

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Martiel Womble

President Thornton Extension Homemakers Club

Original recording made 22 November 2011

at Thornton, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Dorothy Penix

Calhoun County Extension Homemakers Council Member

**UofA**  
**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**  
*University of Arkansas System*





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Oral History Program

Dorothy Penix, member Calhoun County Extension Homemakers Council

22 November 2011

This is an audio recording of Martiel Womble, president Thornton Extension Homemakers Club. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Martiel is answering questions asked by Dorothy Penix, Calhoun County Extension Homemakers Council Member.

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

**I am Dorothy Penix and I am interviewing Martiel Womble. This interview is being held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Thornton, Arkansas, on November 22, 2011.**

**The audio recording and transcripts of this interview will be donated to the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History of the University of Arkansas.**

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**Would you please state your name and spell your name and indicate if you give the Pryor Center permission to make the audio file and transcripts available to others?**

My name is Martiel Womble, M-A-R-T-I-E-L, W-O-M-B-L-E, and I give the Pryor Center permission to do so.

**Would you share your memories involved- with the Extension Homemakers, good times and challenges? Were you a member or as a professional?**

I am a member of the Extension Homemakers, rather than a professional.

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

I learned about Extension Homemakers from my neighbors and friends that belonged to a local club.

**How long have you been a member?**

More than 50 years.

**What was the name of the first club you were a member of and what year did you join?**

Chambersville Extension Homemakers. I joined in the mid-1950's.

**Are you presently a member of a club? What club, county and district?**

Presently, I am a member of Thornton Extension Homemakers, Calhoun County, and the Ouachita District.

**Any special remembrances of your first meeting or first club?**

The meeting was held in the old Chambersville School. It was just like the students and teachers had left it on the last day of the school year, and I took two of my children with me.

**How many children did you have at that time?**

Four.

**Why did you join?**

All my friends and neighbors were joining. The programs and workshops seemed to be good, interesting and helped enhanced the running of the home—and to be able to pass the information I learned on to others who were not members of the Homemakers Club.

**Why have you kept your membership?**

I enjoyed the programs and giving back to the community—the educational experiences provided in the workshops.

**How involved did you become—please list offices and chairmanships you held?**

I became very involved in the local, county, and state clubs. I served as vice chair and president of my local club, Southwest District Director 2001-2003 and state vice president. One committee chairmanship was a workshop making a door hanging that looked like a scarecrow made of blue jeans scraps put together with glue—also had workshops on knitting sweaters and throws and helped on community service projects.

**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?**

I have attended many state Council meetings. The first one was too long ago to remember the year, but we made plans for the first yearly state meeting with workshops on sewing and cooking.

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

I was able to serve the organization as an officer and use my ability to cook and sew by making things and offer cooking suggestions, help other club members and exchanged ideas [ideas] with them.

**What is your favorite event or activity?**

It would be hard for me to pick any one event or activity as my favorite, but I enjoyed the time we decorated speaker platforms.

**What is your least favorite activity?**

Cleaning up the mess after a workshop or demonstration.

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

The changes that I have notice most is that more of the planning and teaching

has become the responsibility of the local club and with less supervision. Program materials and literatures are not in the local offices all the time and sometimes you have to do your own research.

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

It has taught me how to get along with other members, listen to their ideals [ideas] and help with club, home, and community activities.

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

The memories, experiences or thought I would like to share is how much I enjoyed making pillows with ruffles, vests, Christmas decorations, quilts, different kinds of woven baskets, socializing with other women, and being the Calhoun County Homemaker of the Year in 1992 and Southwest District Homemaker of the Year in 1992.

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