

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Beulah Miller

Former Member of Maple Extension Homemakers Club

Original recording made 22 November 2011

at Izard County Fairgrounds
Melbourne, Arkansas

Interviewed by:

Jeralene Love

Izard County Extension Homemakers Council President

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Karla Emerson

County Extension Agent





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Oral History Program

Jeralene Love, Izard County Extension Homemakers Council President

22 November 2011

This is an audio recording of Beulah Miller, former member of the Maple Extension Homemakers Club. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Beulah is answering questions asked by Izard County Extension Homemakers Council President, Jeralene Love.

Questions and comments by Jeralene are in boldface type. Beulah's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Jeralene Love. This is the interview with Beulah Miller for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done on November 22, 2011, at the Izard County Fairgrounds in Melbourne, Arkansas in Izard County.

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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Are you willing to give the Pryor Center permission to make the audio file and transcript available to others?

I am.

First, I'd like you to give your complete legal name and spell it for me,

B-e-u-l-a-h M-i-l-l-e-r.

Beulah Miller. OK. What city and county do you presently reside?

Melbourne, Izard County.

OK. 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.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemaker program? You are just a member, a member of the Extension Homemakers Club, or have been?

I have been, I'm not a member now.

How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers program?

Oh, through other clubs. My mother-in-law belonged to another club, and I visited with her some is how I found out about it.

How long ago was that? How many years?

Probably 1950.

1950. Oh, that's been a long time.

What was the first club in which you were associated with and what year do you remember?

Maple Club—1953.

Are you presently a club member?

No.

Do you have any special remembrances of the first meeting, or that first club when you first joined?

Yes.

Would you tell us about it please?

We met in the home of our Extension agent's wife—there in their home and I remember we couldn't decide what to name the club. We first thought maybe we'd name it the young mothers club because we were all young mothers, all except two, I guess. I think there were seven of us. But we decided we wouldn't always be young mothers and they had just put out some new maple trees in their yard and we decided we'd name it the Maple Club.

OK. Why did you join?

I thought it'd be interesting and fun, educational and . . .

OK. How involved did you become? Did you have offices?

I did. Cloveta was our president our first year—the wife of the county agent. The next year I was president. Well, I was vice president the first year. The next year I was president. Oh, was I? Don't remember what they called it, but you had different recreation and I can't think of all the things.

Chairmanship?

Right.

OK. Have you ever attended a state meeting?

No.

OK. How has Extension Homemakers touched your life? Now I know they were called Home Demonstration agents back then but what did they do for you?

Well, I think I learned a lot because we always had demonstrations then. Every meeting we had some kind of demonstration. It might just be a simple—just a very simple thing. I remember one time they taught us how to hang our clothes on a clothes line cause we did not have dryers, most of us didn't have dryers then. And I remember them tellin' [telling] us how to hang out towels so they'd be straight when we took them off the line. But that was just one of many things. We learned lots of things.

What has been your favorite event or activity that you had back then?

With the club?

Yes. Uh-huh.

We started having dinners and invited our husbands and had parties. That didn't have a lot to do with what the club was doing, but it was with the club and we had lots and lots of fun. In fact, we grew so much and so many people wanted to come we didn't have room for it in our homes. But we really had a lot of fun with that.

Was there anything that in any event or activity that you didn't in particularly like?

I don't remember anything.

What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers Club?

A lot.

You had mentioned earlier about the younger ones that joined.

Well, we had such a good club and an active club that we did so many things for the community. Would you like to hear some of that?

Yes.

We did a lot of things for the school, did a lot of things for the courtyard, to beautify the courtyard, and we bought the first sign that was at Melbourne School. We helped pay for the tennis court. We bought a curtain for the auditorium. Oh, I just can't remember all the things, but we raised money by having chili suppers, spaghetti suppers that type of thing. We were active and did a lot of community work. At the fairgrounds we planted rosebushes one year all along the fence. One's still there, I think.

That was at the old fairgrounds?

The old fairgrounds. But we were real active—the most active club then probably.

You mentioned about the younger ones a joining and they weren't interested in what you were.

No, not the same things we were. We felt like they should have organized like we did. We didn't join in the older people's club because their interest were, you know. We felt like these young people that came in should have organized on their own and we grew so much that we just finally quit.

Has Extension Homemakers taught you about people—have you learned about people?

I don't really know. What was it suppose to teach me about people?

Well, I'd say how to get along with them, the differences in your likes and dislikes. You got along anyway didn't ya [you]?

I thought we did. I really don't remember in particular that it taught me about people.

Are there any other memories, experiences or thoughts that you would like to share other than what you have already told us?

Not any that I can think of right now.

AEHC Oral History Program
Miller/Page 6

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

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