



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

## March, 2015 Newsletter

Volume VI Number II



At roughly 10:00 AM on Friday, February 27, 2015, the 4-H History Preservation website received its 100,000th visitor from the United States! When you add in the number of visitors from around the world, we've had 103,195!

While we don't get as much traffic as Google or Twitter, the preservation of the remarkable history of 4-H is clearly no less important.

We started keeping track of the number of visitors on September 10, 2011. Over the more than three years and five months since then, our site has had guests not only from the United States, but also from 154 countries around the world. This all works out to someone visiting the site every two or three minutes of every day of every week of every month of every year since we started keeping track!

If you've visited, thanks for being part of that audience; if not, check out <http://4-HHistory.com> and be part of the next 100,000!

## New on the Website

### History of National 4-H Youth Conference Center Added to Website

The first Draft of the History of the National 4-H Center was recently added to the 4-H History Preservation Website. Please take a look at [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H\\_Center](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Center)

There are many pieces of this history missing as much of it has been lost in the many construction projects and changes at the Center. The History Team would welcome any additions to complete this History by those who have worked or attended programs here over the past 55 years. Contact [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

*Many people in our reading audience have visited and/or worked at the National 4-H Center (now the National 4-H Youth Conference Center); to all of them it is definitely more than a group of buildings. We asked one of those visitors/workers to tell us what it meant to him.*



### The Center of it All

By Ron Drum, National 4-H Council and National 4-H History Preservation Team Member

It's just 12.5 acres on Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland, one mile north of the District of Columbia line and only seven miles north of the White House. It was originally built as an Inn in 1893, turned into a girls' finishing school and, in the early 1950s when 4-H was looking for a national home, it became the location of that home. Purchased with money borrowed from a life insurance policy and paid off with the help of the nickels and dimes sent by 4-H'ers from across the country, those 12.5 acres became the national home of 4-H, the National 4-H Center.

Opened in 1959 by President Eisenhower, almost everyone who visits the place senses how special and important it is. I felt it the first time I visited. It's now an oft-told-tale how, as a Citizenship Short

Course delegate in 1973, I sat on the front steps of old Smith Hall and thought “I’m going to work here someday.” Even I could not have guessed that I’d actually return three times to do so.

I first returned in 1979 to serve as one of the first Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Program Assistants, the year Citizenship Short Course became CWF. By then things had changed. National 4-H Council had been created in 1976 by joining the National 4-H Service Committee with the National 4-H Foundation. Smith Hall had become J. C. Penney Hall, rebuilt with a sizeable gift from J. C. Penney. A new dormitory and conference room complex (Firestone, McCormick, and Kellogg Halls) now comprised the recreated campus; Turner and Warren Halls still stood to the left and right of J.C. Penney Hall as if guards.



1979 4-H Program Assistants at Citizenship Washington Focus make a human pyramid as part of their team building exercise.

The Supply Service stayed in Turner Hall. The Program Assistants (PAs) stayed in Warren Hall, named for Gertrude Warren, the first head of Girls Club Work at USDA. Twenty-eight early 20-somethings found ourselves living together for three months in that small building – I wonder what the fire marshal thought! I roomed with Thomas Tell Tyler Thompson from Tennessee in a basement bedroom. A little stream would flow through it whenever it rained – until they fixed the foundation.

Tyler, as he liked to be called, would open CWF each week by announcing, *a la* Harold Hill of The Music Man, “Now either you are closing your eyes to something you don’t wish to acknowledge or you are simply not aware of the caliber of opportunities awaiting you here at the National 4-H Center!”

In January 1980 I left Council to try my hand at 4-B in Botswana but returned again in 1981, welcomed

back by Ray Crabbs and Francis Pressly; assigned to the staff of Jean Cogburn and John Allen. Although against policy, I began dating a co-worker named Phyllis Dupuis. We got around policy in 1983 by getting married; one of many such “connections made at the National 4-H Center (perhaps another story?).” It was during this time that Louise Kilpatrick told me, “If you want to be successful in Extension, you need to leave Council and work in a county. That is where the real work of 4-H occurs.” So, in 1984, I left Council to see if Louise was right.

As a 4-H Agent in Massachusetts, then a member of Maine’s 4-H staff, I had many happy occasions to return to the National 4-H Center with delegations to CWF, National 4-H Conference and other programs. However, it wasn’t until 2002 that I was able to return again as an employee – this time to coordinate the development and implementation of 4-H Afterschool under the direction of Dr. Eddie Locklear. Eddie retired and 4-H Afterschool became an essential vehicle for 4-H; my work continued with 4-H Science and grant management.

But when the day arrives that I leave for the third time, perhaps I’ll think of how Patti, one of the ‘79 PAs, expressed her feelings as she prepared to return home at the end of that summer, “It’s not like going home, it’s like leaving home. You’ve become family.” Leaving Council can be something like that. I know I’ll hear the words of Dot Emerson. As the ‘79 PAs departed she said, “What I have learned from you would be like living in a foreign country. New ideas, new freedoms, nonsense, laughter, and enlightenment.” That is what being at the National 4-H Center is like.

The National 4-H Center. It’s just a few buildings located on 12.5 acres in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Yet it is so much more.

### **Historic 4-H Trivia** **4-H was a Career Starter for Popular TV Host**

During a major 4-H push with urban programming in the 1960s, a local television station in Indianapolis, Station WLWI (now WTHR), created a weekly 4-H Saturday morning show called “Clover Power.” The show’s host was a young David Letterman, later to become a late night network talk show host.

For more interesting historic 4-H trivia please visit <http://4-HHistory.com/?h=Trivia>

## Public and Private Partnerships Make 4-H Strong

The following story is from the "National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility" section on the National 4-H History Website [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H\\_Promotion](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Promotion)



The nation's First Lady, Mrs. Patricia Nixon, and Mr. J. C. Penney meet at the White House to discuss their role in 4-H as honorary 4-H co-chairmen of the National 4-H Club Foundation's Advisory Council. With them is Barbara Evans, 4-H'er from Cheyenne, WY.

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon and Mr. J. C. Penney were named honorary co-chairmen of the National 4-H Club Foundation Advisory Council in 1968. The announcement came from Howard C. Harder, chairman of CPC International, Inc. (formerly Corn Products Company), and head of the Advisory Council. Harder explained that the Council's first task would be to raise \$9 million to expand the National 4-H Center.

The First Lady, who was a 4-H'er in Los Angeles County, California, said "America has always been a land rich in constructive youth leadership. Today the need for this is greater than ever."

"I shall always be an enthusiastic supporter of the fine work of 4-H," Penney, the then-93-year-old department chain store founder said.

Mrs. Nixon and Mr. Penney certainly exemplify the use of highly recognizable people to bring added visibility to a major 4-H project.

See more historic 4-H promotions at [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H\\_Promotion](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Promotion)

**Sign up to receive regular 4-H History News emails at:**

<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/news/>

## National 4-H Donor Support Added to History Website

Over the past year the history of the private sector and 4-H donors at the national level has been researched and is now up on the National 4-H History Preservation website. For nearly a century National 4-H Council and its two predecessor organizations – National 4-H Club Foundation and National 4-H Service Committee (earlier called the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work) – has secured funding for the support of 4-H programs across America and around the world.

Funds have been generous, coming from large corporations and small businesses, banks, foundations and associations, governmental agencies, state and county 4-H foundations, 4-H leaders' councils, and from individuals and trusts, totaling well over a million gifts.

This new section attempts to document the most relevant areas of this support from a historical perspective: it is still a "work in progress" as they say, adding information as it is researched and located. It will never be complete. Some records have been lost. In many cases we listed the most significant donations, not attempting to document each and every gift or pledge. It's for this reason that this new donor support segment has been added to the site in PDF format. This segment is located in the National 4-H History section of the website at: [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=Donor\\_Support](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=Donor_Support)



## Youth-Produced Media to be Featured at FilmFest 4-H

The national 4-H film festival known as "FilmFest 4-H" invites youth-produced videos/films to be submitted for judging prior to the event on June 14-17 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Plunging into history through the unique lenses of American youth, seven pilot states (CA, CT, MO, SC, UT, VT and WV) tested multiple ways to

document the 4-H memories of staff, volunteers, and supporters through the “Voices of 4-H History” project. Banners flew at fairs and posters were hung at museums, while films were shown at festivals and on TV. As we work to increase public awareness of the first 100 years of 4-H and Extension history, a process for youth-produced media was developed. This process continues to guide training of youth/adult teams as they recruit, interview, produce and edit exciting stories about the legacy of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

The deadline for submission is May 15, 2015. To submit a video/film for judging, the fee is \$15 if paid between March 1 and April 15 or \$20 if paid between April 16 and May 15. For those planning to attend FilmFest 4-H, the registration fee is \$119 if paid between March 1 and April 15 or \$129 if paid between April 16 and May 30. For filming resources <http://4h.missouri.edu/go/events/filmfest/filmmakerresources.htm>

For the third year in a row, the National 4-H History Preservation Team will help sponsor the category, “Voices of 4-H History” at FilmFest 4-H. Many of those films will be selected to be posted to the National 4-H History Website as well as on the FilmFest 4-H site. These films will be exhibited widely to improve public awareness of 4-H and Extension programs.

To learn more about getting involved in this effort, please visit the “Voices of History” page at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices> or email [info@4-HHistory.Preservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistory.Preservation.com). To learn more about FilmFest 4-H and the resources available there, please visit <http://4h.missouri.edu/filmfest/>

### You can be part of the 4-H History Preservation Program. Give a Tax Deductible Gift.

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.

## Partner with Us to Design a 4-H History Staff Development Component



Learning about the many successful 4-H promotions and programs of the past can help professionals and volunteers in making their programs relevant to today's audiences.

4-H has been at the forefront of experimental and experiential youth education since its very inception. Understanding the evolutionary history of 4-H has been shown to enhance the knowledge of this educational youth development base for both professional staff and volunteer leaders; hence our theme “*Preserve 4-H History, the Foundation of our Future.*” This history reflects exciting “Learn by Doing” programs and methodology which is still relevant for designing contemporary 4-H Youth education. Learning the progressive best practices in 4-H history can further strengthen the structure and delivery of today's programs.

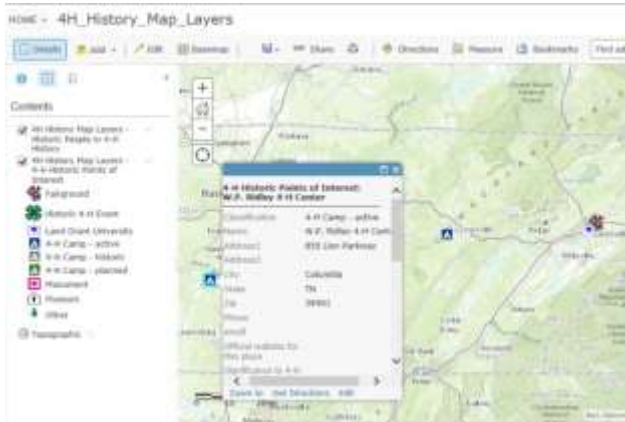
The National 4-H History Preservation Team would like to partner with one or more states to develop and pilot-test a history component as an integral part of staff development curriculum. The Team invites you to:

1. Identify any 4-H history content currently being used in your state; and
2. Identify 4-H staff who may have interest in partnering with the Team to design a 4-H History Component as a base for future staff development.

The 4-H History Team has digitized volumes of documents, photographs and instructional materials on the history website as well as compiled histories in a number of national programs to contribute to this knowledge base.

Please send your information about current 4-H History components in your staff development curriculum and/or indication that you would like to partner with us [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

## ISO (In Search Of) Locations Important to Your 4-H History



This close-up of a map of Tennessee shows two marks in blue which designate 4-H camps in their state. The redmark on the right shows a fairground. The listing on the left shows symbols for anticipated historical 4-H sites. Once these maps are online; you can follow the progress of the mapping of 4-H Historical sites across the country.

Beginning April 2015, 4-H members, staff and volunteers will be able to nominate important places in their 4-H History and post them on a National 4-H History Map. The online address for sending your nominations will be announced in this Newsletter. Keep an eye open for the April issue.

4-H'ers in West Virginia will soon begin to identify the state's historical camping locations, including the first state 4-H camp in the country, Jackson's Mill, in Lewis County. West Virginia plans to map all 4-H camps, past, current and planned, and add them to

an interactive map on the Internet, where 4-H'ers nation-wide can discover and explore warm 4-H memories that occurred at camp. West Virginia will be celebrating 100 years of 4-H camping this year.

What other categories can be included? 4-H camps are just one type of location that can be added to the National 4-H History Map. Other historical 4-H locations could include:

- Early or current county/state fair-grounds;
- Early or current county/state 4-H offices;
- Birthplace of important 4-H pioneers;
- 4-H center sites or current buildings;
- Sites where the first club was founded in your county/state.

Nominations will be reviewed by the youth/adult team that designed and launched this mapping project. It is created and managed by the National 4-H Geospatial Leadership Team, made up of youth from Tennessee, North Carolina and New York. Please join them by nominating the location of your favorite 4-H memory in your state or county.

The form for beginning this process can be printed out by clicking on or pasting the Internet Web link <http://goo.gl/vGF9nt>

Please email suggestions to [tateace@aol.com](mailto:tateace@aol.com)

Check the April Issue of the Newsletter to find the online address to which you can send nominations; we look forward to hearing of historically significant 4-H sites in your state.

### 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*  
**Chad Proudfoot;** *West Virginia University*  
**Kendra Wells;** *University of Maryland 4-H, retired*  
**Tom Tate;** *Extension Service, USDA, retired*  
**Melvin J. Thompson;** *National 4-H Council, retired*  
**Ron Drum;** *National 4-H Council*  
**David E. Benedetti;** *National 4-H Council, retired*  
**Rick Moses, Webmaster.**

Email: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)  
 Visit: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>  
 Tweet: @4H

