



National 4-H History Preservation Program

November/December 2016 Newsletter

Volume VII Number IX

On this Day in 4-H History

December 1, 1930: President Herbert Hoover speaks by radio from the White House to the delegates assembled in Chicago for the National 4-H Congress, carried over the NBC Network.

December 1, 1948: Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians premiere the new 4-H song, "A Place in the Sun," written by Mr. Waring, for delegates to National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

December 1, 1971: Highlighting the Golden Anniversary of National 4-H Congress, President Richard M. Nixon addresses the delegates and presents awards to the eight Presidential Tray winners.

December 2, 1921: National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work (later National 4-H Service Committee and then National 4-H Council) is established during the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

December 2, 1922: "Healthiest Boy and Healthiest Girl in America" becomes a popular contest started at the 1922 National 4-H Club Congress and running for many years, producing more media coverage than any other single event of the Congress.

December 3, 1928: In the first such victory in history, a 12-year-old 4-H Club boy, Clarence Goecke of Iowa, wins the highest honor at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, the largest livestock show in the world.

December 3, 1946: First meeting of "National Association of 4-H Club agents" is held at the Union League Club in Chicago, chaired by Donald Stiles.

December 3, 1946: The movie, "Where the Road Turns Right," a tribute to local 4-H volunteer leaders, has its premiere at the 25th National 4-H Congress.

December 4, 1924: Ford Mercer, Oklahoma, is the first national winner of the Moses Trophy, the top 4-H Leadership award in America.

December 4, 1931: Cyrus McCormick, Jr., announces that International Harvester Company would give \$50,000 for 100 scholarships worth \$500 each [\$500 in 1931 is about \$9,000. in 2016] to commemorate the centennial of the

invention of the grain reaper by his grandfather. It was the largest gift by a single organization to 4-H at the time.

December 4, 1924: First 4-H Congress Delegates' Parade in the Amphitheatre of the International Livestock Exposition; a tradition that would last for decades.

December 5, 1932: Amelia Earhart presents awards to delighted delegates at National 4-H Congress.

December 5, 1924: The first "National 4-H Style Show" is held at National 4-H Club Congress; Geneva Amudson of Galesville, Wisconsin won.

December 5, 1941: "Young America," a Twentieth Century Fox film, dedicated to 4-H Club leaders, starring Jane Withers and Jane Darwell, is premiered at the 1941 National 4-H Club Congress.

December 6, 1928: The first top boy and top girl to win the National 4-H Achievement Awards are John Jackson, Louisiana, and Sybil Herring, Illinois. Their trophies are presented by Sir Thomas Lipton, the program donor.

December 6, 1988: National 4-H Council's \$50 million Campaign for 4-H reaches its climax at National 4-H Congress with a gala celebration honoring all campaign contributors. All 37 donors giving one-half million dollars or more are present and individually recognized on stage.

December 7, 1950: The very first "4-H Report to the Nation" team makes their very first visit, a meeting with President Harry S. Truman in the Oval Office of the White House.

December 12, 1950: "The 4-H Story," a history of 4-H work by Franklin M. Reck goes on sale to the public through the National 4-H Supply Service and featured in the National 4-H Club News.

December 15, 2006: Paramount Pictures release the popular movie, "Charlotte's Web," the story featuring a spider and a pig and featuring the 4-H emblem and themes; a nationwide 4-H fund-raiser is built around ticket sales.

December 27, 1962: Decision is made to change age requirements for 4-H members from 10-21 years of age to 9-19; this change is implemented in 1965.

December 28, 1936: National 4-H enrollment passes the one million mark.

A Night to Remember



The “4-H Parade of States” at a later International Livestock Exhibition gives a feeling for the size of the parade.

When the young people arrived in December 1924 for the National 4-H Congress, there were nearly 1,800 of them. The new 4-H building at the International Livestock Exposition was being dedicated; even though everyone thought that all the “firsts” of the 1923 4-H Congress couldn’t be outdone, 1924 did it again! One of the most remembered features of that Congress was how the boys and girls trooped into the largest banquet hall available in the city, overflowed the hall, stood in line up the stairway, through the lobby and onto the street outside the hotel. (Beginning in 1925, participation was restricted to no more than 50 delegates per state.)

That fall of 1924, M. S. Parkhurst of the Stock Yard Co. suggested a parade of the 4-H boys and girls in the arena of the International Livestock Exposition. Signs were built and painted telling about Club work and its enrollment, what it meant and how it was administered. There were also signs showing the names of every project and every state.

The night the parade was to be staged, the boys, girls and leaders, were being entertained by Thomas E. Wilson at his (Armour meat) packing plant a mile from the Amphitheatre where the Livestock Exposition was going on. When they emerged from the packing plant auditorium it was drizzling and cold. There was no transportation to the International, so Guy Noble, Paul Taff, Ray Turner, L.I. Frisbie (Pioneers of the 4-H program) and a few others agreed to hold Club members in line and march to the Exposition. They did, with only one State group getting lost. As they stood shivering outside waiting for the ongoing horse show to close, the signs were quickly passed out, and as the doors opened, Noble led the group into the arena.

All was quiet for a minute or so and then the band struck up a march. The group went around the arena once, but still members were coming in so they circled a second and a third time until the whole arena was filled. By then the delegation had taken things into their own hands and were singing and giving State Yells. The 8,000 spectators from many states responded by yelling and cheering, and soon the Amphitheater rocked with noise. The spectacle was climaxed by parade members and audience standing and singing the Star Spangled Banner. It happened to be the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the International Livestock Exposition and president Calvin Coolidge was in the audience. The President was seen to enjoy one of his few hearty laughs in public as the club members were carrying a sign reading “We like Coolidge ‘cause Coolidge likes us.”

Frank Ridgeway, agricultural editor of the Chicago Tribune, reported that “Barney” Heide, manager of the Exposition came to the press box with unashamed tears streaming down his cheeks and said, “Gentlemen, this is the greatest thing that has happened at the International since I have been general manager for the past 30 years.” The next morning 4-H got its first headlines—the front page of the conservative Tribune. It told about the march in the rain and 4-H’ers waiting to get in—and never again were the reporters to look blank when they heard “4-H.” Likewise, the tradition of the 4-H Congress delegates parading in the arena during the International Livestock Exposition continued the following year and for half a century more. (*from the December 1951 National 4-H News*)

The December 20, 1924 issue of the National Boys’ and Girls’ Club News, (Later to become the National 4-H News), which came out only a few days after the big event at the International Livestock Exposition reported that there was a new club song which undoubtedly was generated from the 4-H Congress parade earlier that month. The new Club Greeting Song (Tune—Boola, Boola) goes like this:

President Coolidge, how are you?
We’re glad you’re with us;
We’re glad you’re with us.
We’ll try to show you what our clubs
are doing;
President Coolidge, we’re for you.



1920s 4-H Club pennant

You can help Preserve 4-H History!

To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program; please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to see your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council** to:
National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
PO Box 37560
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Making History – 4-H Alumna Peggy Whitson



4-H members from the Houston area attend media day for Peggy and the Expedition 50/51 crew.

NASA astronaut Dr. Peggy Whitson embarked on her third mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in mid-November. Peggy grew up on a farm in Iowa, and was an active 4-H member. In a recent video produced by NASA and shown on PBS American Graduate Day, Peggy talked about the importance of 4-H in her life and today in the lives of millions of youth; see the interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYWk9v0jKYc>.

Peggy has made NASA and space history during her career:

- With her third launch into space for the Expedition 50/51 ISS mission, Peggy becomes the oldest woman in space. She will celebrate her 57th birthday aboard the ISS.
- During her Expedition 50/51 mission, she will surpass Jeff Williams' record of 534 days in space by a NASA astronaut.
- In her first mission, Expedition 5/6 in 2002, she was named NASA's first Science Officer.

- In her second mission in 2007-08, she became the first woman to command the ISS for Expedition 16. She will repeat this during her current mission as commander of Expedition 51.
- After returning from Expedition 16, she became the first woman appointed as chief of the NASA Astronaut Office.
- During her first two missions, Peggy performed six spacewalks, totaling 39 hours and 46 minutes, currently second for female astronauts.

While Peggy is in space, NASA and 4-H will release a series of learning activities about how NASA prepares crews to live together in space and how youth can develop these skills for their personal lives and future education and careers. The project will be announced in December 2016 and will become available online in monthly installments on the NASA and NIFA 4-H web sites during January – April 2017.

Hands-On History:

Peggy created a web blog called, "It Takes a NASA Village... To Train an Astronaut;" see the blog at <http://astropeggy.tumblr.com/>. On it, she shows some of the many people who work to support missions and highlights their careers. They are not only technologists and engineers, but people who work with communications and public relations, education, art, food, health, training and personal skills. Think about your major projects in 4-H. Discuss in your group how the things that you do and learn in those projects might be used on a space mission on ISS or future missions to the moon or Mars.

A number of other astronauts have been 4-H members – maybe one from your state! Learn more about some of them on the 4-H History Preservation website at <http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/Space/>.



This photo was shared with us by Paivi Haapasalo, National 4-H Leader in Finland. 4-H Volunteers are priceless the world around.

The 4-H Boy and 4-H Girl Statues; Few People Today Have Ever Seen

The 4-H Boy and 4-H Girl Statues. There they stand, a boy and a girl, both cast in metal, each standing on a pedestal.

For those who've never seen them, here they are!



Oh! You were expecting the statues that stand in Danforth Court at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland!?

Well, those ARE nice 4-H Boy and 4-H Girl statues but unlike those statues, these statues can be picked up and carried around. Just 9 ½ inches tall, 8 inches tall if you remove the wooden base, they would make the perfect award for 4-H Achievement; which is exactly what they are! Each has a plaque which reads:

4-H
State Achievement Honor
Presented By
National Committee
on Boys' and Girls'
Club Work

If you were a 4-H member – or someone in your family was – in the years 1949 through 1955, and you or your family member won your state's 4-H

Achievement Award, you might have a 4-H Boy or a 4-H Girl standing proudly on a table or shelf, in your home.

And if you did have one of them, you would know that there is, on all four sides of the statues, a clover depicted between images of 4-H projects. The 4-H projects shown on the 4-H Girl statue are Sewing (needle and thread) and Canning (jars) on the front; Home Improvement (a bucket, a broom, and a mop) on the back; Baking (a pie and a cake) on the left, and Egg Production (a chicken and eggs) on the right. Projects shown on the 4-H Boy statue are Animal Husbandry (bull and horse) on the front, Poultry (duck and chicken) on the back; Field Corn (ears of corn) and Swine (pig) on the left; and Sheep (sheep) and Field Crops (wheat and corn stalks) on the right.

4-H Achievement and Leadership Award programs began in 1940 with the statues making their appearance in 1949. The 1949 National 4-H Awards Handbook describe the statues and their purpose as "An artistic set of metallic miniature statues, symbolizing 4-H achievement, one of a club boy and one of a club girl, will be awarded to the State winning girl and the State winning boy. This statuary has been commissioned exclusively for the 4-H Clubs, and was done by a well-known sculptress. It will be suitably inscribed with the names of the winners."



"I Dare You", boy and girl statues in Danforth Court at the National 4-H Conference Center.

All well and good for the winners from 1949 through 1955. So, what about 1956? The winners in 1956 didn't get statues. Those state award winners got a trip to Chicago to attend the National 4-H Congress.

Let us know if you have one of these statues, we'd love to hear your story: who received it, when it was received, and where you keep it now. Send your information to info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

Chinese Fortune Cookie: "Sift through the past to get a better idea of the present."

How 4-H Educators Use 4-H History

Editor's note: *This new column was born during NAE4-HA 2016 and will appear in every issue of this newsletter as long as staff across the country will send us their stories. We ask that you just send us two or three paragraphs describing how you use 4-H History in your work. A photo would also be appreciated if it helps tell the story. The opportunity is also open to retired staff who used 4-H history in their programs when they were working. If we have a lot of these examples, we'll put two or three in each issue. A special thank you goes to our first author who promised us her example and sent it without a reminder from us.*

By **Janine Sutter**, 4-H Agent, Pickens County, SC

At least six times per year, in our county 4-H Newsletter, I ask a question about 4-H history. Some examples are, When/where did 4-H begin? or trivia (such as what are the 4-H colors and why?) The first 4-H member to respond to the question receives a prize. This is often Campbell's Soup Labels/Boxtops for Education for their classrooms or 4-H items such as gel bracelets, sunglasses or other items from the Dollar Store page on the 4-H Mall. This does not cost me much money at all, but if even some of the children discover some 4-H history, it is worth it.

I love history and I think it is important to know where we came from. Learning about their 4-H

past helps members know who came before them and the reasons we have certain colors/motto/etc. I usually get the information on the National 4-H website <http://National4-HHistoryPreservation.com> or in the agent newsletters. I like to make sure I know the answers before expecting others to know.

Historical 4-H Postcards make nice gifts



You can buy them from the 4-H Mall at <http://bit.ly/4HPostcards>

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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