Oklahoma’s Centennial Year
OHCE Annual Conference
Clarion Convention Center
July 9, 2007
Washita County

“History tells you what has happened in the past, and it brings you up to the future.”

~Georgia Harris, 92
Progressive Outlook
Oklahoma A & M College

1894  Old Central

1896  Botany Class

1900  Williams Hall
Home Demonstration Clubs
Organized in early 1900’s

Ms. Coryell worked for 12 months of the year, 6 days a week for $72.92 or $875.00 per year.

Two-thirds of her salary came from the county each month and there was no traveling expense for feeding for her horse.

Nettie Coryell, Grady County
Woman’s Agent, 1915
Early 1900’s

From a dugout to a machine shed to an “unpainted” house; life was never easy for these early pioneers, Washita County 1909
The earliest Extension Agents taught canning to girls clubs.

1916 Rufus and Eunice Blocker, McCurtain County Agents. Eunice taught canning to girls.
Education, deeply rooted in the history of extension, is one of the most successful methods of teaching women in America.”

Arnold, Eleanor. “Voices of American Homemakers
Home Demonstration Agents were expected to be experts in all phases of rural life.

These experts constructed bed frames, mattresses, ice refrigerators, flytraps, ironing boards, and kitchen cabinets.

They also provided information in home sanitation and beautification, as well as encouraging economic thrift.

Garvin County “Ladies Camp”

http://www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/enc/homedem.htm
What other group of American women did so much, all over the country, and got so little credit? ...

Federated Farm Women

1929  Beckham County

..........brought civilization to an untamed territory.
Lessons were often taught outdoors to have room and a breeze.

1931  Shultz Club, McCurtain County

This club won a statewide gardening contest
1920’s

- Improvement of farm kitchens
- Rural beautification

Piedmont, Oklahoma, Mrs. W J Lenhart
Rural Improvement Contest were organized. Local hardware stores provided awards to winners.
Oklahoma County Farm Wives
Farm & Home Improvement Contest
1929
Home Demonstration Advisory Council

1925 Garvin County
Home Demonstration Advisory Committee

1929 Oklahoma County
To attend club meeting ladies often walked miles to their neighbors house or to the local school house. Few were lucky enough to have a car to drive. Here the group is dressed in aprons after a cooking demonstration.
Home Demonstration Clubs

Organization’s name changed “Home Demonstration Clubs”

Everyone shared their resources from sheep's wool to garden produce.
1930’s

The Great Depression

• Benefit socials and box suppers were held to raise funds for school lunch programs.

• Gardening and canning, especially meats, were the major programs. Group canning sessions were held due to limited canners.

• Lessons on how to survive on limited resources.
Nov. 2, 1937 about the beginning of Home Demonstration Work in OK and even a picture of 4 of the past State Advisors. I reworked it, trying to update it to the present. I've sent this to Jeri Robertson, too, to see if she can fill in the beginning and ending date beginning with Dr. Spivey of the more recent Advisors.

If she does not know, would you by chance have any records indicting these missing dates? Or who could be contacted at OSU who would have this information?

The picture is a prize: Emma Chandler is second from right and Norma Brumbaugh is third from right on first row. Grace Spivey is first on left on second row and if Esther Martin was Acting State Advisor somewhere along the way she is right in the middle of the second row. Wish I knew the occasion of the picture.
1932 Grady County Advisory Council
Early Day Laundry System

Heat the water in the barrel and then hang the wash on the fence.

1936 Garvin County, Mrs. G. Buckelew
1930’s Home Improvements

Water in the kitchen, no electricity

1937 Mrs. Bower’s remodeled kitchen, Creek County
Vera Extension group vegetable booth displayed in downtown Bartlesville.
1939 Club Meeting – Union Hill, Grady County
1940’s

- Coping with rationing
- Sugarless cakes and cookies
- Old wool garments were reconstructed
- Projects were for the military
- First aid kits were made due to limited access to medical support
- Members worked to get hot school lunches
1940 Canadian Home Demonstration Club
Farm wives sold their produce, poultry, milk and butter for cash for their own family’s needs.

Mother and daughter put together boxes for 1 pound of butter. They used the same mold for 15 years.
1945 Creek County
Technology and educational needs changed following World War II.
1950’s

• Postwar times and lots of new families
• New electric home appliances
• Cultural arts, crafts, hobbies and time for wonderful fellowship
• Agents began teaching leader lessons instead of traveling to each group
• Fundraisers focused on Scholarships
1950’s Sequoyah County Home Demonstration Club
When the war was over, supplies were more available and members were able to travel more to meetings.
The 1950’s kitchen was thoroughly modern.
Enjoy Basket Weaving and Decorating Wall Hangings
Association now called “Extension Homemakers”

Club members began to be aware of their community, state and nation.
• More aware of their role in community service.
• Members were responsible for many community improvements
• Extension programs became social outlets for housewives
• Probably the largest numbers of members during this decade.
Floral Demonstration

1964 Ottawa County
1970’s

Community Service and child protection programs were the main projects

Canadian Co. Community Service

“A member’s daughter was killed on a rural road crossing on a state highway. They worked writing letters, made phone calls until they got flashing a flashing light installed, weeds and advertising signs were removed so the stop sign was more visible.”
Developing Cookbooks and holding community luncheons were the standard for earning funds for community service projects.
Christmas for Troops in Vietnam

1971 Sequoyah County Extension Homemakers and Red Cross Workers
Rocky Point Extension Homemakers

1978 Latimer County
1980’s

Programming focused on helping children:

- Teddy Bear’s were made to give to police officers for children in distress.
- Needed items were collected for day care centers and families on WIC.
- Gardening and plant care were continuing projects.
1980 Wagoner County
1990’s

- “FCE Sting” completed and data taken to State Attorney General
- “Tune out Violence” was a major project
- Members worked on community projects for hospital patients, nursing home residents and new babies.
In the 1990’s the association’s name changed for the third time. “Family and Community Education.”
FCE Christmas Luncheon

1997 Oklahoma County
State FCE Conference

1998 Friendship Banquet
Another name change: Oklahoma Home and Community Education

2000 to present
Major Project Areas have stayed the same with different emphasis.

– Food Preservation
– Home Improvement
– Clothing Construction
– Community Service
– Caring for our children
– Fun and Fellowship
Home demonstrations with girls’ clubs for canning tomatoes

Cherokee County
Pressure Canner
used on a wood burning stove

Mrs. Rayburn, never missed a county fair

Garvin County
Home Gardening Demonstration
Canadian County

Transplanting Demonstration

Insect Control Demonstration
Meat Canning Demonstration

From the calf pen to the canning jar in one very full day.

1924 Garvin County
Not much money, Oh but honey,
We have plenty of canned food!
Mrs. J. H. Cox, garden demonstration expert
We shared our knowledge

MRS. S. A. MAPLE, Navina, left, Mrs. Delmar Pearson, center, and Mrs. Howard Datin, right, route 4 Guthrie and members of the Division 4 club, through their club work have preserved food by hot water, pressure cookers and modern day freezing.

1950's Logan County
Proud Homemaker

1950  McCurtain County
Poultry served multiple purposes –
food for the family and extra money for the homemaker.

1915 Grady County

Bryan County Home Demonstration Project, 80 turkeys

Canadian County Agent demonstrates making a feeder

Demonstration on Caponning Roosters - Cherokee County
Hardwood club holding a meeting at the home of Mrs. A.L. Smith. The fact the ladies have on aprons attest to the fact that they were probably canning. Mrs. Teresa Baughman still lives in the community and is now a member of the Olney club.
Canning Demonstration

1950 Pawnee County
From the demonstration meeting to the finished product

1960’s Craig County
How in the world did Grandma do this?
Lessons on how to make their homes more attractive, and how to preserve food were very important to members.

In 1929 Stephens County Homemakers reported:
281 pairs of curtains made
65 rooms papered
85 floors covered
40 pieces of furniture repaired or painted.
Mattress making demonstrations were held across the state.

Home Demonstration Agents taught men and women leaders to construct the mattress and then they in turn taught others in their own communities.

Cotton Mattress Program in Oklahoma:

66,360 Mattresses completed

75 counties participating

Leaders Assisting Program 917 men
2572 women

Estimate for 1941 97,898

Mattress displayed was made by Mr. & Mrs. R.E. White and Family

1941 Farm and Home Week
No electricity or refrigeration

Home business center under the elm tree.

Dewey County
Home Improvement included indoor lessons and outdoor work

1937 Oklahoma County

1946 Murray County

1937 Johnston County
Repairing home appliances fell to the homemaker.
Upholstery Demonstration

1950’s Muskogee County
Rug making project club.
Tulsa State Fair blue ribbon winners.

1955 Mayes County
“Many present and former members agree that they have received the equivalent of a partial college education, as well as the satisfaction of helping and serving the community. Lessons have now been modified to suit the needs of today’s families.”

Leona Alexander
Leisure time included creating linens for your home.
Who decided that tatting was a leisure time activity?
Clothing our Families

1934 Beaver County
Stephens County

Masking tape and t-shirt dress form

Sometimes we were the dress forms.

1940’s Muskogee County

1940's Muskogee County
We shopped the feed and the grocery store for that perfect fabric.
Dresses made alike for club’s 10th Anniversary

1933 Garvin County, Ideal Homemakers
And sometimes we didn’t want to look alike!

Beaver County, Dress Review
You were not ready until you had the hat, purse and gloves.

1960 Washita County
Mom could fix just about anything.
Sometimes we were very serious

Dress Review Canadian County
And sometimes not so serious.
The fairs were a big part of rural lives. They were a source of fellowship and of course, pride when exhibits took first place.
Canning Exhibit at a County Fair

1938 Canadian County
Loyal Club Exhibit

1942  Kingfisher County
Fabric mainly from feed and flour sacks

1948  Grady County Fair
1949  Tillman County Home Demonstration Club, State Fair Winner
Getting ready for the fair

Muskogee County
1960’s Ottawa County
Flowers .... always brightened our days.

2000 Beckham County
No feed sacks used in these quilts

Roger Mills County

Beckham County
Cemetery Projects

All previous cemetery projects prepared us for the Centennial project.
The club made 350 markers at a cost of twenty cents each.

Dryden Cemetery

1948 Harmon County
Forehand Cemetery

Canadian County

Maintained for 60 years by Friendly Circle Group
Cemetery Indexing

1978 Washita County
We tramped through fields, opened gates and talked to old timers to locate those long forgotten sites where Oklahoma pioneers were laid to rest.
Centennial Cemetery Book Project

Freda Cunningham

Nelda Brown
Presenting Centennial Cemetery Books to Oklahoma History Center

2006 Laura Martin, Freda Cunningham and Bob Blackburn
We supported our schools

1942 Cleveland County
Sorting Items to be donated to the needy

Grant County
Cleaning and remodeling community building

1953 Blaine County Sunshine Club
Radio Program
National Home Demonstration Week.

1953 Grant County
Making gifts for needy children

1956 Canadian County
We bought the most up-to-date equipment
Fundraiser for American Cancer Society

1960’s Latimer County
Pie crust fundraiser

2000 Washington County
We called blood donors for the American Red Cross

Okmulgee County

Westside Homemakers assist Retired Teachers Association at the phone bank
We toured to increase our knowledge
We learned of other cultures

Muskogee County
We learned about the United Nations and constructed a flag.

Ottawa County
We shared with other cultures

Murray County

Philippine Agents visited for program on home furnishings
We studied our Native American Heritage

Cultural Heritage Exhibit
Betty Smith

Cherokee County
We served our Communities

Canadian County
We shared our history
We helped those less fortunate
We cheerfully traveled to meetings, camps and conferences.
OSU Campus, Home Demonstration Week

Late 1920’s Advisory Board
1947 Home Demonstration Week – Grady County
1949 Home Demonstration Week - Craig County
1950's Home Demonstration Week - Oklahoma County
1956 Home Demonstration Week - Grant County
1952 National Home Demonstration Meeting – Washita County
1978 National Extension Homemakers Meeting - Seattle, Washington
1980 National Extension Homemakers Meeting - Biloxi, Mississippi
1982 National Extension Homemakers Meeting - Columbus, Ohio
1995 Grady County Delegates
Our own children and the children of our neighbors have always had a special place in our hearts.
Baby Bed Demonstration

Put two chairs together, use a sheet and safety pin the sides together.

Bryan County,
Childhood Immunizations

Harmon County
Handmade blankets were given to local children’s home in Creek County in 1960.
Red Ribbon Week

1988 Okmulgee County, Westside Homemakers
OHCE Kids Project

Grady County
OHCE and 4-H youth assist children in foster care.
We were loyal to our organization’s mission, no matter how often the name was changed.
They had their own club houses

Cole Club purchased their own building in the early 40’s. It was a cotton gin office they raised funds through egg sales. Each member took a nail keg; covered and made a cushion so they would have something to sit on.
Sunshine OHCE Club Then and Now – Stephens Co.
1922-48 Canadian Co. Home Demonstration Council Presidents
25th Year Anniversary

Ottawa County
We embrace the past and appreciate the present!

Beaver County

McCurtain County
We appreciate recognition

1973 Logan County, Outstanding Homemakers Award
Cleveland County honors Hester Sickles

Beckham County 50-year members
2003 State OHCE Officer Installation

Dr. L. Harriman, Terrie DeShazo and Debra Stevenson
And we had FUN!

Minutes from Hopewell, Cleveland County, 1940 Social.

The club sponsored a family get-together at Independence School house Wednesday night, August 19th. Everyone was asked to bring a basket supper. It turned out to be quite a meal, fried chicken galore. Plenty of vegetables, salads, pie and cake. After everyone finished their meal from the big long table in the center of the school house, the club furnished ice cream in the form of a come-and-get-it affair.

A good time was had by all
Skits were a part of our entertainment
We went camping with our children of course!

Grant County

Washita County Swimsuit Contest
1939 Grady County Farm Women Camp
1942 Canadian County Farm Women’s Camp
Washita County Delegates

1956 Camp at OSU

Pajama Party at OSU

PJ Contest

Heading Home from Camp
Tours are not only educational, they are also a great time for fellowship.

Creek County touring the Tom Mix Museum.

Coal County touring restored home of deceased OHCE member, Louise Cox.
OHCE members show off hats that they created as they attended an old-fashioned high tea in Idabel.
We participated in parades.
Working Together to Build Better Communities

Through Education with Leadership and Service