

POSSIBLE TITLE: "WHEN THE MEN HAD THEIR DAY"

As women, you've probably heard it many times. You have just had a meeting or received a report from one of the Special Emphasis groups and your male co-workers say to you, "Well, when are WE going to have a program for us?"

This got me thinking one day, "why not?" There are many of the male persuasion who have contributed to the advancement and promotion of women in the agency and they often go unrecognized in the process. So, we sent out a survey to every female Soil Conservation Service employee in Tennessee to see who they felt had been the most influential in their career as a mentor, role-model, or coach.

The response was overwhelming! Almost 50% of the women responded with remarks that were both positive and encouraging. All that was needed now was a way to highlight this achievement and showcase what was definitely a very positive influence on the women.

Mr. Jerry Lee, State Conservationist, provided the opportunity with the suggestion to hold a luncheon around an upcoming women's event. The next "big" event was August 26, Women's Equality Day. A pre-luncheon seminar entitled "Improving Your Quality of Life" was arranged, and everyone invited. The first woman legislator in the state, Mrs. Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, agreed to speak at the luncheon.

Reservations started pouring in from Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District employees and their families. We had over 100 people to attend both the seminar and luncheon with 40% male participants.

The awards portion of the program was designed to begin as a slide tape presentation set to music with a narrative. Imagine the men's surprise as the narrative started listing the many favorable traits named by the women and their faces were shown on the screen.

Especially inspiring during our program was the mention of research done for the book, Breaking the Glass Ceiling. In surveying top female executives, only one item had been named by everyone as helping them to achieve their goals and move up the corporate ladder - HELP FROM ABOVE! It was very encouraging to know that we in SCS-TN, too, have several in our midst who strive to show equality in the everyday things they do for others.

-Submitted by Mary K. (Kathy) Daugherty, Federal Women's Program Manager for USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Tennessee and District Conservationist in the Dayton Field Office

PHOTO CAPTION: Pictured from left are honorees Will Nesby, Tennessee State University USDA Liaison; Jeff Craig, State Administrative Officer; Jerry Lee, State Conservationist; Tommy Hunt, Cartographer; George Prewitt, Area Conservationist; and Jim Lansford, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator. Also honored but not pictured, Bill Adams, Resource Conservationist.