

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Dorris Carter

Sharp County Extension Homemakers Council Member

Original recording made 4 April 2012

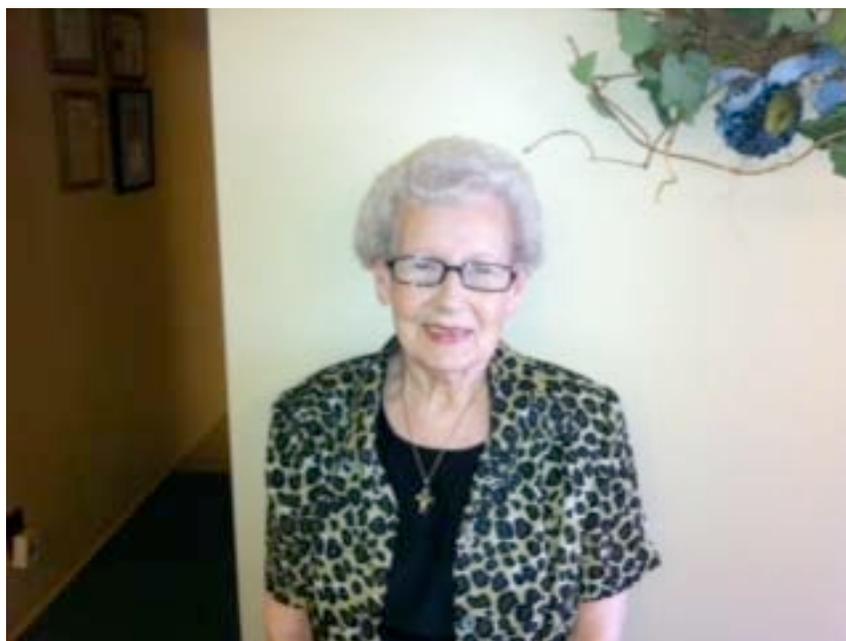
at Highland, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Bernadette Freigy

Sharp County Extension Homemakers Council Treasurer
Hardy Country Ladies Extension Homemakers





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Oral History Program

Bernadette Freigy, Sharp County Extension Homemakers Council Treasurer
and Hardy Country Ladies Extension Homemakers Club Treasurer

4 April 2012

This is an audio recording of Dorris Carter, longtime member of the Sharp County Extension Homemakers Council. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Dorris is answering questions asked by Bernadette Freigy, Sharp County Extension Homemakers Council Treasurer and Hardy Country Ladies Extension Homemakers Club Treasurer.

Questions and comments by Bernadette are in boldface type; Dorris's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Bernadette Freigy. This is the interview with Dorris Carter for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done April 4, 2012, at the Hometown Radio KSAR, KFCM, KOOL radio station in Highland, Arkansas, Sharp 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, that will be fine.

First, I would like you to give your complete legal name and spell it for me, then tell me the city and county in which you presently reside.

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My name is Dorris Carter—D-o-r-r-i-s, C-a-r-t-e-r—and I live in Hardy, Sharp County.

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 Homemakers Program?

Well, it's been a longtime affair. I'm a member of the Hardy Country Ladies EHC. In the past I've been officer, volunteer worker. I'm committed to crocheting shawls for the nursing homes in the county.

How did you learn about the Extension Homemakers Program?

Mostly through friends who were members at that time. Of course, there were some members that I didn't know.

And how long have you been associated with the program?

It's a rough guess because it's been a long time ago, but about 50 something years.

And how did you get started with them?

Well, just hearing about it through our friends and working with club members offt [off]and on for all these years. Now when I was working away from home, I didn't get to attend all the meetings so that's why I say offt [off] and on. OK?

OK. And you mentioned earlier you are presently a club member and you gave the name of the club. That club is—give the club again to me.

Hardy Country Ladies.

OK. And we are part of the Sharp County and Ozark District.

Yes.

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

Like I said, it's been a long time ago, but I do remember at one time we made straw purses and I carried mine for at least two years, pretty good purse. And another time we did etching on silver trays. There were programs on cooking, canning, gardening, and I still like to work in the flower beds.

Tell me what you do with your tree at Christmas time—at Easter time.

What we do . . . ?

Because you like to be outside [*phone rings*]. You have also—you decorate your . . .

[*Laughs*] I have an Easter egg tree. It seems the schoolchildren that ride the school bus out my way look for my Easter egg tree. [*Laughs*]

I think you may have learned something from that—from decorating, you think?

Could be.

Ah, basically you kind of alluded to it but why did you join an Extension Club? [*phone rings*]

Mostly to be with these friends that I talked about and to make new friends and to learn as much as I could about homemaking.

And how involved have you been? You kind of gave us a little bit of what you did in the clubs. What offices have you held?

Oh, I think I've held all of them, president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, in the local clubs—in the Hardy Club before we joined Country Ladies and also

as thought leader on the county Council.

OK. Could you give us a little bit more information on the county Council?

Ah.

What is a thought leader?

Usually, some sort of a devotional at the spring Council and fall Council meetings.

OK. Have you held any—have you had any special honors throughout your association with Extension Homemakers?

I was elected Homemaker of the Year. I don't remember what year, but I'm guessing it was somewhere in the [19]90s. OK?

OK. What changes have you experienced in the Extension Homemakers organization?

Oh, there's been a lot of changes. Where it used to be—more on homemaking, canning, gardening, and such as that. It's switched now to a lot of things on making your will and long-term care. Don't get me wrong, these are important too, especially at this stage in our lives.

What has been your favorite activity or event?

I guess I remember trips more than anything else. There was one we made to the old grist mill [Editor's Note: The Old Mill, a recreation of an 1880s water-powered grist mill] of North Little Rock and one to Memphis, where we had a boat ride on the Mississippi River.

What's your least favorite activity?

I'm no good at selling tickets. OK? [*Laughs*]

Oh, any other memories or—oh, I'm sorry, has Extension Homemakers taught you anything—what has Extension Homemakers taught you about people?

Everybody's different. And that's a good thing 'cause [because] everybody has their own ideas on how to do things and how not to do things, but our aim has been to accept and love everybody.

Is there—are there any other memories or experiences or thoughts that you would like to share?

Well, we've covered so much already, but the Sharp County Fair, we've hardly touched on. Do you remember those long hot days of setting up for the fair?

Oh, yeah.

So hot, however, the folks kept bringing in exhibits. Everything from canned foods, baked goods, clothing, crocheted items, pictures, crafts, garden vegetables, field crops, flowers—you name it, we had a category for it. And our latest project, Air for the Fair, to air conditioning—air condition the educational building is just great. It's going to come off.

Very good. Is there anything else you would like to say?

Not especially. I think we've covered just about everything

Oh, I do remember you saying something about you working outside the home. What kind of jobs did you have?

Motel operator for about eight or nine years, owner operator—everything from cleaning to bookwork and then about 20 years with the Spring River Times newspaper office, bookkeeping and whatever else needed to be done.

OK. Any other small, short-time jobs?

Those are the most that I think of anyway.

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OK. All right. Well, thank you very much for your contributions to Extension Homemakers and for sharing your time and memories with us.

Thank you.

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