

Why I Am A Club Leader

By Mrs. Alex Hart

PERHAPS the main reason I am a leader of a Girls' Homemaking Club is that some twenty years ago I attended a short course held in Ingersoll and following this a Junior Farmers' Association and Junior Institute was formed. First we held judging competitions, then later Homemaking Clubs were organized. I completed five units before I reached the age limit. One of our club members acted as leader as there wasn't a Women's Institute in our district to give assistance. I firmly believe the girls derive more out of the unit when a Senior member is leader.

I thoroughly enjoyed the club work and my interest in it is just as keen today as it was then.

I have been asked several times in the past few years if I would help with the girls' club in our district (Woodstock North), but I have always had to say "Not yet; but I will when my daughter is old enough to join". This may seem like a selfish remark but I have a family of three to look after and my youngest is a handicapped boy who requires a good deal of my time.

A year ago last fall I attended the leaders' training school for two days. The unit was a brand new one, "Working with Wool". I believe an Oxford County girl, Miss Lulu Row, Clothing Supervisor, planned and organized this unit. I was very pleased to be at this training school because Miss Row was the County Coach when I was a member of the girls' club. Incidentally Oxford held the first Achievement Day for "Working with Wool", too. In this unit we learned how to choose woollen material, the shrinking, pressing, cutting and making of a skirt, how to care for woollen clothing and how to do invisible mending. I have always enjoyed sewing and that is another reason why I am a club leader. You have to enjoy what you are doing, and if you do you will find the girls will enjoy it too.

Because we live in a Scottish settlement we decided to call our club "The Zorra Wee Lassies". The girls each used a different tartan for the cover of her record book. We held eight meetings to complete the work required. The girls also learned how to conduct a meeting, how to put on a demonstration, how to set up an exhibit, and how to put on a skit.

If you have never worked with a group of girls you won't know what a source of good ideas, as well as foolishness, they are. Always ask for their opinions and suggestions and you will find their ideas contain a great deal of thought and workability. Don't try to boss them for they just won't take it, but be pleasant, agreeable and interested in what they are and you will have a grand time to-

gether. You won't need to wish you were young again; you will be.

Another reason I am a club leader is that I feel the mothers can help their girls do better work if they show their interest and help. Invite the mothers to come to a meeting, then they will have a better idea of what is expected of the girls.

Since the wool unit we have taken "The Club Girl Stands on Guard"; "The Garden Club"; and "The Club Girl Entertains". For our unit, "The Club Girl Entertains", last fall there were sixteen clubs present for the leaders' training school. As I looked around the room I counted seven ladies besides myself who were members of the Junior Institute some twenty years ago.

Perhaps the simplest reason why I am a club leader is that I enjoy it, and find the enthusiasm of the girls a personal inspiration, and their friendship a privilege.

Young Wives Continue With Homemaking Clubs

Senior girls are interested in Homemaking Clubs. Throughout the province, we always have a group of girls and young women who have carried on a number of clubs and who find each new club equally worthwhile. It happens as girls leave home for school and work, many of our former Senior club members are not available for club meetings. However, once in a while, we do get some special stories.

Here is one from Algoma regarding the Tarentorus Club in "Working with Wool". Miss Petty recently visited this club, which has a membership of eight seniors. Seven members were in attendance with a leader on this night. Miss Petty states in her Club Visit Report that with one exception all these members are young married women who were former club members of the North Livingstone Club. Their Leader and Assistant Leader attended the Thessalon Training School and they will be holding an Achievement Day in that community. These young women would not care to be without their Homemaking Club because they feel it has been a great help to them. — Florence Eadie.

A Gracious Gesture

For a number of years, Frontenac County Women's Institutes have served luncheon to the girls and leaders on Achievement Day. This is a very fine gesture, and is greatly appreciated by all concerned. This year a hundred or more girls and leaders were served luncheon in the Board Room of the Department of Agriculture. The ladies set up an attractive-looking table and usually the president or some prominent person pours tea. The food is good and plentiful, and attractively served. The club members enjoy it, it is time-saving, and it makes for a nice social hour at noon-time.—Florence Eadie.