

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Edith Ashcraft

Member of Camden Road Extension Homemakers Club
Jefferson County

Original recording made 21 August 2011

in Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Recorded by:

Judy Cox

Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council
Publicity Chairman

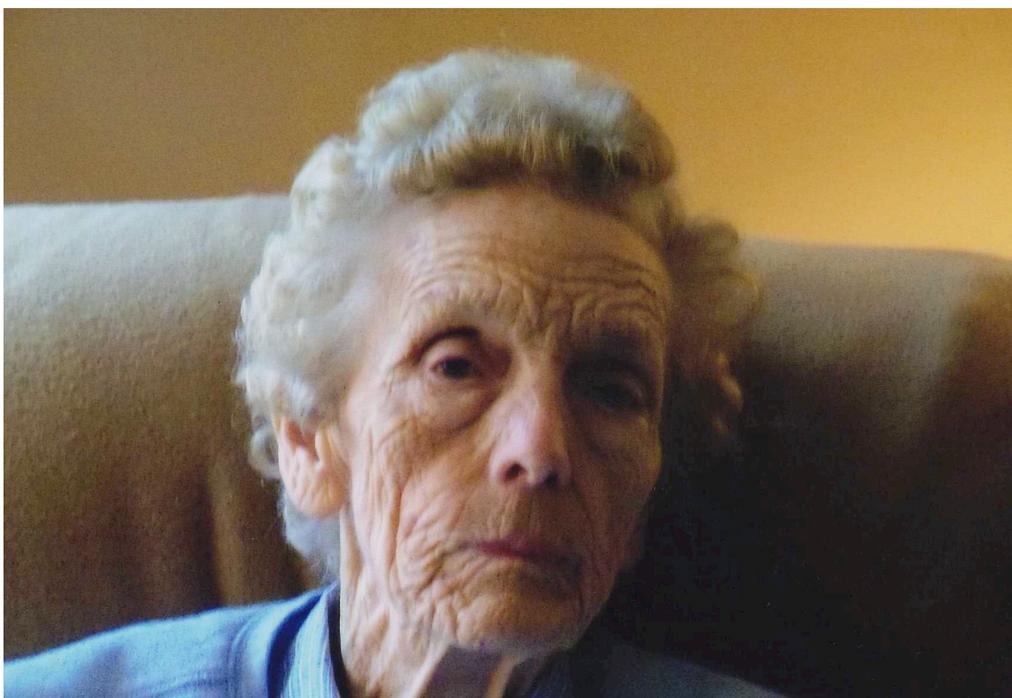
Transcribed and Edited by

Peggie Barbaree

Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council
Community Service Chairman

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RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System





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Oral History Program

Judy Cox, Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity
Chairman

21 August 2011

This is a recording of Edith Ashcraft, member of Camden Road Extension Homemakers Club. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Edith is answering questions asked by Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity Chairman, Judy Cox.

Questions and comments by Judy are in boldface type. Edith's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Judy Cox. This is the interview with Edith Ashcraft for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done August 21, 2011, at the home of Edith Ashcraft in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. [in Jefferson County]

The audio recording and transcript of this interview will be donated to the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas.

The recording, transcript, and any other related materials will be deposited and preserved forever in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, and the copyright will belong solely to the University of Arkansas.

Are you willing to give the Pryor Center permission to make the audio file and transcripts available to others.

Yes.

Edith, this is going to be a very informal interview. 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 and the city and county in which you presently reside.

My name is Edith Ashcraft. I reside in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program?

I was County President several times. I was president of our local chapter [club] several times and have held just about every office in our local chapter [club].

I helped decorate the county Christmas tree at the State Capitol in 1998, and because I was the tallest one there, had to climb the ladder and put the star on top. Everyone thought that was funny, because I was so old , but hey, I did it.

I was a hostess from Jefferson County at the Excelsior Hotel for the State EHC meeting when Governor Bill Clinton spoke. I don't remember what year that was.

When I was State President, [Editor's Note: Mrs. Ashcraft was the National Citizenship Leader.] I, along with a gentlemen, escorted a group of State 4-H's to Washington, D.C. This was quite an experience. One of the girls had her purse stolen and I had taken some extra money, just for this reason, and I lent her some. Her parents were very glad to give it back when we returned. Everyone had a very good time and saw all the attractions, I am sure none of the children will ever forget the trip.

How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers Program?

From my mother. She was a member of the Cleveland County Extension Homemakers when I was a teenager.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program?

National Citizenship Leader.

What was the first club(s) with which you were associated and what year?

Camden Road. I do not remember the year. It was approximately 58 years ago.

Are you presently a club member? If so, please give the name of the club, the county, and district?

Yes, Camden Road Club, Jefferson County, Delta District.

Do you have any special remembrances of that first meeting or that first club?

All I remember is several neighbors got together and discussed trying to form a club, and we talked about trying to get other people interested in joining.

Why did you join?

I have been interested since I was a teenager with my mother in Cleveland County.

Why have you continued your membership?

It is very educational. I get a lot out of it. I enjoy meeting other people and continuing old friendships.

How involved did you become? Please list the offices, committee chairmanships and special responsibilities you held.

All offices in local club, County President, International Citizenship Chairman. [Editor's Note: Mrs. Ashcraft was the National Citizenship Leader.] As I stated before, I escorted the state group—4-H group to Washington, D.C., where we met with the Legislature [Congress] and also

saw all the monuments and historical sights. I received my 50-year pin several years ago.

Have you attended state Council Meetings? If so, what year did you attend your first one? And do you have special remembrances of that event?

Yes, but I cannot remember the first year I attended. Novelle Clark and I even attended National Meetings together. All the meetings were very special.

How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?

Looking forward to meeting the people at each one of our meetings and to meet new people, which I enjoy very much.

What has been your favorite event or activity?

The Christmas parties.

What has been your least favorite event or activity?

Demonstrations.

What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers organization?

There are a lot more members now.

Has Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?

Oh, yes.

Any other memories, experiences or thoughts that you would like to share?

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My fondest memories were going to many National Meetings with Novelle Clark.

Thank you for all your contributions to Extension Homemakers and for sharing your time and memories with us.

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