

1950

The Happier Living Contest

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HOW THE HAPPIER LIVING CONTEST HAS INTERESTED THE CLUB GIRLS
IN HOME IMPROVEMENT IN WINSTON COUNTY

In 1949 when the Happier Living Contest was explained to the girls we did not realize that the Club Girls would enjoy making the improvements that were required, as there were only 46 girls enrolled in the Home Improvement project out of a membership of 791 in 19 4-H clubs.

After all clubs were visited 15 were enrolled this first year. The comprehensive list made of the improvements. The girls checked the list at the completion of improvement; recording thus in statistical form, her progress..

A leader's meeting was held in the contest which was explained and suggestions given as to how they could help the club girls take what they have and make what they want with this as an incentive before the girls, more of them became interested since none of the girls, nor the parents had much money to put into Home Improvement. A chair Bottoming School for leaders and club girls was held in order to teach the principles of this skill and to use all of the old chairs. They were given demonstrations in slip ^{sewers} voers and the refinishing of furniture gave the girls an idea of how to use some of the things they had without thinking of buying new furniture or furnishing.

At the end of this year with all of the help given by the leaders and parents we had one district winner from the New Zion community, Miss Ollie Mae Gladney, and one county winner, Miss Willie B. Miller of Zion Ridge, with Mrs. Grey of New Zion and Mrs. Sallie Goss of Zion Ridge working faithfully with these girls. Both of these girls carried a poultry project that helped to finance the improvements made.

In 1950, the spirit was very high; the leaders and club girls were all interested in having a better place to live. 12 girls were enrolled with 3 of the girls from the previous years remaining in the contest. The same procedure was followed as in the previous years. Most of the summer meetings were held in the homes of these girls in various communities so we could help with the improvements made giving other girls the benefit of the demonstrations. When the judges came to visit the county that year, there was no road to the home of the winner, so a wagon was used to get the judges over to the home of Willie B. Miller and it was driven by Mrs. Sallie Goss. This was a very interesting sight. She was second place state winner and Catherine Brown was county winner.

In 1951, there were 23 girls entering the contest and 16 turning in a completed record with major improvements made, at the end of the contest, Miss Sadye B. Hunt of the Highpoint community won first place in the State. She was also a delegate to the Regional Camp that was held in Tuskegee Institution, Tuskegee, Alabama.

The contest in 1952 was very successful. There were 27 entries and 19 records turned in with major improvements made in the bedrooms, living rooms and 3 homes added more closet space and baths.

We only had a county winner this year and this was Elma Glass of the Center Hill community. She purchased a new mattress from her savings account; she made new curtains; painted the room a light green top and darker sides. The outside was repainted, porch and steps improved.

An outdoor living room made by adding yard chairs and tables. The holes in the yard were filled in and grass planted. Mrs. Mary Green received \$25.00 for top place winner in the State Leader's group. Other girls made similar improvements.

(3)

In 1953, 23 girls entered the contest. Enrolling themselves as the agent visited the various communities, and in the end 19 girls turned in records of work accomplished.

For this year we had one third place winner of the State. This person is Jeanette Foster of the 4-H club of Louisville. Mary J. Ronnins of Hopewell; Christine Coburn of Center Hill; Naomi Miller of Greenborough; Bettye Ethel Goss of Greenborough and Pearlie Mae Riddle of Hinze have done major improvements in the home.

The Happier Living Contest has been the Key Point in stimulating an interest in the improving of the living conditions of their homes.

Thanks to the Parents, Leaders State Staff and Officials of the G.M.& O. Railroad for the cooperation in this project. We hope it will continue for years to so all of the homes in Winston County may catch the fever and do needed improvements to change the living conditions.

Two leaders have received top honors in this contest as State winners. In 1951, Mrs. Sallie Goss received \$45.00 as a reward for the effort she had put forth and Mrs. Mary Green received \$25.00 in 1952.

Each year we have received recognition in the county and state awards in this contest either from the Leader or Club Girls.