

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Monta O. Martin

Member-at-Large of Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council

Original recording made 26 August 2011

Briarwood Rehab, Little Rock Arkansas

Recorded by:

Sarah Payton

Member of Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council

Transcribed and edited by:

Peggie Barbaree

Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council

Community Service Chairman

UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System





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Oral History Program

Sarah Payton, Member of Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council

6 August 2011

This is a recording of Monta O. Martin, Member-at Large, Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Monta is answering questions asked by Sarah Payton, a member of the Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Council.

Questions and comments by Sarah are in boldface type; Monta's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Sarah Payton. This is the interview with Monta O. Martin for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done August 26, 2011, at the Briarwood Rehab at Little Rock, Arkansas, in Pulaski 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.

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

Yes.

Mrs. Martin 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.

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First, I'd like you to give your complete legal name and the city and county in which you presently reside.

Monta O. Martin, 3114 Violet Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Jefferson County.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program?

I would say that the association with lovely ladies has been the highlights.

How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers program?

Through the Church of Christ on Hazel Street, and members who belonged encouraged me.

How long have you been associated with the program?

During 1960s, I don't know what year.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program?

Would you say in the club itself or the whole thing?

Just whichever.

I have held offices in my club and I guess you would say I have been through ever phase of it.

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

I can't tell you what year. It was during the 1960s, and Watson Chapel Extension Club

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

At-large. [Interviewee's Edit: Jefferson County; Delta District.]

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

No.

Why did you join?

I liked the ladies who invited me to attend and who were members.

Why have you continued your membership?

I think it's a great organization, and I think that it benefited me and I liked it.

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

I can name a few of those, I have been President, Vice President, Parliamentarian. Many, many. All of them, I guess, even a Secretary and I don't usually do that.

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?

No, but I do want to mention the one here in Little Rock. It was the National Meeting. I went to that. Do you know was that in the [19]70s?

No, that was in 1994.

Well, I was there.

Unless that was another one in Arkansas. How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?

In many ways. I think it benefited my family when they were home. At least they didn't object to my activities. It evidently didn't hurt my family or me, and I think I was encouraged by that.

What has been your favorite event or activity?

Oh, now that is a tough one. All of the activities have been special.

What has been your least favorite event or activity? What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers organizations?

I wouldn't say that this was an event that I didn't like. I have been to the county fair when it was blazing hot. I brought my fan along. It was fun even if it was uncomfortable.

Has Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?

Oh, yes, cooperation and make friends. It's done a lot.

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

There have been so many and so many nice ladies who belonged to my club. Gladys White was a very close friend. I loved everyone in my club. There wasn't a one I didn't like.

Era Ashcraft.

Era Ashcraft was a sweetheart and I have in my den at home—I have a little quilt that she made me. And I think about her every time I look at it.

Mrs. White used to do tatting.

She did and was good at it. She was just about perfect.

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

I can't think. I loved all the, I guess you would say county agents. Jeri Vangilder—I guess I was with her longer than any of the others. And who was the one who died recently?

Novelle Clark.

Novelle Clark was the first one when I went in. She was fun to be with and a big person. She moved away and I just heard of her death.

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