

Biographical Information Concerning Bessie E. McClelland
To be used re: the recommendation of the Alpha Chapter
Of Epsilon Sigma Phi for the Certificate of Recognition
Awarded by the Grand Council of the Fraternity.

Montana '65

1. Name - Miss Bessie E. McClelland
2. Place of birth - Lawrence, Kansas
3. Date of Birth - August 19, 1898
4. Education - Central State Teachers College, Edmond, Oklahoma; University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla., University of Chicago.
Scholastic degrees received - Life Certificate from Central State Teachers College, 1920; B. S. University of Oklahoma, 1924; M. S. University of Chicago, 1931; Special Interne Work in Nutrition and Dietetics at Micheal Reese Hospital, Chicago summer of 1933
5. Occupations or business engaged in other than Extension - Rural teacher, Okla. 1917-'19; Elem. and Jr. High School Teacher, Okla., 1920-'22; High School Home Ec Teacher, Tipton, Okla, 1924-'30; Principal Tipton High School 1925-'30; Home Ec. Instructor, Southwest State Teachers College, Weatherford, Okla., summer 1930; Nutritionist, American Red Cross, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 1931 -Sept. 1934; Dist. Supervisor, Kansas Resettlement Administration, Sept 1934 - Dec. 1935; Assoc. State Director in Charge of Home Ec. Resettlement Administration Kansas, Jan. - Sept. 1936.
6. Authorship, titles of books, publications, bulletins, circulars, etc. -
McClelland, Bessie E., 1931 - Length of Sampling Periods in Dietary Studies
(Submitted as Master of Science Thesis, Iniv. of Chicago.)
McClelland, Bessie E., Aug. 1942 - Nutrition Today, Mont. Ext. Cir. 127
McClelland, Bessie E., Aug. 1942 - Home Cheese Making, Mont. Ext. Cir. 139
Smith, Frances, Bessie E. McClelland, June 1943 - The Winter Cook Book, Mont. Ext. Bul. 223
Smith Frances, Bessie E. McClelland, June 1943 - Canning Meat, Fish, and Poultry, Mont. Ext. Bul. 224
McClelland, Bessie., June 1945 - Preservation of Foods by Frozen Storage, Mont. Ext. Bul. 230
7. Extension career -
Extension Nutritionist - Montana State College - Sept. 1936 - July 1946
Assistant Home Demonstration Leader, Montana Extension Service - July 1946 - Oct. 1947
State Home Demonstration Leader, Montana Extension Service, Oct. 1947 - March 1961
8. ~~Members, ideals, his larger objectives, what he has sought and outstanding accomplishments, and outstanding results.~~
Honors and offices - Oiconomia, Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Epsilon Sigma Phi, of which she was Worthy Chief in 1951, Who's Who of American Women (Marquis), Mu Beta Beta, Shu-Tan-Ka Honorary Member(the association of Montana Home Demonstrati Agents. She was the first State Staff member to be so honored).
9. Ideals, objectives and outstanding accomplishments - In Miss Bessie E. McClelland's own words in her Epsilon Sigma Phi Annalist's report she stated that her objective in Extension work was, "To help people have greater health, happiness and efficiency. All her efforts both as Nutritionist and as State Leader of Home Economics Extension were devoted to this goal.

When she came to Montana the rural areas were still suffering from depression. her work was directed to helping families obtain better health and fuller lives with the little which they had.

By the forties rapid changes occurred. The process of drying fruits and vegetables was perfected. She had everyone drrying. The freezing of products came into being and the establishment of Freezer Locker Plants. Her untiring efforts not only with the rural people but also with the plant operators quickly made the process acceptable and safe. Her ability to work with men had no small part in this. She often laughs over one operator. The products in his plant were spoiling. The cause was indiscernable until Miss McClelland's tactful investigation inadvertently uncovered the fact that the operator turned off the current week ends in order to save electricity.

When the war came the State Leader, Frances Smith, turned over the training and guidance of emergency agents for the war effort to Miss McClelland. Her abilities as an administrator became evident. The women not only did an efficient job but later all but one became permanent Extension Agents.

As State Leader she not only handled the myriad details of the office and gave her agents backing and support but also expanded and consolidated the program of County, District, and State Home Demonstration Councils. Under her guidance rural women developed a capacity for leadership and responsibility.

All of her Extension Agents, as well as the women of the rural areas revered, loved and were loyal to her. She never failed to give them comfort in sickness and counsel in difficulties. She frequently saw that a woman was transferred to another county if the new position would offer greater possibilities for her capabilities. Further she gave Home Economic majors at the College council and was quick to recognize girls with aptitude for Extension work. She was highly regarded by her peers in the Land Grant Association and held many resposible chairmanships there.

Perhaps nothing shows her worth more than a statement from Louise Shunk when she took the reins at Bess McClelland's retirement. Louise said, " I did not realize how much Bess did until I tried to follow her." All this Bess did with quiet humbleness and humor.