



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

July, 2012 Newsletter

Volume III Issue V

## **'Hands On' Section of the National 4-H History Website Features: 4-H History at Fairs and Public Events**



The Pike County Ohio, 4-H Alumni Club has found their booth to be "a hit at the county fair" for the last several years. Notice the use of chicken wire to protect items in the unattended booth.

Fairs are a great time to showcase 4-H history. Pennsylvania, Utah, Montana, Idaho and New Mexico are celebrating 4-H centennials in 2012, but it doesn't have to be a special year to celebrate your 4-H history and heritage. Some 4-H alumni clubs have been sharing history this way for several years.

Since fairs are where 4-H members display the products of their work, and they attract many 4-H alumni and supporters, they provide a great opportunity to present your own 4-H history. Here are a few ideas to bring 4-H history to your fair:

- Display historic photographs along with recent photographs of 4-H fair exhibits;
- Have a special 4-H reunion activity;

- Conduct video and/or audio interviews of 4-H alumni who visit your fair to talk about their projects and fair memories;
- Compare photographs of your 4- H fairgrounds over the years;
- Create note cards of significant 4-H events in your county or state and see if visitors can put them in chronological order; Could also use note cards as fund-raising activity;
- Collect the names of past 4-H clubs and their leaders for your 4- H historical records and/or exhibit;
- Have visitors mark a map of where their 4-H experiences took place; and
- Play video or audio interviews with former 4-H'ers.

Pike County, Ohio, Alumni Club sold alumni T-shirts to members to raise money, but most of their money was raised through donations. They are trying to raise funds to buy new picnic tables for the fairgrounds. They have raised several hundred dollars so far, with a goal to buy five by next year before the fair.

The club is also trying to gather memoirs of past members experiences to illustrate the type of impact 4-H had on their live, and have had some interesting stories so far. The Fair Board is planning a weekend event in October, and Connie Goble, 4-H Agent, wants to plan their Alumni Reunion to coincide with it. The Fair Board will be making plans in the next week. The club has another meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month to discuss the fair and the booth, which by all accounts was a hit at the fair.

Think of other ways that you can promote the rich history of your 4-H program at the fair or other public events, and discuss them with your club or county members and leaders. Share your successes and lessons learned with us at: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com).

## 4-H Uniforms Are a Fun Way to Celebrate the Centennial of the Smith-Lever Act

National 4-H uniforms, although currently not used widely throughout the country, bring a visual message about the time when they were created and worn. In 1976 a number of states recreated 4-H uniforms to show how 4-H had grown with the country. As 4-H plans for the celebration of the act which created Cooperative Extension, it seems like a good time to bring them out again. Therefore, it's most appropriate that the 4-H History Preservation Team is beginning to write about the history of uniforms to appear on the History Preservation Website.

Jan Scholl, Pennsylvania State 4-H staff, jump-started this research when she developed a poster which was introduced at the 2009 NAE4-HA Conference in Rochester. With her knowledge and experience, she was a natural to head up the creation of a written version of the program. We hope to have an abbreviated history on the website before the end of this year and the comprehensive version up by the end of 2013.

We are delighted that we recently found correspondence concerning the uniforms which dated from 1917 to 1971, which helps us to piece together the dates and times as well as reasons that the styles and fabrics were chosen for the uniforms during the fifty plus years that an official National 4-H uniform existed.

Sue Benedetti and Jan share leadership for this section of the website, assisted by Eleanor Wilson and Kendra Wells. We are also ecstatic to welcome as volunteers to the team, two former Simplicity Pattern Company 4-H Stylists; Madeleine Green and Eleanor Berry.

Several states have a publication on their website showing the 4-H uniform from the 1920s until the 70s. Sue was lucky enough to have been asked to pull that publication together for USDA in preparation for the US Bicentennial, but unfortunately we only have a

terrible copy and it's missing the last page. Anyone having a complete and clean copy is asked to please make a digital copy and send it to us at: [Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

We also have found a set of photographs prepared by University of Connecticut in 1976 depicting six re-created girls' historic 4-H uniforms. We would be very interested in knowing about other states that have recreated the uniforms and would also like to know how these uniforms were used. Any information leading to actual uniforms or patterns that are still in existence would also be appreciated.



This photo was found and captioned at USDA in the 1960s. It was taken of Lois Edmunds of Clarinda, Iowa, in 1911, when she became the state 4-H bread making champion. She was the first girl to receive a "diploma" from a Secretary of Agriculture. In the 1940s a photo was found and labeled "early uniform pattern from about 1917." Both had sailor style blouses with  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves over a flared skirt and accessorized with a tie such as the one shown in this picture. Was this the first 4-H uniform?



Extension Information Specialists, local broadcasters and volunteer leaders may be resources for 4-H'ers interested in learning video editing techniques.

### **Voices of 4-H History (4-H Oral History Project)**

This summer and fall 4-H members in Alaska will design and test interview processes for the National Voices of 4-H History Project. Deb Jones, State 4-H Program Leader is enthusiastic about the opportunity to capture the rich history of 4-H in villages and communities throughout the state. The pilot will be launched this summer at Alaska's state fairs. This fall youth participating in the 4-H National Mentoring Partnership Project will work with their mentors to conduct interviews and create short audio, video, or written recollections of former 4-H members, volunteers, and staff.

Montana has developed a 4-H Centennial website that features a fillable form that 4-Hers can use to enter highlights of their 4-H memories. Brett Schomer at Montana State University leads this initiative. *What is Your 4-H Story?* is active now and can be visited at: <http://mt4hcentennial.squarespace.com/tell-us-your-4-h-story/>

We are looking for a few more states to pilot this hands-on 4-H history project with current and former 4-H staff, volunteers, and members this summer and fall so that we can be ready to launch the project nationwide at the start of 2013. A "Voices of 4-H History" design team will provide guidelines, training, and access to

resources. Interviews can take place at county and state fairs, as a part of local, county, or state 4-H recognition events, in local clubs and communities, or you might consider conducting interviews during National 4-H Week, October 7-13, 2012.

To volunteer to be a pilot site in 2012, please email us at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com). And visit our website at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>. Click on the 'Hands On' tab. There you will find additional details about how to start up a youth history interviewing effort in your community, county or state.

**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.

### **Contemporary 4-H History**

#### **Dog Agility: New Twist on an Old(er) Idea**

In today's 4-H, dog projects have one of the largest enrollments. It makes good sense, because dogs – unlike cows or pigs – romp, play and work in rural, suburban and urban areas. A fairly recent addition to dog husbandry is "dog agility," a competition where the loyal pets "dash, weave through and fly over courses of 20 obstacles, including jumps, tunnels, poles,

a high plank called the 'dog walk' and a teeter totter"\*



Virginia 4-H'er, Abby Peach and her faithful friend, Riley, were featured in a recent edition of "Kid's Post" of the Washington Post.

Abby has been a member of a 4-H dog club for the past six years. There are usually about ten members in their club each year. In addition to competitions, they get together for practice and recreational activities. Her younger sister joined the club this year when she got a dog (yorkie/border collie mix). Abby also belongs to a livestock judging and a goat club.

The earliest dog agility shows were held in England in the 1970s and are now a fairly standard part of dog competitions. In Haymarket, VA, 17-year old 4-H'er Abby Peach and her trusty Australian shepherd Riley compete as often as possible. The pair has competed in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia in the past four years, sometimes as many as 20 events a year. Their goal: to qualify for the American Kennel Club's National Agility Championships.

If your local 4-H program doesn't have a dog project, check <http://akc.org/kids> for training and agility classes near you.

\* The Washington Post "Kids Post," June 19, 2012.

### **No Triple Crown at Belmont this Year; "The Kid" – a former 4-H'er – Still Rules**

After winning the 2012 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, the famous horse 'I'll Have Another' was favored to win the race at Belmont becoming the first Triple Crown winner in 34 years. However, he was pulled from the race due to a leg injury.

No one has won the coveted Triple Crown since a young teenage 4-H'er from Walton, Kentucky, affectionately known as "The Kid," won the three races in 1978 riding 'Affirmed.' The young unassuming boy was Steve Cauthen.

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.

The December, 1977, issue of National 4-H News featured Cauthen on its cover. He started 4-H when he was nine, participated until he was 16 and then started racing. His project: horses, showing at 4-H exhibitions and the placing in the top three each year.

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."

As Cauthen said as he headed to the Belmont track from his home in Kentucky, "It's time for another Triple Crown" but, it just won't be this year. "The Kid," now at the "old" age of 52, still rules.

### **What Do You Know about Beginnings of Urban 4-H Programs in Your State?**

As we reported in the June issue of the Newsletter, we are beginning to research and write the history of Urban 4-H Programs. If you were (or if you know someone who was) involved in planning and development of an urban program, we would love to hear the story.

- How did it get started?
- How did you determine what program content to offer?
- What target audiences did you intend to reach?
- Did you reach that target audience?
- How was it staffed?
- How was it funded (publically or privately)?

- Tell us about the successes the missteps, the challenges.
- What are your most proud memories relating to this urban program?
- How is the program doing today?

And, anything else you would like to share. We know many urban programs started in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. And, that many of them were very different from one another. Most have different audiences, needs, and approaches.

Part of the Urban 4-H Program segment on the History Website will include short stories about specific urban programs. Therefore, please make sure that the urban program started in your state, will be represented by sending us the details. We also know there have already been some brief histories written on urban programs, including Chicago and Indianapolis. There may be more documented histories out there which we don't know about. You can read a brief history of 4-H in Chicago history at [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/eMedia/ePamphlets/History\\_of\\_4-H\\_in\\_Chicago.pdf](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/eMedia/ePamphlets/History_of_4-H_in_Chicago.pdf). Please tell us anything that you know about urban 4-H programs at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

### **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](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

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

**Tweet:** @4H\_History

