

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Rubinette Miller Niemann Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 2009.5.1

**Title:** Rubinette Miller Niemann Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 document storage case, 1 scrapbook

**Donated by:** Rubinette Miller Niemann

**Arrangement:** By document type

**Creator:** Rubinette Miller Niemann

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Angela Stiefbold, April 2025

**Biographical Note:**

Rubinette Miller (b. 1935) was the Roanoke County Home Demonstration Agent from 1959-1963. She assisted and advised the county's Home Demonstration Clubs. Miller (later Mrs. Jack P. Niemann) was a 1958 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. She left her position in Roanoke County to pursue further education through a fellowship awarded to her by the National 4-H Club Service Committee.

Home Demonstration was a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service. Home Demonstration Clubs provided information about home economics to rural women in order to raise standards of living in rural areas and to provide opportunities for community and leadership to women. The Home Demonstration Agent generally had a degree in home economics and worked with clubs to provide information to them through newsletters, workshops, lectures, and similar activities.

The Roanoke County Home Demonstration Club Committee guided neighborhood club activities in the county, and during the 1959-64 time period, there were about thirty neighborhood-based Home Demonstration Clubs in Roanoke County, with over 500 members. The Home Demonstration Clubs also sponsored the 4-H Club program for children.

**Scope and Content:**

The collection includes memorabilia amassed by Miller while she was working as the County Home Demonstration Agent. It includes: Home Demonstration Club Yearbooks from 1961 through 1964; photographs of Home Demonstration, 4-H, and other Extension events and staff from the 1959-63 period; and newspaper clippings, featuring Home Demonstration Club activities and Miller's achievements; and a scrapbook created by club members for Miller, documenting her time as Home Demonstration Agent, and given to her in 1964, which also contains numerous photographs. A digital copy was created of the scrapbook.

## **Container List:**

### Box 1 of 2

- Folder 1: Donation Correspondence – Letters written by RubINETTE Miller Niemann explaining the history of the contents of the collection
- Folder 2: Yearbooks & Indexes – Yearbooks for the Roanoke County Home Demonstration Club, 1961-1964. They include lists of county staff and officers, as well as neighborhood club leaders. Indexes list individuals named within the Yearbooks.
- Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings – Document activities of the Home Demonstration Club and the early career of RubINETTE Miller.
- Folder 4: Photographs, County Extension personnel – Three 4” x 6” black and white photographs of Roanoke County Extension Service personnel, 1959-60: P. B. Douglas, Sherrill Massie, RubINETTE Miller, Ed Allen, Lowell Gobble, and others, unidentified
- Folder 5: Photographs – Five 5” x 7” black and white photographs of a 4-H Club event, Elizabeth Rose Miller identified; two 8” x 10” black and white photographs of a 4-H Club event, Andy Reynolds, County Extension Agent identified; twenty 4” x 6” and smaller black and white photographs of 4-H and Home Demonstration Club activities, Dr. William E. Skelton, Margaret Svoboda identified. Most undated, some dated 1956 and 1958.
- Folder 6: Negatives – Four 2.5” x 2.5” black and white negatives of women at an event

### Box 2 of 2

- “Roanoke County H.D. Clubs” scrapbook presented to RubINETTE Miller, 1963 – Many of the Roanoke County Home Demonstration Clubs provided pages thanking Miller for her work as Home Demonstration Agent. Pages are very decorative and many include photographs of club members and activities, as well as photographs of Miller and other Extension Service staff. Researchers should primarily consult the digital version.

### Digital Files

- “Roanoke County H.D. Clubs” scrapbook presented to RubINETTE Miller, 1963 – Original in Box 2. See full description, above.