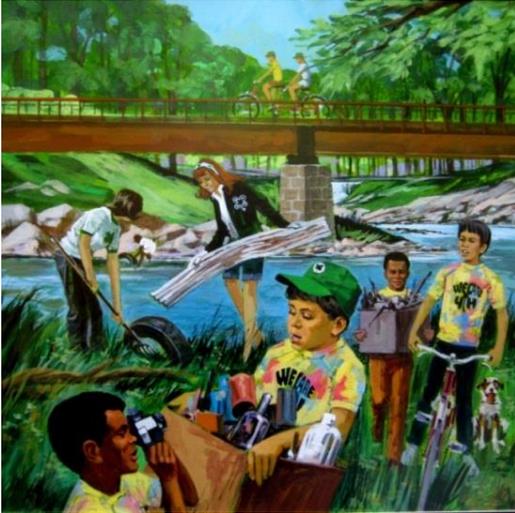




National 4-H History Preservation Program

March, 2013 Newsletter
Volume IV Issue III

Sleuthing for History



National 4-H calendar, poster or other art? Please help us find the answer.

What Can You Tell us About This Art?

The picture above is of one of about 40 pieces of original 4-H art that are part of the permanent collection of 4-H historical artifacts at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. Most of the art was used either for national 4-H calendars or national 4-H posters. We think that this one was used on a calendar but don't know when it was published or which calendar company produced it. If you remember seeing an actual calendar or publication or posed for the photo from which it was painted, please help us with identification.

If it was a calendar, it would be helpful for us to know what states distributed the calendar as that could lead to the name of the calendar company. We would also be very grateful to receive a calendar or a photograph of the calendar if you happen to have one stuck in a memory box in your attic, garage or the back of an office file drawer. Please send any thoughts or information you have on this piece of art to info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

The national 4-H History Leadership Team is busy identifying and dating all of the art that is at the 4-H Center. We have already put some descriptions and calendar art on our website so that people can share in that historical part of the program. You can learn more about the calendar art program and help us to fill in some of the blanks by going to: <http://4-Hhistorypreservation.com/History/Calendars/>.

What Have 4-H'ers Been Doing Every Spring Since 1902?



In 1939 agent teaches garden pest control to Latina 4-H'ers in Texas .

March is when spring arrives. For many 4-H members, families and alumni, that means it's time to plan and plant their gardens.

Growing vegetables has been a major 4-H project since the beginning. Corn clubs and tomato clubs were the first 4-H clubs in the early 1900s. Even before the U.S. became officially engaged in World War I, food shortages began to occur because of reduced production by European farms. 4-H clubs across the country joined the campaign to start what were then called "Liberty Gardens" to contribute to food supplies during the war.

During World War II, Cooperative Extension, 4-H and USDA once again mobilized to create "Victory Gardens" and encourage community residents to do the same. In the first year, 1942,

about 15 million families planted Victory Gardens. The following year, USDA estimated 20 million Victory Gardens produced more than 40% of the vegetables grown for fresh consumption. Americans also bought 315,000 pressure cookers that year for canning their garden vegetables.

Sears-Roebuck Company sponsored a “4-H Victory Garden Contest” to promote the growing and preservation of vegetables during the war. The contest required a garden of at least 1,200 square feet containing at least eight kinds of vegetables. Contestants had to submit their 4-H garden project record and a 250 word story about “My 4-H Victory Garden.”

Today there are over 500,000 enrollments in 4-H plant science programs that include gardening. 4-H clubs are helping to create gardens at schools, community gardens and urban gardens to learn about growing plants and to promote good nutrition by eating fresh vegetables.



Marie Olsen Ylinin's 1942 4-H garden became the leading victory garden demonstration plot in Hennepin County, MN and evolved into 1,972 other gardens in the county by 1945.

Hands-On History

Find out if your 4-H club or community had a victory garden during World War II. See if you

can find pictures to share with your club. If you know someone who was involved at the time, interview them about their 4-H Victory Garden. What did they grow? How was produce used?

Cornell Cooperative Extension (NY) has a youth citizen science project called “Vegetable Varieties Investigation.” Participants interview gardeners about their opinions on vegetable varieties, and submit their findings to an online library of vegetable variety data. Visit their web site to learn about what people across the country are growing in their gardens. Ask your 4-H gardening project members to add their information: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/vvi/>.

Where is Your State 4-H History Stored?



The early beginnings of 3-H and 4-H are displayed and interpreted at the Goldenrod School and Nodaway Valley Historical Museum in Clarinda, Iowa. This school where Jessie Field, an Iowa 4-H pioneer, taught Boys' Corn Clubs and Girls' Home clubs is an interactive museum today.

Are the 4-H records and archives in your state at the State Historical Society? the Land-Grant University Library? an established 4-H Museum or Repository? or somewhere else?

The National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team is attempting to locate where printed state records, historic photographs, 4-H films and other audio/visuals and records on state 4-H events are currently located. The

personal files or records of some of the key national 4-H pioneers may have been given to a public repository in your state or county.

Check out the National Repositories for 4-H History on the 4-H history preservation website http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Repos_National.asp

There is a locator map, plus a description for each entry including the general description, contents and contact information for the collection. Is your state listed?

A few of the entries include: 4-H Schoolhouse Museum in Clarion, Iowa; 4-H Clubs of Idaho Collection; A. B. Graham Papers at Ohio State University; Edwin T. Meredith Papers at University of Iowa Libraries; Franklin M. Reck Papers at University of Oregon; Paul C. Taft Papers at Iowa State University; Jessie Field Shambaugh Collection at Iowa State University; Jack County Museum in Jacksboro, Texas (the "birthplace of Texas 4-H"); Kansas 4-H History Collection at Kansas State Historical Society; Louisiana 4-H Museum; Michigan 4-H History Project; North Carolina's Green "N" Growing special collections; North Carolina 4-H Museum and History Center; Pete Frierson 4-H Museum in Jackson, Mississippi; National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland; University of Maryland Hornbake Library; Utah 4-H Club Photograph Collection, 1930-1990; and more.

If you know of significant 4-H collections or repositories which are not currently on our listing, please let us know. Send contact information and a little information about the holdings to info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

While most of our national 4-H materials are housed at the National Archives, the National Agricultural Library or the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, we know that there are significant 4-H collections throughout the country.

A Special Thanks to:

Betsy Knox, **Michigan** State University, retired, for sending the complete package of The

Shared Wisdom of Michigan 4-H Leadership, a panel comprised of seven former Michigan State 4-H Leaders, for inclusion on the 4-H history website.

Bradley Kuennen, Special Collections Department and University Archives, **Iowa** State University, for sending a packet of nationally-produced 4-H literature, his third shipment and contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation project.

Patricia Harelkin, **Oregon**, for sending us two unusual 1940s Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club ribbons.

Bill Caldwell, **Nebraska** State 4-H Leader, retired, sent a box of National 4-H materials.

Joel Soobitsky, 4-H Extension, USDA, retired, provided the history team a wide assortment of national materials on loan from his personal files in **Florida**, particularly dealing with urban 4-H and obtaining local resources for 4-H.



Thousands of 4-H'ers have attended state, regional and national events over the years. Look for them in your family, community or county. They are part of the many "Voices of 4-H History!"

Voices of 4-H History Moves Forward – More States Sign on for Extension Centennial Project!

At the Voices of 4-H History orientation webinar on February 22, pilot states **California**, **South Carolina** and **Connecticut** shared their projects with 4-H representatives from **Kentucky**, **Washington**, **Michigan**, **Ohio**, **Minnesota**, **Virginia**, **North Dakota**, **New**

York, and Oklahoma! The new pilot states are looking forward to exploring ways to be a part of the effort to collect 100 4-H stories in celebration of 100 years of Cooperative Extension in 2014. Here's a look at what states are doing and thinking about this exciting project:

- The **California** 4-H Technology Leadership Team is hosting filmmaking workshops across the state in preparation for the California FilmFest. 4-H clubs and groups check out video equipment for a month from the state 4-H office to work on their films.
- In **South Carolina** a 4-H History Club will build on their successful Veteran's Interview project. They are gleaning historical information from SC Annual 4-H Reports to identify potential people to interview and are partnering with the State Teen Council.
- The **Connecticut** Tech Team has been practicing interview and video techniques and launched their first interviews in late February. Tech Team will work with 4-H members in two counties on this project.
- **Washington** State may look to Tribal Elders for their historical perspective on Extension.
- **Kentucky** will consider expanding their "4-H Friday" two-minute 4-H alumni videos for the Voices project.
- In **Ohio**, it's possible that the Youth Advisory Committee Media team can work with the Extension Communications and Technology office to create Voices submissions.

Are you ready to get on board with the Voices of 4-H History Project? Visit the website <http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/voices/> or contact Tom Tate (tateace@aol.com), Jim Kahler (jkahler@nifa.usda.gov) or Kendra Wells (kendrawells@gmail.com).



Please mark your calendar now for April 18, 2013, 1 pm Eastern Time, to participate in the next Voices of 4-H History Conference Call. RSVP by email to tateace@aol.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 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.

Emanuel County, GA, Published 4-H History: 1915 to 1980

Published by the Emanuel County 4-H Historical Commission, Swainsboro, GA, [Blazing the 4-H Trail](#) (© 1980) documents the "rich, exciting and colorful history" of 4-H in the county. The 556 page hardbound "coffee-table-size" book even lists all past and present county 4-H members and volunteer leaders, 1915-1980!

This is one of the most comprehensive county 4-H documentation books we've seen. Fittingly, it pays tribute to the earliest and current (as of 1980) Extension personnel who guided the program; similarly, the book recognizes County Commissioners who are, after all, vital partners in the scope and success of 4-H.

The book includes countless tidbits of the county's 4-H history. Among the recollections: the first fair in 1915; a plea for vegetable gardens to support soldiers in 1918; the 1931 threat to cut Extension positions due to financial difficulties (and resulting cancellation of the County Fair); the county's first "Fat Cattle Show and Sale" in 1938; a 1942 4-H drive to collect scrap iron, burlap, paper and old rubber to support the war effort; the undated early beginning of "Negro 4-H Work" in the county; "Treasure Land" the first educational film ever produced in GA; Governor Herman Talmadge's 1949 dedication of the County 4-H Club House,

built with members' contributions of dimes; reports from the 33rd National 4-H Congress in 1954; the county's delegates to the 1963 Goodwill People-to-People Tour to Europe with 230 other US 4-H'ers; recognition of the 1970 county 4-H donors; the 1977 sale of the 4-H share of the county fair to Jaycees; celebration of the 75th anniversary of 4-H in GA in 1980.

Importantly, the 4-H Historical Commission secured sponsorship for each of 520 pages of the book from individuals, community groups, 4-H clubs, and private businesses. This financial support – which exemplifies community cooperation to the greatest degree – enabled them to publish such an excellent compendium of 4-H history.

Blazing the 4-H Trail is dedicated to William A. "Bill" Sutton, an Emanuel County 4-H'er who served Georgia 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service professionally for 36 years. Sutton started as Fulton County Agent in 1927, moved to Twigg County Agent in 1929 and to Irwin County in 1934 when he set up the state's first 4-H camp. He became Assistant State 4-H

Club Leader in 1939 and State 4-H Club Leader in 1942. During his state leadership tenure, GA surpassed NC in 4-H enrollment making it "First" in the nation. Sutton organized the GA 4-H Congress patterned after National 4-H Congress and in 1943 created a State 4-H Advisory Committee. He established the State 4-H Foundation in 1948, the 1954 result of which was Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Mr. Sutton was named State Director of Extension in 1954 and was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002.

This is a project your county could take on to celebrate and preserve your 4-H History. Yes, it takes organization, commitment, financial support and community cooperation, but it's a great way to permanently document a significant part of your county's overall history. Books can be sold and copies donated to county and state Historical Societies.

If you'd like to share 4-H History with friends and colleagues through Facebook, <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> now displays a 'Share On Facebook' button in the left margin, just above the 'Donate' button.

Sue Benedetti, Chair; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Larry L. Krug, Vice Chair; *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*
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