

Homemaker's Pages

Clothing Work Brings Opportunity to 4-H Girls

Sew Their Way To Feminine Happiness



Naomi E. Shoemaker, Woodbine, Md., is pictured here in the outfit in which she won national style revue honors in 1933 at Chicago. The cost? A total of \$21.61 with all accessories.

By L. E. TROEGER

EVERY girl loves pretty things to wear. It's a craving found in all races and climes. The American farm girl is no exception. No depression will crush her desire for ornamentation.

This love of finery, when not satisfied, is pathetic. It cannot be swept aside with an amused smile or a stern manner. It may induce a feeling of inferiority; that her life is not worth while, or, that she has no chance in the world. Many girls leave home under such circumstances; others become serious family problems.

Girls and their families are being saved from this situation through 4-H Club clothing projects.

The girl enrolls in a group of her own age and inclinations. She chooses to carry a project or "study" in sewing. She first learns how to sew by hand; later by machine. How to design and cut—first such simple things as a towel or napkin. There are no 4-H Club dues. Her local leader gives her time free. She in turn is supervised by the county home demonstration or club agent. If the girl's club entails any expenses it is because members choose to. But such amounts are small and the girls through their club projects have a number of ways open to raise money.



These 4-H Club Girls, Eleanor Acker, Junction City, Kas., and Alexandria Hoevel, Creve Coeur, Mo., demonstrate the new and old in girls' tailored costumes. They were among the headliners in the 1935 national style revue at the 4-H Club Congress at Chicago.

During the first year, the girl learns the fundamentals in sewing. In another year or two, the girl, if she has been industrious, is ready to make part or all of her own clothes.

A girl can learn to launder her clothes to make them show to best advantage, and to remodel and obtain garments that are useful and beautiful. All this before she is out of her 'teens.

Many a club girl after a few years of 4-H training becomes independent in matters of her clothes, even to paying for them.

Girls become amazingly resourceful through 4-H clothing training. Laurine Varn, a South Carolina 4-H'er exhibited a dress at her state show which was so good it was entered in the national show in Chicago in 1933. A reporter described it: "Dainty as a humming bird's plumage, but not fussy. If you saw it in a store window you would think the fabric something new and fashionable." This dress was made out of sugar bags and it cost just 52 cents.

Another girl won first at the state fair, and it helped her win state honors and a free trip to the National Club Congress in Chicago where more than 1,000 outstanding 4-H Club members of the nation assemble annually. The girl remodeled an outfit. This was its history: Her black skirt was once her mother's woolen dress, then her sister's jumper. Her white vestee blouse was once a skirt, then a light jacket and pillow cover. Her black and white swagger coat once belonged to an aunt, then to her daughter, and before the club girl got it, it was made into a short full coat for her sister.

Every clothing club girl has an ambition to enter a product of her handwork in competition with other girls. County

achievement days are held for exhibits of 4-H Club work in which cash or merchandise prizes or both are offered. The National Style Revue for 4-H outfits offers a medal to county champions. The county champion is eligible to model her outfit in the state show. The winner receives a free trip to the national contest held in Chicago. Competition in four classes of outfits is provided, and national prizes awarded. Prizes are provided by the Chicago Mail Order Co., which sponsors this contest to aid the 4-H movement.

The contest is conducted by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in co-operation with state, federal and local club leaders.



These photographs show the improvements made in the home of R. L. Gillen, White County, Tenn. Left, Mrs. Gillen is shown preparing a meal. Right, view of dining room during warm months. Right, large tank at rear of house. View of shrubbery. Below: View of concrete walk running from house, vegetable garden, poultry yard and



WITH 512,101 improvements made in 29,400 homes in the state are now looking forward to the improvements observed this year from April 26 to May 2. The questionnaires sent out by Miss Lillian Kelleher, home improvement specialist. Interest in rural home improvement during Better Homes Week, it was pointed out by Miss Kelleher.

For 1936, the four district home agents are: Miss Mildred Jacobson, Tennessee; Miss Bema Finger for the Chattanooga district.

In 1935, running water was installed in 2,400 homes. In all, 24,433 homes were thoroughly cleaned, refinished furniture and installation or rearranged. Yards were cleaned, gardens and shrubs were set out, vacant lots cleaned and planted.

Better Homes Week in Tennessee also was held on school grounds, cemeteries, church grounds and gardens. Four-H Club girls took an active part in the work.

Reports from the 71 counties taking part in the survey showed that improvements were made in 11,500 homes and 7,917 East Tennessee homes.

SHORT STEPS

By VIRGINIA LEE

To keep rag or hooked rugs from "skidding" on hardwood floors sew a fruit jar rubber at corners on the underside.

Keep a bottle of milk of magnesia on the kitchen shelf. It will prevent blisters if applied immediately.

An old fashioned corn popper is fine for roasting weenies over a fire. This keeps them from falling in the ashes.

Where there are several children in the family—to simplify sewing, ordering clothes, etc., keep a card for each child giving complete measurement for shoes, dresses, etc.

Starch tea towels and they will not leave lint on dishes.



Let's Sew

By MARJORIE

AFTER dinner mints are pleasant and attractive to serve any time, particularly at the close of the main meal of the day. The following recipe has been approved by the home economics department of the Kentucky College of Agriculture:

Ingredients: 2 cups sugar, 3/4 cup water, 4 tablespoons butter, 2 tablespoons vinegar, and 10 drops of peppermint.

Mix sugar, water, butter and vinegar together. Stir until sugar dissolves, wipe edges of kettle with a moist cloth. Boil rapidly and cook without stirring until the hard ball stage is reached; that is, until the mixture will form a hard ball. Pour onto an oiled platter.

When cool enough to handle add peppermint and pull. When stiff, stretch candy on table into a rope, and cut in one-inch lengths. Wrap in oiled paper. This recipe makes 100 pieces.

Lollypops

Both children and grown-ups often like lollypops. This recipe is unusually good:

Ingredients: 2 cups of sugar, 2/3 cup of white corn syrup, one cup hot water, 1/2 teaspoonful of oil of peppermint, and coloring material.