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### **History of Buffalo County Extension Service and Home Extension Clubs**

A month ago, I wrote an article on the history of Buffalo County Extension all from a book by Jane Stubbs written in 1983. I wrote about the history of the Extension in Buffalo County itself, and this month, I want to write more from the book about the clubs that were present in Extension in the beginning. I won't be able to write about every club, so I picked a few that I thought were the most interesting to me. Clubs looked a little different back then, and they were made up of adults.

The first club formed was in 1909 and the club's name was the "The Busy Bee Club," although the club did change their name in 1925 to the Pioneer Club and joined Extension the same year. This club met to do handwork, tying comforters, making tea towels, sewing, mending overalls, or any other work they needed to do. They met in each other's homes, and each tried to make the best meal for the group. They all belonged to School District #3. Their motto was "Home is the Greatest Institution of the World; their flower was the pink rose and club colors were pink and green.

In 1917, the country was at war and women in the Majors Neighborhood southwest of Ravenna formed a Red Cross Sewing Club. They spent hours knitting sweaters and scarves, rolling bandages, and making uniform shirts for the World War 1 soldiers. They became a part of Extension after the war and officially named their club the Majors Neighborhood Club.

The Amherst Extension Club was a club that was formed during the Great Depression. During this time, they learned how to help make money stretch further such as making their own Christmas Cards using different techniques. Over the years they learned and visited different places such as the State Penitentiary, the capital, and learned how to buy and cut meat, health and safety, and sewing. They made many care packages as well.

In 1974, a club that I think had a pretty funny name as formed, the "Better Halves." They did many service projects like raising money through a bake sale for someone battling Leukemia. They offered a scholarship for a Shelton senior girl every year as well. They hosted a Baby of the Year contest each year too!

Although these are only a few of the clubs in the book, I learned after reading many of the clubs' histories, although they were all different, they were also similar. They all were trying to help with their communities and help other women in their homes and communities. The topics changed as the world changed over the years just as our clubs today look very different. One thing I found interesting as I read throughout was that a lot of the clubs had a Halloween party every year that was a favorite of many! Some did haunted houses, some had family nights, and others made fun foods, but not many other holidays were talked about, just Halloween. If you would like to read more into the history of the Buffalo County Extension Clubs, please stop by the Extension Office!

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