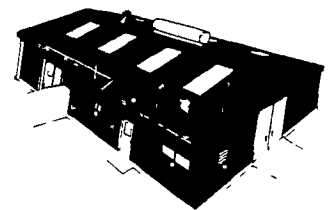
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