



National 4-H History Preservation Program

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Before integration, outstanding black members were selected to attend the Regional 4-H Camp which was similar to National 4-H Camp for white members. Delegates to the first camp, in 1948, at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, discuss their 4-H work with Thomas Campbell, Field Agent and E. H. Shinn of USDA.

1890 Universities Celebrate 125 Years

There is a proud history of human development that 1890 institutions will be celebrating during this year's 125th anniversary of the founding of those colleges and universities created to serve America's black population. During 2015, many impressive moments and accomplishments of the 1890 schools' history will be rediscovered and applauded. The 4-H History Preservation Team is interested in being involved in the documentation of the History of 4-H as it was delivered through these institutions because they have not located a national collection of this information to date.

As a part of this honored heritage and celebration, each institution will be making every effort to document, acclaim and preserve this legacy, making it easier for upcoming generations to retrieve these findings as a basis for future youth program development. Part of this effort is currently getting started in the leadership of the National 4-H History Preservation Team, made up of Cooperative Extension retirees and current staff of the National 4-H Council and NIFA, USDA.

During 2015, the National 4-H History Preservation Team, with the help of staff from the 1890 institutions (now called Historically Black Colleges and Universities – HBCUs), plan to construct that significant segment of the history of 4-H youth development, from the founding of the 1890 institutions to the current decade. One possibility is to organize the history of the African American youth development programs delivered by those schools, decade by decade, highlighting issues, set-backs, efforts and accomplishments of each decade from 1890 to 2015.

If you or someone you know is interested in working with the 4-H History Team on this project please contact us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. And since February is National Black History Month, as you research things to celebrate, don't overlook the treasure trove of important information at the HBCUs.

Tell a Friend or Colleague how to sign up for this newsletter: Click on <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Newsletter>

4-H'ers Interested in Cancer Research win Awards 67 Years Ago!

"A desire to do cancer research led in the expressed ambitions of three 4-H-trained youth who won \$100 scholarships in this year's "science talent search," annually conducted by Science Clubs of America for the Westinghouse Educational Foundation."

This 1948 small feature story with no photo was tucked away on page 36 of that year's April issue of National 4-H News. The trio included: Marjorie Ann Gilbert, 17, Brodhead, Wisconsin; Lawrence J. Schaad, 17, Logan, Ohio; and Ursel Blumenheim, 16, Kew Gardens, New York. The three, along with a fourth 4-H'er to win a scholarship, Millicent Sawyer, 17, West Terre Haute, Indiana, were among 40 teenage scientists from 16 States chosen from 3,161 entrants from all over the country, to win scholarships.

Marjorie Ann, number one in her senior class at Brodhead High School, literally turned the classrooms into a laboratory by collecting washings for germ cultures from door-knobs and wads of gum under chairs.

After reading Alexis Carrell's "mechanical heart" experiments, Lawrence built an apparatus in which he studied living tissues, keeping the heart of a frog beating 2-1/2 hours. At the top of his class, he said he planned to go on to Ohio State.

Ursel devised methods to reproduce and prolong the life of a small flat worm which she used to study cell growth.

Millicent made a study of forest trees and soil conditions on a seven-acre tract owned by her parents which had not been logged since 1890 and was typical of the original forests.

What fun these young people would have in the great 4-H science projects being offered today!

"Hands on 4-H" Celebrate the Birth of National 4-H Week



The 1946 poster is the earliest one that we have in our collection. If you have an image of the 1945 National 4-H week or an earlier Mobilization Week poster, please send a digitized image to info@4-HHistoryPreservation.Com

The opening article of the February, 1945, issue of National 4-H Club News announced the establishment of National 4-H Club Week on March

3-11 by the Federal Extension Service and the War Food Administration. National 4-H Week would replace the annual 4-H Mobilization Week created in 1942 to rally 4-H clubs in service to the war effort.

National 4-H Club Week was designed to provide a fixed week each year that would be sustained long after the war. It was to be a time to focus on the accomplishments of 4-H, recruit new members and volunteer leaders, establish new clubs and engage with local businesses and community leaders. The article notes that "the purpose underlying National 4-H Club Week is to review and glorify the achievements of 4-H, and to resolve to 'make the best better.'"

The theme of that first National 4-H Club Week was "Head, Heart, Hands and Health to Victory," and the slogan was "Dig In for Victory." Clubs were encouraged to create displays in the windows of local businesses, and businesses across the country were asked to dedicate their ads in publications to herald their support of 4-H.

In 1968, National 4-H Week was moved to the first full week in October. In recent years, National 4-H Week events have included 4-H National Youth Science Day and the induction ceremony for the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

"Hands-On History"

National 4-H Week continues to be a time when 4-H is in the media spotlight, but there are great 4-H stories that happen throughout the year. There are probably people in your community who know what 4-H is but don't know that there is an active 4-H program nearby. What can you do?

Look at your 4-H calendar and identify events and activities that would be good opportunities to tell the 4-H story. Visit your local newspaper, radio or TV station or other media outlet. You can tour the production and broadcast facilities to find out how they work and talk to them about how you can provide them with local 4-H success stories. Consider how you might also use online communications and social media to let your neighbors know what you're doing in 4-H to "make the best better."

Sign up to receive regular 4-H History News e-mail updates at
<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/news/>



University of Tennessee Collegiate 4-H Chapter Helps with History

In our last History Newsletter we asked for assistance in documenting the history of Collegiate 4-H Chapters. James Swart, President, University of Tennessee Collegiate 4-H, responded to our quest, kindly offering to contact other collegiate chapters to help with the history documentation process. This is the kind of volunteer support we welcome, and which keeps the National 4-H History Preservation Program going strongly. We are totally volunteer-driven.

If you are aware of other collegiate 4-H chapters which need to be involved in this history project, please let us know. You may write to the History Leadership Team at Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com or to James Swart at: jswart@vols.utk.edu.

Thanks, James!

New Website Additions National 4-H Promotion Compendium is Launched

A compendium, by definition, is a collection, an anthology; in this case it is an album of the innumerable stories which comprise the intricately woven history of 4-H. You have some, we have some; we should publish more of them. This new compendium of 4-H history stories, which has been a year in the making, is now up on the National 4-H History Preservation website. It includes a number of selected short stories, each of which stands alone and tells an important piece of 4-H history. Many are stories of significant 4-H promotion or visibility at the national level over the past century. Others are examples that relay impactful or heart-warming stories covered in the media which become a part of 4-H promotion simply because they should not be "lost to history."

While there are well over 100 stories represented with this initial launch of the Promotion Compendium, it will be an ongoing project, adding stories as they are found and researched, and others which you bring to our attention.

The History Leadership Team encourages all our readers to take some time to look through these stories for your reading pleasure. We think you'll find them both educational and inspirational. Some may bring back memories, while others we're sure you've never heard about before. You can go to the Compendium directly at http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H_Promotion/.

To get you started, here's an example of one of the stories in the Compendium.



"4-H is Tops" The photo above, from the August/September, 1979, National 4-H News, shows a 4-H promotion sign on a railroad bridge in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey, from over 35 years ago. Barbara O'Neill, Somerset County 4-H Agent, says she drove under the bridge for three years, thinking how great a 4-H sign would look up there. One day she got on the phone and the project began. It took one-and-a-half years to attain permission and have the sign finished. The main problem was that the ConRail Company wouldn't give permission until the community did, and the community wouldn't give permission until the railroad did. But they finally got the ball rolling when 4-H leaders attended a town council meeting and applied for a "town variance" (required for an unusual activity). The council not only voted to allow the 4-H sign, but wrote a resolution stating that 4-H is very important to their community, and

has national recognition, so they would be very proud to have the sign.

When the railroad received the council's enthusiastic response, they gave a contract to 4-H – for \$1 per year rental on the bridge. This was a first in New Jersey. The County 4-H Association designed and paid for the sign, raising \$1,400. The railroad hired the painters who applied the five-by-five-foot signs, one on each side of the bridge.

Just one example of the fun stories you'll find on this new section of the Website at http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H_Promotion/.



“Voices of 4-H History” Opens Doors for Hawaii 4-H

In 2014, two Youth-Adult Partnership teams consisting of two teens and one adult participated in the “Voices of 4-H History” project for Hawaii.

According to Joan Chong, HI Extension service, the teams from Kona and Maui participated in a basic training that covered interview questions and techniques, project design and management, pre-production, filming, and camera techniques.

Because of training time constraints, the teams were also encouraged to connect with the local Community Access Television (CAT) to assist in editing and piecing the video together, and CAT was happy to help out. They offered classes in basic video production, camera operation, editing, lighting and studio production. Once the participants became certified producers at the CAT studios, the use of the television equipment and facilities were FREE! All the Youth-Adult Partnership teams needed to do was ask for help. When asked about the project, we found that youth participants not only learned video production but also gained knowledge about 4-H and the effect it has had on others.

Here are a few quotes from the youth:

- “I felt that this project allowed me to experience what it felt like to be a part of 4-H many years ago. Through their stories, I can see how 4-H shaped people’s lives and

how it helped 4-H’ers to ‘make the best, better!’”

- “The best part of participating in this project was being able to learn more about 4-H and its history. I also learned a new skill of how to edit videos on the computer. I enjoyed meeting new people and learned how much 4-H meant to them.”
- “It opened my eyes and gave me a better understanding of 4-H. It was heart-warming to listen to their experiences. Times were so different, yet very similar in many ways.”
- “It provided us with so many learning opportunities. Several of the people we interviewed told us how much it meant to them to have their story told.”

One Adult participant shared observations as well: “Participating in this project provided me with the opportunity to have a Youth-Adult partnership; it was a unique experience working side-by-side with the youth. It was not a top-down partnership where I needed to tell them what to do, but a collaboration of working together and equally contributing ideas. Although it was very interesting to hear how 4-H has changed (or not) over the years, it really was dependent on the perspective of the person being interviewed as their experiences and involvement in 4-H varied.”



“Voices of 4-H History” will be a major feature of 2015 National 4-H FilmFest

This year’s FilmFest will take place in St. Louis, MO, June 14-17 at the Hilton Fonterac.

To find out how to become involved visit <http://4h.missouri.edu/filmfest>



“Ye Olde (4-H) Beauty Shoppe” on Display 85 Years Ago

The front cover of the April, 1930, issue of Extension Service Farm News, issued by the Extension Service, A & M College of Texas, features a photo of a 4-H Beauty Shop exhibit at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show.

Visitors to “Secrets of Feminine Charm,” found the popular exhibit in the girls’ division of the home demonstration booths. Frequent inquiries came to Miss Mae Belle Smith and Miss Mary Powell who arranged it. The brief article noted that “those who viewed the exhibit were inspired with hopes of immediate transformation by this simple and effective method.” As the article questioned, whoever dreamed that onions were eye sparklers; or that business women used heads of lettuce and cabbage for vanity cases? When did a baked potato become a powder puff, or apples a skin softener; or milk a vanishing cream?

Maybe Fort Worth 4-H’ers can reprise that exhibit for “Voices of 4-H History,” film it and answer those burning questions?

You can be part of the 4-H History Preservation Program.

Mail a check payable to
National 4-H Council at:

National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
PO Box 37560
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation Program** on the memo line of your check.

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

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