

F.O.L. Programs Progress

by Terry Edwards, Vice President, Programs

We had a rather disheartening start to the year, as the weather DID NOT CO-OPERATE and Murphy's Law appeared to be singling us out, to say the least. My heart goes out to Joe Melton, who after two aborted tries, had a final shot at presenting what would have been a very entertaining and thought-provoking program, only to be hit once again by the weather. Those of us who made it to hear him thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, but it was sad that so few people were able to attend, as I think many would have been interested and entertained by what Joe had to say. I know that I was!

Carolyn Cline and I did manage to present our joint talk on recording your family and neighborhood history. I hope that we were able to help some of the keen family researchers who attended, particularly Carolyn, who, with her calm and interested manner, has extensive experience in the technique of setting interviewees at ease, and extracting valuable memories to be recorded on tape.

One of our most successful presenters so far has been Dr. Elena Garcia, the University of Arkansas specialist in the growing of fruits and nuts in our State, both commercially and at home. What a human dynamo she turned out to be! Thursday, March 24, we had an hour and twenty minutes of beautifully thought out instruction on the growing of fruit, both tree-fruit and berries in the home orchard, carefully calculated to give us a solid grasp of the basics on which to build. She is a very busy woman, but she has agreed to come back on August 25th to do a follow-up to the Home Orchard program, exact topic to be announced later.

Our first April speaker on the 12th, at 5.30pm, will be Velda Brotherton, the author of several successful books set in the Ozarks, some of which she will be bringing with her to sell. She has been recommended by several people, and is a great speaker! She is going to tell us about her latest book, *The Boston Mountains - Lost in the Ozarks*, which should be fun and interesting, so come along and give yourselves a treat!

On April 28th, at the usual time of 5:30, Trudy McManus, one of our County Agents, is going to continue the garden theme, with a program on using and saving the produce from your garden, a useful sequel to the how-to-grow information which we have had before. Trudy knows all the latest methods, and I am hoping that some old-timers will come along as well - they really 'walked the walk' when it was a lot more difficult than it is today!

On May 10th, Mike McClintock is going to present a program on growing vegetables WITH the use of modern pesticides. This will include a section on pest identification which will be very helpful to the less-experienced gardener! ("Is it a slug, Milly? Or a snail that felt too hot and took off its jacket??")

On June 14th we are hoping to persuade Mike's talented wife, Angie, to show us how to restore antique furniture; she is also a trained farrier and a painter. Is there no end to the girl's talents?

AND, on June 23rd, Trudy McManus will present the second half of her program on using and saving the fruits of our gardening labors.

For the second half of the year we have some favorite speakers and performers lined up, including the Crooked Creek Ceilidh Band, and also some programs on vital topics such as our water, and alternative energy.

All will be on the second Tuesday or 4th Thursday, at 5.30 prompt, in the library upstairs meeting room.

If you have any subjects on which you would like a program, LET ME KNOW! I can only guess what might be of interest, and although gardening in all its variety, genealogy, and local history are always popular, it would be fun to extend our range and take in other topics of interest. How about, for instance, 'The book I enjoyed most in the past year' as an all-join-in kind of program? Or maybe a speaker on some of the problems looming in the future, and how we might approach tackling them? My phone number is 741-8920, and you can leave a message if I am not there.

Lastly, I would also encourage you to ATTEND these programs, and bring your friends. Come on, F.O.L! Give yourselves a treat!