

4-1931

## EC1621 Writing 4-H Club News

Elton Lux

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April, 1931



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# Writing 4-H Club News



"I get my pay for 4-H news reporting when I see my story in the paper," Fern Erskine, president of Nebraska's first news writing club, says.



The University of Nebraska Agricultural College Extension Service and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln



# Writing 4-H Club News

By Elton Lux \*

Bill's pony slid to a stifflegged stop a few feet from Shorty and the mail box.

"'Lo, Shorty."

"Hye, Bill. Where ya been?"

"Over 't th' meetin'."



"What meetin'?"

"4-H club."

"4-H club? What's that?"

"4-H club! Hain't ya ever heard of a 4-H club before?"

"Naw. What is it, anyhow?"

"It's an org'nization uv fellers like you 'n me, that's what 'tis."

"'Tis, huh? Well, where'd ya meet?"

"Over 't th' school house."

"This afternoon?"

"Yep. Just over. Ya oughta been there, Shorty."

"Couldn't. Had to herd cows. What'd ya do, anyhow?"

"Organized."

"Organized? How'd ya do that?"

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\* Illustrations by William Fergusan, Omaha.

"Oh, we talked around awhile, an' 'then 'lected officers. I'm news reporter, whatever that means."

"News reporter? Gee Whiz! Whatch hafta do?"

"Write up the meetin's fer the paper, I reckon."

"Oh, goin' to have some more meetin's?"

"Sure. Five er six uv 'em. Last all summer, this here 4-H club does. Ya oughta join, Shorty."

"Must cost a lot. don't it?"

"Naw, don't cost a cent, 'cept what ya hafta spend for a pig, an' then he's your's to sell agin ta make a lot of money on."

"Make a lot of money? Hot dawg! When can I get in?"

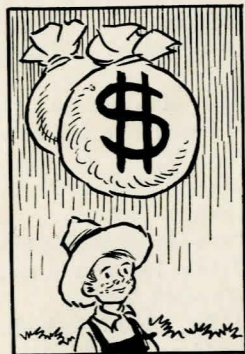
"Next meetin's week from Thursday, th' 29th."

"Kin I come, Bill?"

"Guess so. Somebody ask today why ya wasn't there."

"Who all belongs, anyhow?"

"Oh, there's five of us farm kids,—me and Carl Brown, Bob and George Overt, and Tuffy Meginnis, and then that city nephew uv ol' lady Smiths."



"Ho, ho! That feller! What's he know 'bout hawgs?"

"Not much, maybe, but he's a reg'lar guy, Shorty. He licked th' stuffin' outa ol' Tuffy Meginnis 'fore the meetin' today."

"Good fer him! Boy! Wisht I'd seen it."

"An' th' club 'lected him president, too."

"Fine! Got yer pig?"

"Not yet. Gon' to look fer some ta morrer. You got one?"

"Nope, but Dad has. Might borrow one."

"Can't do that, gotta own him yerself."

"Own him? Buy him? Where's the money?"

"Hafta borrow it, an' sign a note, an' pay intrust, like big men do, if ya can't raise th' cash."

"Ya do, eh? Well, don't know if I kin. What else's th' club goin' ta do?"

"Oh, lots of things! Goin' ta have a tour, an' a baseball team, an' a judgin' team, an' a dem'stration team, an' show our pigs at the fair."

"Golly Whiz! All that? Sounds hard."

"Yeah, it's goin' to be hard fer little fellers."





"Aw, I ain't so little, ya smarty."

"Well, don't go off mad 'bout it. We get lessons ta study an' th' local leader, he's goin' to help us every meeting'. Tain't goin't to be so bad."

"Oh, it ain't, eh?"

"Naw, tain't an' don't ferget th' ball team, Shorty."

"Ain't int'rusted, 'tall.' "

"Aw, come awn, Shorty, I'll take it back 'bout ya bein' a little runt. Ferget it. Come awn, join the club, an' maybe we'll make ya catcher on the ball team."

"Cud I be catcher, really?"

"Well, that's up ta th' gang, ya know, but I'll sure pull fer ya. Uv course, th' ball team's only a side issue, Mr. Brown said. The main idea of the club's ta learn how ta raise good hawgs. Gosh, it's purt near sundown. I got to be goin' 'long home. You think it over, Shorty."

"Yeah, I will. So long, Bill."

"So long, Shorty."

### His First Reporting

Without realizing it, Bill had done his first job of reporting, not for the paper, but to an interested individual. Shorty asked about all the questions a person could think of, and Bill's answers include most of the facts necessary for a good news story.

### Consider the Other Fellow

Two general points in the conversation are worth considering. The first is that the person who answers the questions, or who writes the news story, should think of the other fellow and realize that he was not at the meeting and may not know much about 4-H club work. The second point is that listeners to such an oral story, or readers of a written one in the newspaper, want to know comparatively simple facts in an ordinary, everyday, commonplace sort of way.

### The Art of Newswriting

There is nothing complicated about news writing. It is just the simple relation of the interesting things that have happened, are happening, or are planned for the future. Big or uncommon words are out of place. Flowery language is sickening. Long, complicated sentences and paragraphs are uninteresting and tiresome. The very art of news writing lies in its simpleness, clearness, interest, and accuracy.



### A Sample Story

Here is the way Bill might have written his news story:

Some boys met at the school house for the purpose of talking over the possibilities of organizing a pig club and getting some pigs. They had a fine meeting. Mr. Brown told us all about 4-H Club work and how much money we could make with some pigs so we organized and elected officers and fixed up a sheet of paper to send in to Lincoln to get the club lessons. Some of us are going to get pigs from our fathers but others have to borrow the money and buy them somewhere else.

The club is going to have a big time this summer with all our program of tours and judging contests and demonstrations and a baseball team. We boys decided to exhibit pigs at the county fair and expect to get all the premiums. After all this was decided the meeting was adjourned until Thursday the 29th and all the boys went home.

**What's the matter with that? Plenty. Compare it with the one below:**

Six boys organized the "Curly Tail" pig club in District 44 School House Friday afternoon. It is the first club in the neighborhood. Harold Smith, city nephew of Mrs. Ned Smith, was unanimously elected president of the club. He never saw

a pig until last week, but is already a leader among the boys.

C. P. Brown, prominent hog breeder, is local leader of the club. Carl Brown is vice-president, Robert Overt is secretary, and William Brand is news reporter. George Overt and Patrick Meginnis are the other two members.

The boys will buy their pigs and learn how to raise them. Judging and demonstration contests, a tour, five meetings, and exhibits at the county fair are all included in the club's plans for the next few months. If more boys join the club, they will organize a baseball team.

No expenses or fees are connected with the organization of a 4-H club, Mr. Brown explained to the boys. All the lessons come from the agricultural college free of charge. County agents and the agricultural extension service of Nebraska have charge of club work in this state. Any boy or girl between 10 and 20 years of age can belong. Five or more members can form a standard club.

### Where Number Two Shines

The second story has the following advantages over the first one:

Every sentence is a clear cut statement of fact.

The most important facts are in the first two sentences.

The most interesting fact is in the first paragraph.



The story contains names of everyone concerned.

The story contains fewer pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.

The story is written in third person.

What the club will do is outlined clearly.

Club requirements are listed.

If the story is too long, it can be cut off anywhere.

### Newswriting and Recipes

Now, how will you write a news story with all the good points and none of the poor ones in it? Making a story out of facts and words is something like baking a cake or pie crust or loaf of bread out of flour and shortening and sugar and water and all the other things you girls know about.

There the hundreds of recipe books for cooks, but very few 4-H club reporters.

Any girl can follow directions and bake a fair cake or pie crust or loaf of bread. Any news reporter can copy the style of writing used by most reporters in the past and do a fair job of news writ-



ing. It is the fine cake, or pie crust, or loaf of bread, or news story we are after. The ingredients, so to speak, and the directions for mixing them included in this circular are like a recipe,—to be tried, and enjoyed if you are successful.

### Learn to Know Ovens, and Editors

Then there is the oven, and the editor. Perhaps the 4-H cook does everything just right, but the oven is too hot or too cold, or the cake falls, or the pie crust curls up, or the bread burns. Perhaps the 4-H reporter follows all the suggestions in this circular, then the editor rewrites the story to suit his own fancy, and it appears in the paper like hundreds of other stories.

There's just one thing to do about it. Learn to know the oven, and the editor, so well you can correct the trouble and get better results next time. Test out the oven. Visit the editor personally, and tell him what you are trying to do.



### The Best Stories

People vary greatly in their judgment of cake and pie and bread, and also news

stories. Your hungry brother will probably gobble down a big piece of cake and call it great stuff. Your finicky aunt will probably say you forgot the flavoring and put a little too much salt in it. News that will appeal to one paper reader may be flat and dead to another. The best stories interest the most people.

### **"Human Interest" Appeals to People**

Human beings have much in common. They eat and sleep, work and play, crave excitement and enjoy leisure, have a few hopes and ideals, dream a few dreams, have a few fears and pains, but on the whole get quite a kick out of living. Any 4-H club stories which will provoke amusement, admiration, hunger, fear, dread, or sympathy among readers will have what is called "human interest" in them. Next to variety, human interest is the most needed of any quality in 4-H club stories.

4-H club reporters have a big advantage in that people like to see and hear about the young folks doing practical things as well as or better than old folks can do the same things. 4-H news reporters, therefore, should capitalize upon this advantage by writing news which sounds as if it were written by boys and girls. The reporter who kills all the youth of a club story by putting it into formal, dignified English, or who lets a parent or leader do the writing, is making a sad mistake.

### **Need "A Nose For News"**

Boys might not know the difference but the girls realize it would be foolish to try to bake an angel food cake with graham flour or cornmeal. Putting yeast in pie crust dough would be just as silly. Knowing what facts to gather for a news story is often called having a "nose for news." Now, a nose for news does not seem to be of any particular physical size or shape. Some noses seem to know, nevertheless, that one fact would be interesting to newspaper readers and that another would not.

### **The Ingredients of a News Story**

Ordinarily, names of people plus what they did, do, or plan to do, make up the best part of the news for a local paper. The good news reporter does not guess at news of strangers or try to remember them. He asks for initials or first names, and for the spelling of last names, and he writes them all down. Seldom, if ever, should a reporter use nicknames.

The first time a man's name is mentioned in a news story, his first name or initials should precede the name. Afterward in the story when his name is mentioned, the term "Mr." may be used with it, or it may stand alone. For example, "L. A. Jones" might appear first, then later in the story it might be "Mr. Jones" or just "Jones." Never use "Mr." in connection with the initials or first name. Never repeat



the complete name, that is, initials or first name and last name, in the story.

The first time a lady's name is used, her initials or first name should precede the name. A few married women like to be known by their maiden names plus their husbands' last names, but most of them use their husband's initials or names. Always put "Mrs." before a married lady's name and "Miss" before an unmarried lady's name.

At what age a 4-H club boy becomes "Mr." and a 4-H club girl gets to be "Miss" in a news story is a question. Certainly, when they take on the duties of local leader along with the activity of membership, they deserve the distinguishing title. The expression, "Young Jones," is not complimentary and should never be used.

Titles need not be confusing. They may be written before or after the name. The terms "Dr.," "Rev.," "Hon." are generally used before a name and begun with capital letters. Such titles as "County Agent" may be used before or after a name. When used before the name, the words should be capitalized, but when they appear after a name, no capitals are



necessary. Avoid too long a title after a name. For example, "L. I. Frisbie, **state extension agent in boys and girls 4-H club work of the University of Nebraska agricultural college extension service,**" is entirely too long a tail to hang on any man. "L. I. Frisbie, **state 4-H club leader,**" is much better for newspaper use.

Names and titles of people alone do not make news stories interesting. It is what they do or do not do, and how, that makes the news. Within this realm of 4-H club activity lies practically all the possibilities of 4-H club news writing in the future.

In Nebraska, enough 4-H club stories have been written about clubs **having meetings** at homes and in school houses, enough lessons have been **studied**, enough articles have been **judged**, enough demonstrations have been **given**, and enough suggestions have been **followed**. Nebraska newspaper readers want to know how club members really do these things in new, novel, and different ways. They want variety, if you please, and the 4-H club story that gets across in the future will have to have human interest, variety, real boy and girl life, plus a few useful or inspirational facts, in it.

Among the other ingredients of a news story are the "When" and "Where." "When" is usually taken care of by the day, time of day, and the calendar date. "Where" is always the location in more or less detail. Sometimes it is

necessary and advisable to give directions from well known points. These two facts work in very nicely in most first paragraphs.

Two other ingredients are "Why" and "How." "Why" deals with reasons for an act or a lack of activity. Unusual conditions should generally be accounted for. "How" includes explanatory details and is closely connected with what the personalities of the news stories do or plan. Useful information, such as telling how a demonstration team members did their stuff, comes within the "How" part of the news story. There is considerable room for development of this feature of 4-H club news, since older people marvel at the excellent work done by their young friends in 4-H club projects, and often copy the methods used.

To summarize the discussion of news story ingredients, a good story generally contains Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How just as a good cake contains flour, sugar, shortening, liquid, and some other things. But it takes more than the six ingredients listed to make a good news story, just as it takes some skillful mixing and flavoring and handling to make a good cake.

#### **Knack of Writing Comes Naturally to a Few**

Some people have the knack of being good story tellers. Some people also have the knack of putting words together so they sound right, read well, and convey the correct message to the



reader. The rest of us will just have to struggle along trying to improve our news writing by study and practice.

This study and practice must begin with thots and words, then sentences and paragraphs, and finally with

the arrangement of the entire story. We think and speak much as Bill and Shorty did in the first part of this circular. We use words in writing that we never think of using in the same way when speaking. The news writer's job is to strike a happy medium between dignified written English and conversational English.

#### **Statements Should Be Specific**

Most reporters have tried to say too little about too much. It isn't necessary to write about every single thing that happened at a meeting. Since editors and readers want variety in their 4-H club news in the future, reporters should concentrate on one or two phases of the club meeting or activity. What they write about may only occupy ten or fifteen minutes in a two hour meeting, yet be worthy of almost the entire attention of the reporter. After writing such a story, it is well to add a statement at



the end of the story that the part of the meeting discussed was only one of several things taken up or accomplished by the boys or girls at the meeting.

Too many statements are general instead of specific. They cover everything, like an old Mother Hubbard. Every word in a news story ought to have a purpose,—to help convey a concrete picture or idea. For an example of this point, turn again to the two stories about Bill and Shorty. Notice how much more the second story gives you per sentence and paragraph than the first story. The practical way to improve your work in this respect is to write and rewrite. In rewriting, try to substitute concrete for abstract and general words.

### Simple Sentences Are Best

While it is a good idea to vary sentence construction to add variety and to emphasize certain facts, the majority of the sentences in news stories are simple in construction. The subject is first, followed by an active verb. Passive voice is weak, lacks punch and snap. Most sentences are comparatively short, sometimes so short as to be abrupt. Good journalism demands sentences that are full of nouns and verbs rather than adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions. Periods are used often, commas only when needed to make the meaning clear. Very few questions appear in good news stories. Exclamations are entirely out of place unless

they appear in quotation marks, and then their use is limited.

### Paragraph Often

Paragraphs in news stories are mechanical means of making the copy easier to read and more attractive in the column. Two or three sentences generally make a paragraph, regardless of literary rules of composition. Near the lead of the story, each sentence is sometimes a separate paragraph.

### Essay vs. News Style

Most farm boys know the difference between a dairy calf and a baby beef. Most girls know the difference between a sport costume and an evening gown. Most editors know the difference between a story written in composition or essay form and one written in what editors call "news style." In composition or essay writing, the skillful writer makes a statement, enlarges upon it, and summarizes the points to make a paragraph. The theme of the story is in the second or third paragraph, and the climax generally near the end. In news writing, the skillful writer makes a bold statement of fact first, then goes on to





explain and enlarge upon it. If there is little room to explain, the statement of fact stands alone. Comparing daily paper news stories with essays is the best way to learn to recognize news style.

Another ear mark of news style is that all the statements are written in third person. There are no first and second person pronouns in the story. Direct quotations, of course, are exceptions; they may be written in either first, second, or third person. When editors print the names of the reporters with the stories, the reporters have a little more leeway in using first person, however. In these cases, the news story is more like a published letter to friends than like a journalism news story.

#### The Necessary "According to—"



Did you ever notice an ornery cur trying to nip the heels of a perfectly innocent person passing by along the road or sidewalk? And did you ever see that person pick up a switch and swish it around behind him as he walked along acting like he knew everybody was watching him? The

way some journalists insist on tacking such phrases as, "according to County Agent Smith," or "Mrs. E. C. Brown, the local leader, said," to the end of the sentences reminds one of the man, his switch and the cur. But editors must do it to protect themselves. If they printed every statement concerning opinion without mentioning who is responsible for the opinion, the credit, and the blame also, would fall upon the editor. People like to see their names in the newspaper in connection with fine things they say and do.

Another minor characteristic of news style is lack of capital letters. Only the first words of sentences, direct quotations, and proper names and adjectives begin with capitals.

#### Write a Well Rounded Story

Much more might be written in theoretical fashion about news style and the arrangement of facts with the big ideas first, the smaller ones next and the insignificant things last. In actual writing, particularly for the weekly paper, you will probably get farther by trying to write a well rounded story of about the accepted length than you will by paying so much attention to big ideas first, etc. As you learn to write more easily, study the news style of better weeklies and small city dailies. You will get from these papers an idea of news style which you can use in the majority of cases when writing up 4-H club and community news.

If you were to meet a friend, as Bill did, on the way home from a 4-H club event, and that friend should ask, as Shorty did, where you had been, your first reply would be, "At the meeting." Therefore the most important fact in connection with the club event is the fact that you had a meeting. But thousands of clubs have meetings and thousands of stories have been written about the club having a meeting at somebody's home. The monotony of those sentences is something terrible, yet from the journalistic standpoint, the leads of the stories have been correct.

#### **Important and Interesting Facts First**

For the sake of variety in the first sentences or leads, we would have you think of two things in preparing to write the leads: first, what was the most interesting or useful thing that happened in connection with the club event; second, what was the most important action of the club or the individual members. Then write about these things, and forget that the club had a meeting. If the story is told correctly everyone will know the club met. "I take my pen in hand to write you a letter," is no longer commonly used. Someone must have discovered it was impossible to write a letter without a pen or pencil in hand.

For some reporters, the easiest way to actually get the first sentence started is to write headlines first. They try to boil down the inter-

esting or important fact to about six words which might be used as a headline. Then they enlarge upon the six words to make the first sentence.

#### **Headline Sells Story To Editor**

Writing a headline for the story may help in other ways. If it is left on the copy and sent to the editor, the headline may help sell the story to him. If he can see at a glance what it is about, he may treat it more kindly than if he had to read the whole story to find out what it is about. However, the headline may not be usable. Editors have several kinds and sizes of type for headlines. Columns are only about two inches wide and only a certain number of letters and spaces will fit in each line in a column. Type is made of hard metal. It can't be stretched or squeezed, so editors must choose words that fit the space.

#### **Quote Leader and Demonstrators**

We have mentioned the activities of the individual members. From the very start, the local leader counsels and advises and instructs the members. Very soon, the good leader has the members themselves teach and demonstrate to each other. Some of the things the leader and members say to the rest of the club ought to make good quotations in news stories. Direct quotations add to the value of a news story when the quotations are from an accepted



authority, when they are so nearly word for word that they reflect personality, and when they are concrete and specific in giving directions, opinions, or instruction. In using quotations, always make certain that they really say something worth while, interesting, or useful.



Direct quotations fit in well with description of individual and team demonstrations. It is no longer enough to state briefly that Mary Smith demonstrated how to give a chicken a bath. What the readers want to know is how she did it. What Mary said while she worked may be just as interesting to readers of the news story as it was to the club members. Direct quotations are also useful in stories about outside speakers who come to the club meeting to talk. What they say would certainly interest other club members and might interest many others.

#### **People Love Winners**

Judging practice begins with the first lessons of 4-H club work. What's it for? How do you do it? These questions have not been answered in news stories of the past. All that reporters

have said has been that they had a judging contest, or that they judged pot holders or aprons. Judging practice still offers a splendid opportunity for variety in 4-H club news stories.

Whenever competition is mentioned, as in judging contests, readers want to know about winners, who they are, why they won, and what were the standards of excellence. This principle follows thru county and state and interstate competition. Premium winners at the fair are news because everyone loves a winner. Therefore, names of winners of club judging practices are news, but they become monotonous unless other facts mentioned above are added to the story.

#### **Avoid Emphasis on Recreation**

All this talk about monotony may lead reporters to believe there are no possibilities of novel or different or interesting stories in their own clubs,—that all the exciting things happen in other clubs. They may believe that their clubs are dead from the neck both ways. They may shift to the outside





activities such as hikes, picnics, games, etc. for news. There is just one word of caution. Older people are fed up on news stories of irresponsible youth. Adults like stories of accomplishment and of sensible activity of the young folks. While parents may realize that it takes some play and fun to make 4-H club work go, the news stories should not emphasize too strongly the recreational side of the activities. If the stories are all about picnics and ball games and other fun, some people will believe these things are the major purpose of 4-H club work.

### Handle Fair Time Stories Fast

Fair time brings the chance to show off what has been accomplished both in exhibit form and in news stories. As soon as the club decides to exhibit, what to exhibit, where, when, and all



the other details, the reporter should write it up for the paper. The story will build up interest in the fair, it will stimulate or discourage competition, depending upon the ginger in rival clubs, and it will build up morale in the local members. As the season progresses and the actual entries are



made, the reporter has another chance for a story. Names of exhibitors, what they enter, what prizes they are after, and whether it is their first attempt or they have a past reputation should be in such a story.

At the fair, the most satisfactory procedure is for the reporter to make some personal contact with the editor to turn over to him the club's winnings as soon as possible after the ribbons are hung. The next best thing would be to write down the winnings in a news story and send the story immediately to the paper. The unsatisfactory way to handle the situation is to wait until the excitement is all over and the reporter is back home, and then send in a stale story.

This brings up timeliness, an essential of a news story not previously discussed. News is said to be hot as it appears and for a short time afterward. It begins to cool off rapidly as soon as the next edition of the paper is off the press, and is as cold and clammy as ice box potato by the time the paper goes to the press again. The good news reporter writes the story

within a few hours after the event happens, and sends it to the editor immediately. In some cases, reporters have trotted the story to the paper without even writing it out in order to get it in the current week's edition. A fair story an hour old is worth many times as much as a well written story a week old.

### **Summarize Accomplishments**

The achievement day is the most neglected meeting of the club so far as the news reporters of the past have been concerned. It is supposed to be the event of the year when the general public is invited to take notice of what has been accomplished. The news story about this climax of 4-H club work should summarize the accomplishments of the members. The information is tabulated on a report form by the local leader. Actual facts can be secured from this report, but the human interest must be supplied by the reporter who has lived thru the experiences. Detailed copy of the program as it is given is not of interest to newspaper readers. Write up only the high spots, or summarize the program in a sentence or two.

Achievement day stories are no places for sob stuff or graduation day tears. A statement that the members thanked the leader for all kind services is not enough. The statement should tell how they did it.

### **Get Editor To Attend**

More editors should attend good achievement days. They need the contact with inspirational

4-H club work. So, if your experience as news reporter gives you a close contact with an editor, invite him to your achievement day. Make him feel he is to be an honored guest. Pay no attention to his excuses that he is too busy. Tell him it will be good for his liver, and get him to the meeting.

### **Good Pictures Tell Stories**

Now, just a few words about another angle of your job as chief advertised of your club's affairs. Good pictures tell stories that words cannot tell. Few weekly papers can use cuts of pictures, but the pictures can be shown to friends, exhibited or passed around at achievement day, or used in other ways to tell the real story of 4-H club work.



ment day, or used in other ways to tell the real story of 4-H club work.

"Gettin' yer pitcher took" is an unpopular o r d e a l. Everybody kicks about it. No one likes to line up with a half dozen other homely ginks in front of a bush or wall to get shot.

### **Get Close—Take Details**

And that kind of picture is seldom any good, anyway. The real 4-H club picture is the one



taken up close to the individual or object, so close as to show freckles and warts.

Most pictures are not usable because they are not clear. There is a big difference between being able to recognize who is in the picture and being able to make a good engraving from it.

### **The Camera**

Expensive cameras will help take better pictures, but some of the best ones have been taken with the inexpensive box type without any lens at all. If the camera does not leak light, the shutter works properly, and the lens is clean, the camera itself cannot be blamed for poor pictures.

### **The Film**

New film of a standard make should give satisfaction. The paper around the negative in the roll should be kept tightly rolled before and after taking, and the camera should be reloaded out of the bright sunlight if possible.

### **The Operator—The Focus**

The camera operator is most often at fault altho the other possible causes of poor pictures generally get the blame. The box camera has its limitations as to focus. Eight to twenty-five feet is about its range for clear, sharp details. A portrait attachment may be used, but the distance must be carefully measured. The folding kodak has a distance gauge

on it and correct focus depends upon the judgment of the operator. It is better to underestimate than overestimate distance. When operating at less than ten feet from the object, distance should be measured accurately.

### **The A'm**

A picture of an individual with his head cut off is of little value. Practice with a camera will make it possible to aim it to fill the picture without cutting off some vital part.

### **Absence of Motion**

The operator of the camera can never be certain that the object will remain still, but he can generally control the camera. If it must be held in the hands, it should be held firmly against the body with the left hand, leaving the right hand entirely free to snap the trigger or press the shutter button. The safest way to take pictures is to place the camera on a tripod or on a table. Clamps are also available to fasten the camera to the back of a chair, edge of a table, or on any other shelf or convenient support. Some type of support is necessary in taking time exposures.

### **Correct Exposure**

Getting the right exposure on a film means letting the correct amount of light thru the camera opening for the right length of time. This is taken care of on the box camera and there are no adjustments to make for ordinary work. On the folding kodak both the size of the



opening and the speed of the shutter can be regulated according to the light, the object taken, and the background. It is better to over expose than under expose negatives. If you have a camera that is not giving satisfaction, take it to a good photographer and ask him to show you how to set it for bright sunlight, shadow, cloudy weather, summer and winter light etc.

Generally speaking, the smaller the opening or lens aperture the sharper the picture will be. Other things being equal, the closer the camera is to the object, the longer the shutter should be open.

### **The Occasion**

We generally see the rabbit when the gun isn't loaded. Have a camera available at every club meeting to get the possible pictures there, and then try to get some at home of the individual members at work or play.

The Extension Service is interested in pictures that show how boys and girls learn and do new things, how they like work that is sometimes that of as farm drudgery, how they act like old folks in community affairs, and how they beat the adults in competition.

Submit pictures taken this year to county extension agents or the agricultural college extension service, Lincoln, Nebraska. Names and other information regarding the pictures should be attached, not written on the back of the prints.