

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Dorothy M. Leelman

Boone County Extension Homemakers Council Member

Original recording made 7 February 2012

at Harrison, Arkansas

Interviewed, recorded and edited by:

Terry Edwards

Boone County Extension Homemakers Council Member

Transcribed by:

Doris Pennington

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**Dorothy M. Leelman**

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Oral History Program

Terry Edwards, Boone County Extension Homemakers Council Member

7 February 2012

**This is an audio recording of Dorothy Leelman, Boone County Extension Homemakers Council Member. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Dorothy is answering questions asked by Terry Edwards, Boone County Extension Homemakers Council Member.**

**Questions and comments by Terry are in boldface type; Dorothy's responses and comments are in lightface type.**

**I am Terry Edwards, and this is the interview with Dorothy Leelman for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done on February 7, 2012, at the EHC [Extension Homemakers Council] office, Harrison, Arkansas, in Boone County.**

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Yes.

**Thank you. [Pause] Now, first, I'd like you to give me your complete, legal name and spell it for me. And then tell me the city and county in which you presently reside.**

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OK. Dorothy Mathilda [Leelman].

**Yeah.**

[D-O-R-O-T-H-Y] M-A-T-H [M-A] T-H-I-L-D-A, Leelman L-E-E-L-M-A-N.

**Thanks, Dorothy. Now, the city and county in which you presently reside are?**

You want my mailing or . . . ?

**Harrison.**

No, it's not Harrison.

**No. No, give me—give me where you are.**

I actually live in Diamond City, Arkansas, in Boone County.

**In Diamond City, Arkansas, Boone County. Dorothy, 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. What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers program, as a member or as a professional—agent, specialist, whatever?**

Member.

**As a member. How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers program?**

Oh, when we lived in Oregon, shortly after we were married, I met some friends, and they belonged to Extension and asked me to join.

**All right. Now, how long have you been associated with the program?**

I think it's 64 years.

**Oh, that's—that's very good! What was the first club or clubs with which you were associated and what year?**

OK. I joined—I do not remember the name if we had a name—in Madras, Oregon, in 1948.

**Yeah. Can—can you spell for me the name of the town in Oregon?**

M-A-D-R-A-S.

**R-A-S. Thanks. And now, are you presently a club member, and if so can you give me the name of the club, the county, and the district?**

Yes. Olvey in Boone County.

All right. Now . . .

Ozark District.

**OK. Do you have any special remembrances of that first meeting or that first club? [Pause]**

**Sixty-four years is a long time to remember, isn't it? [Laughter].**

A long time! I know it was sort of an informal meeting. We met in the evenings at—a—in the—in members' homes. And it was real . . . And we would bring our handiwork and—and do—work on that—our crocheting and [**fun**] fun things that we would do. You know.

**Yes.**

And we had a lot of little parties.

**Did they have a serious side, as well, as we do now?**

Yes.

**They did? And you were involved in both of those.**

Probably—some activities and . . .

**Now, why—why did you join?**

Well, I thought it would be a good way to get—to know people, because there [I] was new in the area, and just being, you know. We'd been married a couple of years, but I was working in the town, and I just thought it would be a nice way to get acquainted with, you know, the—the girls that were . . .

**Like most of us, I'll bet. Yes. Yes. Did you actually find friends and congenial people there and in the club?**

Yes. Yes, there were long-time friends. Most of them are gone now, but that . . .

**Are you still in touch with them?** [*Laughter*]

No, I think—I think [*cough*] the last one passed away that I—I knew.

**Oh, that's sad. A long time of happy memories.**

Yes. Yes. Yes, it was.

**Now, why have you continued your membership?**

Well, because I like the activity and the fellowship, and it was very educational. [Yes.] And I have always—have enjoyed the conventions and the trips we used to take years ago—we used to take when we belonged in the National.

**A lot of good reasons.**

Right. It was very good. You know, it was always—there was always something going on at . . . It was very educational.

**Yeah. Now, how involved did you actually become? Would you list the offices, committee chairmanships, and special responsibilities you held? I should think there would be a lot of those.** [*Laughter*]

Well, I've been . . .

**Just tell us the ones you remember.**

I've been County President at least three different times [*shuffling papers*], [*unclear word*] Director, and I think I was secretary for years. I think I've held about every office in the county, you know, where I've lived, and [**Yes.**] President in the district, and, you know, just have been on several committees, but, you know . . .

**Do you think those offices have changed over the years, or the duties associated with them?**

I think so. I think they've changed some. You know? There's a—more—there's more community and they're not as much. Oh, I don't know. Our sessions used to be a—a lot more. We had more learning activities, you know, like we had.

**They had . . . I'm thinking—perhaps not so much things have changed in general at this point, but the offices themselves. Do you think that the offices have to work in a different way now or that they have different priorities now?**

Well, I don't believe they do. I mean, you know, we're—we're in . . .

**They're pretty much the same.**

Pretty much the same as we were.

**Yeah. Now, have you attended state Council meetings?**

Oh, yes. I think—I think last year was their first one I'd missed in a good many years. [*Laughter*]

**Oh! That's—that's a good record.**

Yes.

**Now, in what year did you attend your first one?**

Gosh [*pause*] [*laughs*] Well, Arkansas, it was probably 19 and 72. And let's see

now, when we lived in Oregon, I can't remember. We went to one, but I don't remember the year. And Alaska, I didn't go to any.

**Yeah. Did—Did other members of your club go with you then? Or . . .**

Yes. Yes, we used to go.

**Did—did the club give you any kind of donation towards the cost of it?**

Yeah, if you were an officer, [*phone rings*] your way—way was always paid, and the other places where I have been.

**I—I guess that was important.**

Yes, it was. You know. But otherwise, of course, it's gotten worse [**It certainly has.**] like everything else. [*Laughter*]

**It certainly has. Yes. Well, do you have any special memories of that first time? [Pause]**

No, I don't know. Just that the programs and the—were very—very good. I mean, I think the programs have always been in their classes have been very good, and all the things and just the fellowship and going to see, you know, people that you know.

**Yes.**

That is a big thing, and it's always surprise . . .

**People from other parts of your state is interesting, isn't it?**

Parts of the state. That's right. It is—it is—I mean, you go and you see them, and sometimes that's the only time you see them.

**That's true.**

You know?

**Do you—Do you think that the—the craft programs, say, or the programs that deal with—perhaps matters of other kinds of importance like support for certain groups or problems in the wider community on things that the EHC could do to help, which—which kind of program do you think is the most popular?**

Now? I don't know. That has changed a great deal. Years ago it used to be . . . You know, they used to have a lot of—more craft, like we'd have upholstering and—and all of that, and we would have an agent come out of the Extension Office in Little Rock. That was before the change in the funding.

**Yes.**

And so we had many of those. And if you needed help, they were there to call and would come [**Oh.**] and conduct and teach these classes.

**Yes.**

You know, we had many, and, I think we have less—I don't know—We have less community demonstration of what the clubs are here [**Yes.**] doing. I think that's what's changed.

**They'll go off and individual members will put on a program or—or something. But it seems to me from talking to long-time members here that in the beginning there was a—a greater emphasis on the practical group teaching of the practical, arts which were much needed.**

Yes, I can remember that we used to have . . . Like we'd have sort of a quilt show and a demonstration, but we had a mall where we could go and set up. I mean—and—and have . . . And people would come, you know, that [**Did you?**] were shopping. Well, that's how I got into EHC in Boone County, [**Oh!**] because they used to have their Craft Fair in the fall down here at the mall, [**Yes.**] and I went. And here were all the clubs down there, and I got to talking to them.

**That seems like such a good idea!**

It was.

**I wonder why we don't do it still?**

I don't know. They used to have it down there. I don't know what changed, but they had it for years.

**Because almost everybody goes to the mall. So, you—you get a much wider exposure don't you.**

Yes, and we used to have a bake sale—you know, our bake sales, and we'd [Uh-huh.] have—well, for instance when we lived down in South Arkansas, in Hamburg, we were always in charge of setting up the booths for the Armadillo Festival. [Oh!! That must have been fun.] [Laughter] We'd have a Quilt Show in the library, or something, you know—show, and people could come [Yes.] just to show quilts that people had made. [phone rings] And, you know, of course, we were very active in the fair and stuff. [phone rings]

**Yes. I—I think to some extent, the fact that the fairs are not quite as big a deal as they used to be has probably affected [I think so.] the EHC. And I—I think it's a great pity. It . . .**

Yes, I think so. You know, and—of course, we had—some areas have their own building. I mean we had our own room, like the last one where I was at. And we'd have a building that was ours. You know, [Yes] where we could do all our meetings and all of our—like quilt shop—workshops and everything, [Yes.] and we didn't have to go out and rent one. And that makes a big difference.

**It certainly does.**

It makes a big difference.

**Because apart from the cost, if—if you have to go out and rent somewhere, it's not always easy to find a place that has—is big enough or has the facilities you need particularly when you're thinking that you have some people who are deaf and need to be in the front [Yes.] and that kind of thing. Yes. Did you? You were saying that you had special buildings of**

**your own. Did they have an industrial-sized kitchen so that you could actually demonstrate say canning or something on?**

We had a kitchen. Well, the last one where I was at, we were in the Courthouse, and we had this own building, and we had a kitchen where we could do. And we had our storage space and everything. That was all ours. Other people used it, but . . . And other places where we were, we had—you know, a kitchen, [Yes.] and we could do other things. And—it—it's a big—makes a big difference, you know, in traveling around the state to different district ones that we used to go to. Most of them did have a kitchen [Yes.] where they . . . And I'm—I can't wait for this building to . . .

**Oh, I know. Oh, you will. Can't possibly think of anything otherwise.**

You know, and—it's such a big help [Yes.] because you know where the designated place is and you can . . .

**Absolutely. And you—you can put on things more or less at the drop of [Yes.] a hat because it's your—your [Yes.] own place.**

Yes, and each individual club can do something, and advertise to the public, and the rest of the clubs can come in. It gets it out in the public more.

**It really does, and it—it's also useful—I—I would have thought especially useful now, because the regulations and things about the serving of food [Right.] to the public and to other people are much tighter than they used to be.**

Oh, yes, they are.

**And you really need to have the facilities.**

Right. And it does. I mean, you could, you know, like even the Cooking Schools that we used to have even here [Yes.] needed—or Christmas—you know—when [Yes.] Christmas cooking and things, and that . . . You've got a place where you can demonstrate and you can keep your utensils and everything, [Yes.] and that makes a big difference. You don't have to [Oh, it does.] carry everything in. You know?

**Yes. Yes, and that—that's especially so in—a country area where there's no public transport and where—you know, people have to come quite a long way. It—It makes a big difference.**

It does, you know, for some of the—the meals that you're going to do, or even what you're . . . Cake, or anything you're going to demonstrate, you have a lot of . . . [Of things you're using. Yes.] That's right. You have to bring it in. [Absolutely. Yes.] So it's different if you've got a refrigerator right there to keep things in [Yes] and all of that.

**And I have often thought . . . I hope we're not straying too far [laughs] on this. But I have often thought that it would be great fun—now a lot of people have—video cameras—if you put on a Cooking School, [Right.] if that could be photographed and then it could be sent to other—EHCs [Yes.] to—to look at. Well, back—back to your life. How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?**

Well, I've . . . Well, it has in many ways, because many of the things that I learned, you know, like sewing and quilting, and even a lot of the cooking tips and canning tips, [Yes.] and—have all come through, you know, and craft demonstrations and—and just going to the—all the programs that they have. [Yes.] That makes a big difference.

**Oh, it really does. What do you think has been the most useful thing that you learned?**

[Pause] Let's see. That would be hard. I would probably say—on cooking and canning, especially in the early years when, [Yes.] you know, we were first married, we did a lot of that. [Yes. Yes.] and different types of things. And—and learning—and the gardening and all of that.

**What was the thing that you enjoyed learning the most? What gave you the most pleasure?**

Well, I don't know. I think the different crafts. I used to do a lot of crafts, and that's, you know . . .

**Do you still do any of those crafts?**

I do a few, but not as many. [*Laughter*]

**Like all of us! [*Laughter*] What has been your least favorite event or activity?**

All these tight regulations that they're putting on us.

**Nobody's going to hold it against you. [*Laughter*]**

All the—I mean, I think all the government regulations and things that have come.

**That—that aspect has made life not so much fun.**

I think, you know. It's not as much . . . And they're just . . . You can't do anything that doesn't meet their regulations, and [**Yes.**] that's a . . . And I think one of the things that I, when they used to belong to National and we used to have the National Conventions, to me that was the greatest loss when they went out of the national things.

**I think so.**

Because we went to National Conventions. I had the privilege of going on four. [**Did you?**] And we went out of Little Rock, and we were gone for two weeks at a time [**Oh, my.**] when we'd go on a convention. You know, we'd go to D.C.; we went to West Virginia; we went to—down [**Yes.**] to Florida. We went . . . And, you know, the programs. You'll have to see my albums sometime. But I was looking at one of them the other day. But every time, on every trip, we went to D.C. So we really got to tour, and that I [**Yes.**] miss most. You know, and they got more expensive, [**Yes.**] and I think that was a lot of it. But . . .

**Well, it gave you a complete change of environment, [*Yes*] didn't it? And also, I would think—perhaps just being away for a longer period let you settle in to what you were doing and thinking.**

Right. Right. It was just a very enjoyable—the bus lines and the bus drivers were . . . And it was a well planned trip. Each time we stayed at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, for five days while we were in D.C. And so, you know, and when you're traveling you didn't have to worry.

**And I—I should think another thing, too, was that being involved in those things you actually learned to do this kind of planning [Yes.] and what it entails, [Yes] which is always useful.**

Right. And, you know, they were well planned. And most of them were state leaders that were along out of Little Rock. [Yes] They were state leaders that went that organized it. [Yes. Yes.] But it was very educational and it was nice to go on the national level [*unclear words*].

**Oh, I imagine so. Yes, I—I regret not having to be able to do it myself.**

Yeah, well, you know, back then you had to dress—you know—and I can remember one program. I'll have to look to see if I've still got the dress. We had to all wear long dresses—period dresses [*laughs*] and . . .

**And what did you wear?**

It was one that I made, and I had it, and I hope I didn't give it away to the thrift shop. I'm going to look in the bottom of my trunk, because that's . . .

**You must [*unclear words*] and then we can see . . . [*coughs*]**

But, you know, it was nice to go and to meet all these people from all the different states [Yes.] that came, and—and the programs were just very good.

**It really broadens your horizon, [Yes, it does.] doesn't it? Which I—I think's one of the main advantages. You know.**

And I think it's—it's really nice. You know? I know there are some—there's one group in Arkansas yet that still does it. They take a trip every Fall. They—the county—they—they tell me when they go to state meetings that they . . .

**They still do that?**

Uh-huh.

**Was there any one event or one meeting that you really didn't enjoy, but you remember thinking, "Oh, dear?"**

No, I don't think of any I didn't enjoy. No. I can't really say that I have one that, you know, that stands out that was really . . .

**Not even a least favorite?**

[Pause] No.

**Not really?**

Can't really think of one that would be . . . Because they're all different, [True.] you know. You know? So, I can't really think of one that I—I didn't really enjoy.

**And you have the sort of temperament that would find something good in—in whatever. [Laughs]**

To stay positive.

**Well, what changes are—this is a big one—have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers organization? [Pauses]**

Well, I think they're much more regulatory. I mean, you know, I think that they [Yes.] can't do a lot of things. And, I think, they've gone to more community activities—I mean the public. But for an older members, a lot of those things . . . I mean, if we don't already know that, [laughter] [We've gone there.] [laughter] Yes, it's getting a little—a little late and it's nice. But if you can get the younger people to come . . . But that's our hardest problem, I think now, to get [It really is.] to ge . . . Because even if you have public programs, [Yes.] it seems like they're too busy. And . . .

**Society has changed as a whole hasn't it?**

I think, because you don't get the attendance, even if you have a [No.] meeting like we used to give . . . I mean, there's too many other things to get . . .

**That's true.**

I mean, they don't have to leave with all this computerized . . .

**And entertainment.**

And everything. They can . . . There are books that tell them everything, and they can find out anything. And I think that's a lot of it that's taken away.

**It in a way that's good, but in another way, do you think people have lost out a bit?**

I think so, yes.

**Yeah, I do.**

I think we've lost a lot of the fellowship, and you know, of knowing other people. I think that's a big part of it.

**Yes.**

You—you can, you know, associate with other people.

**Of belonging to a—a group.**

Right. And they're congenial, and you know, you can . . .

**Yes.**

It's like I tell everybody, if we all thought alike, it would be a very dull world. [Laughter] But you know, I think, that's a big thing that's changed.

**I—I agree with you, Dorothy.**

I think so. You know, they don't have to go anywhere to . . .

**No, it's all there.**

It's all there.

**But in some ways is very nice.**

Nice, but . . .

**Like everything, it's not so good.**

No.

**And, you know, I—something in talking to you, you were saying about the—the community and belonging to a group. I—I find, and you probably do too, that when you're traveling, particularly on a plane where you chat to people and so on, if you say that you're in the EHC, if there's another EHC member within ear shot, you've got an instant companion and friend, [Right.] and you know that you're going to have a body of things [Right, that you can talk about.] in common to talk about.**

Yes, and it's a—it's still amazing to me that if you say EHC, people say, "What's that?" You know.

**[Laughs] They don't know? [Laughs]**

And it's a—and to get them interested in that, they say, "I'm too busy." You know, they've got too many other things to do, and I think that because we went for the fellowship and to learn because we didn't [Yes.] have all that other. When I first joined, you know, I can remember we didn't have televisions, or anything [Yes.] like that. [Yes.] And it made a difference.

**If you had a radio, it was pretty good. You'd be glued to for the week [unclear word]. [Laughs]**

That's made a big difference. We've got all these other things than that. And if you don't know, they can go to the computer and find it.

**Yes. Yes.**

I mean, I know that from experience with my granddaughter and things. I mean, if she wants a recipe for something, she doesn't bother to get a cookbook like we used to. She goes [*laughter*] to the computer and takes it off.

**Well, now, has the Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people? [Pause] Take your time, because that's a big question.**

That's a big question. [Pause] You know, I've always said, "Well, somebody—everybody has something that they can give." And you can get some, you know, satisfaction just from knowing the people and, you know, working with them. And I think that's a lot of it. That fellowship and that's . . . I still to this day tell people that our, you know, getting up . . . And they say, "Well, I don't feel like going anywhere. I can't get out like I used to." I tell them, "Well, don't stay home. Go.

**You're right.**

Get into something, because that is so much better for you, and [Yes.] you're out there and you're talking to other people.

**Yes.**

And, you know, if you're having problems, [Yes.] why that helps them too if they get out. And, I think, that's a big asset. I mean, to—because I've always been a believer—because I've always worked in the medical field. And—but if you go, I mean, you're not going to hurt anymore, or you're going out talking, and it's much better for you. And I think that's a big thing—the fellowship and getting out with people. And most of the EHC members are just—you know—very . . .

**Very congenial people.**

Yes, congenial, and they like to associate with other people.

**And, I think, too, with somebody who maybe has had a gift that hasn't been greatly known, if they want to really show people what they can do, at EHC, they can do it in a non-critical [Right.] . . . Everybody's urging you on, and they—they're with you.**

Yes. Right. And you can do, you know, and like . . .

**Gives you confidence.**

There are people that are artists and all these people that, well, they know something that you don't know how to do, [Yes.] and they can show you. And you'll think, "Oh, I can do that." You know?

**Yes. And don't—don't you find, too, that often the most surprising people have a gift you would never have suspected? [That's right.] I mean, you must have known people like that [Right.] in EHC in your time.**

Well, that's right. I mean, because you don't know what they can do. And when you go to meetings like that it's just amazing. And if you don't know how to do something, there's always somebody that can help you and show you. [Yes.] And, I think, that's a—a big thing, you know, and—and they do—do so much good. They all . . . You know?

**Yes.**

A lot of times they don't give themselves the credit, or they don't get the credit for all the good they do, you know?

**Yes, that's very true.**

And so, I think it's—yes, I think that, you know, everybody if they once started and belonged to one, they would know it's a good organization, EHC Club or anything. It benefits them in many ways.

**I think you're right. Now, have you got any other memories or experiences, or thoughts that you would like to share? It doesn't have to be particularly EHC related, but any—anything? You see a lot of places, a lot of people, a lot of things happen.**

Uh-huh.

**Any conclusions about life in general?**

Well, I always say you have to stay active and be positive, you know?

**Yes.**

[*Laughter*] And go, you know? And I think that's a big thing if you stay active. I mean, you're automatically going to have to cut down sometime or other, but, [Yes.] I think, you know, no matter what you're doing, if you [**Makes a difference.**] can try to . . .

**It makes a difference. Do you yourself—do any particular physical activity to keep your body in good shape?**

Well, I've always been a walker, and so I've always done that. Now I go to exercise class.

**Yes.**

That's two of the big things [Yes.] and, of course, I've always done a lot of physical work. You know? Yard work [Yes.] and gardening and all of that. And I'm always responsible for all the yard work. [*Laughter*] But I think, you know, I may have to cut down, but you can still do it. It's great to be out in the outdoors. I mean that. And another thing we've always done, we do a lot of volunteer work. [Yes.] We still are volunteering as park hosts in the state parks, and so this is our 24th year that we will . . .

**That's very good.**

Yes. And, you know, I think, going out with the campers and being out in the outdoors, and . . .

**Are you involved with a church group at all? Or . . .**

Yes. Yes, we're active in our church. And I've always been active in—in the church, and have been president of the Council a couple of times.

**Yes.**

You know, just keep going, and, you know, you meet your friends there, too,

and it just really . . .

**Do you feel at this time in your life that you're glad to be settled and where you are with familiar friends and people, and you know, a network? Or do you hanker after just one more move and one more community?**

*[Laughter]*

No. I'm very happy!

**Very happy where you are?**

Because of the traffic. You know, [**Ah!**] how people go. It's so nice to come—like when we just came from South Texas. The traffic in the big cities is . . . Everybody's in such a hurry, [**Yes.**] and they don't, you know, slow down. Our coming back here, they wanted us to move to Texas. I said, "No way. I'm going to stay where I'm at." At least I can drive and go [**Yes.**] where I want to go yet. And you can, you know, [**Yes.**] you don't have six lanes of traffic going everywhere. [**Yes.**] And it—it's really nice. That's when we moved up here. And it's nice because you can go, and you know, we've got a beautiful country up here.

**And in January, people are pretty patient here with older drivers.**

Yes.

**They don't sort of cut in front of them and murder them without a thought, do they?**

Right. You know, and it's a—because in the big cities, the construction is just . . .

**It's hard.**

It is hard. But I think there's a very good, even though my grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they love to come up here in this part of the country.

**They do?**

My granddaughter said, “I want to move back to Arkansas.” [*Laughs*].

**What do you think it is they like about it?**

I think it’s the relaxed atmosphere, and of course they like, you know, the beautiful country. [**Yes.**] And, I think, it’s the—the relaxed atmosphere. They’re in such a hurry, you know.

**Nice things to do, like canoeing on the Buffalo . . .**

Right, and go camping, and they like to be out. And—and if you’re in the big city, I mean, our daughter . . .

**It’s a lot different, isn’t it?**

Oh yeah. Our daughter said that, you know, she goes somewhere and she’s used to driving in Dallas/Fort Worth, but she said, “You never know when you’re going to get to go the same way two days in a row.” [*Laughter*]

**The one thing I—I have virtually all my children they are city dwellers, I’m sorry to say. But the one thing that I think is perhaps in favor of cities is the big ones do have a public transportation system.**

Yes.

**And I know, because my mother benefited from this. She never learned to drive, and she—she could go anywhere, you know, on—on the bus.**

Right.

**And I do think that this is something that if the EHC should try to encourage. I—I—I know that it’s asking for the moon, but partly it’s attitude. Americans like to have their own cars. Well, don’t we all? But partly it would make such a difference for older people if there was an efficient public transportation system. Even if it was just say from the edge of the town.**

Right.

**If it was a place where you could drive to and park and then get on a bus.**

Get on a bus.

**Yes.**

That would be nice if there was a place, you know, like that. I don't think even Dallas/Fort Worth has a public transportation system.

**No.**

I don't think they do.

**No. I have a daughter in Madrid, and it's amazing. I know that is a big [Yes.] monster city, but I—I do think though the problems that very, you know, when people get to be really old they face—it's isolation on practical problems in getting around and doing things.**

If you have a safe one.

**Yes.**

I mean, that's—that's the thing. I know we used to go to San Francisco, and up there to visit. Public transportation was real nice.

**Yes.**

You could get on like say [*unclear word*] and go in and you didn't have to worry about parking.

**Yes. Yes.**

And it's a big help. And I mean, I know years ago even in Chicago, it was, you know, the public transportation is nice. Like you say, then you don't have to worry about a car and driving.

**That's right. Or finding somewhere to put it, and all that.**

Uh-huh. They do have a senior bus that comes out to some areas. I know . . . I think they come out to Diamond City once a week still—pick them up and bring them in, you know.

**That's something.**

Yeah, that's something, but—but I think that's a very important, [**I do.**] you know, so they can go, and I don't know if they are in town. I think there is a bus that comes out from the Senior Center that will pick up people to bring them . . .

**Yes. I—I guess I'm—I'm thinking particularly of . . .**

But if you had one that's . . . Yes. Yes. That lived way out.

**It's fine if you have family in the area, which, of course, a lot of people do, and who will—will take you in. But today there are a lot of people whose family have moved away, [Right.] and they—they just don't have anyone. And they don't always have the means to pay someone.**

Right. That's, you know, and I think that would be a—a very important thing, because that does give them a chance, even if they want to go certain places—public transportation.

**Yes. Yes. One other thing I would just like your opinion on out of sheer curiosity, because you have a long experience—I'm thinking that we're now getting quite a few people—Hispanic people particularly who come to work in—in the area. And I know that they—they do have very strong familial connections [Yes.] and so on. But I would think that quite a lot of the—the women at any rate might very much enjoy some of the EHC programs, and it would be a means of integrating—I mean into the community a little more than at present. How can we do it? How can we get them in?**

A couple of years ago we talked about that. We tried to get them, and I'm just wondering how we could app—approach it. I'm trying to think who we could ask that might deal with it.

**Yes.**

What might know how. Because it seems to me that there's a lot of them, like you say, and I don't know whether they get together. But it would be nice [**Yes. At least we need to make the effort and try.**] Try to find out, because, you know, they would—I'm sure would like to do something in that if we could get them. But I don't know who or where.

**And they could teach us a lot.**

Oh, yes. Yes.

**I'm sure, too, a great impact which would be . . .**

Yes, they could teach us a Spanish class. I jokingly tried a couple of years ago. I said, "We need to find someone to teach us a Spanish class."

**Yes, now there's a good thought.**

You know. And it—it could be just a basic one.

**Yes, just—just so that we know . . .**

So that we know what they're saying, and . . . Because I know from volunteering at the hospital, there are a lot of them come in. We have a couple—two or three—interpreters there that come.

**Yes.**

But—and I'm sure that she might be one of them—might be—because I talked to her. Because she said, "Well, I'd be willing to help you any way," you know. But it's just nice to know. You go down to south Texas [**Yes.**] everybody speaks it.

**Yes, and I—I find that when I travel to Spain to see my daughter. My Spanish is totally basic out of a book. You know, "Yes. No, etc." But people there are so keen to communicate. They help you out [Right.] and I wonder, maybe we should—should discuss this at EHC sometime and see if we could get a Spanish . . . Anyway, that's—that's . . .**

That would be nice, because even if you can go into a store and they're talking . . . And, you know, I always say, "Hello" to them, and . . . But some of them may not understand me, but you have to acknowledge and—or smile, and they'll smile back at you.

**Yes.**

Of course, our family—the granddaughter—her husband is Spanish, and she said, "I should have paid more attention when I was going to school."  
[*Laughter*]

**Yes.**

But, of course, he was born and raised here, but he's . . . And the other grandson—one of the granddaughters—her mother was Ecuadorian, and now he's married to a girl that comes from Costa Rica [ **Yes.**] and so I said, "They've got . . .," you know, and they speak . . . But those little kids, they watch a TV program, and they can . . .

**Yes, the—the kids are bilingual. They don't have the slightest difficulty in taking it in.**

My little three-year-old grandson . . . I went up to Lee Summit, and he was saying all these words. And I said, "What are you saying?" "Why, Grandma, don't you know? That's French." [*Laughter*] It's on the program. You'll never see . . . [*Laughter*] You know?

**Well . . .**

And it's so easy to learn it then than it is now. But I think—I really think we should get a Spanish of some kind.

**Because I—I think the women particularly, and probably men, too—they—they all have a desire to communicate.**

[Right.]

**And e—even if you're traveling in a country where you hardly know any of**

**the language at all, you can mime, and you'll find half—half the store [laughter] miming with you. Dorothy, will you stop.**

But you think it would be nice to get some clubs in that group. I mean, because . . .

**I'm sure they do.**

I mean, because they have things that I'm sure they've got people that they can teach things. And—and it would make them feel more comfortable.

**Yes, them being on the giving side as well as the receiving.**

Right. You know? Of course, there are problems, but we've got to accept the fact and get along with everybody that we can.

**Perhaps we should talk to our agent about it.**

Yes, to see what we can do . . .

**Anything there.**

If there is someone or something we could do that could . . . I know we brought it up one time before, and we've got a Council meeting coming up. We need . . . But I think it would be very good of all these other classes if we could get some and have a basic one to start out.

**Yes, and maybe go on from there if—if people want it.**

I know they have one at the college, but sometimes the night hours, you know . . .

**Are not good for older people.**

You don't want to come in at 6:00-8:00 o'clock at night.

**No. No, I agree. We'll . . . We'll talk to our agent about it.**

I think that would be good.

**Dorothy, I—I could go on for hours, and so could you. But thank you very much indeed for all your contributions, all of them to the Extension Homemakers. And I—I know there have been many, many, and for sharing your time and your memories with us. Many thanks.**

Thank you. I appreciate your asking me. I enjoyed it.

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