

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Ruby Marie Harris

Member of Grant County Extension Homemakers Council

Original recording made 7 November 2011

at Sheridan, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Susan Brittain

Grant County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences





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Oral History Program

Susan Brittain, Grant County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences

7 November 2011

This is an audio recording of Ruby Marie Harris, member of the Grant County Extension Homemakers Council. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Ruby is answering questions asked by Grant County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Susan Brittain.

Questions and comments by Susan are in boldface type; Ruby's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Susan Brittain. This is the interview with Ruby Harris for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done on November 7, 2011, at the Sheridan Recreation Center in Sheridan, Arkansas.

The audio recordings 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.

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Yes

First, I'd like you to give your complete legal name and spell it for me, and then tell me the city and county in which you presently reside.

You want my full name?

Yes.

R-U-B-Y M-A-R-I-E H-A-R-R-I-S

OK. And what city do you currently live in?

Did I live in, well?

Do you currently live in Sheridan?

I, I lived in the—in the country—country side.

OK. Where do you currently live now? Do you live in Sheridan?

Yes, I am a resident of Sheridan now.

OK. Which is in what county is Sheridan in?

It's Sheridan Healthcare and Rehab.

OK. Which is in Grant County?

Ruby, this interview is going to be a very informal interview, I want you to share some memories and involvement with the Extension Homemakers Program and tell me about—the good times and the challenges.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program?

It was real good [*laughs*]. I guess that is what you would say, isn't it? Real good.

OK, a good association.

How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers Program?

Well, one of my new neighbors told me about it. And my husband had gone to

the service. And I need something.

OK. How long have you been associated with the program?

About 68 years, I would think somewhere close to that.

OK. What was the first club you were associated in and around what year?

[Laughs] We had so many I can't remember.

Well, if you can't remember the name, what area was it where you went to the club meetings?

It was probably about 1943 or 4.

OK. And in what area—in what community did you go to the club meetings at?

It was in the Sardis community.

Are you presently a club member? And if so, tell us the name of the club and the county and the district?

I don't know that. I haven't been. I [laughs] haven't had access to it yet.

OK.

They out there. None of them knows anything about the Extension Clubs.

At the nursing home.

Yeah.

OK. Does the name the Ephesus Extension Homemaker Club—does that sound familiar?

Well, I guess that is about the last one that I got to attend.

OK. Cause [Because] you have been at the nursing home.

Uh-huh

OK. For a few months. OK. And that is also in Grant County in where.

Yes.

OK. Do you have any special remembrances of the very first meeting or your very first club meeting? Can you share a special memory?

Well, the best thing I remember [*laughs*] about it was I had just had all my teeth extracted. And I didn't have my dentures yet. And I was so afraid [*laughs*] that everybody wouldn't be really accepting me [*laughs*].

Well, were they accepting?

Oh, yes, they accepted me right off.

OK. Well, why did you join the Extension Homemaker Club?

Well, I, I had moved to a new territory. And I didn't know all the neighbors. And I wanted to know my neighbors, and so I said, well that would be a good thing.

OK. Why have you continued-continued- your membership?

Hm-mm.

Why have you continued to be a member all these years?

Well, I just wanted my name to be held out in there. And so that I would know what was happening and what was going on.

OK. How involved were you when you were a member. List any offices that you held, or any committees or any special responsibilities you had?

Oh, you mean President and stuff like that.

Right any committees. What, what officers did you hold?

Well, I've been President of club and the President of the whole association you know. And I just been membership of this one and that one [*laughs*].

Do you remember any certain committees that you were on? Any special programs or any special committees that you served on.

Well, I was President of the association.

Of the Council—the Extension Homemakers Council?

And while I was President, I, we started and published a cookbook. Is that what you want?

Yes.

Yeah.

OK.

Have you attended any state Council meetings? And if you did attend, what was your first year that you attended?

Well, I have attended our state meeting. Isn't it— isn't that what we call it the State Meeting?

Right, so you have attended that?

Yeah.

OK. If so, do you remember back around what year you attended that? Your first one, about how many years ago that was?

Several years [*laughs*], but . . .

Well, what are your special memories about going to the State Meeting?

Oh, we put programs on for entertainment. Isn't that what we did for? We did programs. We would have a special program and nearly all the members could participate in it.

How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?

Well, it cont—continued my education [*laughs*]. I learned a lot.

What has been your favorite event or activity that you participated in, in EHC—your favorite activity?

Well, we had quilting clubs and different things like that, too. And I love to quilt [*laughs*].

OK. So quilting is one of your favorite activities?

Yes.

What has been your least favorite activity about EHC?

Well, I want to say the food, because [*laughs*] I was old enough that I done had my taste settled. I knew what I wanted [*laughs*].

OK. So the food was one of your least favorite activities.

What changes have you experienced with the Extension Homemakers organization? What changes over the years have you seen?

Well, the sewing part of it, stitching the stitches that we did. You know, I learned different stitches and things like that and all of that.

Has Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?

Yes, it did [*laughs*]. I learned—I learned to detect just a little bit, and I could say, “Yes, we will be friends.”

Are there any other memories, experiences or thoughts that you would like to share?

What?

Are there any other memories, experiences or thoughts you would like to share?

I should say yes to that.

OK. What is a memory you would like to share?

Well, I like people and I like to help people if I can.

OK. Are there any other thoughts you would like to share?

What now?

Are there any other thoughts you would like to share?

Well I'd—I'd just like to say that I learned my neighbors first hand. I didn't have to take the other people's name for it, but I got—I had a name for everyone [laughs].

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

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