



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

**August, 2012 Newsletter**  
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Connecticut 4-H'er videotaping an interview during 2008, summer teen leadership conference. This photo and most of the great pictures we've used to illustrate how the Voices of 4-H history project will work were taken by Kristin Horn, volunteer to the "Teen Connection" University of Connecticut conference.

## Save the Date! Voices of 4-H History Training Webinar

A training webinar for state and county 4-H programs interested in piloting The "Voices of 4-H History" project this fall will be held on Thursday, August 30 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT. If you would like to learn more about how to carry out this project with former 4-H members, volunteers, staff, and supporters, please send an email to National 4-H History Preservation Team Member, Tom Tate ([tateace@aol.com](mailto:tateace@aol.com)). You will receive information about the audio and video connections for this training.

The training will cover:

- Project design and management;
- Interview questions and techniques; and
- Formatting and packaging (we'll share examples of audio and video interviews).

For more information about the "Voices of 4-H History" project, visit the National 4-H History Preservation website [http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/Tell\\_a\\_Story/Oral\\_History\\_Project.asp](http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/Tell_a_Story/Oral_History_Project.asp).

## "Voices of 4-H History:" Start with Family

If you're thinking of recording/filming oral history "Voices of 4-H History" for the upcoming Centennial of the Smith-Lever Act in 2014, you might consider starting to mine the 4-H history voices of your own family. It's a chance to hone your interviewing skills and you might uncover some tidbits of family 4-H lore.

4-H was a big part of my life but, because my siblings were 20 and 21 years old when I was born, I didn't know much about their 4-H history. Recently in Oregon to celebrate my brother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, I decided to probe.

**Were you ever in 4-H?** "Well, yes, of course."

As in "every kid in Parkdale was in 4-H!"

**What were your projects?** "Vegetable gardening."

**What about [my sister]?** "Yes, she was also in 4-H; she was in cooking and sewing. I don't think Mom was a Club Leader, but both Mom and Dad were very supportive."

**What do you remember most about 4-H?**

"Working hard in the hot summer garden to get vegetables ready for the County Fair."

**What about special activities?** "Well, I remember one year [a buddy] and I rode our bicycles to 4-H Summer School at Oregon State in Corvallis." (That's now 158 miles on two Freeways; in those days, it was much farther.) "This would have been in the late 1930s; I graduated from High School in 1940. We rode for about a week, staying with friends and relatives along the way. Boy! What a trip! Fortunately, we rode back in a car."

**What did you do at Summer School?** "We lived in the college dorms. And had classes

almost all day long in things like ‘what’s new in 4-H’ and special instructions for our projects – like vegetable gardening. And lots of fun!”

4-H remained part of his family’s life for years. His kids went to Summer School (by chartered bus) and one was an IFYE to Costa Rica; his wife was a Club Leader.

I learned a bit more of my brother’s history through that short interview. I suppose it explains why our parents, having been involved with 4-H in the 1930s, would point me in the same direction in the 1950s.

Siblings, parents, grandparents may all have 4-H history bits to share. A great way to start interviewing the larger community for “Voices of 4-H.”

**To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program;** please visit <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 4-H History

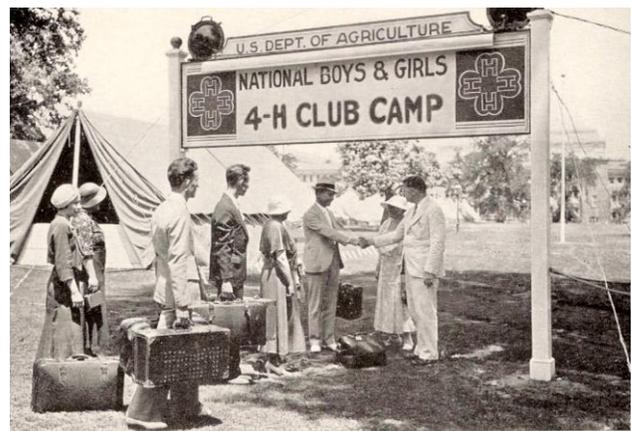
This section of the newsletter and the website were designed to highlight how 4-H History is being preserved across the country and to share those ideas. Please let us hear how you are saving and using 4-H history in your area so we can share it through these two sources. Just e-mail your ideas and experiences to: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com) .



Each item of this 1920s collection of calling cards, news clipping, train ticket, photos, postcard, programs, letter and 4-H Armour Club Tour pennant has a 4-H story in it.

## Finding 4-H History can Bring a “New Look” to Events and Exhibits

It’s the time of the year to start planning exhibits or activities for National 4-H Week, Achievement nights and enrollment events. Why not consider something that shows where 4-H has been as well as where it’s going? This same material will come in very handy if your state, county or club is celebrating a special year next year and will be very useful if you plan to participate in the “Voices of 4-H” history project to celebrate the Centennial of the Smith Lever Act in 2014, mentioned earlier in this newsletter.



Finding this photo from the 1934 National 4-H camp could lead a current day 4-H'er to learning about the history of 4-H camps in his/her county or interviewing a family member or neighbor who was a state delegate to the National 4-H Camp or Conference in later years.

Here are a few places that you can start to look for State, County or local 4-H history:

- County 4-H Office archives
- State 4-H Office archives
- State Agriculture Department archives
- State Home Economics/FCS Department archives
- County Extension Committee secretary reports
- County Commissioner meeting records
- Local, County or State Land Grant University Libraries
- University libraries
- Local newspaper archives
- Local museums
- Area and state historical societies and museums
- Secretary books of past 4-H clubs
- Basement and attic collections of past 4-H participants, members & leaders
- Old "home movies" of 4-H meetings, events, interviews
- Past 4-H staff collections
- Past 4-H members' project records or scrapbooks
- Antique shops
- Flea Markets
- Farm Sales

- Local Farm Bureau archival records
  - State, county or local 4-H websites
- National 4-H History Preservation resources (<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>)

And while you're searching through these historical sources, keep your eyes and ears wide open for Contemporary 4-H History as well. Documenting and preserving 4-H history doesn't just mean old stuff; it also includes archiving the evidence of activities and programs that took place yesterday or last year.

### Historical 4-H Quote

"Probably no activity is of more importance to the future standing, prosperity and social position of agriculture than the Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs. Their activities warrant the belief that they will greatly aid in the solution of many of the problems of farm life, and it gives me very great pleasure to accept the Honorary Chairmanship of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work"  
President **Calvin Coolidge**. 1927

### 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*  
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**Tom Tate**; *Extension Service, USDA, retired*  
**Melvin J. Thompson**; *National 4-H Council, retired*  
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