

1979

1979 found us interested in the "Influence of T-V on Childrens Behavior. Also "Emergency First Aid, New Look in Home Furnishings and Easy Entertaining. Diane Bender joined the County Extension staff in this year and the program flourished under her capable hands.

Cowl necks were shown in fuzzy sweaters, and there were sweaters and more sweaters.

1980

Teal was a popular new color in 1980 and it was shown in dressy blouses, dresses with back interest, and in velvet-like tapestry skirts that often had side closings. Abstract designs showed up in sweaters of all kinds, but usually with dress slacks or jeans.

Lessons were on: "How to Complain Effectively, How to Organize Your Time, Know Your County Government, Metric in the Kitchen, T-V and Children, Women Establishing Credit, Over the Counter Drugs, and "What is a Natural Food?" That was 8, a busy year.

1981

1981 started the "Color Me Beautiful" craze where everyone went to be analyzed to see if they were a cool season or a warm one. Women started looking better and coordinating their wardrobes better. Blazers and slacks were popular, but the army green safari look was coming on strong.

"Driving Defensively" was studied as well as "Communication Techniques, Energy Saving Window Treatments, Helping Children Handle Peer Pressure, Natural Grain Baking, and the one our county is so proud of: "Recycling". We have been the first to recycle on a county wide basis.

1982-83

1982 and 1983 helped members get acquainted with their libraries, helped parents through the aging process, and helped them understand health insurance. A special county study of the "Amish" was conducted because a large colony of them live in the Pardeville-Dalton area.

High heels were being worn with designer jeans and the shoes weren't always real leather either, as man made uppers were being put on shoes. Pierced ears became so popular that clip earrings were impossible to find. Gold chains were worn by both men and women and dresses were coming back, often worn with a contrasting jacket.

Cheryl Rew became our Extension Home Economist in 1983, bringing with her many new ideas.

1984

1984 saw suits with skirts and soft blouses and good jewelry (twist beads).

Lessons were on "Personal Growth, Sugar and Salt in the Diet, Ground Water, US Geography, Will & Probate, Eating Naturally and Sewing Update".

1985

Studied in 1985 were Co-Composting, Handling Conflict, Osteoporosis, Laws for Women, Haiti, and a lesson on Child Abuse.

Dresses were making a comeback with royal blues and blacks being popular colors. Dresses were longer, shoes dressier.

1986

Large earrings were the "thing" in 1986 and Faux-imitation pearls were worn in longer lengths. Shoulder pads were in everything and the big shirt look was the thing. Colors were more muted, lace trimmed blouses and dresses.

Lessons were Wok Cookery and Garnishes, HMO's, Ireland, Fats in the Diet, Family Communication, Low Cost Decorating and "Are You Still Trying to be Superwoman?"

1987

1987 lessons are: Food and Drug Allergies, Financial Investments, Wales, Is Your Home a Hazardous Waste Dump, Food for Health & Heart, Floor Coverings, Task & Action, with special interest meetings on Holiday Entertaining and Midlife Crises.

90
29 Columbia County now has approximately ~~70~~ ¹⁷⁸ members in 66 clubs in 8 centers with individual members, some of whom are men. If you have any questions, you may call your local extension office.

Still 1966

One secretary reported that dinner for the Christmas party would be \$2.25, tip inc.

1967 "Mental Health as it Affects the Family, Toward Better Meetings, Manners Away From Home, Shopping- When and Where, and Menopause" were offered in 1967.

1968-9 Long Hair and ponytails were popular, all dresses were very short, not only the mini-skirts, and finally nearly everyone was wearing pantyhose. Boots, of course, went with the short skirts.

1970-71 "Drugs and Narcotics, Family Crisis, Advertising and the Consumer", were offered in 1969 along with 3 lessons on food and the country of Puerto Rico.

Pendleton wool jackets started the look alike clothes for men and women. Both were worn overslacks and came in beautiful colors, in 1970.

"Learn to Relax" and "Is There a Generation Gap" were 2 of the lessons offered. Special interest meetings were offered on braided rugs and Charlotte Dunn came from the University to teach a 2 day seminar on "Food Habits" (It's What You Put in Your Mouth That Counts).

1972

With the dresses still so short in 1972, gals went to turtleneck sweaters with wide leg pants with cuffs. High platform shoes were worn with striped or textured hose, bodysuits were introduced and winter coats went to ankle length.

You could see the repeat of lessons here with "Small Appliances, Food Freezing Facts, Key Nutrients in Meal Planning and Vegetables with a Flair". Japan was the country that year.

1973-4 1973 and 4 were the "Stretch and Sew" years. Skirts, slacks, unlined jackets, vests, cowl neck knit tops all coordinated. A renewed interest in sewing was widespread. Sewing with knits meant no seam finishes, lots of shortcuts, sewing was fun again.

1975 "Use and Abuse of Cosmetics" was studied along with "Health Foods" and "County Services".

Shoe styles went to very pointed toes, skirts finally started getting longer and corduroy was everywhere in browns, tans and rusts. Hand bags went very small as did earrings. "aircuts with bangs were being shown in 1975.

Australia was studied, along with "Information Needed to Meet a Crisis", "Horticulture for Women, Listen for Feelings in Families, Lets Clean Up America, and Consider Convenience".

1976

Columbia County hosted Farm Progress Days at the Christopher farm in Wisconsin Dells in the bicentennial year of 1976. Everyone studied history and heritage and many made long skirts and bonnets for the many celebrations around the county.

1977

Kay Miller became our new "Home Economist" (new title) in 1977 and the Executive Board of Columbia Co. Homemakers wrote a Mini-History of Columbia County and studied "How Do You Feed About Welfare, What It Means to be a Widow, Don't Cancel Out Tomorrow, Women and Insurance, and the country of Kenya.

1978 Pantsuits came in any way, shape or manner, from plain to dressy in all fabrics.

Six special interest meetings were offered in 1978. These were meetings offered to both men and women, who need not be Homemakers. They were : "Baby Food at Home, Green Thumb Know-How, Financial Planning, Summertime Meals, Packing Nutritional Lunches, and Salvage for Saving(sewing). Regular lessons were on "Energy Use, Safety and Exploring Columbia County".

Pants legs narrowed and colored jeans were being worn with down vests, and leg warmers. Fabric purses were introduced and narrow skirts were being split.

1956

Lessons in 1956 looked into the new point system in Wis. Driving Laws and Social Security. Tapered slacks were being worn with raglan sleeve sweaters or overblouses. Knit dresses and suits were so comfortable with their two way stretch.

1957

A Columbia County Chorus was organized in 1957 and 26 ladies raised their voices in song. Bread making took its turn on the lesson plan chart along with Textile Painting, Buying the Correct Pattern Size (they had gone to girls, pre-teen, Junior, Misses, and Women's sizes) and just to round it out, "Housecleaning".

1958

Skirts went very straight in 58, often with a cowled blouson above them. Flat shoes came in and we saw walking suits, colored fake fur, and glen plaid in short jacketed suits.

"Managing the Food Dollar" combined with "Outdoor Cookery, and clothing lessons were on "Decorative Stitches, Advanced Basic Sewing and Repair of Clothing."

1959-60

Often the vice president of a club had been assigned the job of "Health Chairman". Now in the 1959-60 year, she was called "Civil Defense and Health" chairman. She was given articles to share with club members by the county. ~~to state/fellow members~~ In this time of the Korean war, women were urged to set up Civil Defense shelters in or near their own homes, equipping them with food, water, battery radios, etc. Lessons offered that year included. "Flower and Twig Arrangements, Herbs and Seasonings, Enjoying Life Every Day, Fads and Fallacies, and Rackets and Gimmicks. (2 lessons) But the favorite by far that year was the one on Foundation Garments. Our club had an undergarment salesperson to give the lesson and she taught us to lean forward into your bra when you put it on, and to try a little baby powder when you girdle just wouldn't slide.

1961-62

Beauty shops enjoyed a hey-dey with the very bouffant hair styles of the early 60's; teasing and more teasing. Narrow leg pants were worn with roll-up sleeve shirts, and dresses were in the popular color-ultra violet.

Homemakers tried decorating with houseplants, matting and rehangng their pictures at a lower level, weight control, and studied the new laws concerning fiber content labeling of fabric, and an etiquette lesson called "Courtesy Counts".

Margaret Patchett of Columbus was hired as our new Home Agent, and our Civil-Defense -Health Chairman, went to "Safety Chairman". It was time for the baking lesson again and this time it was "Danish Pastry". Oh, delicious. Brush butter between every layer of yeast dough, fantastic. Guidance for children was introduced and the study of a country, "Hawaii" began an International Study tradition that continues today.

1963

1963 saw a lot of cotton returning to the fashion scene and women studied "First Aid, Snack Time Cookery, Stain Removal. Oven Meals and the state of Alaska".

1964-65

Short shift dresses were in - in 1964 and gals were wearing Lady Van Huesen shirts with their jeans. Everyone was listening to the Beatles, and the men were wearing their hair longer than the women.

Interest was fading in the chorus, so our club organized a Kitchen Band that played for Achievement Day, at the Nursing Home and other community events. Catchy names were devised for lessons, like "Mrs. Homemaker-Extra Curricular, Cold Facts About Safe Food and Housework Got You Down?" That was the lesson that taught ~~xxx~~ how to fold a fitted sheet. The lesson on tension was entitled "Needle Points in Our Lives".

1966

1966 began the unlined tailoring era. Jackets were collarless as pants suits went dressier with fuller leg and overblouse. Mini skirts were worn with wild knee socks or fishnet stockings. Hiphugger jeans were worn with Hawaiian print shirts.

Lessons offered in that year were "Care of Floor Coverings, Fighting in the Home, Read the Label, Beef Cuts (A whole meal was prepared and each member pd 69¢ to eat supper at club), fabrics of Today and Herbs and Spices".

1945

The emphasis in 1945 was on nutrition. "Milk and Eggs in Our Meals, Eggs in our Meals, and Freezing Vegetables and Fruits", were the lessons taught.

Hair styles were longer and everyone wore skirts and sweaters.

1946

1946! The war was over!! Shoes could be bought without a ration coupon and there were baby dolls, sling pumps, and ankle straps. Then real nylon stockings, no more heavy rayon ones. Dresses became softer, summer blouses came off the shoulder and suits had peplum jackets. Girls turned their hair under page-boy fashion and pearls became fashionable.

Extension lessons reflected the times with "Fitting a Dress, Care of Woolens, Ironing made Easier - Sit if you an-adjust the height of you ironing board. And -- to iron a mans shirt properly- sprinkle generously and then- collar and cuffs first, then button strip, then yoke, then sleeves, then around the body. Then go back and touch up the collar. A thick booklet entitled "Work Made Easier" encouraged good posture, good work habits and work surfaces at a good height for the woman.

1947

1947 was most remembered for the lesson on "Good Grooming" that taught how to make deoderants, hand lotion, and face cream.

Cotton print skirts gathered to a band called broomstick skirts were popular, worn with plain cotton blouses. Skirt length was still only knee length. Houndstooth check in suits and coats.

1948

1948 saw dresses go into a more severe wrapped look. Dress suits were worn. Suits were often double breasted with long jackets.

Nationality Cookery, Slip Covers, Better Business Methods and Landscaping "Home Grounds" were lessons offered that year.

1949

Company Meals and Vegetable Cookery were studied in 1949 as well as "Finishes in Clothing Construction" and the first mental health topic "As We Grow Older".

Tartan plaids were good in skirts and suits and we saw imitation leather handbags, taffeta and rhinestone jewelry-lots of it. Along with the dressier look of clothing came velvet trim on collar and cuffs of suits and coats.

1950-1

Emphasis in the early fifties was on "Window Treatments, Floor Coverings, Closets." Also studied was "Wise Food Buying", Fruit -- and "Milk and Eggs In our Meals." Now here was the first lesson on "Town Government."

Just when everyone had gotten the knack of getting their stocking seams straight, the first pants suits came on the scene. The first ones were dressy, of soft fabrics, worn with good jewelry and wedge heels. Also we saw the first hoods on ski clothes and then they went to sweaters and knits.

1952-Cotton dresses

Women love baking with yeast and a lesson using in some form has been repeated about every 5 years since the early thirties. In 1952, Breadmaking, Good Lighting, and Broiler Meals was accented with a lesson on "Insurance."

1953

Lessons in 1953 went almost all the way - away from cooking and they were on County Government, Family Fun, Soaps and Detergents, and Accessories in the Home.

1954

A club secretary reported that in November of 1954, the County Home Agent, Stasia Lonergan, came to the club meeting and gave a lesson on "Buying Small Appliances". She summarized the lesson with the comment: "Don't buy any electrical appliance unless you intend to use it a lot and have a good place to store it." Still good advice after 33 years. Other lessons that year were "Family Living, Sewing Tips and Furniture Care."

1955

Homemakers starting counting "points" in clothing accessories after a lesson in 1955. Coat dresses or waist length sweaters with full taffeta skirts were popular. Points were for every accessory worn, like pins, jewelry, watch, hat, gloves, etc.

50 Years of Extension Homemakers in Columbia County

As long ago as 1930, there was a Homemakers Group in Columbia County. Then it was called "Womens Home Economics Work" and Gladys Meloche, Nellie Kedzie Jones or Gladys Stillman would come out from the University Of Wis. in Madison and conduct all day meetings. They taught subjects like "Home Canning" where charts told how many bushels were needed to make 20 qts and "Butchering and Curing of Meats."

1938

On Sept. 17th, 1938 at the court house in Portage, the beginning of the first "Home Demonstration" organization was made. Mr. Hovde, County Agricultural Agent was present and offered his guidance and assistance. Mrs. Herman Bahr was elected first county chrnm.

Gladys Stillman taught a 1938 lesson on cabbage cookery. The extension bulletin offered was entitled "Cabbage in Old and New Ways" and featured an introduction by Madison's Luella Mortenson. Of course a lot of the "old" ways featured saurkraut with instructions on making it in a large earthen jar.

Dresses were often solid rayon crepe of calf length. Dress shoes were tied with a stocky heel.

1939-40

Gladys Meloche taught making slipcovers in 1939 and in 1940 she wrote a brochure on "How to Make a Burlap Shopping Bag".

Still feeling the pinch of the depression, women added a crocheted white collar to their dark dresses, maybe bought a new leather handbag from Bears catalog for \$1.49. Dresses were getting shorter.

1941

1941 found women making home filing spaces by covering boxes with wallpaper and sawing cigar boxes into proper sizes to file cancelled checks and other papers.

Cotton stockings were worn and frocks were simple and uncluttered.

1942

Columbia Co. hired the first Home Agent in 1942. Her name was Stasia Lonergan and she was to stay 14½ years. She wrote recently in a letter to the county; "During the 40's much of the emphasis was toward the war effort. Homemakers were told to make do, make over and to extend the use of everything. Victory gardens were planted and preserved, and emphasis was on good nutrition and the food values of those home produced fruits and vegetables."

The war was evident in clothes styles, too. Sailor dresses, lots of Military looking trim on everything. Locketts to carry their sweethearts picture, turbans to wrap around their heads as they went to work in the factories, and the first parkas were worn.

Lessons on the ABC's of mending taught how to mend everything from socks to lace curtains to upholstery. A stain removing chart was offered for 5¢ that told how to remove sticky flypaper, indelible pencil and too much bluing. (Soak & rewash)

1943

Many of the lessons in 1943 were about electricity in the home. Women were taught about fuses, how to repair cords, care & use of small appliances and how to buy a freezer.

Hair styles were going to pompadour styles, prompted by the Andrew sisters singing trio. Saddle shoes came in, along with penny loafers. Fur showed up on lapels and collars of suits and coats. Taffeta skirts and black tops were worn.

1944

"Grains in Our Meals" was one of the lessons taught in 1944 and the same book was used for 4-H girls and for Extension Homemakers. Farm women were encouraged to pastuerize their milk at this time.

Bobby socks became popular to wear with those saddle shoes and girls were wearing sweater sets, and short skirts. Jitterbugging was popular and teens literally rocked around the clock.