



National 4-H History Preservation Program

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How are you going to Celebrate 100 years of Extension work?



History team members Eleanor L. Wilson, Tom Tate and Sue Benedetti met hundreds of 4-H and Extension history enthusiasts as they introduced the work of the 4-H History Preservation team through an exhibit at Galaxy IV last month in Pittsburgh.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever act and the fifth anniversary of the formation of the 4-H History Preservation Team, it was appropriate to have a “coming out” exhibit at the Galaxy IV Conference to share a new project in which to gather the Voices of Extension History and the Voices of 4-H History.

With many states, counties, and clubs celebrating landmarks in 4-H and Extension work every day we felt that 2013 and 2014 would be a great time to get 4-H’ers involved in finding and helping people of all ages to tell their individual and group stories. You’ve read about how we’ve been testing that idea in a number of states and local areas these past few months. We have found that people love to tell their stories and the 4-H’ers have a great time learning about their families, communities, 4-H, history, mastering interviewing, videotaping, editing. Now we think it’s time to add the Extension Service link to the chain.

Through our pilots we’ve also figured out a basic scheme that can continue to roll along

and pick up momentum as it goes. We shared that system with Galaxy IV participants who visited our poster sessions on the Voices of Extension History and the Voices of 4-H History. If you missed it or weren’t able to attend Galaxy (or even if you did attend), you can read all about it and download your own kit of materials from <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Voices>.



During the poster sessions at Galaxy Conference; Velynda Chapman, MO, (right) pilot tester of the Voices of 4-H and Extension History explains the new process of saving and sharing “Voices” of our history to Karla Knoepfli OK, long-time supporter and contributor to the Preservation of 4-H History.

It seemed like a combination of a state fair and old home week as 4-H History Preservation Members started talking to the crowds of Extension staff members who flocked to our exhibit featuring the Voices of 4-H History and the Voices of Extension History at the Galaxy IV Conference in Pittsburgh last month. As I think back to the Extension staff lined up to put names with faces and exuberantly tell us what they’re doing in their states and counties, a warm smile comes to my lips. When I compare those comments of “we look forward to your newsletter and immediately send it on to all the

counties” as compared with our first exhibit at NAE4-HA in Rochester when people approached us questioningly to ask “what does 4-H History Preservation mean?” I realize that “we’ve come a long way baby”. And there’s still a long way to go.

US Presidents and 4-H Photo Gallery



President Franklin D. Roosevelt talks with National 4-H Camp delegates on the Mall, 1940. (Courtesy USDA)

During upcoming months, the National 4-H History Preservation leadership team, working with staff at National 4-H Council, will be planning a photo gallery for display at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. The gallery will show the many US Presidents who were actively involved in 4-H activities over the years.

For over a century American Presidents have participated in a variety of 4-H activities and events. The first photograph we have of Presidential involvement with 4-H members is from 1912 when President William Howard Taft met with Ohio Corn Club champions when they visited him at the White House. Getting the attention of the President of the United States is no small feat and getting the President to attend or address your event is even more difficult. But 4-H over the years has been fortunate to have most of the Presidents fully aware, and involved in a variety of 4-H activities - from cutting the ribbon to officially open the National 4-H Center or hosting 4-Hers at the White House to visiting 4-H projects at a county fair.

Photos of many of these encounters will become the central theme of this new photo gallery.

Although still in draft form, we are also placing on our 4-H history website, a new segment on US Presidents and 4-H. Located in the National 4-H History section you can get there directly at: http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/U_S_Presidents/.

Please take a look at the draft. If you are aware of a 4-H event directly involving a President which we have not included; please tell us about it. When and where did it take place? What was the occasion? Do you have photos/captions which can be shared, or film/video coverage? Contact us at: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Smith Lever Act History

President Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission, a group of educational leaders who made a thorough study of rural life in 1908 stated that the country was not related closely enough to boys' and girls' environment. It pointed out the need for practical education in farming and homemaking and called for increased extension activity on the part of the colleges and gave high encouragement to those county school superintendents and teachers who were already pioneering in this area of farming and homemaking skills. This helped set the stage for the formation of the Cooperative Extension Service, created by the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

‘A ‘Night to Remember’ Results in Decades-Old Tradition

The famous International Livestock Exposition in Chicago was the largest expo of its type in the country. The event coincided with the

National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. In fact, state delegations made trips to attend the International for several years even before the National 4-H Congress started.

In 1924, a few weeks before the Livestock Expo and the National 4-H Congress were scheduled to begin, M. S. Parkhurst, president of the Stock Yard Company which managed the International Expo called Guy Noble, director of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, which managed 4-H Congress, into his office and posed a question. He asked if Noble would consider having the delegates to the Congress form a parade in the arena one evening of the exposition, directly following the horse show. The deal was made.



1935 Parade of 4-H Club trip winners, International Livestock Exposition Arena. (Courtesy Veeder, Anderson, and Taff, From a Dream to Reality: A History of The National 4-H Service Committee 1921-1971, 18.)

Noble composed slogans for signs to be used for the parade, telling about the overall enrollment and listing the principal projects, what 4-H Club work meant to farm youth, and who administered the program. Signs were built and painted, the larger signs measuring four feet by ten feet with a standard at each end so they could be held aloft when carried. There were signs showing names of every project and every state.

The night the parade was to be staged, the 2,000+ boys and girls and their leaders were being entertained by Thomas E. Wilson at his meat-packing plant a mile from the Amphitheatre where the Livestock Exposition

was going on. Noble recalled that when he emerged from the Wilson auditorium his heart sank. He said, "*It was drizzling and miserably cold (December in Chicago). There was no means of transportation to the International, yet he had promised the parade and he wanted to deliver.*" Noble cornered Paul Taff, Ray Turner, L.I. Frisbie and a few other leaders who agreed to hold the club members in line and march to the Exposition through the freezing rain along poorly lit streets. They did, with only one State group getting lost. As they stood shivering outside waiting for the horse show that was going on to come to a close, the signs were quickly passed out with names of the states and projects, and as the doors opened, Noble led the group into the arena.

Noble recalled, "*All was hushed and quiet for the first minute - it seemed to me an hour - then the exposition band struck up a march. I circled the arena at the head of the group, four abreast. The group went around the arena once, and upon reaching the point of entrance, to my amazement the group was still coming in. Mr. O'Connor, assistant manager of the Stock Yard Company, jumped down from the judges' box and headed me back. So we went around a second and a third time until the entire arena was filled with the fresh young faces of the boys and girls.*"

The event was totally unscripted, but by then delegations had taken things into their own hands and were singing and giving State yells. The 8,000 spectators from many states - there to attend the Livestock Exposition, not Club Congress - responded by yelling and cheering back at the young people, and soon the Amphitheatre rocked with noise. The spectacle was climaxed by the 4-H parade and audience standing to sing The Star-Spangled Banner. It happened to be the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the International Livestock Exposition and President Calvin Coolidge was in the audience. (Earlier that year Coolidge had become the first President to accept the Honorary Chairmanship of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, a tradition that continued on through President Bill Clinton.) It was reported that the President was seen to enjoy one of his few

hearty laughs in public as the Club members were parading carrying a sign reading "We like Coolidge 'cause Coolidge likes us."

Frank Ridgway, agricultural editor of the Chicago Tribune, reported that "Barney" Heide, manager of the Exposition (who but a few years before had reluctantly granted passes to this group of unknown young people), came into the press box with unashamed tears streaming down his cheeks and said, "*Gentlemen, this is the greatest thing that has happened at the International since I have been general manager for the past 30 years.*" The next morning 4-H got its first headlines - the front page of the conservative Chicago Tribune. It told about the march in the rain and waiting to get in - and never again were the reporters to look blank when they heard "4-H." Club work had become big news in Chicago. Likewise, the tradition of the 4-H Congress delegates parading in the Arena during the International Livestock Exposition continued the following year and annually for nearly half a century MORE. (From the December 1951 National 4-H News.)

The December 20, 1924, issue of the National Boys' and Girls' Club News, which came out only a few days after the big event at the International Exposition reported that there was a new club song, undoubtedly generated from the 4-H Congress parade earlier that month. It goes like this:

New Club Greeting Song
(Tune: Boola, Boola)

"President Coolidge, how are you?
We're glad you're with us –
We're glad you're with us –
We'll try to show you what our clubs are doing,
President Coolidge, we're for you."

Thousands of 4-H Congress delegates over the years recall their marching in the arena during the Livestock Exposition but probably few realize the significance of the story behind the very first parade in 1924.

Editor's note: I was one of those 4-H'ers marching into the pavilion in 1960. I still get

chills of excitement and awe at the reception we received as we marched into those bright lights (even though we didn't sing the Coolidge song).

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

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.

Contemporary 4-H History 4-H Club Helps to Save and Display History using GIS



University of Maryland Talbot County 4-H volunteer, Cathy Cooper (far right) is shown guiding members of the Chapel District 4-H Club, plus the Director of the Historical Society of Talbot County, as they learn Geographic Information Systems for various types of map making. The club is creating a large historical map pinpointing schools and other points of interest within the town of Cordova. Their map will be featured in the Museum's newest exhibit opening later this fall. Club members were also included in the planning process, collection of photos and stories for the actual display.

News that Can't Wait

Our 4-H History website has a new feature this month called "News That Can't Wait."

This segment of the website will highlight briefs on the latest news and special projects about National 4-H History. For more in-depth features, subscribe to the 4-H History electronic newsletter or review the newsletter on the website.

"News That Can't Wait" can be found on <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> by placing your cursor on Home & News on the left-hand sidebar and the new feature will pop up.

Thanks to Recent Contributors



History team members, Sue Benedetti, Larry Krug and Eleanor L. Wilson take a look at early national 4-H panorama photo and 4-H pins and medals sent by Jim Potts from his father's long history with 4-H.

We would like to send a special thanks to those who have helped us in recent months:

Jim Potts Jr., sent several boxes of his father, Jim Potts', photos, documents and publications and awards as well as materials on the 50th Anniversary of Extension.

Danny Crew sent an electronic copy of his book on Collection of 4-H sheet music, song books and song sheets.

Bill Caldwell, Elton Robertson, Deb Jones, Deryl Waldren and Bradley Kunenen sent

materials for which we had been searching.

Velynda Chapman and Jenny Cocanougher helped staff the 4-H History Preservation exhibit and poster sessions at Galaxy IV in September.

Hands-On 4-H History Creating a County 4-H "Blue Ribbon" History Cookbook



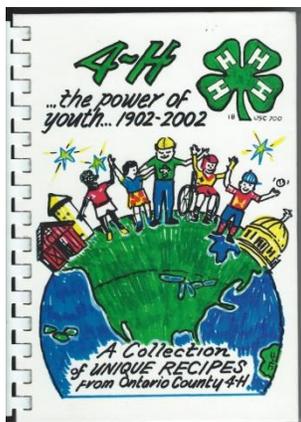
Photo by Sam Yu Frederick News Post Frederick, MD
Ray Martin IV, Walkersville 4-H club, Walkersville, MD. Proudly displays his Grand Champion coconut cake at the 2012 Frederick County 4-H Cake Auction at the Great Fredrick Fair. Posing with Ray is Rick Agoris of Ridgeville Service Center of Mount Airy, who purchased the cake for \$2,750.

Most of this year's county 4-H fairs are now history, leaving nothing but pleasant memories.

Wouldn't it be great to have the recipes from all those 4-H grand champion and blue ribbon cakes and pies you saw at the county fair over the years? A lot of these recipes are probably still around. It's just a matter of researching the fair records and finding the families of the winners. And, you'll probably find some really good, old recipes along the way. It wouldn't be uncommon for someone to say, "My grandmother won a blue ribbon on her chocolate cake in 4-H back in the early 1930s; we still use her recipe." What a great project - pulling all of these local prize-winning recipes together. With the computer, it's not that much work and it might well be something that can be sold - "Fifty

years of 4-H Blue Ribbon Recipes in Taylor County” – or something like that.

Many 4-H clubs and 4-H foundations have produced 4-H cookbooks through the years using blue ribbon 4-H recipes. Most of these were produced for fund-raising purposes. Some of the cookbooks combine history with the recipes while still being a fund-raiser.



This Ontario County, NY cookbook features old photographs of a 4-H'er and their projects on each division page as well as recipes and quotes from current 4-H'ers and alumni. The book was created to celebrate the 4-H Centennial. Why not celebrate the Extension Centennial in the same way?

“North Carolina’s 4-H Centennial Cookbook: Celebrating 100 Years of Blue Ribbon Recipes” is truly a combined 4-H recipe and history book. Many colorful stories accompany the recipes as described by 4-H alumni. The collection, compiled in commemoration of the 2009

centennial of the state’s 4-H program, is generating proceeds which will be used to establish a 4-H Foods and Nutrition Endowment, so that 4-H’ers in the next century will continue to tell their own success stories.

“Favorite Recipes of Illinois 4-H Through the Years,” produced by the Illinois 4-H Foundation includes all of the most requested 4-H recipes from the past 60 years. Jananne Finck, retired University of Illinois Extension educator for nutrition and wellness, and a member of the cookbook committee, says “Fairly often I hear from a former 4-H’er who is looking for a lost recipe. Anyone who took a foods project in 4-H will enjoy this book.”

“4-H Family Favorites” - the simple title of a cookbook compiled by the Facilities Betterment Project Committee, Cherokee, Iowa - contains 384 well-loved recipes of 4-H members, families, leaders and alumni. It also contains many pages of helpful cooking hints along with a special section on 4-H history and the history of the 4-H uniform.

The recently published Racine County (Wisconsin) 4-H cookbook with 875 recipes from 4-H families and alumni, also includes a section on 4-H history. And, Pike County, Indiana’s 4-H cookbook has over 400 recipes. The proceeds from their effort will go toward upgrading the kitchen at the 4-H building.

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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