



Kate McKinnell, Teulon, Man., with part of her remarkable exhibit

Among all the rural educational movements of today none is perhaps more significant or has "caught on" so quickly as that of boys' and girls' clubs. The rapidity of its growth is a direct reflection of the boyish enthusiasm behind it. Everywhere boys' and girls' clubs have been established they have evoked unusual interest, not only among boys and girls of regular age, but among boys and girls a whole lot older. They have done more to create an interest in agriculture in rural schools than any other factor, for they have furnished an unusual means of putting the teacher in touch with the home life of the pupil on the farm and creating an active interest among the parents in the schools. The practical work done in the garden, field, feed lot, workshop or sewing room furnishes unlimited inspiration for lessons in the classroom. The pulse of interest of teacher, pupil and parent is quickened, a community interest in home and school is created that was never found before. In the United States these clubs have run over the country with the rapidity of a prairie fire. Thousands of the grown-ups have become fired with enthusiasm by them. In Manitoba they have grown in three years from nothing to a membership of 15,000, with 150 district fairs and 800 schools participating. At these fairs a wonderful variety of exhibits is shown and an interest evoked that has been almost universally lacking in the fairs of grown-ups. Prizes are awarded in many cases, not for finished exhibits alone. The whole season's work counts greatly in awarding the prizes and a continuity of interest is maintained that keeps keen the interest of the participants in the work.

Many outsiders have also become greatly interested in this work and the community benefit has not stopped at the school and home but has spread into business. Bankers have become enthusiastic about it. They are lending money to the boys or girls to buy pigs or calves and to feed them. They are offering prizes, and valuable ones, to the winners in the pig club contests, and as a result boys and girls are learning habits in finance and accounting that will be of inestimable benefit to them. And in addition it might be said the bankers are learning perhaps about as much as the boys and girls about pig raising and stock feeding.

But while many of us know there is such a movement as boys' and girls' clubs and some can quote unlimited statistics on its rapidity of growth, only those who have trained the children for competition, who have seen their struggles to bring their work to perfection, the intensity of interest with which they have waited outside a tent while the judges worked in exasperating silence inside, how they burst in later to view with delight or disappointment the result of their summer's work; whether it was in canning of fruits, feeding of pigs, growing potatoes, raising chickens, collecting insects, growing seed grain, building a desk or book case or sewing dresses and making hats, can ever really know what boys' and girls' club work and boys' and girls' fairs mean. For you cannot know it unless you feel with the children their elation when they see their winnings or their disappointment and resolve to be among the fortunate ones next year if their luck has been hard this time.

The boys' and girls' club fairs for Manitoba have just closed. Representatives of The Guide visited three of the last of these and have here given their impressions.

The Fair At Stony Mountain

I spent a day recently at the Boys' and Girls' Club Fair for Rockwood district, Manitoba, held at Stony Mountain. It was one of the most pleasant and intensely interesting days I have ever spent anywhere. I saw over 500 boys and girls from six different schools, Teulon, Stony Mountain, Stonewall, Balmoral, Gunton and Tecumseh meet and compete with one another in a wonderful variety of exhibits as well as in baseball, football, playground ball, in swimming, jumping and other sports.

But the Stony Mountain Fair was not confined to children. There was a big crowd of parents and visitors who came early and stayed late. From Teulon a special train of 115 came that gradually swelled in numbers until it had 200 on it by the time it reached Stony Mountain. Teulon was plainly

Boys' and Girls' Fairs

What They Mean---Three District Fairs in Manitoba

out to capture everything in sight and they got their share although they had to go some to do it. All the schools were consolidated or consolidated agricultural schools but Tecumseh which is a one-roomed rural school that made some remarkable exhibits.

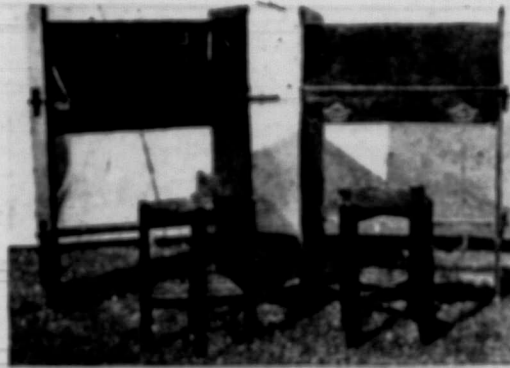
There were 161 different classes of exhibits and from two to six prizes in each varying from 25 cents to \$1.50, so that 390 prizes were offered for exhibits alone without races or ball games. All these prizes were for poultry, corn, potatoes and vegetables, farm mechanics, baking and preserving, sewing and knitting, writing, drawing, map making, nature study collection, grain and essays on "What it means to be a Canadian."

The Stony Mountain Fair was a central fair for the district. All the exhibits that were shown here had been shown at other places and had won prizes. Only the best were collected for this fair and you can readily see the competition was very keen.

I went out to judge the pigs and calves but it had been too difficult to bring them in so far so I was let off and spent nearly all my time talking to boys and girls who had exhibits there. I could have spent hours more doing this but had to leave on the last car, an early one.

How One Girl Started Canning

Kate McKinnell, the little girl shown on this page with the exhibit of canned goods, was there with her father from Teulon and a proud father he was. That shown is only a small part of her exhibit.



Writing Desks and Jardiniere Stands made at the Tecumseh one-roomed Rural School

Kate won 23 prizes at the local fair at Teulon, 25 of which were for canning and she must have captured a lot more here. I never saw a better exhibit of canned goods at any fair. She had peas, beans, cauliflower, vegetable marrow, tomatoes, cherries, plums (red and blue), apricots, pears and peaches. In jellies she had cranberry, red currant, crab apple, and in preserves gooseberries and strawberries. In pickles she had beets, gherkins, mixed pickles, onions, governor's sauce, mustard bean pickle, etc. Added to these was a variety of canned meats.

This little girl told me that Miss Atkinson, the demonstrator for the Department of Agriculture, visited their school at Teulon in March and gave a three days' demonstration. She had taught them how to can fruits and vegetables by the cold pack or one day method. Previous to that they had always used the three day method and it was very diffi-

cult to get interested in it enough to cook the vegetables or fruits three days.

I asked Kate how she came to start this work. She said, "I might never have started it but mamma fell sick just about the time we needed to do our canning and preserving. You know mamma is not very strong and there was no one to do this so I started in to do the best I could. I didn't find it very hard. I remembered what Miss Atkinson had shown us and then I saw in a paper a lot of things that helped me, like a list of how long to blanch some things and how long to sterilize. Papa got me some of the 'Perfect Seal' jars to put my fruit in because Miss Atkinson said that was the right kind but we ran out of them before I was through. Mary, my sister, has fifteen jars and good ones too, though she doesn't care for canning as much as I do. You know I won prizes also on my pressed flowers. Did you see them?" And she led me off to see a collection of 130 pressed weeds and flowers all nicely mounted and named.

A Budding Genius On Entomology

Nicholas Pankiw, a boy of Ruthenian descent, and one that will be a credit to Canada for he is a coming genius on entomology, showed the collection of insects shown in the centre of the opposite page. There were at least 350 specimens in the case, nicely mounted and named, generally with the scientific name also. The different stages in the life history of many insects were shown, such as those of the polyphemus moth, the cut worm moth, the dragon fly, etc. Entomology is a marvellously interesting study for it unfolds to one all the wonders of insect life and many phases of evolution, so I hunted up Nicholas. He was quite as interesting as the exhibit. He began immediately to tell me his experiences.

"I found the cocoon of five or six of these polyphemus moths last spring. (This is one of our largest and handsomest moths with a wing expansion of from four to six inches and is brown in color.) I brought them in and after keeping them a short time the young females came out. You see the leaf wrapped up in a round case with an opening in the end, well that is where each came out. One of them began to lay eggs almost at once. I put her on a paper so I could watch her and in one evening she laid over one hundred eggs. They were very hard, brown in color and surrounded with a sticky substance that made them stick so fast to the paper that I could hardly take them off. I sat up all night watching her lay." "How many eggs did she lay?" I asked. "As far as I could tell 417," he replied. He had the male and female, the eggs, larva, pupa, cocoon and parasites of this beautiful big moth.

He pointed out the nymph (young wingless stage) of a dragon fly and said he had examined it and found it had a little spoon shaped arrangement that it trailed through the water for catching other insects on which it lived. These young nymphs browse about in the bottom of a slough and finally crawl up a reed or stick, leave their skins there and emerge as a real live darning needle, darting about higher and thither ready to sew up people's ears, bring snakes to life, etc., as the old superstitions say but none of which they really do. Nicholas had all this down fine. He showed me the various stages in the life history of the cut worm, and he knew as much as anyone on how to handle cut worms. Every insect in his collection represented some unusual experience in chasing across fields, digging around in muddy sloughs or under old logs, looking in the trees or bushes, studying these in-



A FEW PRIZE WINNERS AT THE DAUPHIN FAIR

Standing behind are R. M. McCaig, the energetic organizer, M. L. Handrich of Mallett School, which captured in man, prize, and E. W. Walker, district school inspector and president of the club. Sitting in front, between the two boxes of potatoes is Clifford Smith, of Mallett School, who was awarded first prize.