Finding Aid to the
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

OVERVIEW

Links: Audio and transcripts to select oral history interviews

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


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 create 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Finding aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative Files Series

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

### County Transcripts Series

#### Adams County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>County Extension Homemakers Club History and Recipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No tapes or transcripts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Barnes County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>Tape 361, Merlie Cruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>362, Ruth Shephard Bruegger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>363, Hazel Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>364, Grace Bowen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>365, Esther Shoeive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Benson County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>History of the Viking Homemakers Club &amp; Mrs. Herman Preuss reminiscence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Tapes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Bottineau County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>366, Myrtle Bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>367, Beth Carlson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>368, Martha Stensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>369, Rosalie Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>370, Gladys Shaffer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Bowman County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>371, Emma Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>372, Josephine Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>373, Hilda Putney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>374, Vera West Storer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Burke County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>375, Anna Sorensen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Kidder County
435, Edna K. Zimmerman
436, Edna K. Zimmerman
437, Edwin Johnson
438, Gladys Whitmore

LaMoure County
439, Lillian A. D. Kirschenman
440, Lillian A. D. Kirschenman

Logan County
441, Mae Schnabel

McHenry County
442, Bernice Larson
443, Florence Hills
444, Vera M. Fairbrother

McIntosh County
445, Mary Kretschmar
no tape, Arlene L. Schultz

McLean County
446, Edith Hill (digitized & available online)
no tape, Carrie Hillahan Weinhandl

Mercer County
447, Mary Miller
448, Minnie Davis
449, Carolina Doffee, Eva Wagner

Morton County
450, Rose Schmalenberger
451, Mimi Hoger

Mountraill County
452, Golda Neddleton Reid
453, Maide Rosencrans
454, side one, Margaret Brendan
454, side two, Mildred Buness, Beulah Nelson, Bertha Tande, Jeanette Nelson, Evelyn Enget, Margaret Brendan

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 Swensden

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

**Books Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/34</td>
<td><em>Sods, Logs and Tarpaper,</em> 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/35</td>
<td><em>Clothes Lines, Party Lines and Hem Lines,</em> 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/36</td>
<td><em>Courtin,’ Cookin’ and Castor Oil,</em> 1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright 2009 by Institute for Regional Studies & University Archives, North Dakota State University Libraries