



National 4-H History Preservation Program

April, 2012 Newsletter
Volume III Number II

Truman Honors 4-H for UN Efforts

On September 7, 1950, in the White House Rose Garden, the President spoke to the National Citizens' Committee for United Nations Day:

"Mrs. Roosevelt, and members of this United Nations Committee: It is a very great pleasure for me to have you here today, and it is also a very great pleasure to me to have received that first flag presented by these lovely 4-H girls. That 4-H pledge they made is a wonderful one, and I wish every citizen of the United States would take it. I am sure they will, in the long run, because the United Nations is our one hope to which we can look for a peaceful world. We must see that the United Nations itself is a successful and ongoing organization."



Eleanor Roosevelt, chairman of the National Citizens' Committee for UN Day, had introduced two 4-H Club members, Charlotte Ingrain and Mary Anne Long, who presented President Truman with a specially made UN flag.

THE REST OF THE STORY...

4-H had a tremendous involvement in this 1950 United Nations Day. The fifties had barely

begun when hopes for world peace were shattered as North Korea attacked South Korea on June 25, 1950. The decisive action taken by the United Nations aroused the interest and support of many Americans who had previously been unfamiliar with the fledgling world organization or who had felt it unworkable. Suddenly, communities wanted to fly the UN flag in observation of the fifth Annual UN Day. The "flag project" was conceived by Albert Johnson of the National Grange. It was picked up by newspapers as a great idea and presented to Federal Extension Director M. L. Wilson for motivation.

The National Citizens' Committee for UN Day was overwhelmed with requests for the flags. Hampered by an inadequate supply and by authorization of only two flag manufacturers who "weren't up to the task," the UN committee and Extension turned to the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work (now National 4-H Council). Would the National Committee make available materials and patterns for sewing the UN flag through their 4-H Supply Service? Would the Committee encourage women and girls to make and display the flag as an expression of hope for the world? The Committee would, and it did!

The unprecedented project was made increasingly difficult by the unexpected demand. It was a terrific job just to develop sources of materials, for it was necessary to call on six groups: cotton mills, pattern makers, yard goods cutters, silk screen design processors, and transportation services. The flag kits were available September 1, 1950. And by October 12, 1950, 35,000 orders had been received. Eighty large patriotic, civic, religious, farm and youth organizations sponsored this project. In its report on UN Day 1950, the National UN Citizens' Committee commented on "the extraordinary job of organization performed by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club

Work" which produced the flag-making kits. All other work of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work had been postponed for a period of six weeks so that all staff could help to fill the orders that poured in at over 1,000 orders per day.

4-H Oral History Project to Commemorate Founding of Extension

Extension is celebrating its Centennial Year in 2014, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the implementation of the Smith Lever Act. The National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team proposes to capture oral recollections of former 4-H members, staff and volunteers about their 4-H experiences. Over the next two years, current 4-H members will be trained, and will conduct interviews in their local communities. The local youth oral history project will involve mentors to youth teaching interviewing techniques, editing and targeting alternative news outlets. Selected projects will be shared during 2014 to honor the Centennial; ultimately they will be archived on the National 4-H History Preservation website <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> and other online locations. These oral records will be developed to preserve 4-H history for generations to come.



Rhode Island delegates to National 4-H Conference interview Virginia Gobeli, former National 4-H Conference coordinator as they test the 4-H Oral History Project idea.

We invite your feedback about this proposed 4-H Oral History Project. We would like to hear

from state and local 4-H staff, volunteers and youth! We also are seeking state and/or county 4-H programs to conduct a pilot test of the project.

4H youth working directly with news media and history groups in their own communities will gain skills in fact finding, critical thinking, communications and public presentation skills and become aware of career opportunities.

The general public will learn about one of the nation's best kept secrets: the national, state, local, tribal Cooperative Extension Service 4-H partnerships, extending the *Power of Youth* across the generations for the past 100+ years.

In 2012:

- Project will be announced and initiated
- Initial partners and sponsors confirmed
- Initial local communities identified and initial project outline agreed to
- Communities and youth recruited and training conducted
- Initial test counties conduct pilot oral history interviews
- Evaluation of pilot approaches
- Tested process and procedure amended based on evaluation findings and loaded on servers for access by local communities

In 2013, training will expand into new markets, more interviews will be conducted, and the results will be shared at the local, state and national levels. In 2014, the captured histories will be available through various media and online; the true history of Extension and 4-H will be told directly by participants.

We need you!

For further information and to provide your input/feedback on this idea as well as your interest in participating in a pilot test, please contact Tom Tate, tate@aol.com, or info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Historical 4-H Quote

One of the authors of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 establishing the Cooperative Extension Service: "One of the main features of this bill is that it is so flexible as to provide for the inauguration of a system of itinerant teaching for boys and girls. My efforts to secure the passage of the Smith-Lever Act had the most encouragement from the achievements of the members of the corn and tomato clubs, and I hope sincerely that a large share of this money will be devoted to an expansion of the work with young folks." - Congressman A. F. Lever, South Carolina. --1914

Historic 4-H Calendar Art on Display at National 4-H Conference

The 85th annual National 4-H Conference was recently held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Washington, DC; Conference is the current rendition of National 4-H Club Camp, started in 1927 when it was held in tents on the Mall. Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack opened the Conference this year. Also featured this year was the first-ever assembled display of historic 4-H Calendar art: *"Fifty Years of 4-H Calendar Art."*

The National 4-H Calendar Program was created on November 2, 1936, when Extension, USDA, authorized the Thomas D. Murphy Company (Red Oak, IA) to use the 4-H name and emblem on calendars for sale to local sponsors. The first commercial 4-H calendar was sold by the Murphy Company in 1938 for hanging in 1939. This may have been only a state-wide program which ceased with the beginning of World War II. After the War, four more companies joined the program.

Authorized sponsoring companies agreed to pay a 10% royalty on the sales of 4-H calendars for the development of the National 4-H Center. Between 1949 and 1959, \$377,000 was made available for rebuilding and maintaining the 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. Those royalties continued to be paid annually to the National

4-H Foundation (now National 4-H Council) until the calendar program was discontinued in the 1990s.

"Fifty Years of 4-H Calendar Art" featured this iconic rural painting by Douglass Crockwell (1949 for the 1951 calendar) and illustrated the process of the Calendar Program:

1. commissioning of original artwork by the sponsoring company;
2. production of the calendars;
3. sale to local donors who added their own logos and gave calendars to 4-H members and leaders; and
4. presentation of the original art to USDA, Congress, or the National 4-H Center.



Six other pieces were displayed in the Conference exhibit, including a charcoal study of the 1961 painting by Harold Anderson for the 1963 calendar illustrating the two reasons for creation of the National 4-H Center: International Programs, and Citizenship Education. The final piece hangs in the Kathleen Flom Room, J. C. Penney Hall.

QR Codes were used with each piece to direct Conference Delegates with smart phones to additional information about the art.

Anyone knowing the location of any National 4-H Calendars or original calendar art is asked to contact the History Team 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 check your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council at:**

National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
c/o Wells Fargo Bank
PO Box 75375
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation Program** on the memo line of your check.

“Hands-on” Ideas for Grass Roots 4-H History Preservation Introduced on 4-H History Website

Beginning with this issue, we will be sharing ideas that have been collected from many of you during our research and at past conferences as well as the handouts from the “Don’t Throw it Out” seminar at the NAE4-HA conference last year.

The purpose of sharing these ideas is to help provide pathways and activities that can be applied at the state and local level, by those of you interested in advancing the preservation of 4-H history in your area. We hope that you will also continue sharing your ideas with us so that we can pass them on to others through the newsletter and the 4-H History Website. Send them to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. In this issue, we will focus on "Starting a Local/County 4-H History Club."

In future issues we will get into more details and procedures of how to start: a history saving team; a history research team; building a 4-H history tree; creating a 4-H leader timeline; making 4-H program picture puzzles; planning and conducting oral and visual history interviews; planning and creating a 4-H heritage quilt; identifying unique and historical 4-H crafts; creating a 4-H "blue ribbon" history cookbook; 4-H night at the movies; where to donate your 4-H History; and much more.

If you don't want to wait for future issues of the newsletter to explore some of these ideas, you can visit the new Hands-On Section of the 4-H History Preservation website by clicking on: http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Hands-On_4-H/.

Starting a Local 4-H History Club

If you have a strong interest in 4-H history, particularly that of the 4-H club you once belonged to or perhaps belong to now, you may want to consider starting a local or county 4-H History Club to document the history and preserve the local artifacts of your club, your county 4-H fair or other related activities. A local 4-H History Club can be an exciting adventure going in many different directions, depending entirely upon your interests and your needs. In most cases we can assume that a local club would probably be at the county level, however it may well serve a single community.

How structured or unstructured you want your club to be is entirely your decision. For the most part, a local 4-H History Club certainly may not need bylaws or a charter, and may not even need officers; again, a personal choice. If you decide not to have officers, then you will need a person designated as leader, or co-leaders, and perhaps some committee chairs.

Start with your county Extension office. Let them know you are interested in starting a local 4-H History Club and would like to work with them, if they have an interest in both setting up the club and determining club direction. In many cases, the county Extension 4-H staff (or retired staff) may actually be the source of starting the

club themselves. In all cases, the local 4-H History Club should be supporting the work of the county 4-H office and staff.



Pike County, OH, 4-H Alumni march in the parade of clubs at the fair. They are gathering memoirs of past members' experiences and what impact 4-H had on their lives.

While we often think of documenting and preserving our past history, it's just as important to document contemporary history - what we are doing today - so in years to come we will have a record of our activities and experiences.

A local 4-H History Club can take multiple directions. Here are a few ideas:

- Begin to document the history of 4-H in your county.
- Work with other communities in the county to document 4-H history of every club in the county - current and past.
- Document the history of 4-H in your county relating to the fair.
- Work with the county Extension office to develop a 4-H history archives.
- Develop a working relationship with the county historical preservation society, library, county museum or any similar organized groups to get their interest and assistance. Which groups would cooperate with your club to establish a small history museum or permanent 4-H history display?
- Members of your club could create a 4-H History Club Speakers Bureau made up of demonstrations, talks or show-and-tell of artifacts, clippings or photos showing

4-H from its earliest days and the impact it has had on the community or county.

- Some members of your club might be comfortable being interviewed by local newspaper, radio and television -- this is a great way to spread the news about your club.
- Develop an audio-visual 4-H History presentation of your family, club or county. It could be put on CD or DVD to be sold to raise funds for the county 4-H program.
- Write a family, club or county 4-H history book as a possible fund raiser for the county 4-H program.
- Ask your teachers, parents or leaders who they know that might be prime candidates for oral history interviews about their 4-H experiences and recollections.
- A local 4-H history awareness booth at the county fair could pay big dividends.
- Someone in your club may be a collector or interested in collecting 4-H memorabilia. This can be a fun activity of one or more individuals or the whole 4-H History Club. This activity can lead to sharing 4-H history artifacts, visiting flea markets and other possible sources for retrieving these 4-H items of the past. You or your club could join the 4-H Collector's Club at the national level - <http://4-HCollecting.com>. Membership is free.
- If you are interested in soliciting 4-H artifacts from former 4-H members, work with the local media to help you.
- Check to see if your county Extension office has a website, ask if it may be possible to have a segment on it about your local 4-H History Club.

These are just a few of the directions in which a local 4-H History Club can go; any, and all of them, are appropriate, and, you'll find more when you start a club and begin doing activities.

Let us know how and what you are doing at:

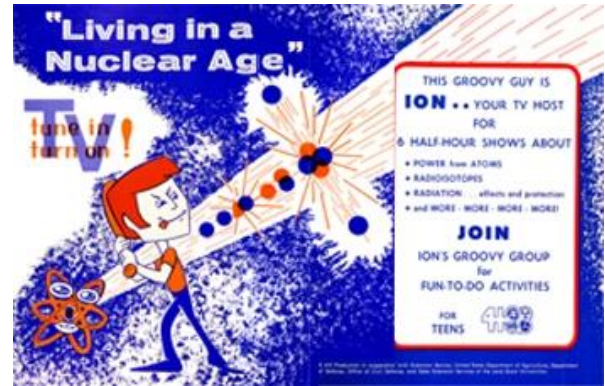
info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

We'd like to use your ideas and experiences in future newsletters and on the 4-H History Website.

Before you decide to form a local 4-H History Club, there are a few basic questions you should ask first:

1. Do you have a strong interest in 4-H history?
2. Do you have the time? A club may not have to take a lot of time, but this can often get out-of-hand if club members get excited about projects and possibilities.
3. Are there others with whom you might collaborate? Find out if there are others in the county who may share your interest in 4-H history and would be willing to participate.
4. How often should your club meet? This is entirely up to you. Some clubs may decide to schedule monthly meetings while others may create their schedule from meeting to meeting.
5. What is the purpose of your club? If your club is very project-oriented, these projects may dictate when and where and how often your club meets.

Two things to remember: first, a local 4-H History Club can provide a tremendous service to your county in documenting an important segment of the county's history; and, second, it should be pleasurable. Go at it with the intent of having fun!



Can You Help Us Find...

..the following 4-H television programs to digitize for preservation and to place on the National 4-H History Preservation Website for viewing by others.

We can convert them from either videotape or video cassette format. All tapes will be returned to you as soon as they are digitized.

Have you seen or heard about any of these series having already been digitized and if so, where they are located?

- The six **MULLIGAN STEW** programs
- The six **4-H PHOTO FUN CLUB** programs
- The six **LIVING IN A NUCLEAR AGE** programs

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

Sue Benedetti, Chair; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Larry L. Krug, Coordinator of Teams; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Eleanor L. Wilson; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Jim Kahler; *4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA*
Kendra Wells; *University of Maryland 4-H, retired*
Tom Tate; *Extension Service, USDA, retired*
Melvin J. Thompson; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Gary Deverman; *National 4-H Council, retired*
David E. Benedetti; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Rick Moses, Webmaster.

Email: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

Visit: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

Tweet: @4H_History

