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## A Study of the Needs of Beeville, Texas, as a Basis for a Course in Home Economics for Colored High School Girls

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A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF BEEVILLE, TEXAS, AS  
A BASIS FOR A COURSE IN HOME ECONOM-  
ICS FOR COLORED HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS

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-By-

Mrs. E. E. Housworth Lockett

A Thesis in Home Economics Education  
Submitted in Partial Fulfill-  
ment of the Require-  
ments for the

Degree of

Bachelor of Science

in the

Division of Home Economics

of the

Prairie View State Normal and

Industrial College

Prairie View, Texas

August, 1936

## A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

Gratefull acknowledgment is made to Miss Elizabeth C. May, Director of Division of Home Economics, Prairie View State College, for her invaluable counsel and assistance in the preparation of this thesis.

Acknowledgment is made to my husband, John Roosevelt Lockett, without whose valuable encouragements, this study could hardly have been completed.

E. E. L.

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Dedicated To  
My Mother, Mrs. Mary Irine Hous-  
worth, deceased,  
and  
My Husband, John Roosevelt Lock-  
ett.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## CHAPTER I.

## INTRODUCTION

In the preparation of this thesis, an effort has been made to study the needs of Beeville, Texas, as a basis for a course in Home Economics, for the Colored High School girls.

Realizing that a Home Economics course has proved to be very valuable in almost every school curriculum, it is assumed that it can be of untold benefit to the High School girls of Beeville, so much so that this benefit derived there from will carry over into the homes of the girls with a telling effect.

Home Economics, which has always claimed for itself outstanding social values, can be called upon to justify and will justify its claims, even in the Beeville High School for Colored girls, if given a chance.

Home Economics has some well defined pur-

poses that would serve to bring out many hidden possibilities in the life and usefulness of the Colored High School girls of Beeville, Texas.

One purpose is that of developing the ability of some to make a living in those pursuits to which Home Economic subject matter contributes, as dietitians, home service, representatives, for equipment companies, nursery school directors, tea room managers, and many other occupations.

Another, the purpose of assisting in the process of developing boys and girls, men and women as individuals to their optimum in health, social and economic living, and personality.

Another; the purpose of training every man and woman, boy and girl to live a better life in a better home.

In looking forward it seems reasonable to predict that there will continue to be many occupations for women and girls, which will re-

quire the technical training to be found in the Home Economics field. There will also be more and more need for training individuals to live rich, full lives in good adjustment of their surroundings.

In its initial stages the place of Home Economics was held to be within the walls of the home and was taught from the school room as a practical service to the future home-maker.

Now Home Economics has come out into the public arena not only to serve and to feed the multitude, but under federal, state and private relief to meet the greatest need of modern times, to aid the house-wife to stretch the relief dollar to feed her family to the maximum health degree.

The following Home Economic objectives are especially fitting:

1. Creating appreciation for home life and home making as a mode of life.
2. Training for worthy membership in a home.
3. Efficiency in home making skills.
4. Maintaining home sanitation and health.



5. Wise use of leisure time.
6. Right attitude toward community life.
7. Increase enjoyment of life<sup>1</sup>

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Footnote: (1) Justin, Margaret, Pennsylvania School Journal . (no date given)

## CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, BEEVILLE, TEXAS

Beeville, the county-seat of Bee County is situated near the center of the county on the Galveston Harrisbury and San Antonio (S.P. Lines) railroad, 95 miles south of San Antonio and 56 miles north of Corpus Christi. It is also the terminus of the Victoria division (Victoria being 56 miles east) of the Southern Pacific Lines. State highways Nos. 12 and 16 pass through Beeville. No 12 comes from the eastern states through Houston to Brownsville, and other Rio Grande Valley points. No. 16 comes from the northern states through San Antonio to Corpus Christi, and other South Texas points.

About 5,000 people make Beeville their home, and it is one of the most up-to-date little cities in the Southwest. It has many modern brick, tile and concrete business houses. The \$100,000 county court house is one of the finest buildings of its

kind in the state. The \$50,000 Federal building is one of which any city may be proud.

Beeville has a \$50,000 theatre, the superior of which cannot be found between San Antonio and Brownsville; a 35-room hospital with a 16 room down town clinic. There is also a \$150,000 fire proof 90 room hotel (built by local capital) that will do credit to any town of its size in the state. There are also several smaller hostelries. There is a splendid sewage system, with storm sewers to take care of the excess rainfall, an efficient light, power and water works plant serves the city.

A well equipped volunteer fire department protects the city from fire menace. The fire insurance key rate is .50¢; a natural gas pipe line passes near the city and most homes and business houses use natural gas for fuel.

Beeville has two National banks and one State bank; the combined deposits of the banks averaged \$1,000,000.00. There are two cotton gins, cotton mills, cotton compresses, beverage bottling plants, a

saddle and harness shop, two chick hatcheries, three broom factories, two bakeries, two lumber yards, one of the best weekly newspapers in the state, excellent eating houses, many garages, and filling stations, a number of department, gents' furnishing, hardware, and grocery stores. All business streets of the city and some 10 miles of residence streets are paved.

The following religious denominations are represented: Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Christian, Luthern, and Episcopalian. There are six schools in Beeville; a public high school, public grammar school, St. Mary's Academy, Mexican Catholic Convent, and separate public schools for Negroes and Mexicans. There is also a kindergarten school.

The water supply of this section is apparently inexhaustable, the entire county being underlaid with an underground lake or streams, at depths of from 40 to 150 feet, and is brought to the surface by windmills and gasoline engines. Just recently there was, in Beeville, an artesian

well brought in at 640 feet. The capacity of this well is 20 gallons per minute, through a small pipe.

Bee county has a \$25,000 fair plant. There are 60 acres in the tract with buildings to house the Womens' Exhibits, Agricultural Exhibits, Poultry Exhibits, cattle, hogs, sheep, a large auditorium for gatherings, a three-fourths mile race track, stables for housing the horses, a commodious grandstand and bleachers, with ideal baseball and football grounds.

This park is with in easy walking distance of the court house, and is on a paved street.

The Colored population of Beeville is outnumbered three to one, by the whites and Mexicans. The relationship between the races is quite congenial. For the most part many of this group of citizens have come from Goliad and out from East Texas. Few of them are native born Beevillians, and any number have settled here from other towns in Texas.

It is interesting to know that Goliad, from

which many of our colored citizens come, was one of the first four counties in Texas, 100 years ago. The older people have for their boast that they are from historic "Goliad".

Many of the Beeville Colored people own their homes. Some of the homes are fairly nice, some poor, and others very poor, but to them it is home.

As Henry Val Dyke says in his poem on "Home---"  
"Home:" " It's the place where it's good to be

When fate brings sorrow or tragedy.

A place where sympathy comes to you

Where thoughts are tender and words ring true,  
Where you feel the clasp of a loyal hand

And the love of those who understand;

When life is tragic or gay or free,

Home is the place where it's good to be."

A course in Home Economics for Colored High School girls would have as one of its aims a study of what we can do to make the homes in which we now live and our future homes, the happy kind.

A. Standards of Living:-

(a) Economic-

Economic standards of living should be put on a level with the income wage of the family, since the high cost of living has out run the wage earned, and because too many of the Colored citizens of Beeville live far above their incomes as well as many of the whites ("keeping up with the Browns").

(b) Moral-

The moral status of our group in Beeville, Texas, is far too low; overt bad living on the part of men, women, boys and girls is responsible. A course in Home Economics for the high school Colored girl may be able to find a way out.

(c) The educational status of the Colored group is not commensurate with their opportunity. Very few parents are not even high school graduates. This may be said of all groups. Yet some have a bit of culture embibed through contact.

Approximately six persons of our group have degrees, but any number are working to obtain de-

grees. More of the whites have degrees; yet they too are working to obtain more.

(2) Activities of the High School Girls:-

The high school girls of the Colored group have for their main activities sports and games.

(3) Vocational Opportunities:-

Vocational opportunities for Colored citizens are some what circumscribed.

The cotton fields and hard labor have become irksome for too many of the Colored citizens. A few have fairly good jobs such as chef cook at hotels and cafes. Janitor at the court house, helper at the garage, oil mill hands, and a few others make up the veins of employment for the Colored citizens.

Yet the white laborers have, as would be expected, for a town the size of Beeville, Texas, the best places where by they may obtain a lively hood.

With a course of Home Economics in the Beeville Colored High School, this question of Vocational opportunities would be changed so that it could be "a survival of the fittest".



## CHAPTER III.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COURSES TO BE OFFERED

The age in which we now live is a progressive one, and in order that the girls of the Colored High School of Beeville, Texas, may keep up with the progressive age, one of the great efforts should be to develop in the girls of Beeville, Texas, of the Colored High School, a keen desire to intelligently and cooperatively assume their share of the responsibility for orderly, happy homes of high moral and social standards.

As home economics is well adapted to progressive educational methods, it will be found that these methods develop alertness, interest, power to analyze and the desire to progress.

Character building, too, may be stressed through class organization, the idea being to arouse in the girl a conscious effort to try to eradicate undesirable habits and to establish helpful, desirable habits of every day living.

One of the greater problems of the Course would be to try to reach the Sub-Standard girl.

1. Reaching the retarded girl before she drops from school.
2. Reaching the substandard homes which are impairing health of future generations, and increasing the present tax load because of the parents' lack of training and ability to meet their responsibilities.

This course will train to help make our American homes more secure, more stable, and much happier.

It will train them to make each dollar spent in their homes equal in purchasing power to every two that their mothers spend. It will teach the girls to plan to bring up to the so called "American Standard" that large portion of our Colored population living in squalor and strife. Through this course our economically underprivileged women and girls, can be trained in technical skills that will help them help themselves from the morass of dependency.

First:- I suggest that the courses in Home Economics should be based upon the girl's needs and relationship in the home.

Second:- That the courses be organized in view of reaching the retarded and under privileged girls and women.

Third:- That the <sup>u</sup>course be organized so that it will reach the substandard homes.

A. Survey Report:---

Business Mens' Group:-

Case No. I.

1. Kind of business engaged in: druggist

2. Kind of help needed: delivery boy

a. Pharmacutics

b. Janitor

c. Clerks

3. No. of Colored persons employed: 2

In what capacity? Janitor, delivery boy.

What is your attitude toward hiring a person who has gained his information through a course in Home Economics in Beeville Colored High School? Favorable Attitude

SURVEY REPORT

## Business Men's Group

## Case No. II.

1. Kind of business engaged in: Bakery
2. Kind of help needed: Baker
  - (1.) Janitor
  - (2) Driver
  - (3) Clerk
  - (4) Bakers-? 2
3. No. of Colored persons employed? 2  
 In what capacity: Cake Baker's Helper  
Janitor

What is your attitude toward hiring a person who has gained his information through a course in Home Economics in the Beeville Colored High School:--Favorable Attitude

## Case No. III.

1. Kind of business engaged in:-- Cafe
2. Kind of help needed: Cooks, Dishwasher, Waiters.
  1. Janitor
  2. Sales Girl
  3. Manager

3. No. of Colored persons employed:- 6

In what capacity? Chef cook, second cook

Janitor, dishwashers 2

Night cook

What is your attitude toward hiring a person who has gained his information through a course in Home Economics in the Beeville Colored High School?  
Favorable attitude.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAPTER IV.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This production represents an original survey and study of the needs of Beeville, Texas, as a basis for a course in Home Economics for Colored High School girls.

Although the information derived from various sources contributing to this study has not been adequate to warrant final conclusion; it has been sufficient enough to reveal the fact that the citizens of Beeville, Texas, for the most part are in hardy accord with the underlying ~~purpose~~ purpose of the survey and have pledged themselves to support any worth while movement for the advancement of Colored girls and boys of Beeville, Texas.

This study has been a source of pleasure and information as well as inspiration to the writer.

Through contact with citizens in survey and interviews, much has been learned which will always

be outstanding in memory and an asset to my future education in those fundamentals that go to make life worth while.

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