



National 4-H History Preservation Program

March 2017 Newsletter
Volume VIII Number II

Contemporary 4-H History

Peggy Whitson Inspires 4-H'ers While Speaking Live From Space



Students interacting with Peggy Whitson in space.

The 4-H club members and students at Hartsfield Elementary School in Houston, TX, have gotten to know astronaut and 4-H alumna Peggy Whitson during the past year. Last August, a group of the school's 4-H club members attended the media day for Peggy and her fellow astronauts of Expedition 50/51 at the Johnson Space Center. They joined media representatives in asking Peggy questions about her forthcoming mission. A few were selected to spend some time talking personally with her. During their visit, they also got to meet other 4-H alumni who work at the Johnson Space Center and learn about their experiences in 4-H.

On March 3, Peggy visited with the 4-H members, students and faculty at the school during a live downlink from the International Space Station (ISS). They asked a variety of questions about her life, her 4-H experiences and her work as a NASA astronaut.

Peggy became interested in space when she was nine years old watching the astronauts land on the moon. Being an astronaut became a goal when

she graduated from high school, which was the same year that women were first picked by NASA to be astronauts. She earned college degrees in biology, chemistry and biochemistry that led to her work as a biochemistry researcher and NASA astronaut.

While on this mission, Peggy is researching stem cell growth in space to see if they can be grown in big batches better than on earth and to understand the process. She showed the audience the microscope that she's using for this research and talked about some of the other experiments and equipment they use on the ISS.

As a researcher, Peggy encouraged the students to be questioning; to make a hypothesis/theory, then design an experiment to prove or disprove it. This is an approach to use in our everyday lives. "You don't want to have a preconceived notion of an outcome. Make a plan and hypothesis and figure out what is accurate and not accurate. Look for questions and try to answer them."



4-H Alumna, Peggy Whitson shows "visitors" to ISS the microscope she's using in her research.

Asked about the vegetables being grown on the ISS, Peggy said that she enjoyed eating the lettuce and Chinese cabbage. She said they didn't taste any different from the same vegetables grown on earth, but it tasted "fantastic" to eat the fresh vegetables while in space.

Peggy shared that her most memorable 4-H experience was giving public presentations. "As an

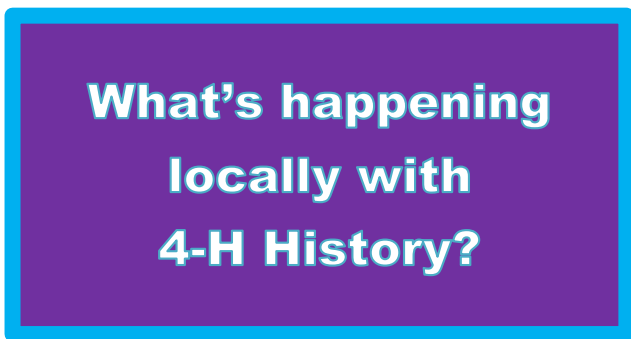
introvert, giving presentations, first at the club, then in the community and eventually at state fair; overcoming that hurdle was very important.” Her memorable experiences in space include living on the ISS each day and living in zero gravity. “Most significant is space walks – being in the space suit is like being in your own space ship, and seeing the huge ISS structure and the beauty of planet earth.” What would she change about the space station? More laboratories - and more closets.

The youth asked Peggy about several of the milestones of her NASA career. While it wasn't a goal, she said she's honored and privileged to have been the first woman to command an ISS mission, a record that she'll repeat during her current mission. She will also beat the record of any American astronaut for 'time in space,' surpassing the record of 534 days held by Jeff Williams. Peggy said that setting records in exploration shows our advancement in capabilities, but who holds the record isn't important. She hopes that someone in the future passes her.

Peggy encouraged the youth to imagine their possibilities and dream big. “I think it is important for young people to dream big – and I mean really big. Think about things that you might not imagine or see yourself doing and imagine yourself there. And then pursue it as a goal, because you can accomplish it. So dream big.”

You can view the event at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4bgP6QLJl8>



Tompkins County, NY Creates 4-H Memory Wall

By Brenda Carpenter, Association Program Leader, 4-H

A comment was made at the 2015 4-H Youth Fair evaluation meeting that “4-H memories last a lifetime.” With that as an inspiration, I started collecting items for a “4-H Memory Wall” that would be on display at the 2016 4-H Youth Fair.

With this goal in mind, we promoted the Memory Wall in our monthly newsletter, press releases, and information that was sent to a list of 4-H alumni. Pictures and news articles started pouring in to the 4-H office. This was also an incentive to clean out old files, and make sure our “treasures” would be available for the public to view rather than kept hidden in a file. Our oldest item for the wall was very first Tompkins County 4-H Club News, from 1932. We promoted complimentary Chicken BBQ tickets to the individual who submitted the oldest document. To our delight, we received a Club Charter (complete with seals of Achievement) from 1958!



Oldest Tompkins County 4-H newsletter and club charter found.

The wall was designed to have the items displayed on both sides of three six-foot fabric walls. This provided 36 feet of space, and we used every bit available! Every picture, letter, and news article was identified by year and individual by name (when possible) and laminated to preserve the document. Velcro was applied to the back side to stick them to the wall. We also added important bits of Tompkins County 4-H history in text format. The documents were displayed by year, starting in 1932 and culminating in 2015. The items for the wall are stored in large envelopes by year; this makes setting up and taking down the wall an easier task involving our current 4-H members.

Current members, leaders and family enjoyed learning about the history of our 4-H program, and identifying themselves and others in the pictures. 4-H alumni were delighted to reminisce about the “memories that last a lifetime,” and many connected with others through shared conversation. One of our 4-H evaluators and 4-H alum, was so inspired with the idea when she came to evaluate, she went home, “dug” out her 4-H record books and brought back pictures and news articles to add to the wall! We also involved audience participation by asking

our viewers to identify individuals that staff could not. Over the past year, I've collected a basket of additional mementos that will be additions to the wall this year.



Tompkins County 4-H members learned about the 4-H history of their county as they assembled the 4-H Memory Wall

I had a recent conversation with a past-4-H mom who was inspired by the “memories that last a lifetime.” As she helped me identify some featured members she decided to sponsor a 4-H alumni reunion. Not only is the Memory Wall a great reflection tool and a visual way to show the tremendous success, diversity and growth of our program, it has inspired others to become more involved in the current program, re-connect with friends from their own 4-H days, and to share the rich history of the amazing 4-H program of which we are all a part. The 4-H Memory Wall has become a much-anticipated part of the 4-H Youth Fair. However, our biggest concern will be making the space to accommodate the growing wall.

Editor's Note: After reading this interesting way to clean out your office and get 4-H families involved in 4-H History, we hope you'll share your local 4-H history story with us too. Just write to us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

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

Please write **4-H History Preservation** on your check.

“FilmFest 4-H” Meets July 23-27 in Kansas City



FilmFest 4-H is the annual, national 4-H film festival for youth, now in its 7th year, that brings teens together to learn from film industry professionals. Some of the participants come with an interest in costumes or stagecraft, while others may be intrigued by areas like cinematography or acting. The professionals come from a wide range of roles: producers, performers, directors, sound technicians, voice actors, scriptwriters, miniatures experts, special effects technicians, makeup artists, casting directors, and many more. They are the kind of people who are truly interested in the youth, the type that stick around after their presentation to sign autographs, take photos, and answer any extra questions that came to mind. Young filmmakers whose work addresses an important social, economic, or environmental need are also eligible to apply for the annual *National Leadership Award for Youth-Produced Media*. Last year's attendees came from Missouri, Ohio, Delaware, Illinois, Utah, Iowa, South Carolina, West Virginia, North Dakota, Texas, and the Virgin Islands. Who might YOU meet at 2017 “FilmFest 4-H?” For more information, visit <http://filmfest4h.org> or find @FilmFest4H on your favorite social media site. If you want to enter a film in the competition it must be submitted by July 1.

“Voices of 4-H History” will again be an important category of youth film making in 2017 and one of the categories judged at FilmFest. The National 4-H History Preservation team will again sponsor the category this year.

The “Voices of 4-H History” design team meets monthly by multi-state conference call to share ideas and techniques about working with youth in this

area. We encourage young filmmakers across the country to film interviews with former 4-H'ers about their 4-H history or delve into a national or state aspect of 4-H history and submit it to the 2017 4-H film festival. To get involved in monthly conference calls, email Jim Kahler at jkahler@nifa.usda.gov

Another Mystery in the History of National 4-H Calendars



We need your help again. The upper half of a 4-H wall calendar (above) was found for sale online. Since we have no records on this one and not even a visible signature, we would like any information that anyone might have about it. Based on the format with the 4-H project pins running down both sides of this calendar and the pledge appearing at the bottom, we are relatively sure that it was created and sold by Brown and Bigelow Calendar Company of St. Paul, Minnesota. We also think that it was probably produced sometime in the 1970s because the art style is similar to others that we have from that time. We also know that it was probably produced before “and my world” was added at the end of the 4-H pledge in 1973.

If you have seen this original artwork or this 4-H calendar, you may be able to help. If you were a 4-H member during the 1970s or know someone who was, you/they might have been given the folded version (leader/member) of this calendar and it would have the date on it. There is also the possibility that you or someone you know may have

posed for the artist when he was sketching or photographing this scene to be painted for the final production. If so, we'd like to know

Please help us solve the mystery; send any information you have to info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

2016 “FilmFest 4-H” Recognizes Adam Clayton’s Film “The Mother of 4-H”

As noted in another article above in this Newsletter, the National 4-H History Preservation Team helps sponsor “FilmFest 4-H” as a way to spread “Voices of 4-H History” to a broader audience. The Team funds the awards in the “Voices of 4-H History” category.

Adam Clayton, a high school freshman and Iowa 4-H filmmaker, made one of the top films in the 2016 “FilmFest 4-H” in Kansas City this past summer. Adam was awarded 2nd place in the “Voices of 4-H History” category for his film “The Mother of 4-H.” Tom Tate of the National 4-H History Preservation Program Leadership Team interviewed Adam about his award-winning film making.



TT: Please talk about your film.

AC: “The Mother of 4-H” is about Jessie Field Shambaugh, an Iowa teacher who was one of the possible founders of 4-H.

TT: What encouraged you to make a film about 4-H history?

AC: At last year’s 4-H FilmFest they did not have many documentaries. So, I decided to look at this. My Dad also knew the story of Jessie Shambaugh.

TT: Talk about what you learned about 4-H history that surprised you the most.

AC: That in the early 1900s a woman could have started it because women did not have many rights back then. The original symbol was a three-leaf clover. The fourth leaf came later on.

TT: What do you hope others will learn from your film?

AC: I hope others will learn how the organization of 4-H got started and why it started. Most current members do not know.

TT: What did you learn about communications from making your film?

AC: If you ask someone to be in your film, people are very willing to help you out and be in your film.

TT: Talk about how making the film will help you in the future.

AC: It will help me learn to set up interviews with people and do better editing. I want to be a film director in the future. Visualize the film in your head and turn that into your plan. Plan before you produce.

TT: What was the most difficult part of making the film?

AC: When I loaded the file onto my computer, I lost all of the files. I had to use a different program to find the files again. It took several hours. I was terrified that I had lost the interview with Jessie Shambaugh's grand-daughter. And she knows a lot! I learned the meaning and importance of creating a back-up file of my work. Sound is an important thing. My camera mic was not very good. I will get a better microphone for future film making. I hope to get a boom microphone.

TT: What would you like to say to future 4-H film makers?

AC: Stay in 4-H because the group is a very good way to share your film[s] with people who would not see them otherwise. 4-H is a major distribution network.

TT: Would you encourage youth in your county/state to get involved in 4-H filmmaking?

AC: Yes, because there has never been a better time for other filmmakers because we have access to cheap equipment and ways to get the films out to other people.

TT: Would you recommend the 4-H Film Festival to a friend?

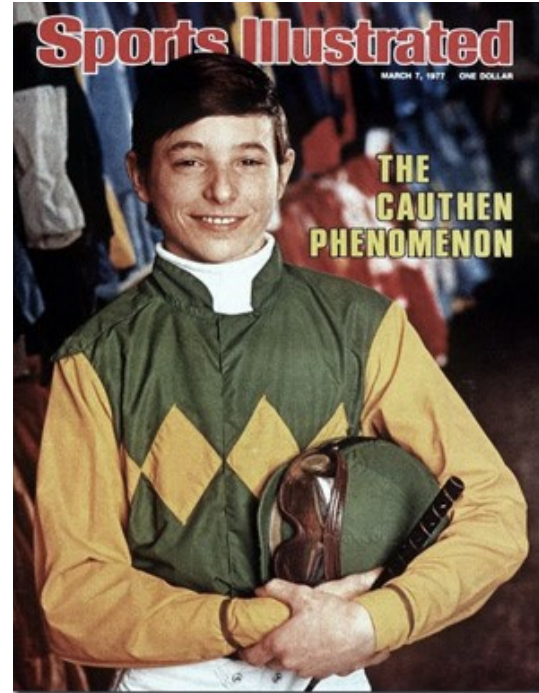
AC: Yes, because 4-H FilmFest is one of the most fun things I have ever done in 4-H and FilmFest could always use more people.

TT: If you could ask Jessie Field Shambaugh a question today, what would you ask her?

AC: I would ask her if she ever thought that the 4-H idea would grow into the amazing organization that would be around for more than 100 years.

Adam Clayton has been a member of 4-H since the 4th grade, back in 2011. He has an older sister who is also in 4-H. In addition to 4-H filmmaking, he has a pet rabbit, and runs on the cross-country team, a distance of three miles. He lives on the Iowa side of the Missouri river about 20 miles from Nebraska. He is active in drama productions in local community theatre, and dreams of being a film director someday. We look forward to his future productions.

We're also wondering how many people know about the role that Jesse Shambaugh played in the creation of what we now know as the 4-H program. Watch this newsletter for a story about her in an upcoming issue.



"Greatest Jockey" Started Out in 4-H

This story is taken from the National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History Website at http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/?h=4-H_Promotion

Like many other kids, when Steve Cauthen turned nine years old he joined the local 4-H club. He and his family lived on a 40-acre horse farm in the small Kentucky town of Walton. His main 4-H project was horses, showing at 4-H exhibitions and placing in the top three each year. He stayed in 4-H until he was 16 and then, being small in stature, he started racing. Cauthen's first race was at Churchill Downs in May, 1976; he came in last. A week later he came in first. His rise to prominence was meteoric. He was the nation's leader in horserace wins in 1977 with 487. His riding excellence was widely recognized: Steve was Sports Illustrated "Sportsman of the Year," Sporting News "Sportsman of the Year," and Associated Press "Male Athlete of the Year."

Even the December, 1977 issue of National 4-H News featured Cauthen on its cover. The editor had traveled from Chicago to New York to interview the 17-year-old at the race track. In the

4-H News interview, Steve says that "4-H has been a part of my learning. The thing I can say for it is that it helped me see how groups work together. My friends were in 4-H and we did things together. We had duties and responsibilities in the club." When asked what advice he could pass on to others his own age, the young man stated, "When you find something you want to do, nothing's going to stop you from doing it, if you want to do it bad enough. It's just important that you do your best at all times. That's one thing I try to do. Whenever I do anything, I try to do the best I'm able. I work hard at whatever it is I do. Not just riding, but also just being a nice guy. I try to do my best. All through my career I've had good people around me. I've had my parents behind me all the way. You know, I've been lucky."

Apparently, luck stayed with Steve Cauthen. The next year, 1978, "The Kid," as he was affectionately known, won racing's Triple Crown riding on 'Affirmed.' Since 1978, no other horse had won the Triple Crown for 37 years until 'American Pharoah,' with Victor Espinoza as jockey, won in 2015.

Do you Have Your Historic 4-H Postcards?



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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Eleanor L. Wilson; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Jim Kahler; *4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA*
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