

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Wilma Jean Hoskins

Independence County Bethesda Extension Homemakers Club Past President

Original recording made 27 February 2012

Old Independence Regional Museum  
Batesville, Arkansas

Interviewed by:

Linda Brooks

Independence County Extension Homemakers Council Past President

Transcribed and Edited by:

Laura Reed

Independence County Extension Homemakers Council Member-at-Large





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Oral History Program

Linda Brooks, Independence County Extension Homemakers Council Past President

27 February 2012

This is an audio recording of Wilma Jean Hoskins, Independence County Bethesda Extension Homemakers Club Past President. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Wilma is answering questions asked by Independence County Extension Homemakers Council Past President, Linda Brooks.

Questions and comments by Linda are in boldface type; Wilma's responses and comments are in lightface type.

**This is the interview with Wilma Hoskins for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done February 27, 2012, at the Independence County Museum [Old Independence Regional Museum] in Batesville, Arkansas. Wilma, this is gonna [going to] be a very informal interview; I want you to share your memories of your involvement with Extension Homemakers Program, the good times and the challenges. First I'd like you, like you to give your complete legal name and the city and the county in which you presently reside.**

Wilma Jean Hoskins. I live in Batesville in Independence County, Arkansas.

**What has been your association with Extension Homemakers Program, as a member?**

Well, I've fulfilled many positions in our local club, in the Bethesda local club. I have been committee chairman of, you know, chairman leader and I have been president, I've been vice president. I've been just in many different positions. And I, I love our club always have enjoyed our club.

**How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers Program?**

You know, I was thinking back on that and I'm sure some of the older ladies that has passed on—it could have been, the Treet, Elaine Treet—it could've been Elaine Treet, and she also is passed on. But there was several of the local ladies that had invited me to, to the club. And I liked it when I first started going.

**How long have you been associated with the program?**

Since 1979.

**And what was the first club with which you were associated and what year?**

We used to meet in homes. Now, of course, we meet in the fire department. And, of course, I don't remember whose home we met at the time. But, as I said, it was in 1979, but I cannot remember which home it was that we met first, that I met.

**Now are you presently a club member?**

Yes, mam.

**If so, can you give the name of the club, the county and the district.**

Oh, yes, we're the Bethesda Club. We're in Independence County. And what else was there?

**And the district?**

Arkansas District.

**Ozark.**

Ozark District.

**It's Ozark District.**

I'm sorry. I missed one bubble there.

**Uh-huh. Do you have any special remembrances of that first meeting or that first club, which would be Bethesda to you. but since you've been there all of your club life, you could say? [LB Laughs]**

[Laughs] I cannot remember that. No, I don't remember that.

**Well, as you said that, you met in the homes . . .**

Yes.

**So it was in the homes of the, of the community there?**

Right and we were a large club; I guess we always have been a rather large club. And it was always just a real delightful thing of the, the host—the hostess in her home, she was the one that did the refreshments and it was just a real delightful. I enjoyed getting to know my—'cause [because] I had moved from San Diego. Even though I am from Arkansas, but it was closer from . . . I was borned in Drasco. So I was, as a child, I was from Heber Springs, so I really didn't know people over here. So it was good to get to know my community and that was a way that I got to know my community. And so I really enjoyed that. It was just a good way to get to know my community.

**And that's why—why did you join is that the reason?**

I think that was why I did, yes, and to get out of the home, 'cause [because] when we moved here I still had a child that started kindergarten and two, two boys that were in high school and junior high. [Laughs] So I was still in the, in the mix of growing, growing a family. Bill was still working, so it was good to get out of the house.

**Why have you continued your membership?**

Well, just because of the way—because of when I started it, I enjoyed it and I still enjoy it.

**Now how involved did you become? I mean you've listed some of the offices of, you know, that you've had.**

Uh-huh.

**But would you list them again for me?**

OK. I have been committee—I think its committee leadership. I've been in that usually in community; there's been another one. I don't remember all of the names of them. I've also been vice president and president. I had that, Linda, and I have held down the two top leaderships for several years until we decided—hey, this is supposed to be changed once in a while. [*Laughs*]

And then I, then at one time I became involved in teaching sewing in our county and Linda and then Linda Brooks and also Rhonda Kirsch—we all took some classes and we became trained to teach young girls how to sew. So we went to different places and had training classes for them girls. So I guess there's not, then, of course, we taught all kinds of crafts training and I have taught some of the crafts at the state level, at the state conventions. So I guess I've been pretty involved until the last few years, health wise I just haven't really felt like getting more involved than I really had to be. Because there's so many more coming up that does it now. So I kinda [kind of] set back and learn from them. [*Laughs*]

**Have you attended State Council Meetings and if so do you know what year you attended your first one?**

Ooh, I don't remember the years, but, yes, I have. I attended several years. I've roomed with Elizabeth, and I've roomed with, I think, I roomed with Linda, but I don't remember the years.

**Well, do you have any special remembrances of those events?**

Oh, yes! It was lots of fun. Plus you learned lots of things. But we did have lots of fun. And it especially lots of fun when you've got awards coming for your for your own club and then personally, if you've got awards coming you know for yourself, so yes. And we've all had that in our club; awards coming.

**What has been your favorite event or activity of club meetings or Extension Homemakers themselves?**

Well, it would probably be in the, in the fabric area. Anything in fabric.  
[Laughs] That would be me.

**And how has the Extension Homemakers touched your life?**

Oh, my.

**Well, it's been a very important part of your life?**

It has been. I, it really has been. It's has—it's taught me a lot and it still teaches me a lot and now that I've got my husband [laughs] my husband is in there, it's amazing how he teaches me things and it's like "wait a minute honey, I think I'm supposed to be teaching you this." [Laughs]

**What's your least favorite activity or event?**

Book work. [Laughs]

**[LB Laughs] Right. What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers Organization?**

Well, I, I don't—there have been changes, but if you, if you work along with the leadership—you do—they're not so painful if you just work along with the leadership. So I don't really know if I can just name them right, but we just have to make changes; we know we do, so I can't name them right now. But we just, if you make them as we have to, they aren't so painful.

**That's, that's true. And has the Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?**

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. There's always a way to work something out in a peaceful way. You know because when you're putting a group of people together you're going to find—a years ago we used to have a very difficult person in our club, [laughs] but you'll with time things get taken care of, you know. And my husband used to tell me the same thing when it was in the church. Now he said,

“Time will take care of things” and it always did, you know. So you just have to, you have to—the Lord didn’t put in the good book about needing patience for no reason, you know. We have to have patience because we have faults just as everyone else does. And so we just have to learn to work with each other and to remember that we all have to have grace. Somebody has to show us grace, so we must do the same for them.

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

I’m pretty bad in the memory area as far as that. But I like to remember that my mother enjoyed it when she would come from Heber Springs and since mother is gone now I think of, I think of the different times that she enjoyed going to club, too. So that’s, that’s a good memory for me, too.

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

Thank you.

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