

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Kathryn Moore Stucker

Montgomery County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity Chairman

Original recording made 12 October 2011

at Mt. Ida, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Johnette Johnson

Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Secretary

Vicki Brakefield

Montgomery County Extension Service Administrative Office Supervisor





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Oral History Program

Johnette Johnson, Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Secretary

12 October 2011

This is an audio recording of Kathryn Moore Stucker, Montgomery County Extension Homemakers Council Publicity Chairman. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Kathryn is answering questions asked by Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Secretary, Johnette Johnson.

Questions and comments by Johnette are in boldface type; Kathryn's responses and comments are in lightface type.

**This is the interview with Kathy—Stu—Stucker, publicity chairman for the [Montgomery County] Extension Homemakers Council, Oral History Program. This is being done October the 12, 2011, at the Extension Homemaker Exhibit Building, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Mt. Ida, Arkansas.**

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

Kathryn Moore Stucker. I live in Pine Ridge in Montgomery County.

**What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program, as a member or as a professional—agent, specialist, or etc.?**

I am a member.

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

I probably heard about its existence in, just in general, Home Demonstration clubs, canning clubs. But, here in, in Arkansas, when we moved here just neighbors in—invited me to join the group.

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

Probably 32 years by now, close to it; I have been a member here.

**All right. What has, what was the first club(s) with which you were associated and what year?**

The Pine Ridge Extension Homemakers Club, and I believe it was late fall of 1979.

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

Pine Ridge Extension Club, Montgomery County, Ouachita District.

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

A couple of things. The—the ladies who were supposed to pick me up just drove on by. They forgot [*laughs*] they were supposed to pick me up [*laughter*], but luckily I was able to find the place myself. We met in people's homes, and it was just down the road a little ways. And we had—I was, a brand new member, but I had the local museum and so I was asked to—to contribute a—a quilt block for a going-away gift for a quilt they were making, so I did the—the Pine Ridge stores on the quilt block.

**Uh, why did you join?**

Well, to get involved in the community and meet people and because they had a quilting group. They had a very active quilting group. That's what I wanted to do.

**Why have you continued your membership?**

The quilting, of course, and the people, all of the wonderful people that you meet that work so hard and initially Brenda—Brenda Henderson, who was our agent, just absolutely fantastic person and now Kaye Shroud. Every time I think about quitting I say, “No, Kaye won’t let me do that [*laughter*].” And I don’t want to quit.

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

At the club level, probably nearly everything, the secretary, everything but treasurer, I guess, from the vice president, president. When I started we had program of work officers, and I held several of those different ones—held crafts, citizenship, both in the club and on the county level I was chairman of those various work positions over—over the years. Special projects, just—just all kinds of them. I—I think we probably get to—we—do we want to cover the county ones too, on this question?

The—the quilt show, I’m one of the founders. Operation Santa Claus. I’ve been co-chairman a long time. The fair, head of two departments; the caregiver training that we did years ago. The “Her Story” book that we did in 1986 was a very, a big favorite. Most history is “his story.” We interviewed women who had—who were elderly at that point, but had grown up in the county and got their “Her Stories.” I was on the County Health Education Committee, which worked with the—the county. We did some home tours. Over 32 years, I’ve got myself in and out of a lot of pickles. [*JJ laughs*]

**Have you attended state Council meetings? And if so, what year did you attend your first one? And do you have special remembrances of that event?**

Probably early- and mid-[19]’80’s. I—I was our council officer of various levels during that period. I probably went to three or four of them. I remember two things. The very first one they had an absolutely fantastic multi-media slide show. It was like professional quality, but it was done by the staff or the—the officers. I don’t know how many big slide screens and it would flash this, this, this and the music and the voice and everything all—all went with it. And it was absolutely fantastic. And I think maybe, it might have been the

second one and I don't remember what year it was. They announced at our morning program that Kate Smith had died and we sang "God Bless America." And that was very touching.

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

Well, it's involved me with the community and met many people I would not meet otherwise; it increased my self-confidence, my leadership abilities, my organizational abilities. I just become almost a different person with all the stuff that I have gotten involved with in doing this. I probably have gone overboard with some of it, but I enjoy it.

**Well, what has been your favorite event or activity?**

The quilting—that what I have learned in our quilt group, the—the quilt shows that we've done, the quilt shows that we've traveled to all over the place. But I've enjoyed many of the community service projects that we have done, many of them.

**Well what has been your least favorite event or activity [KS laughs]?**

Meetings that go on and on and get off subject and never [*laughter*] get anything done. If we could, we women like to talk. If we would stay on subject, discuss the thing, take a vote and get on to the next thing, we could be done and home.

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

When I first joined, we had all these program award activities and it was still the professional agent came to you and taught you new things that we needed to learn. It wasn't quite on the level that it had been with Home Demonstration Clubs as far as the city person coming to the country bumpkins and showing them how electricity works or something [*laughs*]. But that had been a long time ago. So we, but we had—did a lot of group things. We had craft workshops, we had cooking demonstrations, we had citizenship projects. There were just health projects, things that we did as the—as a county-wide group and

then our own group. But it was still the Extension bringing things to us. And then we got so we were putting on big projects for the county.

The membership went from farm women who didn't get off the farm very often, over this 100-year history, to retired professional women, retired business women, retired teachers. People that a good many of our members now didn't grow up here, weren't farm girls or some were farm girls who moved away to have a career and came back or farm girls from somewhere else, but it's not all oh associated that much with what we think of as—as the farm agent coming program. And so now we have—we are putting on things to either teach or to provide a service to the county as a whole, not just within our own organization.

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

Well, I ought to say it has taught me patience and understanding and, and [laughs] being accepting other people's choices and that they don't all have to love the same thing I do. But I'm 70 now, and I have the right to be impatient [laughter] and get mad [laughs] and, and want to tell them to get busy [laughs].

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

That it's just a wonderful organization to make new friends, learn new things. We have many of these special-interest clubs where the—our membership gets together every week and so we use it as a—a chance to learn all kinds of things that have nothing to do with the agenda per se, but everybody learns something every time we get together as a group and we all can make wonderful friends we would never even meet if we weren't coming together to whatever the event would be and we also learn about local history. Many of us did not grow up here, some of us who did are interested in history, and some aren't that interested, but they ask questions and [unclear words] get the ball rolling, get them into knowing more about where they live now.

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

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Thank you.

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