

**Finding Aid to the  
North Dakota Homemaker's Council. Oral History Project.  
Memories of North Dakota Homemakers Records**

**North Dakota Homemaker's Council. Oral History Project**

Memories of North Dakota Homemakers Records, 1983-1990

1.2 linear ft.

186 cassette tapes

Collection number: Mss 262

Tapes: 361-514, 518-536, 565-579

---

[History](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

**OVERVIEW**

**Links:** [Audio and transcripts to select oral history interviews](#)

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

**Provenance:** Donated by North Dakota Extension Homemakers Council, 1992 (Acc. 2303), additional tapes donated by Donna Lipp, 2013 (Acc. 2013-021irs)

**Property rights:** The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

**Copyrights:** Copyrights to this collection are held by the Institute for Regional Studies.

**Citation:** [Identification of item]. North Dakota Homemaker's Council. Oral History Project. Memories of North Dakota Homemakers Records, (MSS 262), Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

**HISTORY**

The North Dakota Extension Homemakers Council's "Memories of North Dakota Homemakers" Oral History Project, modeled after the National Extension Homemakers Oral History Project, was begun in 1985. This oral history project was undertaken to preserve the memories of North Dakota homemakers. The project focused on homemakers in an effort to provide primary documentation of the changing role of North Dakota homemakers since the turn of the twentieth century. The project was sanctioned by the North Dakota Centennial Commission and funded by the North Dakota Humanities Council in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Arlene Sagness served as project director and editor of the three books that were created. In 1985 volunteers from all over North Dakota were trained to conduct interviews. The interviews were done from November of 1985 through April 1986. The interviews were conducted with older North Dakota homemakers. By June of 1988 the transcripts of those taped interviews had been edited into the first of three books created by the project: *Sods, Logs and Tarpaper*. *Clothes Lines, Party Lines, and Hem Lines* was published in 1989 and *Courtin', Cookin' and Castor Oil* was published in 1990.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the North Dakota Extension Homemakers Council's Memories of North Dakota Homemakers Oral History Project consist of administrative files, tapes and transcripts of the interviews, original versions of the various chapters in the books, original versions of chapters that were not included in the books, and copies of the three books that were created by the project. This collection has been organized into five series: Administrative files, County transcripts, Unused chapters, Chapters, and Books.

The [Administrative Files Series](#) consists of general information, financial papers, lists of interviewers and sources, copyright material, Centennial Commission grant papers, the script of a slide show presentation about the project, newspaper articles, workshop material and correspondence.

The [County Transcripts Series](#) consists of 152 oral histories tapes, and transcripts, conducted for this project. The oral histories were recorded between November 1985 and April 1986 and done by local women within each county. The files are organized alphabetically by county, then by the name of the woman interviewed. There is a typed transcription in the woman's file, unless so noted in the contents listing, and also a biographical sheet and copyright release for the taped interview. The original corresponding cassette tapes have been placed in the archives cassette tape collection. The tape's number is listed with the name of persons interviewed.

The [Unused Chapters Series](#) consists of versions of chapters that ultimately were not used in the books. Themes for these chapters include "poems," "sewing" and "holidays."

The [Chapters Series](#) consists of early versions of the chapters that were included in the books. These chapter versions are organized as they occur in the three books. These early versions show the editorial revision and other changes that were made to complete the books.

The [Books Series](#) contains one copy of each of the three books that the project produced. The books are *Sods, Logs and Tarpaper*, *Clothes Lines, Party Lines, and Hem Lines*, and *Courtin' Cookin' and Castor Oil*.

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

### Box/Folder      Contents

1/1              Finding aid

#### **Administrative Files Series**

1/2              Oral History Project general information, February 1985-February 7, 1990  
1/3              Interviewers and sources, undated  
1/4              Copyright material, November 22, 1989  
1/5              Financial papers, August 29, 1985-August 28, 1989  
1/6              Centennial Commission grant papers, November 1, 1985-May1, 1989  
1/7              Centennial Commission papers, November 1987-August 1989  
1/8              Slide show script, undated  
1/9              Newspaper articles, November 15, 1985-August 12, 1988  
1/10             Workshop material, November 4, 1985-November 8, 1985  
1/11             Correspondence, July 23, 1985-March 28, 1989

#### **County Transcripts Series**

1/12             Adams County  
                  County Extension Homemakers Club History and Recipes  
                  No tapes or transcripts

1/13             Barnes County  
                  Tape 361, Merlie Cruff  
                  362, Ruth Shephard Bruegger  
                  363, Hazel Winter  
                  364, Grace Bowen  
                  365, Esther Shoeive

1/14             Benson County  
                  History of the Viking Homemakers Club & Mrs. Herman Preuss reminiscence  
                  No Tapes

1/15             Bottineau County  
                  366, Myrtle Bush  
                  367, Beth Carlson  
                  368, Martha Stensland  
                  369, Rosalie Henry  
                  370, Gladys Shaffer

1/16             Bowman County  
                  371, Emma Peterson  
                  372, Josephine Andrews  
                  373, Hilda Putney  
                  374, Vera West Storer

1/17             Burke County  
                  375, Anna Sorensen

- 376, Anna Sorensen  
377, Ada Nielsen  
378, Minnie Ness  
379, Ruby Bryan  
380, Margaret Lien  
no tape, Thelma Johnson
- 1/18           Burleigh County  
                  381, Eudora Pfeiffer  
                  382, Dorthy Trygg
- 1/19           Cass County  
                  383, Ethel Dullum  
                  384, Minnie Dahlen  
                  385, Eva Grommesh  
                  386, Ellen Cameron  
                  387, Elphie Miller, Ruth Stromberg
- 1/20           Cavalier County  
                  388, Bonnie Gillin  
                  389, Asta Swensen  
                  390, Marjorie MacLean  
                  391, Donelda Hill Wheeler  
                  392, Helen MacLean  
                  393, Edith Koehn
- 1/21           394, Annie Bouey  
                  395, Floy Higgins  
                  396, Rosa Baumgartner  
                  397, Mildred Geisen  
                  398, Laverne Heller  
                  399, Laverne Heller  
                  400, Esther Dietz  
                  401, Lucy Borho  
                  402, Alice Mattson  
                  403, Mabel Adrian  
                  404, Mary Hodgins  
                  405, Grace Johnson  
                  406, Mrs. Joe T. Wild
- 1/22           Dickey County  
                  407, Jacqueline Klettke  
                  408, Marie Klettke  
                  no tape, Anna Matrie Billigmeier  
                  no tape, Joy Thornton  
                  no tape, Lydia Brosy  
                  no tape, Jacqueline Klettke  
                  no tape, LaVern Giesler  
                  no tape, Aetna Tittle  
                  no tape, Clara Klettke
- 1/23           Divide County

- 409, Hazel Nelson  
410, Emma Thuedt  
no tape, Anna Strand
- 1/24       Dunn County  
          411, Lillian Krieger  
          412, Verne Howard  
          no tape, Ella Mittelsted Guenther
- 1/25       Eddy County  
          413, Annie Hitz  
          414, Ethel C. Schuster  
          415, Esther Wipperling, Emma Bush
- 1/26       Emmons County  
          416, Hilda Bohlin  
          417, Ada Swanson  
          418, Myrtle Wurm  
          419, Ellen Tuttle
- 1/27       Foster County  
          420, Minnie Topp  
          421, Pearl Linderman
- 1/28       Golden Valley County  
          422, Ethel Snow
- 1/29       Grand Forks County  
          423, Loretta Hart  
          424, Ferne Muir (digitized & available online)  
          425, Marie G. Saumur (digitized & available online)
- 1/30       Grant County  
          426, Bernice N. Umber  
          427, Carrie Weinhandl  
          428, Mary L. D. Wilson
- 1/31       Griggs County  
          429, Betsy Berge  
          no tape, Ida Borchert
- 1/32       Hettinger County  
          430, Irma Steinmetz  
          431, Sarah Gray  
          432, Mary Christopherson  
          433, Antonette Wagendorf  
          434, Mabel Weinberger

- 1/33 Kidder County  
435, Edna K. Zimmerman  
436, Edna K. Zimmerman  
437, Edwin Johnson  
438, Gladys Whitmore
- 1/34 LaMoure County  
439, Lillian A. D. Kirschenman  
440, Lillian A. D. Kirschenman
- 2/1 Logan County  
441, Mae Schnabel
- 2/2 McHenry County  
442, Bernice Larson  
443, Florence Hills  
444, Vera M. Fairbrother
- 2/3 McIntosh County  
445, Mary Kretschmar  
no tape, Arlene L. Schultz
- 2/4 McLean County  
446, Edith Hill (digitized & available online)  
no tape, Carrie Hillahan Weinhandl
- 2/5 Mercer County  
447, Mary Miller  
448, Minnie Davis  
449, Carolina Doffee, Eva Wagner
- 2/6 Morton County  
450, Rose Schmalenberger  
451, Mimi Hoyer
- 2/7 Mountrail County  
452, Golda Neddleton Reid  
453, Maide Rosencrans  
454, side one, Margaret Brendan  
454, side two, Mildred Bunes, Beulah Nelson, Bertha Tande, Jeanette Nelson,  
Evelyn Enget, Margaret Brendan
- 2/8 Nelson County

- 455, Alice Stahl
  - 456, Karen Retzlaff
  - 457, Alice Foreng
  - 458, Virginia Olson
  - 459, Cora Lykken
  - no tape, Mary Mootz
  - no tape, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Jelstrup
- 2/9            Oliver County
- 460, Mabel Price
- 2/10           Pembina County
- 461, Anna Briese, Marie Defoe, Katharine Misiolak
- 2/11           Pierce County
- 462, Mary Hartman, Fay Healy
  - 463, Alice Berdall
  - 464, Alice Berdall
  - 465, Anna Bullock
  - 466, Bertha Tofsrud, Lillian Tofsrud
  - 467, Christine Jundt
- 2/12           Ramsey County
- 468, Ethel Moen
  - 469, Virginia Olson
- 2/13           Ransom County
- no tape, Alice Sagvold
- 2/14           Renville County
- 470, Lucille Witteman
  - 471, Alma Keith
- 2/15           Richland County
- 472, Clara Anderson
  - 473, Ethel Pirmantgen
  - 474, Edith Swanson
- 2/16           Rolette County
- 475, Emily Gourneau
  - 476, Alice McKay
  - 477, Dorothy Dubuque
  - 478, Irene Leonard

- 2/17 Sargent County  
479, Thera Peterson
- 2/18 Sheridan County  
480, Lena Allen, Isaac Allen  
481, Jacob E. Dockter  
482, Edna Frank  
483, Rosie Gries  
484, Vearl Hagen  
485, Henry Kiesz  
486, Lydia Laschkewitsch  
2/19 487, Margaret Manz  
488, Olivia Rhoads  
489, Irene Sauter  
490, Frank Swendsen
- 2/20 Sioux County  
no tape, Gladys Morgan
- 2/21 Slope County  
491, no transcripts
- 2/22 Stark & Billings County  
492, Dorthy M. Havniuk  
493, Bertha Benzie, Millie Elkin  
494, Bertha S. Obrigwitch  
495, Marian F. Schmidt
- 2/23 Steele County  
496, Alma Wright (digitized & available online)  
497, Alma Wright (digitized & available online)
- 2/24 Stutsman County  
536, Alice Allen (no release or transcript)  
518, Lori J. Carlson  
519, Agnes Dammel  
520, Alma Dammel  
498, Eva Eastman (full transcript)  
521, Freda Eissinger  
522, Mary Englund  
523, Myra Fried  
524, Muriel Gasal  
525, Bertha Gehlher



499, Ruby Herman (full transcript)  
526, Frances Hoersch  
527, Minnie Link  
528, Mary Marks  
529, Elaine Martel  
520 & 527, Rachel Moser  
530, "Not Just Homemakers" (Gail Martin, Mary K. Olson, Eileen Leski &  
Bernie Johnson)  
531, Agnes Reardon  
500, Julia Schlaht (full transcript)  
532, Delores Schlosser  
533, Otilia Schumaker  
534, Christine Simmers  
535, Dorene Zinke

2/24a Stutsman County – release forms with no tapes

2/25 Towner County  
no tape, Viola Close

2/26 Traill County  
501, Carolina Osland (digitized & available online)

2/27 Walsh County  
502, Verna Johnson  
no tape, Rose Potulny

2/28 Ward County  
503, Nellie Ericson  
504, Marguerite Frank  
505, Florence Smith  
506, Florence Smith  
507, Annie Warner  
508, Angelus Widdel

2/29 Wells County  
509, Emma Edinger  
510, Mabel Albrecht (digitized & available online)  
511, Sarah Georgeson  
512, Lydia Helm  
513, Leona Kuske

2/30 Williams County  
514, Rose Daniel

### **Unused Chapters Series**

- 2/31 Poems, summer 1987
- 2/32 Going To School, undated
- 2/33 Teaching School, undated
- 2/34 Cars, undated
- 2/35 Sewing, undated
- 2/36 Holidays, undated
- 2/37 Bits and Pieces, undated
- 2/38 World War II, undated

### **Chapters Series**

#### *Sods, Logs and Tarpaper*

- 2/39 Acknowledgement, and Introduction, undated
- 2/40 Homestead Days, undated
- 3/1 Sods, Logs And Tarpaper, undated
- 3/2 Strawticks, Quilts, and Rag Rugs, undated
- 3/3 Pumps and Privies, undated
- 3/4 Cow Chips, Cobs, and Coal, undated
- 3/5 Feeding The Family, undated
- 3/6 Prairie Disasters, undated
- 3/7 Church and Funerals, undated
- 3/8 Polkas, Parties and Picnics, undated
- 3/9 The Homemaker and Her Organization, undated

#### *Clothes Lines, Party Lines and Hem Lines*

- 3/10 Trading in the Early Towns, undated
- 3/11 Churning Butter, undated
- 3/12 Poultry Raising, undated
- 3/13 Butchering Days, undated
- 3/14 Hunting and Trapping, undated
- 3/15 Scrub Boards and Sadirons, undated
- 3/16 Oxen Power, Horse Power and Woman Power, undated
- 3/17 World War I and the Flu Epidemic, undated
- 3/18 Hemlines and Hair Dos, undated
- 3/19 Party Lines, undated
- 3/20 The Homemaker and Her Organization, undated
- 3/21 Changing Times, undated

#### *Courtin', Cookin' and Castor Oil*

3/22	Table of Contents, Introduction, and Editors Notes, June 1990
3/23	Courtship and Weddings, undated
3/24	Child Bearing and Child Rearing, undated
3/25	Home Remedies, undated
3/26	Preserving Food, undated
3/27	From Ice Box to Refrigerator, undated
3/28	Threshing and Cook Cars, undated
3/29	Great Depression, undated
3/30	From Oil Lamps to REA, undated
3/31	Victrolas and Radios, undated
3/32	The Homemaker and Her Organization, undated
3/33	Reflections, undated

**Books Series**

3/34	<i>Sods, Logs and Tarpaper</i> , 1988
3/35	<i>Clothes Lines, Party Lines and Hem Lines</i> , 1989
3/36	<i>Courtin, 'Cookin' and Castor Oil</i> , 1990