

ARKANSAS EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Official transcript of:

Lilly Wingfield

Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council Member

Original recording made 3 November 2011

at Fort Smith, Arkansas

Recorded, transcribed and edited by:

Paula Resch

Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council President-Elect

Nancy Thames

Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council Member





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Oral History Program

Paula Resch, Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council President-Elect

This is an audio recording of Lily Wingfield, member of the Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council. This interview is part of an Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program, and Lily is answering questions asked by Sebastian County Extension Homemakers Council President-Elect, Paula Resch.

Questions and comments by Paula are in boldface type; Lily's responses and comments are in lightface type.

I am Paula Resch. This is the interview with Lilly Wingfield for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done November 3, 2011, at the Cancer Support House in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, in Sebastian 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.

The recording, transcript, and any other related materials will be deposited and preserved forever in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, and the copyright will belong solely to the University of Arkansas.

Lilly, would you please state your name and spell your name and indicate that you are willing to give the Pryor Center permission to make the audio and transcript available to others.

Lilly Wingfield and yes, I give permission to use it in any way you need to.

Thank you very much. Now, this interview with Lilly Wingfield for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council Oral History Program. This is being done November 3, 2011, at the Cancer Support House in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. And the lady that I am interviewing is Lilly Wingfield, and my name is Paula Resch. And it's an informal interview and we would like for

you to share your memories of your involvement with the Extension Homemakers Program—the good times and the challenges.

First I would like to give you—for you to give your legal name and the city and county in which you reside.

Lilly Wingfield, Sebastian County.

What has been your association with the Extension Homemakers Program as a member or as a professional or agent?

First of all I was born into it. My Mother was a member of the Home Demonstration Club ever since 1923. She was a member when I was born and Miss Lilly Mashburn was the agent then, and since I was named Lilly she always believed I was named for her and Mother never told her any different. [PR: *laughs*] Anyway that's beside the point. I was raised up in the club. I was always taken to the club meeting with Mother and club was just always my way of life. When I was 9 years old I joined the 4-H club—and belonged to that until I went straight on into the Home Demonstration Club. As I say, I have been a member ever since I was 9 years old.

OK. So how long then is that? How long have you been a member?

I think it is 64 years.

Sixty-four. What was the first club with which you were associated? And what year?

Maness 4-H Club and it was in the fall of 1935. I would be 10 the next summer.

OK.

November was membership month then, so I joined. You could join if you was going to be 10 during the next club year.

What was the first—the name of the first Extension Club?

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It was the Maness 4-H Club?

OK. So it was a 4-H Club and also an Extension Homemakers Club?

Yes. By the time I had joined it we had moved to Barling, so it was the Barling Homemakers Extension Club.

OK.

It was Maness back when I was in school, when I joined the 4-H Club.

Are you presently a club member now.

Yes.

What's the name of the club?

It's the Barling Extension Homemakers Club—right?

And what county is that in?

Sebastian.

And the district?

Don't know—Opal?

It's Ozark District. Do you have any special remembrances of that first meeting or the first club?

Well, the 4-H Club met at Maness Schoolhouse, and I listened in on the meeting, before I was old enough to join so I really don't remember anything about my first meeting as a member [pause]. Because since I was in school and they had the meeting in the schoolhouse and we heard everything that was going on anyway, so I don't remember my first meeting as a member.

OK. Why have you continued your membership?

Well, in my family it was just always our way of life, all of my family always belonged.

All right. How involved did you become? Were you an officer or a committee member or a chairman—any special responsibilities?

You name it I've did it [*chuckle*]. I've been nearly everything there is to be.

So were you president and . . . ?

Vice President, Council President, every different committee, which I don't remember all of them now, but whatever it is I have probably done it.

OK. Have you attended the Council meeting and the state—the state Council meeting down at Little Rock or Hot Springs?

No, just meetings held in Ft. Smith are the only ones I attended.

How has Extension Homemakers touched your life?

Well, it was just always a part of my life. My Mother was a member when I was born and I was raised up in it. It's always been part of my life.

What was your favorite event or activity?

When I was a kid it was the 4-H Club Rally and I always enjoyed the County Council meeting.

Was the 4-H Rally in Ft. Smith?

Yes, Andrews Field.

What has been your least favorite event or activity?

Well, I liked all of them. I don't think I have any least favorite.

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

Well, the beginning of it—it was mainly featured on food for the rural areas. The main purpose was then to improve the diets of rural people, introduced eating oranges and more things to grow in your gardens, better food preservation methods. The emphasis in the beginning was mainly on food and then, of course, sewing and other things like that, but we didn't have all the things that we have now. [Uh-huh] But it was mainly for the rural people and the object was to try to improve their standard of living.

Has the Extension Homemakers taught you anything about people?

Oh, yes, I don't know what all, but a lot. You meet all kinds of different people and you learn to get along, to work together.

Is there any other memories or experiences that you would like to share at this time?

There would be too many to even go into. [OK] Like I said, I have been involved in it ever since I was 9 years old and that's been quite a while ago.

All right. I would just like to thank you for your contributions to the Extension Homemakers and for sharing your time and memories with us on recording this oral history. Thank you, Mrs. Lilly Wingfield.

I enjoyed it.

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