

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Juanita Nutt

Member of Perry County Extension Homemakers Council

Original recording made 30 March 2012

at Bigelow, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Erika Thomas

Perry County Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent





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Oral History Program

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This is an audio recording of Juanita Nutt, Perry County Extension Homemakers Council Member. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Juanita is answering questions asked by Erika Thomas, Perry County Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent.

Questions and comments by Erika Thomas are in boldface type: Juanita's responses and comments are in lightface type.

**I am Erika Thomas. This is the interview with Juanita Nutt for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done March 30, 2012 at the Saint Boniface Church Hall in Bigelow, Arkansas, in Perry 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.**

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.**

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Juanita Nutt. J-U-A-N-I-T-A, N-U-T-T.

**And what city and county do you presently reside in?**

Bigelow, Arkansas, in Perry 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.**

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

From Mabel Ritter. A former member, now deceased, told me about it a week after I got back from my honeymoon.

**OK. And how long have you been associated with the program?**

Forty-eight years.

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

Stony Point Home Demonstration Club, 1964.

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

Yes, I am a member of the Saint [laughs] Dixie EH Club in Perry County, Ouachita District.

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

Not the first meeting—outside—outside—we met over at the Stony Point Baptist Church, around the mountain, on the river. But, I can go a couple of months after that when I got pregnant, I remember one of the ladies, Lou Lipsmyer, gave me a baby shower at that club meeting.

**Why did you first join?**

I didn't have a clue what it was [*laughs*]. I didn't have anything to do, so I just went.

**And you've obviously enjoyed it.**

And I've been there the whole time. [*Laughter*]

**Why have you continued your membership?**

To learn about different things and have fun.

**How involved did you become?**

I've held every office in our club wise, county wise and district wise.

**Any special responsibilities that you've held, other than those?**

I got to think [*laughs*]. Special responsibilities . . .

**What special responsibilities have you had as those officers?**

As going to the state meetings, going to district meetings, going to county meetings and holding the meetings at your club level.

**OK. Have you attended state Council meetings?**

Yes.

**If so, what year did you attend your first one? And do you have special remembrances of that event?**

I do not—I don't know—I do not remember. The first one would have to—I would have to think on that one. It was after the kids was big enough that—was it Searcy? I think it was the one before then—I'm not sure—I really don't

know. But, it's been a long time. How many? So it's been close to—it had to be over 17 years.

**OK. How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?**

Oh, I have made a lot of new friends! And, it did teach me some things. Like what? What type of things? Oh, how to can and how to plant, since I come here from California, I really didn't know a whole lot. So, and how to sew. I did learn how to sew. I think that was basically it.

**What has been your favorite event or activity?**

Oh gosh, going to the state meeting.

**What has been your least favorite event or activity?**

Oh, yea, the funerals. Oh, yea, that's a good one. Funerals. Yea, we have lost quite a bit. That would be my least favorite.

**What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers organization?**

Oh, this is going to hurt. We don't seem to do as much as we did earlier [*laughs*]. Because, I know we went a lot of places. We used to go to Clarksville, to the experimenter station up there. I remember going there and doing the fruits and all that. I remember going to different other counties and some of the activities they've had. It just doesn't seem that we do as much as we used to do.

**OK. Has Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?**

Yea, they sure have [*laughs*] lots of diversity. Yea, you're only going to get out what you put into it. If you don't put into it, you're out.

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

Overall, the EHC has been a lot of fun. And if you get time to do it and you can

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join it, go for it. Because, you do meet a lot of people, and you do learn a lot of stuff.

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

You're welcome. It was fun.

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