

# Jean Scott Retires

By Ethel Chapman

When the day fore-ordained for "retirement" comes at the age of sixty-five, it must be a joy to the retiree to go out knowing her work has never been better than at the time of leaving it. And surely this would be the experience of Jean Scott who, at the end of August, retired as Supervisor of Junior Extension in the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Miss Scott had her entire working career with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Growing up on a farm in Bruce county, like others of her family she took part in whatever extension services were available; and the year she graduated from high school she was one of the County Agricultural Representative's group to attend the Royal Winter Fair. At that time the T. Eaton Company sponsored a contest in writing an essay or commentary on the Fair, the winner to be awarded a scholarship at Macdonald Institute and Jean won the scholarship. She had planned to take a nurse's training, but here was another profession in one of her special interests, homemaking. She took the course in Home Economics, showing special aptitudes in teaching and working with people — both prime essentials in a good extension worker. Also she was a very personable young woman. It is not surprising that the government's Home Economics Service had a place for her on its staff.

From the beginning Miss Scott's work was mainly with girls. Homemaking clubs were still only a prospect in Ontario but a very fine piece of junior extension at the time was the "Three Months' School" in agriculture for boys and home economics for girls, held in several counties of the province every winter. Jean was the resident teacher in a number of these schools, giving instruction in foods and cooking and in general supervising the home economics course. At other times of the year she travelled about the province getting 4-H Homemaking Clubs underway.

In 1939 when definite territories were assigned to home economists, Jean was appointed to nine counties east of Toronto. Under her direction, clubs and club members multiplied to the point where one supervisor could not handle them all; and in 1944 she was assigned to five counties in another part of the province. Again under her leadership clubs grew at such a pace that in 1948 her area was limited to Bruce, Huron and Perth; and in the fall of 1952 she retained only Perth and worked part time assisting new home economists and others as help was needed. Four years later she was appointed Supervisor of County and District Home Economists, with headquarters at Guelph. In 1963, at the time of Miss Florence Eadie's retirement, Miss Scott was promoted to Supervisor of Junior Extension in the Home Economics Branch.

Thinking of the tremendous area covered in Miss Scott's years of field work, and considering her close person-to-person relationship with both members and leaders in club work, it is a safe guess that few extension workers, either men or women, have associated with so many Ontario people; and few indeed would be likely to make so many friends. Her own out-going friendliness drew people to her like bees to clover. At

the conclusion of her twelve years in Perth, a senior executive of the Women's Institutes of the county, Miss Lily Dempsey, said: "By her noble qualities of character and her cheerful disposition Miss Scott has endeared herself to everyone." Another Institute officer expressed something of the women's regard in "We will look back and recall the fine influence of Miss Scott. One of the big things in human contacts is just plain, everyday pleasantness; and Miss Scott was pleasant in the midst of her work, with her friends and especially with our girls." Such tributes came not only from women and girls; the Junior Farmers were as vocal as anyone in their appreciation.

Jean has some appreciations of her own, too. Looking back over her work she is grateful, first of all, to the local leaders who gave, and are still giving, their services so unselfishly — without their part in it she has reminded us over and over again, club work could not be carried on at all. She appreciates the co-operation of the county agricultural representatives wherever she has worked; the support of parents and the Director of the Home Economics Branch — for the past several years Miss Helen McKercher. And she has a special word to say for Miss Florence Eadie, her supervisor for several years, whose values in junior education, she says, gave a stimulus to her (Jean's) own thinking.



Miss Helen McKercher, Director, Home Economics Branch wishes the very best for Miss Scott on her retirement.

But this isn't the whole story. People ask why 4-H Homemaking Clubs have grown steadily in both numbers and enthusiasm in spite of the increasing demands and counter-attractions for girls and young women. Miss Scott believes that one reason for this is the Ontario way of shaping the programme to the development of the girl — not just the top few but every girl in the club — rather than aiming at a showy exhibit of work. She says: "Make the programme challenging but keep it close to the home and everyday liv-

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