

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: LaNell Stuchlik

COLLECTION: 4700.2426

IDENTIFICATION: Former Louisiana Cooperative Extension, 4-H agent, and home economics teacher

INTERVIEWER: Chelsea Arseneault

SERIES: History of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Services

INTERVIEW DATE: November 26, 2014

FOCUS DATES: 1943-1970s

ABSTRACT:

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Introduction; her parents were Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hines; they lived in Rapides Parish, Louisiana; a 4-H scholarship allowed her to go to college; started working for extension in Natchitoches, Louisiana, was soon moved to Many, then to Oberlin, Louisiana; her parents were from Center Point, Louisiana; father was a farmer, sometimes sold trees and cattle, made syrup from sugarcane and sold it to local people; mother was a homemaker and a good cook; the home had a wash house; her mother canned and preserved fruits and vegetables; Stuchlik helped to take care of the chickens; would invite friends over to make candy; foods her mother cooked; butchering animals for food; learning how to milk the cow; her mother used a wood-burning stove; a favorite family recipe for squash; ice delivery; varieties of tomatoes they grew, process for canning them and other foods; fig preserves and fig trees are a family tradition; two magnolia trees at Stuchlik's home came from her mother-in-law; memories of Ruby-Wise Elementary School; transition from elementary to high school; her older sister, Audrey, taught home economics at Bolton High School and was her teacher; topics covered in home economics courses; awarded a scholarship to attend Northwestern State College, her father chipped in and she had a job in food service there; participated in home economics club and the Baptist Student Union in college; she did not enjoy a physiology course; wanted to teach home economics or do extension work; initial assignments when she began working for extension; working with Mr. Meaux and [CW?] in 4-H and with Marie Durr in home demonstration; taking a short course at Louisiana State University for new agents; chauffeuring a group of fellow female agents on a shopping trip to downtown Baton Rouge; attending home demonstrations with Durr in Oberlin; judging canning and raw vegetables at a country fair; enjoyed meeting people, one nice man pulled her car out of a ditch; Campground Walker in Pollock, Louisiana, for kids involved in 4-H; she was training in home demonstration and with 4-H clubs, did something different every day depending on what her bosses needed; attended 4-H club meetings at schools, one meeting

focused on baby chickens; she had enjoyed caring for chickens at home; her mother-in-law raised and sold chickens; typical jobs for men and women working in extension in the late '50s and early '60s; had to delay her training when she had an appendectomy followed by devil's gripe; transferred to work in Avoyelles Parish, got married to her husband while he was living in Port Arthur, Texas, and soon got a job teaching home economics in Nederland, Texas, so they moved there; started out as a fill-in teacher, then taught in the high school for a year; showing a film on dating etiquette at Campground Walker; home agent Irene Lord checked Stuchlik's garden when she was a student involved with 4-H; she doesn't recall her parents getting visits from a county agent; vegetables she grew in her garden included peas, potatoes, tomatoes, string beans, various greens; being able to grow your own food is a blessing; she spent time at Campground Walker as a child, stayed overnight for about a week; there was a small fee to attend the camp; they had 4-H in high school but not in college; career paths in home economics included teaching, extension work, or dietetics; concluding conversation.

TAPE: 1 (T4362)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 57 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 39 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Photos (39); Interview questions (1 pg); Correspondence (1 pg)

RESTRICTIONS: None