



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

November, 2013 Newsletter  
Volume IV Number X



**PRESERVE 4-H HISTORY: FOUNDATION OF OUR FUTURE**  
NATIONAL 4-H HISTORY PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices>

Poster developed based on pilot “Voices of 4-H History” state and county programs to help teach the ongoing process of capturing and preserving 4-H and Extension history as we prepare to celebrate 100 years of the Smith-Lever Act.

## Voices of 4-H and Extension History

### Missouri Recruits Additional Counties for History Interviews:

During the last week of October, Missouri 4-H Agents introduced the “Voices of 4-H History” process premiered at the Galaxy Conference in September. At a state-wide conference, “Voices of 4-H History” pilot counties shared their lessons learned with county Extension staff throughout the state. Velynda Cameron, 4-H leader for three counties said interest in growing 4-H History Clubs has been voiced by county 4-H leaders state-wide. “Sharing our

new ‘Voices of 4-H History’ process will enable new county efforts to get started in early 2014,” she said.

### Clover Cinema Club to Produce “Voices of 4-H History” Films for Virginia:

The Clover Cinema Club, based in Prince George County, Virginia, has formed a team of 4-H youth filmmakers who will be traveling to the southeast, southwest, and northern Virginia to interview former 4-H members, leaders and supporters about their 4-H memories. The young filmmakers will travel to the various regions during the Thanksgiving and Holiday seasons to film interviews. The Clover Cinema Club hopes to complete their formatting and editing early in 2014. Versions of the film are being considered for local, regional and national sharing. Adult 4-H Leader Hermon Maclin says the youth hope that their films will encourage 4-H involvement of former and new audiences

### Maryland 4-H Voices to be strengthened through workshops in Ocean City November 22-24, 2013:

The “Voices of 4-H History” team will be sharing poster displays and workshops for the 2013 Volunteer and Teen Leadership Forum targeted to all faculty, staff, volunteers, and 4-H youth. The conference focuses on the 4-H Core Program Components: developing volunteers, strengthening and expanding the 4-H club program.

Youth and adult leaders in attendance will be able to launch a “Voices of 4-H History” initiative or club after attending the workshop. Key components will include: viewing good examples of audio/visual products produced by pilot county sites, recruiting youth and adults, selecting good interviewing questions, and good sources of editing software and hardware.

Any state that has an upcoming Leaders' Forum can contact [Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com) for information about display and handout materials and for a suggested workshop outline.

County expands local participation in "Voices of 4-H History" effort:

Prince George's County, MD, 4-H Agent, Lisa Edwards, first introduced the idea of discovering and preserving the history of 4-H in her county during the county fair in 2013. Since then, interest has grown among youth and volunteers. There has been a call to start a 4-H History Club. The idea was introduced in the county's Extension newsletter. Teams are being made up of adult volunteers and youth that will be formalized into a special interest group on 4-H History. Discovery of old records, photos and memorabilia has sparked excitement. Talk of interviewing former members, leaders and volunteers is growing.

Their October, 2013 E-Newsletter featured the following topics:

**"Interested in preserving our county's 4-H History?** Extension is celebrating its Centennial Year in 2014; commemorating the 100th anniversary of the implementation of the Smith-Lever Act. To celebrate this milestone, Prince George's County Extension has been working with the National 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team and proposes to help capture oral recollections of former 4-H members, staff and volunteers about their 4-H experiences. As we are busy gathering our history, we need your help to make these efforts a success. You can assist us with this project many ways."

**"Help Locate Former 4-H'ers:** If you have been a part of 4-H (or know someone that has been) as a member, club leader or volunteer, we want to hear your story! Current 4-H members will interview former 4-H'ers, leaders and volunteers to help capture your 4-H memories. Some interviews will even be turned in to multi-media presentations and may become a part of a

documentary that is being put together as a part of our 100 year celebration."

**"Become a part of a new 4-H History Club that's starting:** Participating in this club, youth will learn about the rich 4-H traditions of Prince George's County members. Youth will also have the opportunity to learn proper film and video skills as well as how to effectively edit films."

**"Help collect 4-H memorabilia:** We are looking for any historic 4-H Memorabilia. If you have any old 4-H photographs, videos, flyers, folders, pencils, record books, buttons, or other treasured 4-H memorabilia, we would love to have these items."

#### **Smith-Lever Celebration Flash!**

University of **Florida** has just initiated a blog on significant happenings which resulted from the Smith-Lever Act. Meet Mr. Smith and Mr. Lever, learn the facts about the act and what it accomplished. The latest entry features Tomato Canning Clubs and canning education taught by Extension throughout history. Darryl Palmer, UFL blogger invites us to visit:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/ifascomm/category/uf-ifas-communications/events/smith-lever/>

#### **A Century of VIPs Support for 4-H**

4-H has been fortunate in having the personal support of literally thousands of successful and noted people over the past century.

Historically, these individuals lent their support in many different ways, from serving on committees and boards and speaking at 4-H events to actively promoting 4-H in the media and offering their expertise for 4-H curriculum development. We are talking about US Presidents, senators and congressmen, governors, corporate executives, sports stars, entertainers, broadcasters, astronauts, authors, educators, scientists and inventors.

Who are some of the VIPs who have been involved with 4-H? Here are a few: famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart, Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Sergeant Alvin C. York, Roy Rogers, Jimmy Stewart, Bill Cosby, James Cagney, Ann Landers, Johnny Carson, Danny Thomas, Chet Huntley, David Letterman, Ed Sullivan, Reba McEntire, Chief Justice Warren Burger and many others. Scores of corporate leaders like J. C. Penney, Myrtle Walgreen and Raymond Firestone were actively involved.

Sports stars such as Ted Williams, Bart Starr, Ernie Banks, Johnny Unitas, Jesse Owens, Babe Didrickson Zaharias, Sugar Ray Leonard, Rafer Johnson and others. Also, top auto racers from Barney Oldfield in the 1930s to Jeff Gordon in the 2000s.

### *4-H Is More! Airs Nationwide*



Former 4-H'er Roy Rogers talks to 4-H'ers in one segment of the film, "4-H is More!" (from the Spring 1984 National Council Quarterly).

From its earliest days, US Presidents have been actively involved in 4-H. William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding all met with 4-H'ers. President Calvin Coolidge became the first Honorary Chairman of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work – a predecessor to National 4-H Council – a tradition that lasted eight decades, president after president, up through William Jefferson Clinton.

US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and President Richard Nixon gave major speeches at National 4-H Club Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower cut the ribbon to open

the National 4-H Center in 1959 (now National 4-H Youth Conference Center).

Many VIPs were honored as National 4-H Alumni winners; see <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/Alumni/>.

A new section – still in early draft stages – has just been added to the national 4-H history preservation website entitled "VIP Involvement with 4-H." The purpose of this section is not to boast about this VIP support, but to document some of these connections all in one location. And we know that this is just the beginning; many VIPs who have been a big part of 4-H over the years are still missing from this section.

We urge our readers to visit this draft section and let us know of others who should be included. Note that content of the last decade hasn't even been started. The section can be found at: [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/VIP\\_Involvement/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/VIP_Involvement/).

While we realize each state has your own listing of VIPs who have assisted the 4-H program through the years, you may have had events or other occasions where someone of national stature was actively involved. Most of these examples would undoubtedly still be unknown to our history team. We welcome your input at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.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** to:

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.

## Maryland 4-H Youth Develop GIS Map at County Historical Society



Talbot County's 4-H members at 4-H Club Week at University of Maryland, College Park, MD. 4-H Week was always the first week of August. If you know who any of these people are, write their names on the copy at the left.  
Photo provided by Joyce Andrew Hollingsworth

One of the items 4-H'ers found to put into the exhibit at their County Historical museum.

The Chapel District 4-H Club of Talbot County, Maryland, partnered with the Talbot County Historical Society to develop a historical exhibit about the town of Cordova and the area of Chapel District.

The Exhibit features a detailed 1877 map of Cordova and surrounding district which is on loan to the Historical Society. Chapel District 4-H'ers collected items for display, mounted photos and wrote text for the exhibit as well as painted the walls where the exhibit will be displayed to the public for the next six months.

According to Pat Murphy, Talbot County 4-H Program Assistant, the 4-H'ers were also instructed on using a computer program that mapped the Cordova area. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was introduced through a mentor. After several sessions, the club members were able to identify schools, businesses, churches and farms.

By studying the historic map and location of landmarks today the Chapel District 4-H'ers

have a broader understanding of their community and its history. Future workshops will be held to continue the interest in and use of GIS.

For more information contact Pat Murphy, 4-H Program Assistant, University of Maryland Extension, Talbot County.

## "Hands-On 4-H:" Clothing and Fashion

Clothing and fashion projects have been a part of practically all of 4-H history. From the early 4-H uniforms for boys and girls to the Fashion Revues that are still common today, thousands of 4-H members learned skills in sewing and fashion design and proudly wore the 4-H name and emblem.



Wisconsin 4-H girls in 1919 demonstrate that dyeing is a practical and economical way to make old clothes look like new.

The first story in the November 1919 edition of Boys' and Girls' Farm Leader tells of a team of 4-H girls from Wisconsin. Through competitions with sewing demonstration teams from other states, they had been selected to present their demonstration at the interstate fair in Sioux City, IA. Their demonstration showed how dyeing fabric is a practical and economical way to make old clothes look new.

An article in the November-December, 1938 issue of National 4-H News heralds the awards to be given in the wool dress class at National 4-H Congress. It was the second year for this award category sponsored by the Associated Wool Industries. Two sterling silver trays would be awarded to the best wool school outfits, and two for the best tailored or semi-tailored wool

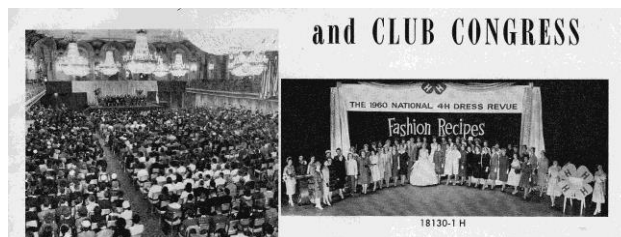
outfits. In addition, \$4.00 cash awards would be presented for each exhibit entered, with additional money awarded for blue and red ribbon outfits.

Are there members of your 4-H club in the sewing project? Ask them to share what they've done. Consider how you can add some 4-H History to your county or state Fashion Revue or other clothing activities. In the "Hands-On History" section of the 4-H History website you'll find ideas about presenting a 4-H History Fashion Show: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Hands-On/>.

#### 4-H Quote

"The 4-H Clubs believe in and practice the full development of our talents. They believe in physical and mental health. Beyond this there is an underlying creed of honesty of purpose. These objectives and practical projects make the 4-H Clubs a tremendous influence for the betterment of our country." - **Fred M. Vinson**, Secretary of the Treasury, 1946.

#### Too Late for Press Time:



In the past, National 4-H Congress was traditionally held in Chicago in November right after Thanksgiving. Next month we'll feature a highlight from the 1957 Congress for two delegates: Helen Bovbjerg of Maryland and Wilbur Jensen of Oregon. For years, Singer Sewing Machine Company sponsored an evening with Boston Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler and the Chicago Symphony. Having heard these two artists perform previously at Congress (Helen a lyric soprano and Wilbur a trumpeter), Singer invited them back in 1957 for solos in Chicago's famed Symphony Hall.

Ms. Bovbjerg (now Ms. Niedung) and Mr. Jensen recall that notable year in their 4-H and musical careers in the December National 4-H History Preservation Newsletter. Don't miss it.

#### Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

**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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