

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Hazel B. Wayman

Former Member Garland County Extension Homemakers Council

Original recording made 9 August 2011

at Hot Springs, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Janie Woods

Garland County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity Chairman





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Oral History Program

Janie M. Woods, Garland County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity
Chairman

9 August 2011

This is an audio recording of Hazel B. Wayman, former member Garland County Extension Homemakers Council. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Hazel is answering questions asked by Garland County Publicity Chairman, Janie M. Woods.

Questions and comments by Janie are in boldface type; Hazel's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Janie Woods, and I am interviewing Hazel B. Wayman. This interview is being held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in Garland County on August 9, 2011.

The audio recordings and transcript of this interview will be [unclear word] donated to the Barbara—David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas.

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Would you please state your name?

Hazel B. Wayman.

And spell your name.

H-A-Z-E-L [laughs] and B. and Wayman—W-A-Y-M-A-N.

And, indicate that you are willing to give the Pryor Center permission to make the audio file and transcript available to others.

Yes.

OK. Thank you. [*Papers rustle*] Now we're ready to begin our real interview.

My name is Janie Woods, and today I am interviewing Hazel B. Wayman for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. It is August 9, 2011, and we are at Hazel's home in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

This is going to be a very informal interview. And I want you to share your memories of your involvement with the Extension Homemakers Program, the good times and the challenges.

First, I'd like you to give your complete legal name.

Hazel B. Wayman [*laughs*].

And the city and county in which you currently reside.

Garland County, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

OK. What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program—have you been a member, or a professional, or an agent, or a specialist?

I was just a member. And, we organized our little club, which was Daniel, in nineteen fifty—about—fifty-six [1956], we thank [think]. And, it was active club—we did everything [*laughs*]! We learned so much!

Well, how did you find out about the Extension Homemakers Program? How did you come to—to be in that club?

Well, I was brought up in 4-H, when I—my sister [Interviewee's Edit: Opal

Mabry Faulkenberry] and I—in Missouri—we were active in 4-H, and 'course we knew about Extension work [*laughs*].

And so you joined Daniel Club—and—were you one of the founding members?

Yes, I guess I was the first president, and Mrs. Grace Rowe was the vice president, and Marie Gibson was our sec'etary [secretary], and we had close to—at one time, I remember, we had near 20 members, and they were all good workers [*laughs*].

So, how long were you in Extension Homemakers?

Well, I guess it would be 50 years [pause] probably—I. . .

You joined in 1956 . . .

No. Yes, when we formed our club, it was around [19]56 and . . .

And when did you quit to go to work?

I quit in seventy-three [1973], I guess. I went to work.

Well, tell us about where you went to work.

Well, we had Fann Woodward was our economist Home Economist with the Cooperative Extension Service] then, and she was familiar with the Rehab [Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center] here. And they needed a seamstress to made surgical corsets, and she recommended that I go up there and apply for it. And, of course, they jumped [*laughs*] at me, and I took training, and I w—training and the work was 11 years that I worked.

But that came directly out of you bein' [being] in Extension Homemakers . . .

Oh, yes! I learned to do all the different stitches and with the machines and everything.

[Pause] Let's see, we've talked about that you were in Daniel [Extension Homemakers Club], and what year—are you presently a club member?

No.

And we said that you quit to go to work . . .

Yes. [*Microphone rattles*]

Uh-huh.

And . . .

Oh, we're gonna [going to] pause for a minute, because her microphone has dropped . . .

Oh . . .

. . . into her lap. [Long pause] OK, we're back. We've got our microphone problem fixed. When you first organized this club, do you have any special remembrances about that first, maybe meeting, or that first year, or those first few years?

Well, we had to form a name and there was a little grade school down Higdon Ferry [Road] then, and a lot of the people had gone to that school or was connected with it, so we named it Daniel [Extension Homemakers Club] for that and . . .

. . . [*Unclear word*] but this club was in Garland County, right?

Yes. Oh, yes!

And—and back then was—were your clubs in districts, like you're in Garland County, and then was the county in a certain district?

Well, we just called it, you know, the south end of town, and like that, we didn't. . .

OK. OK. And you discontinued your membership because you went to work, is that correct?

Yes.

OK. And—but you were pretty involved, I think you had indicated, before you did go to work—in your club you—you did quite a few things. Tell me about some of the different offices you held in the club, and on the—and in the county, and maybe even in the state.

Well, I did most everything in the craft line, and I would go to other county fairs and judge their county fair. I know I went to Stuttgart, Arkansas, and Arkadelphia and Benton [*air whistles through teeth*]*—the county fair. And I helped organize other clubs that would need organized, later.*

You mean you helped organize new clubs?

Yes—new clubs.

What did you do to help organize those clubs?

Well, I would take the literature from the economist and just, 'course, they all knew that our club was active, and [*laughs*] they wanted to copy [*laughs*], so we didn't have much trouble there. And we would help in our county fair. We would take care of the offices [Interviewee's Edit: We served as superintendents in the different departments.] during the fair. I was always a chairman of something—canning or of the sewing, or somethin' [*something*].

Do you have a story you'd like to tell me about the canning [*HW laughs*] at the fair?

Well, you worked one day admitting the canned vegetables and fruit, and then you would get it all displayed in a nice tables and shelves, and then the next day the judges would come out. And we were just getting ready to leave one evenin' [*evening*], and everything was all set up, and we heard a blast—noise, and went back, and I had placed a can—a quart—of canned corn up on the shelf, and it had exploded. And corn was ev'rywhere [*laughs*]. So, I had to

pick it all up and get the corn, and the worst thing about it was telling the owner about her jar of corn [*laughs*]. But anyway, it—we had fun, anyway.

Did you ever go to State Council Meetings?

Oh, yes! We—'specially [*especially*] the officers. That was—we went and stayed, and I was elected cultural arts chairman for the state of Arkansas in 1970, and I worked [19]70 and [19]71 in that. And our largest project that year was to survey small cemeteries that are not in use anymore. And every county went into that, and they would send the reports to me, and I made a scrapbook and turned it in at the end of [19]71. And it was sure interesting.

Did you have any other responsibilities as sta—as state cultural arts chairman?

No, just to attend the meeting. Oh! Our club organized—five of us made a little [*unclear word*] play of the Yokums—the old—I was Granny, and a neighbor had loaned me some high-top shoes, and I made my white-and-red striped socks and put powder in my hair, too [*laughs*]. And all I've got of that now is my pipe that I held in my mouth. And we had Granny and Pappy and Li'l Abner and the girl, his girlfriend [Interviewee's Edit: Daisy Mae]. And then we had a piano player, and they were all five out of our club. And we went—I don't know how many times we went to the University [Interviewee's Edit: University of Arkansas] at state meetings and put that play on. And then we went to nearly all our colleges, and a lot of the local schools—we would put that play on. We just used jokes out of local papers and we sure had fun, though [*laughs*].

So, you went to State Meeting in seventy [1970] . . .

. . . oh, yes.

. . . seventy [1970], seventy-one [1971], for sure because you were state cultural arts chairman . . .

Yes, and I . . .

. . . **and other times, too, I guess.**

I took—I had two National Meetings—one in Colorado—the college in Colorado—and one in Dallas, when the National met. And I conducted the meetings [Interviewee's Edit: cultural arts meetings] there.

How did you get to those meetings?

We usually rented a bus, 'cause [because] it would be from the whole state. We would have a large bus.

Well, it sounds like you've had some interesting times. Can you tell me how Extension Homemakers has especially touched your life, made your life better, or—or—enriched your life?

Well, we—I had to try everything, and some things I liked better, but I tried everything [*laughs*]. And . . .

One of your favorite things that you learned was perhaps what you told me about earlier? Would you like to share that with us?

The hat making?

Yes.

Yes! I was interested in hat making. And our club did, in fact, one member of our club made a hat for a national—some woman's club nationally, and they wanted one of our hats. So, let's see, I made the hat, I believe, and the other lady made a pinecone purse. And we gave it to this organization, and we—they took it and had it on their national meeting.

So you became famous, didn't you? [*Laughter*]

Well [*laughs*] . . .

Well, tell me . . .

. . . I was [*unclear word*] . . .

. . . **tell me about the special hat, the one with the feathers.**

Oh! We took up the feathers. Now we were better at the straw and material, than we were the pheasant feathers. And I tackled a pair of pumps [high-heeled shoes] and so I had to go and demonstrate the pumps. And the hat matched. I'd made the pheasant hat and—and we went everywhere for that.

What was one of your least favorite things that you did in Extension Homemakers?

Oh, land, I don't know. [Long pause]

Did you work in the fair kitchens any?

Oh, yes.

Did you enjoy that?

Yes. Our club would take over a little building at night for hamburgers and hot dogs and cold drinks. And one night, our husbands—the two of us were in there—and our husbands had dropped us off there and gone home. But a severe lightning storm come up that night, and it—the wiring, 'course, was just a poppin' [popping] and goin' [going] on. And we looked up, and there our husbands stood. They [*laughs*]*—they had waked up and thought we oughta [ought to] be home [laughs], and they had come down there to pick us up. So, we closed the stand that night and come home.*

Well, I—you were in Extension durin' [during] a period of time when you had more than one Extension Agent, I think.

Yes . . .

Tell us about that.

Now, while I was in it, we had three—Inez Sitton, Fann Woodward, and Ne [*whispers unclear words*] . . .

Was her name Susan Neeper?

Susan Neeper [*laughs*] and they were all so good. And then, that was about the time I quit, and so many of our members were passin' [passing] on anyway, so they—we just—I just had to quit, because I was making the surgical corsets for the Rehab.

Well, has Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?

Oh, yes! When I was growing up I was timid. [*Laughs*] You can't imagine [*laughs*] and when I moved to Arkansas, why, and got into the Extension work, why, our economist bragged about it. She said, "I know I have taught Hazel [*laughs*] how to meet the people and [*laughs*] speak" [*laughs*].

Well, do you have any other memories that we haven't mentioned so far, that you'd like to share with us?

Well, the recipes.

OK.

I loved to cook, and I entered the poultry contest—cooking contest one year. And I won the district—that was cooked off at Hope, Arkansas, in [19]67—1967. And my recipe was made up of "Coked" chicken.

Of "what" chicken?

Coked. *C-O-K-E-D*.

OK [softly].

I went to the Coca-Cola Company. They furnished the Coca-Cola and gave me a little bottle of—the small bottle of Coke. I made a chicken out of that, and that was my centerpiece on display. And we cooked off, and I was champion at that. So then, the state meeting [Editor's Note: state contest] was in about, I think, two weeks later at Hot Springs, so I ent—I had to cook the same recipe, and we cooked off, and, of course, there was a lady entered from Springdale

[*laughs*]. It was hard to beat someone from Springdale [*laughs*] where the poultry [*laughs*]—so, I was second that year. . .

At the State Fair, you were the second . . .

That was the state poultry . . .

. . . **cooking competition** . . .

. . . cooking, uh-uh . . .

I see.

I think they still have it.

I think they may.

But anyway, it was real nice and . . .

Did you ever get your children involved, or did they ever go to meetings with you?

No. My youngest son, of course, graduated from the University of Arkansas, an as an architect. And we always had ties through the college [*laughs*].

Well, that's good.

And then—but, my other boy went to the Navy, like his daddy had, and he was a Navy man.

Well, can you think of anything else you'd like to share?

[Pause] Well, I—I—finally opened up a fair booth at our county—at our arts and craft fair that Hot S—Garland County had.

Were you at the first arts and crafts fair . . .

Yes.

. . . that we had?

Yes, but I didn't display. I didn't have a booth that year, just helped organize it.

I see.

And then I made dried apple dolls. The economist that we had got me literature from other places and . . .

Which economist was that?

I guess it was Fann Woodward. And I made and was busy—I would take orders. At the fairs, I'd have 'em [them] on display, and then I'd work all year fillin' [filling] those orders [*laughs*]—mail 'em off and so, but I entered everything else. I made a lot of candles. We had a course on candle making and . . .

You had a course through Extension Homemakers on candle making?

Yes, through the Ext—and I always poured a lot of candles and then the hat making. We would—we were real good at the hat making. All our members were smart, and they liked handicrafts. Oh, we just really were active.

Well, I have enjoyed, so much, getting to know you. And I appreciate everything that you've done for Extension Homemakers, before I came along. You set the stage for me [*laughter*]. And, so thanks for sharing your time, for doing this interview, and thank you for all these memories that we have, that we'll get to share with other people.

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