

National 4-H Congress Chicago, Illinois

DRAFT

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INTRODUCTION

A delegate never forgets his experience at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago

Guy Noble

Guy Noble, director of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, who conducted the first Armour Tour of boys and girls in Chicago in 1919, and continued on with National 4-H Club Congresses for over 30 years, explained that 4-H Club Congress cannot be described on paper. One has to be a part of it and “feel” it to fully comprehend it. Perhaps Noble was correct. For the 10's of thousands who were fortunate enough to attend one or more of the 70+ 4-H Congresses held in Chicago it was, indeed, an experience of a lifetime. For the delegates it was awe-inspiring - new friends, new experiences, perhaps a time to think in ways they had never thought before. For the adults - the Extension leaders, representatives of donor companies, speakers and entertainers, even the media, it was inspiring - a week that often regenerated you to do your job better, lead your life more fully.

4-H Congress Greatest Youth Happening in Today's World

Walter John
Director of Information Services
FES, U. S. Dept of Agriculture

These were the words written in the Federal Extension Service weekly newsletter for Dec. 10, 1970 by Walter John, director of information services, FES, U.S. Department of Agriculture, upon returning from Chicago. In referring to 4-H Congress, he explained, “It had just about everything that appeals to youth- serious discussion, entertainment, awards, good food, music, dancing and lots of public attention.” He went on to express his admiration for the tremendous interest and participation shown by the individual national and regional donors. “The National 4-H Congress is the epitome of success in joint action of government, education and industry in helping youth find its role in this world.”

The delegates to Club Congress were the top achievers in the National 4-H Awards programs, year after year. Many of them had worked untiringly for six, seven or eight years to win their trip to Chicago. They had diligently assembled project record books which were judged by a national 4-H record judging committee. For many, if not most, their trip to Chicago to attend 4-H Congress was the crowning achievement of a 4-H career as a member. It was their goal. For those who received 4-H award scholarships while in Chicago, Club Congress had even more meaning. It often helped them to go to college and to choose a career.



Conrad Hilton Hotel

So what made 4-H Congress so very special? For many delegates, it was a week of firsts. Some had never traveled on a train or airplane. Staying in the largest hotel in the world. Some had never ridden in an elevator... and the Conrad Hilton Hotel had an elevator lobby with at least 10 or 12 elevators... in the early days all manned by courteous elevator operators. For many, to sit down at an elegant banquet and be served by dozens of waiters in white coats and gloves, live music playing and face a place setting with china and crystal and six or eight pieces of silverware... definitely a new experience. To chat with the representatives from donor companies, the captains of industry, who truly had an interest in

hearing your story and about your plans for the future. To meet people like Raymond Firestone, Thomas E. Wilson, Myrtle Walgreen, Ruth Kerr and the presidents of Ford Motor Company, International Harvester, Sears-Roebuck, duPont, Montgomery Ward, Santa Fe, U. S. Rubber, General Motors, Westinghouse and dozens of others. To listen to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Orchestra Hall, conducted by Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops, or visit the Chicago Art Institute or Chicago Museum of Science and Industry; the speakers scheduled throughout the week; and, the never ending presence of the media... hundreds of working press, radio and television, many of them there for the entire week. And, of course, the opportunity to meet and get to know delegates from other states and visitors from other countries, to share laughs, to dance to large orchestras, to discuss social topics of the day - both in organized discussion groups and during free time throughout the week. Many friendships were formed that lasted a life time. But these highlights still do not convey the "feel" that Guy Noble was referring to. Perhaps it cannot be put on paper... or even on the Internet, but the history of National 4-H Congress in Chicago is far too important to let slip away without documentation.

This record of National 4-H Congress in Chicago can be read, page by page, like a history... but it will be a long read. It was written year by year so that those interested in recollections of a particular Club Congress could easily go to that area. Additionally, 4-H Congress in Chicago is well known for the recognition of achievers... winners, and for the entertaining hospitality provided by the delegates' awards donors. An attempt has been made to highlight some of the other features of Congress, as well - the educational values through the assemblies, workshops and speeches; and, the true love of Congress and the delegates displayed by the donor representatives and corporate officials as they planned out their meal events and programs and as the corporate heads bestowed advice to the young winners and attempted to learn more about them through earnest discussions.

The 70 years of National 4-H Congress in Chicago are rich in history. Obviously, we could not tell it all; and, unfortunately many of the records have been lost. But an attempt was made to make it human. While the stories of the baked potato for breakfast at the Firestone Breakfast, or Miss America appearing at the General Motors luncheon every year, is important, there are little bits of trivia which tell the Congress story just as appropriately... the Hawaiian and Puerto Rican delegates out across from the Hilton in Grant Park at 11 o'clock at night making angels in the new fallen snow because they never saw snow before... or, the jovial Hilton elevator operators, moving up and down 24 hours a day all week, but by the end of the Congress proudly wearing their uniforms completely covered with buttons given to them by the enthusiastic 4-H state delegations and feeling just as much a part of 4-H Congress in Chicago as everyone else.]

IN THE BEGINNING

As explained in the book, "*From a Dream to Reality - A History of the National 4-H Service Committee*," the 4-H movement arose from the farsighted endeavors of two major groups in late-19th Century America -

- Educators - who had grasped the need and had drawn the architectural plans for practical application of formal education, but could not sell local school boards on such in-school training, and
- Land-Grant Colleges - which had put together the necessary building materials for a newer, stronger agriculture, but couldn't convince farmers to try the new promising methods and practices.

They found the answer to their mutual needs by passing on new ideas in agriculture and homemaking to boys and girls organized in out-of-school clubs. They found strength to support their new educational structure in the small town businessmen, bankers, newspaper and magazine editors who provided awards - the additional motivation youngsters needed to learn in a voluntary system.



Mr. Thos. E. Wilson invites 11 young people visiting the International Live Stock Exposition to have lunch with him. (Note: The above artist rendition of the breakfast was commissioned by the Wilson company several decades after the event and may not be historically accurate.)

After World War I, money was tight and those operating the 4-H program knew that to keep the program alive, money was the key. George Farrell of the federal staff was particularly alert to the needs for private support. Perhaps chance brought the right people together. E. N. Hopkins, who was to play a prominent role in the development of National 4-H Congress, by chance happened to hear club work crusader Perry Holden in Arkansas in 1914 urge businessmen to "Work with boys and girls. Finance them in the purchase of pigs, chickens and seed. Show adults the way." When Hopkins joined *Successful Farming* magazine in 1916 he carried his enthusiasm for club work with him. By the next year he had inspired E. T. Meredith, publisher and then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, to offer a \$250,000 loan fund to help farm youngsters start in business for themselves. Was it chance that brought Thomas E. Wilson, president of Wilson & Co., one of the nation's top meat packers, to the 1916 International Live Stock Exposition just as a group of club boys were examining the exhibits? What made Wilson stop and talk to them? How did he "sense (that) they like myself, were keenly interested in livestock? I thought perhaps I could help them in some way," Wilson recalled later. He started that very day by inviting the 11 boys and their leader to lunch with him - the very first of the annual Wilson Day dinners - a program highlight of National 4-H Congresses to come.

What prompted G. L. Noble of Armour and Co. to visit with such State Club Leaders as Ray Turner of Michigan, T. A. Erickson of Minnesota and Paul C. Taff, Iowa, at the International Live Stock Exposition? Was it their enthusiasm for boys and girls club work which started the Armour employee on his dream of a national committee?

FIRST ANNUAL CLUB TOUR

Perhaps it was chance that put G. L. Noble, researcher turned public relations man at Armour, in contact with a former college roommate turned "pig club leader." His interest in club work further aroused, Noble convinced his employer, Armour and Company, to appropriate \$5,000 to sponsor trips to the 1919 International Live Stock Exposition for some 40 boys and girls - the first annual club tour.

It was that 1919 tour that first brought together the diverse talents of key business leaders and others. A trip to Chicago and the International Live Stock Exposition had already become a prized goal for many club members. When the Exposition introduced boys and girls' classes at the 1916 International, the interest of state leaders as well as members

was heightened. Packing companies and railroads began sponsoring trips to the International for young people from their marketing areas. Convinced of the educational value of the trip to the "Big City," state leaders began bringing to Chicago not only youngsters with animals to exhibit, but state and county winners who had done outstanding work in other club projects. Individual club leaders began contacting business firms for financial aid and assistance in arranging accommodations and tours, often duplicating contacts made by other leaders. It became increasingly clear that some coordination of effort was needed.

Thus when Noble set about organizing that first tour for Armour and Company he also opened it up to other interested groups. Young people sponsored by Swift, Wilson, Meredith and several railroads joined with Armour's delegation, and with state-sponsored delegates, brought the total to 211 club members for the first club tour.

Club work was still so little known in those days, that Noble had trouble at first convincing the management of the 1919 International Live Stock Show to furnish free exposition passes to the eager young people. The group however soon attracted the attention of Chicagoans. Led by Armour's "Jackie Girls Band" the club members marched down Exchange Avenue to visit the Armour packing plants. Traveling by special elevated trains, they visited Marshall Field, the Chicago Art Institute, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Post Office. As guests of Meredith they saw the movie "The Heart of the Hills" starring Mary Pickford. And part of the delegation traveled overnight to Milwaukee by steamship. Everyone agreed the first club tour was a great success. Businessmen had found a good program for helping young people, but an organization for carrying it out was needed.

DRAFT

1920 JUNIOR CLUB TOUR



Noble's 1920 Junior Club Tour would be even better than the first one in 1919. Picture a crisp morning in December. The sun is trying to penetrate the smoky haze which lies over Chicago and the Stock Yards. Yet it seems bright and cheerful and there is a feeling of expectancy in the air.

Several hundred 4-H Club members, their green badges fluttering with the breeze, clamber off special elevated trains at Halsted Street. They line up four abreast and march behind a 4-H band down Exchange Avenue to the old north gate of the International Live Stock Exposition and into the grounds, assembling for their instructions. So that boys and girls could assemble someplace protected from weather and receive instructions for the day, a space had been rented across the street from the north gate. Stockyard workers pause to survey the group. Faces press against windows of the offices in the Purebred Record Building, the bank and the *Drovers Journal*.

As the youngsters roam through the exhibits of the seemingly endless cattle and horse barns and scurry through the aisles of the exposition building, that venerable institution of the live stock industry has its pulse quickened by the enthusiasm of the youthful adventurers - most of whom are in the nation's agricultural capital for the first time. At that time the 4-H Clubs had made so little impression on the public that their worth was not recognized. Remember, just a year earlier Guy Noble had difficulty securing one-time passes to the Exposition for the 1919 delegates.

Apparently word got around that the Junior Club Tour was worthwhile, because in the 1920 tour 10 or more States came with 475 club members. Thomas E. Wilson once again played host to the group on the Monday night of the tour. Seeing the stock show and Packingtown, a big Loop bank with its piles of gold - a sight denied in later years - a trip through Marshall Field & Company's store, the Lincoln Park Zoo and the twine mills and binder plant of International

Harvester, plus good meals and rousing meetings, made up the 1920 event.

While there were no 4-H Club exhibits on the grounds of the International in 1920 except for a few calves and the boys and girls themselves, the Junior Club Tour did have headquarters in Harry McNair's horse sales office. It was a 12' x 14' room with a concrete floor, a stove, desk and telephone provided by the International - a far cry from the 4-H Congress headquarters in the world's largest hotel in later years.

E. N. Hopkins wrote two features reporting the happenings of the 1920 Junior Club Tour to Chicago in the February issue of *Farm Boys and Girls Leader*. Parts of these articles are included here:

That members of the boys and girls clubs of America may be numbered among our substantial citizens is proven by the fact that two hundred and fifty-three of the over four hundred international trip winners scheduled property value at \$208,986.28. If all had filled out the questionnaires submitted, the property valuation would have amounted to more than \$300,000.



Boys' and girls' club champions of America at the International Live Stock Show in Chicago in 1920. They represent the junior extension work carried on by the agricultural colleges of America and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. (from December 1921 *Farm Boys and Girls Leader*)

Club work brings ownership and a personal interest to its members. In joining the various club projects boys and girls become owners of livestock, crops, equipment, and household effects. Out of a group of 210 boys who filled out the questionnaire, 56 boys owned Liberty Bonds valued at \$6,200; 102 owned War Savings Stamps valued at \$3,100.; 117 had bank accounts amounting to \$18,207.20; 139 owned pigs worth \$63,884.50; 76 owned calves and baby beeves worth \$28,286.58; 29 owned poultry valued at \$2,059.90; 28 owned sheep worth \$6,755; 76 owned other livestock worth \$133,510.80; 33 owned implements and other property worth \$6,946.50; 83 owned crops and other property valued at \$19,375.93 and the total was \$188,326.41.

Out of a group of 43 girls reporting, 4 reported Liberty Bonds worth \$250; 19 reported War Saving Stamps worth \$470; 20 had bank accounts worth \$1,864.11; 15 owned pigs valued at \$3,331.80; 16 owned calves or baby beeves valued at \$2,901; 17 owned poultry valued at \$1,575.50; 3 owned sheep valued at \$140; 12 owned other livestock valued at \$1,695; 21 had furniture or other property valued at \$4,217.50. The total amount of the property owned by girls reporting was \$20,659.97.

Basle Banta of Montgomery County, Indiana, in filling out the questionnaire made this notation. 'I am farming with father.' Partnership with father is to be commended everywhere. Minnesota offers a splendid illustration in Minette & Son. George Minette, Sauk Centre, Minnesota, entered club work two or three years ago and is now in partnership with father in raising livestock and farming. One of the boys from Indiana, Herbert A. Miller, reported Liberty Bonds amounting to \$1,500, money on deposit, \$4,000; seven pigs worth \$350; one baby beef, \$500; ten head of other livestock valued at \$500; farm implements and equipment, \$500; 75 acres of corn and 50 acres of oats valued at \$4,000, and a farm of 300 acres valued at \$250 per acre.

Relating to the International experience, itself, as reported in the issue:

With waving banners, emitting club and state yells, singing club songs, and other demonstrations, nearly 500 club champions and their leaders took possession of Chicago for a week during the International livestock show.

It was a grand and glorious feeling everyone had from the time they reached the Windy City until they departed tired and exhausted from sightseeing and wholesome dissipation, if we may call it such.

After registering and securing rooms at the New Southern and Y.M.C.A. hotels, the club delegation was soon organized into a compact orderly delegation. They had come from nearly 30 states for a good time, and they certainly had it.

With some, it was the first trip on the railroad or away from their home county, with others, it was the first experience in a cafeteria or hotel where today 60 percent of our population live or exist. On one of the elevated train trips out to Lincoln Park, where they saw the lions and other wild animals fed, one boy remarked, 'Where do Chicago folks live?' No one blames the boy for asking the question, because naturally he supposed Chicago folks lived out in the suburbs where they could have some green grass and a garden, and get away from the dirt and confusion of the city proper.

The Canadian delegation received a hearty welcome the night of the rally. They responded with their country's songs and soon became a part of the club folks of America. The delegation was in the charge of W. B. Jackson, director of agricultural representatives, Toronto; and when they separated from the club folks at the McCormick Harvester Company's lunch it was with keen regret.

One Wisconsin boy had a case of severe homesickness and was found one morning at 2 a.m. all dressed, with his grip packed and bundles under his arm ready to start for home - and he went.

But those cement sidewalks and hard pavements! Several boys remarked that they could plow corn all day and not be half as tired as they were after tramping over Chicago's cement sidewalks and hard pavements.

An Idaho boy had to go to the hospital with the measles, and an Iowa boy accompanied him with a case of mumps. Hard luck! They did hate to lose out on the trips, eats, movies - everything. A special nurse and doctor were sent out to care for these invalids.

An Illinois girl lost her heel - not the heel of her foot - just the heel of her shoe, and a new one cost her only \$1.75. The cobbler at first quoted her a price of \$1.15, but owing to the rapid rise in prices she finally paid \$1.75 in order to get the shoe. The next day she lost another heel and almost went into bankruptcy.

One boy suddenly became faint while going thru the packing houses, but immediate help was called and he was soon normal again.

Most of the club folks readily filled out the property ownership blanks, but one boy thought the request was too blankety blank personal! When he reads the report of what club folks own in this issue he will be proud of the record and glad that all complied with good grace.

The trips on the elevated trains were greatly enjoyed. One could see Chicago's big buildings, busy streets, fine boulevards and parks very readily from the windows of the elevated trains.

Club folks were hailed by Chicago people from windows, doors and sidewalks. Many a tired office girl waved her kerchief or hand from her office window and looked with longing eyes on those fine husky youths from the country who were dressed just as fine as city boys.

When the delegation of nearly 400 marched from Marshall Field's store down to the Continental and Commercial bank, Chicago shoppers had to vacate the sidewalks or be jostled in a friendly way. When some of the pedestrians came in too close contact with a bunch of club boys marching arm in arm they hastily gave way to avoid accidental spills. It did the club editors heart good to see the city folk have to give way to these champion young farmers from the country. The delegation held together, using their canes for signals and shouting occasionally 'A-1!'

But say, when the delegation lined up in front of the Continental and Commercial bank two or three abreast and about a block long, bystanders exclaimed, 'Is this a run on the bank?' And when they saw green and white pennants they wondered if an Irish revolution had suddenly organized and was going to rob the bank.

There was fun and excitement all the time. Not a minute was lost anywhere - the girls were having the time of their lives, as well as the boys. And by the end of the week the chaperones noticed that in some mysterious way quite a number of the boys and girls had paired off. They had suddenly discovered some attraction for each other and became good friends. Uncle Sam's mails will certainly be taxed for several months with new business, because nearly 500 club champions made new friendships, many of which will last thru life.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Armour Junior Club Tours of 1920 are now history.



J. W. Armour greeting some of the 400 Junior Club members who were the guests of the Armour on their tour in Chicago during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition.

The Armour organization has been much pleased with the progress of the steps inaugurated by it a year ago to make the entertainment of the Junior Club champions an outstanding feature during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition. The number taking advantage of these 1920 Tours was more than double that of 1919.

Now that the foundation for these educational tours has been laid, it is hoped that the feature will grow from year to year and that many industrial organizations will enter into the development of club work.

JUNIOR CLUB MEMBERS, ask your County Agent or Club Leader for an opportunity to see "The Visit of the Visitors," our moving picture film featuring the JUNIOR CLUB TOURS OF 1920.

**Armour's Bureau of Agricultural Research
AND ECONOMICS**
UNION STOCKYARDS, CHICAGO

From page 24, January 1921 *Farm Boys and Girls Leader*

And they were generous with their yells and greetings for Mr. E. T. Meredith, secretary of agriculture, when he addressed them at the Y.M.C.A. one morning, and later became a central figure in a section of the movie taken during the week. Club folks look upon Mr. Meredith as their 'patron saint,' because he has championed the cause of club work with his money and publicity as secretary of agriculture. As he departed, the Y.M.C.A. lobby resounded with 'What's the matter with Mr. Meredith? He's all right? Who's all right? Mr. Meredith, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Meredith!' Yea, bo! And how the delegation ra-rahed when they gave the club greeting, 'How do you do, Mr. White?' and, 'How do you do, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Noble, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Heide (secretary of the International), Mr. Swift,' and scores of others who had some part in the entertainment accorded club folks during the week.

After being saturated with plenty of good eats, trips, movies 'n everything, the various state delegations began to depart on Thursday evening, and by Friday night they were all wending their way home, but not until they had expressed their gratitude to all who had contributed in any way to the trips and entertainment, and with the promise that they would go back home and tell their friends about club work and the trip to the International, and help swell the number for 1921.

Thru a national committee on boys' and girls' club work being organized by the representatives of commercial interests that are backing club work, it is expected that a larger number of trips will be provided for in 1921, and with the hope that the next delegation will number a thousand. The International trip is an education as well as an inspiration for every boys and girl fortunate enough to win the trip. Chicago offers a proper setting for a place where club folks may come from every state, meet together for the exchange of ideas, have a good time and get a larger vision of life, and they go back home with a greater appreciation of farming as a business calling. Let's make it a thousand in 1921!

from February 1921 Farm Boys and Girls Leader

LET'S START A COMMITTEE

Several weeks prior to the 1920 Junior Club Tour, at the National Swine Show in Des Moines, Iowa in October, some key extension and business leaders came together for a discussion. By that time all were agreed on the need for coordinating the rapidly multiplying support programs of business and industry for the young 4-H program, and particularly for the Chicago tour. When Extension's George Farrell said, "There ought to be a national committee," Noble, Hopkins and Milton Danziger of Extension's Washington office took his statement as a cue for action.

So, two months later - in December 1920 - Noble had conducted the Second Boys and Girls Club Tour. When it closed, Noble and Hopkins chatted as they walked over the Chicago River bridge on the way back to their hotel...

"What happened to the committee that Farrell suggested to coordinate all this?" Noble inquired.

"Nothing", Hopkins replied.

"Then" said Noble, "Let's start one."

Before 1920 ended... only two or three weeks later, Noble and Hopkins had secured Farrell's support for a private citizen's committee with representatives of public agencies serving as advisors. And they set about drawing up a list of suggested personnel for the committee.

In June 1921 Noble resigned from Armour and planned his future around a committee that still existed only in his dreams. He spent the summer corresponding with state club leaders asking their advice on the role private industry and a national committee could play in aiding club work.

When Noble began contacting businessmen for financial support of the committee, his proposals were met with skepticism. He was unknown to most of the men whom he approached and club work was considered a new and untried idea. Even with Hopkins' encouragement, Meredith (his boss) agreed to serve as chairman of a committee only if Thomas E. Wilson would join the committee too.

It was a fortunate stipulation. Wilson not only pledged financial support to the committee, he opened corporate doors previously closed to Noble.

A meeting was called on September 30, 1921 to consider the formation of a National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Present besides Noble, Hopkins and Meredith were Barney H. Heide, secretary of the International Live Stock Exposition, John Coverdale, secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation and A. B. Drummond, representing Thomas E. Wilson. Coverdale promised stenographic help, office space and limited financial support. The group met again in December 1921, just before the International Live Stock Exposition opened. As the group met, Noble was conducting his third annual tour - of 675 boys and girls - through International Harvester's McCormick works. The group in the meeting had agreed on a budget of \$30,000 for the next year's operations and commissioned Meredith to ask Noble to become secretary of the Committee. As soon as the meeting was over, Hopkins taxied to the McCormick works, rushed to the platform and announced that a National Committee had been formed and Noble was to be its executive secretary.

While the Committee's birth drew little attention in the press, it drew enthusiastic applause from the boys and girls at the International Harvester works - the boys and girls it was to serve. The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work had been officially born.

THE 1921 JUNIOR CLUB TOUR

The 1921 Junior Club Tour did provide 4-H with a break. A home economist hired by "Barney" Heide, secretary of the International Live Stock Exposition, to give canning and food demonstrations could not come. Heide was offered the services of girls' 4-H Club teams. Probably because officials doubted their ability, they were relegated to second story rooms not exactly on the main street of the Exposition. Nevertheless the work, carried out under the direction of State Leader Paul C. Taff of Iowa, attracted a crowd.

The noted speaker at the Sunday Evening Club that year was the Hon. Josephus Daniels, former Secretary of the Navy. Perhaps the highlight was the promised appearance of Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture. But three days of the Congress passed and no Secretary appeared. G. L. Noble was much concerned. His job during those days was to lead the tours. On the morning of the fourth day he assembled the group at the YMCA Hotel, walked them to the Field Museum, turned them loose and sought a phone booth, carrying a pocketful of nickels. Just as the delegates prepared to leave the Museum, Noble reached Wallace and he agreed to come to the Central YMCA to address the group. He must have enjoyed it, for the next year he came back to the rally at the "Y" Hotel to make a short talk, then sat around with the group the rest of the evening to watch the boys and girls put on their stunts and sing.

Like the previous year, E. N. Hopkins wrote a thorough story about the 1921 tour in the February 1922 issue of *Farm Boys and Girls Leader*. While it is quite long, it perhaps is the best recorded documentation of the day to day experiences of the boys and girls attending the early tours, their experiences, and the comments made by a number of their sponsors or hosts during the week. Most of the story is shared here:

Seeing Chicago and the International with 500 Club Champions and Leaders - Trip Winners Had a Wonderful Time

"Five hundred club champions and their leaders from 26 states took possession of the International Live Stock Show at Chicago, November 26th to December 3rd. As the army of club champions and their chaperons marched from the hotels, with club banners flying, to the elevated trains, thru the exposition, stock yards, packing plants and thru the 'Windy City,' everyone stopped to inquire who they were, what they represented, and where they were from. The crowd soon found out, however. Every state delegation was ready with songs and club yells and after this wonderful bunch of boys and girls passed along the sidewalks and across the streets, folks had to get out of the way or be run over.

"The following songs and yells greeted the thousands of Chicagoans and exposition visitors at various times and places during the week:

Seeing Chicago.
Tune: *Solomon Levi*

We're here to see Chicago,
And we've come from far and near
To show the world what we can do,
And don't you ever fear,
We're brothers and we're sisters, too,
No matter what our state,
For all the boys and girls you see
Are here to demonstrate.

Chorus:
Oh! Oh! Chicago,
Our hats are off to you,
We're here to show you
What the 4-H's can do.

Winners in the Club Work.
Tune: *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

We are winners in the club work, we're the champions of the state,
We have worked all thru the summer, now we're here to celebrate;
We have left the other members hanging on the garden gate,
While we came to the show.

Chorus:
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Yes, we came to the show.

Additional verses:
You may think to win in club work is an easy thing to do,
That the road that leads to vict'ry is quite easy to pursue,
But, believe me, it's a tussle from the start till we get thru
To win and see the show.

We are farmer lads and lassies and we know just how to toil,
We are always up and doing, making profit from the soil,
We raise winning pigs and chickens, and can fruit that will not spoil
So we can see the show.

When we started in the club work, we went in to do or die,
Now we're here while all the others are lamenting with a sigh,
And we'll have fun in Chicago, or we'll know the reason why,
While we are at the show.

"Club pep and spirit was evidence on every hand. The Iowa bunch, 100 strong, rent the air with the now famous Iowa Corn Song at every possible occasion. It became popular with every state delegation. The tune has a swing to it. It was composed by George E. Hamilton of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce. The song goes like this:

Iowa Corn Song
We're from Iowa,
Oh, it's simply grand
In that fine old land;
We're from Iowa, Iowa,
That's where the tall corn grows!

About this time Indiana would break out with their yell which won first at the rally. It starts out with a slow handclap, which develops rapidly and ends in a climax with yells, whistles and:

Indiana! Indiana! Indiana!!!

"After this you would hear Illinois club folks give their state yell with all the zest of a football team:

Isky, Wow, Wow!
Skinny, Wow, Wow!!
Illinois, Illinois, Illinois!!!

"The Ohio boys would then spell out the name of their state in a wild yell ending up with Ohio! Ohio! Ohio!

"South Dakota was in evidence with a delegation of about sixty, led by P. J. Scarbro, and a Boy Scout band. Mr. Valentine, cheer leader, led the South Dakota bunch and their state club yell which ended up with yells, cheers and whistles.

"Tennessee, Mississippi, and other states gave vent to their feelings with appropriate yells and songs in season and out of season. 'Dixie' was one of their favorites.

"The first arrivals were made up of the judging teams and coaches. They came in Thanksgiving day and Friday morning to take part in the non-collegiate judging contests which were held on Friday. Several girl demonstration teams and their

leaders gave a series of demonstrations on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the exposition building. This work was in charge of P. C. Taff, director of demonstration work. He was assisted by several women leaders and home demonstration agents.

"The club tour was in charge of G. L. Noble, who during the week was selected by the National Committee on Boys' and Girls Club Work as paid secretary, with offices at 1113 Garland Building, 58 East Washington Street, Chicago, Ill. Mr. Noble was assisted by E. N. Hopkins, vice-chairman of the committee, and various state leaders. Mr. Noble met many of the small delegations at the trains and by Sunday every state delegation had arrived and registered. The women and girls stopped at the New Southern Hotel and the boys and their leaders at the Y.M.C.A. Hotel. Both delegations assembled each morning at 8:30 at the 'Y' before starting out for the day's tour. The 'Y' was a noisy place when the club champions came together; there was 'something doing' every minute. Of course it was some job to keep 550 boys and girls and leaders together, and every day was so full that even the boys who were used to getting up at 4 a.m. on the farm had a hard job to be on deck by 8 a.m. at the 'Y.' Some of the girls got lost at the hotel. A search one evening after 10 p.m. located two of the prize winners in company with their club beaux in the New Southern parlors. After that lights had to go out at 10 a.m., said Miss Harriet Phillips of Illinois.

"And didn't we have a lot of excitement and fun on the various trips thru the city, the packing plants and on other sight-seeing trips! On Monday the delegation filled seven special elevated cars and went to the exposition. On arrival at the grounds the bunch scattered in state groups. Some went to see the car-lot exhibits of beef, hogs and other stock, other groups took seats in the sale and show ring to see the judging, hear the bands play and watch the crowds!

"Other groups visited the hay and grain exhibits, and wasn't that a big ear of corn? It was thirty feet high and took sixty bushels of corn to build it, and believe me, it was 'some ear.' The Chicago Board of Trade offered \$10,000 in prizes for the best samples of grain and forage crops in the hay and grain exhibit.

"Sheep club boys and girls feasted their eyes on the splendid exhibits of purebred sheep from many states. All breeds were shown in this division. Over in the swine exhibits there were fat hogs, bacon hogs, breeding stock and just hogs. Many a club pig helped make up the swine exhibit. Club boys and girls are producing their share of the purebred stock that goes to market as well as for breeding purposes. It is a common thing for a pig club boy to show a gain of over two pounds daily during the feeding period. The baby beef exhibit attracted a large number of the beef club boys and girls. The animals were curried and groomed for the occasion in their best Sunday garb. Many of them were shampooed for the occasion. Some of the pigs had their toe nails cleaned and polished for the benefit of the exhibition visitors. Oh boy! The stock show was worth the trip. Many club members vowed they would raise a better animal, however, next year and show 'em.

"Willet Downey, of Illinois, had the champion baby beef in class B, and his animal won over class A as well. He won the blue ribbon offered by the Institute of Meat Packers and one offered by the Angus Association.

"Frances Ray, thirteen-year-old sister of Clara Ray, of Indiana, who won the championship two years ago with 'Butter,' was a happy girl when the blue ribbon was pinned on her calf. She won first in class A of the junior feeding contest and two blue ribbons in the fat barrow classes.

Rally at the 'Y'

"On Monday evening at 7 o'clock until 10 there was some noise and fun, as well as the serious, at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium. Every team was on hand, 100 percent, full of club pep and spirit for the big event. For the first thirty or forty minutes the air was filled with club songs, yells and other evidence of the presence of club champions. These were led by Mr. R. A. Turner, state leader of Michigan, and by the way, Mr. Turner knows how to do this job.

"Indiana won first in the yelling contest. Ohio won the booby prize. Mr. George E. Farrell, of Washington, and Mrs. Bernice Carter Davis were appointed judges and awarded first place in the yell contest to Indiana. The prize was a beautifully framed poem entitled 'Opportunity.' Indiana's cheer leader, Mr. M. Johnson, read the poem after presentation. The song contest was won by South Dakota. This state won first in the song contest last year and came back with the determination to win first again. The South Dakota chorus mounted the platform and everybody wondered just what they were going to put over. One half-dozen of the girls had guitars, and ukuleles. They mounted an eleven-year-old boy on the table, Francis Wallner, of Sioux Falls, and he took an important part in the performance. Here is the song, entitled: *Oh, We Are Club Members*



Oh, We Are Club Members.
Tune: My Name is Yon Yonson

Oh! We are Club Members,
We come from South Dakota,
We play the Achievement game there;
When we walk down the street,
All the people we meet
They ask us how we came to be here,
(Spoken) "And I tells 'em."

We're known as the Coyotes,
We live on the prairies,
We work on the farms over there!
When we walk down the street,

All the people we meet,
They ask us how we came to be here,
(Spoken) "And I tells 'em"

Of course, this song won first. The prize was another fine poem entitled 'Out Where the West Begins.' South Dakota was called upon to read it, but Mr. Scarbro, being too modest, Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace volunteered and did a good job of it.

"After the contests were over, G. L. Noble, chairman of the evening, introduced Mr. Joseph R. Noel, President of the Chicago Association of Commerce. Mr. Noel welcomed the delegation to Chicago, congratulated them on the constructive work club members are doing and pledged the support of the Association of Commerce to make their stay in the city pleasant and profitable. After the evening program he assured Mr. Noble and Mr. Hopkins that the Association would set aside a time later on when they would be glad to have a club program. Mr. Noel felt sure that the business men of Chicago would be glad to hear about club work and witness some of the demonstrations.

"Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace was the honored guest and speaker of the evening. He congratulated the club members on their achievements and the big place they occupy in production, as well as what they are doing for better agriculture. He urged them to make the most of their opportunities and raise higher the standard of the farm and farm home. He told them something about the work of the department at Washington and asked their cooperation in making the service of the department more effective. Everyone enjoyed Mr. Wallace's remarks and after the program was over a large number had the pleasure of shaking hands with him. The secretary was much pleased with the demonstration put on by the Scott county, Iowa, girls' team and the culling demonstration made by a couple of Minnesota club boys. The Scott county team demonstrated the making of collars and cuffs, selection of material and the various steps taken in doing the work. The team consisted of Margaret Dougherty and Blanche (Bob) Kreiter. This team was coached by Mrs. Edith Barker, home demonstration agent of Scott county, and the local leader, Miss Elsie Schaff.

The girls were loudly cheered for the splendid demonstration and the able manner in which they presented their work. Mr. P. C. Taff, of Iowa, had charge of the demonstration work of the evening and made a few remarks telling about this important work. 'The value of club work is brought out in the demonstrations,' said Mr. Taff.

"Mr. J. W. Coverdale, secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation, gave the boys and girls a splendid stirring appeal in behalf of club work.

"Mr. O. M. Plummer, manager of the Pacific Livestock Exposition, of Portland, was called upon. Mr. Plummer is a member of the National Committee and a great friend of club work, but he told the club members it was late and that he would make the shortest speech of the evening by simply giving them his name and address.

"Secretary Noble then awarded the prizes to the winners in the judging contests and the rally finally closed but not until everyone had said 'good night' and told what a fine time they had had.

Visit to the Packing Plants

"Tuesday morning at 8:30 o'clock sharp the entire delegation boarded seven special cars for the packing plants. One group went to Armour & Co., another to Swift & Company, and the third to Morris & Company.

"At Armour & Co.'s the delegates were taken thru the killing plants where hogs, cattle, sheep and calves were slaughtered for the market. Two or three girls in each group 'most fainted' and it did try the equilibrium and constitution of everyone to witness the killing of the animals. Some of them had been raised by club members and they were loath to part with them or think of having them slaughtered. But it has to be done for the good of mankind and to feed the world.

"The Armour group after going thru the killing plant and seeing the finished product ready for market, put up in tempting packages and under attractive labels, assembled at the Armour office building. They listened to a program given by Mr. Lester Armour and other executives. The program was in charge of R. J. H. DeLoach. Mr. DeLoach gave the club folks a real club greeting of welcome and told something about the various Armour & Company activities. He then introduced Mr. Lester Armour. Mr. Armour after greeting the club folks and congratulating them on the splendid work they are doing, advised them to study the livestock markets and the question of distribution. He told how Armour & Company had encouraged club work during the past few years by awarding trips and in other ways and pledged the support of his company to do what they could for the club movement in the future.

"Another speaker was Mr. V. H. Moneke, who has charge of the fertilizer department of Armour & Company, and is otherwise active with the institution. Mr. Moneke told the club members a good deal about this important question and expressed his real interest in what club members are doing. Another interesting part of the program was a demonstration showing how phosphate rock is transformed into available plant food with the aid of sulphuric acid. The club folks were told a good deal about fertilizers and their necessity as plant food if profitable crops were raised.

"The Armour groups then enjoyed a fine dinner at the Armour cafeteria and by that time they were good and hungry.

Swift & Company

"At Swift & Company the delegation was in charge of Frank P. Reed, of Iowa. This group made a trip thru the killing plant, saw the various animals slaughtered and were told in detail about the killing, the curing and other steps in transforming the animal to the appetizing foods ready for the table. After the trip thru the killing plant the delegation assembled and listened to a talk by A. T. Kearney, of the commercial research department. After greeting the delegation Mr. Kearney said in part:

"Swift & Company recognizes that livestock club work is one of the important activities in the improvement of livestock production. The boys and girls enrolled in these clubs have shown that they could produce as good, and frequently better, animals than grown-up people. Frequently the animal that was fed by the club member, under the direction of his county agent or club leader, is the best animal to be found on his father's farm. There is perhaps no kind of human activity in which the boys and girls have such marked success as they have in livestock production under the direction of capable club leadership.

"We believe that club work should be considered as an integral part of the state and county program for agricultural development. In other words, club work isn't justified just for the purpose of furnishing busy work for farm boys and girls. All club activities should be along lines of sound agricultural practices.

"There are two reasons why the baby beef clubs are in line with this principle:

"First, because there is an active demand for the size and quality of cuts obtained from a well-bred, highly finished baby beef animal; and

"Second, because the fact that baby beef can be produced in many cases at a lower cost per pound than beef from heavier cattle.

"The fact that housewives in New York and Philadelphia, as well as in our small towns and villages, are anxious to buy good beef when they go to the retailer is responsible for the fact that the well-bred, well-finished animal such as you club members have produced, brings a much higher price on the market than the inferior animal which costs more per pound to produce.

"Swift & Company has been glad to encourage this work by paying the expenses of many county prize winners to the International Live Stock show. The company congratulates the winners of these prizes, as well as those whose merit was recognized from other sources.

"We are glad of the privilege of entertaining the club prize winners on their annual visit to Chicago."

"After the program the Swift delegation were treated to a royal feed and they did justice to the food and to their appetites.

Morris & Company

Mr. G. L. Noble was in charge of the delegation that visited Morris & Company's packing plant. The same program was carried out at Morris' as at Swift's and Armour's. The slaughtering of the various animals was witnessed, after which the finished food product was shown ready for market. Morris & Company executives gave the delegation two or three inspiring, interesting talks of welcome and appreciation for the important part club members are taking in production and in better farm practice.

The Wilson Banquet

"At 6 p.m. Tuesday evening, the various groups met at the exposition building and marched in a body to Thomas E. Wilson & Company's packing plant. At this place Mr. Thos. E. Wilson, assisted by Dr. R. F. Eagle, gave the club delegation a splendid program of entertainment and a fine banquet, after which Dr. Christie, director of extension and of the experiment station of Indiana, addressed the club members.

"During the banquet the Wilson Fellowship Club entertained in royal style with songs and other music. One member of the Fellowship Club led a cabaret song which greatly delighted everyone present. The Wilson orchestra assisted the songsters and furnished some splendid music for the evening. Another feature of the entertainment was a number given by a ventriloquist; another by a minstrel. Their numbers were heartily applauded and were real treats to club members and others present.

"The Wilson trip winners were seated around the speakers table in groups of six to eight, fifty-nine in all. They responded when the state leader called their names.

"The Wilson dining room was packed and another room was required in which to seat and feed the entire delegation of 550.

"Under the leadership of Dr. Eagle there was something doing every minute of the two and one-half hours which were spent so pleasantly at the Wilson plant.

"After the entertainment and dinner was over, Dr. Christie was introduced. He emphasized the importance of the inspection of the livestock show, the packing plants and the livestock industry as viewed at the stockyards. He urged the members to secure all the information possible while on the grounds. Among other things he said, 'We are all glad for you to have this trip. It means much to you and the trips are gladly given by packers and others who are investing their money along this line. Wilson & Company are doing a wonderful piece of work by giving these trips and entertaining you at this banquet and they will never forget their part in this great movement.

"Your parents, too, are interested in your trip and are thinking about you tonight. I want to urge you to write them on these post cards given you by your host this evening. Write your parents, your best girl and friends and when you go back tell them what you did and what you saw and urge others to come next year. Tell them about the wonderful six-horse team

owned by Mr. Wilson that you have seen on the grounds while here. Tell them of these wonderful packing plants where food is manufactured and shipped to all countries of the world.

"We who are in charge of extension and club work in Indiana are happy to be with you and pledge you our continued support. We hope that more of our members will come back again next year and that Mr. Wilson will have to build an addition to this building in order to entertain them."

"When Dr. Christie urged club folks to write their parents and others it was soon evident that he had touched a tender chord. Several boys and girls soon had a thoughtful, faraway look in their eyes and in spite of everything a number of tears were shed. Later on that evening and the next morning several thousand letters and post cards were written and the Y.M.C.A. and New Southern Hotel mailing departments were kept mighty busy. This, too, was a fine demonstration of the fact that club boys and girls love their homes and parents and are the right kind of citizens.

Mr. Wilson's Address

"Mr. Thomas E. Wilson, president of the Institute of Meat Packers and of the Wilson Packing Company, and otherwise identified with business life, gave the club folks a splendid address. It was brimful of appreciation for their achievement and the part they are taking to raise the standard of agriculture, the livestock industry, and the citizenship of the country. After extending a hearty greeting to the delegation, which overflowed the Wilson dining hall and another dining hall adjoining he talked at length regarding the club movement and of the interest Wilson & Company take in this branch of the college extension work. Four years ago he said there were but fifteen or sixteen trip winners present at the first dinner he gave in their honor. Since then he said the size of the crowd had increased to a point where his fondest hopes had been realized until there were 550 present. 'My wish has been gratified indeed,' said Mr. Wilson.

" 'I am glad to have you here and show my appreciation for your work,' he continued. 'Perhaps you do not appreciate the importance of what you are doing but you and our country will fully appreciate and realize the constructive value of your achievements and activities someday.

" 'Cities do not yet understand the real value of your work, but I am hopeful that all will soon realize that agriculture is the backbone of the country. You are building up the livestock industry and are assuring the breeders of the day that purebred stock is more profitable than scrub stock. You are producing good stock more economically and you figure the cost as you go along. It is important, too, that records be kept showing what it costs to produce a market hog, beef or any other animal or crop. A great responsibility lies with you and you must and will be faithful. Others look to you boys and girls, men and women look to you, and as young folks you have done fine and must keep up the pace.

" 'The packing industry appreciates what you and the colleges and the United States department are doing to increase the work you have in hand and all of these interests are glad to help in all that you are doing. I want to congratulate your leaders and others who are directing the work and helping in the great program. Show your appreciation, as I know you will, by going ahead. They have shown you the way. They have brought to you better methods, that your fathers and mothers knew nothing about, new ideas and ways which will open the door for better things for the coming generation.

" 'I want to see you go forth to demonstrate what you can do today and will learn to do tomorrow. You have greater opportunities and advantages than your fathers and mothers enjoyed. Show your appreciation and use your ability and opportunities that your parents and myself did not have.

" 'I came into the stockyard business when a small boy with little education and no knowledge of the industry. I was a stranger and began at the bottom. I progressed by taking advantage of every opportunity, worked long and late, persistently. Because I didn't have the education and training you have the road was much harder, and so it is for every one who does not have the preparation. Apply yourselves and improve your mind. If you do that you will succeed. Go back and tell your schoolmates, club associates and others about your trip, what you saw and did, and inspire them to compete for these trips. Do not stop until you go thru college and equip yourselves for better farmers and farm home makers. You represent the biggest and most attractive industry and it will return big dividends where brains as well as brawn are put into it.

" 'I hope you will take away with you pleasant recollections of your trip and return home happy and well and filled with new enthusiasm for the work at hand.'

"The Wilson program was concluded by singing 'America,' after which everyone declared they had a most wonderful time.

Wednesday-Loop Day

"On Wednesday morning the girls put on a judging contest in canned products at the New Southern Hotel. Prizes were offered by the Hazel Atlas Glass Company. The contest was in charge of Mrs. Bernice Carter Davis, who represented the Hazel Atlas Glass Company. An exhibit of canned goods shown in the national canning contest was used. The girls judged the canned fruit and vegetables by the score card used by the United States Department of Agriculture as a basis for the work.

"Following are the prize winners and the prizes they won: Beulah M. Rodgers, Gavin, Iowa, won first prize with a score of 89, prize, \$10. Helma Vensand, Chelsea, South Dakota, won second, scoring 88, prize, \$8. Albert Dinger of West Brooklyn, Illinois, won third with a score of 83, prize, \$5.

"After this contest the delegation of boys and girls left for the New Field Museum down on the lake front. They were given free admission by the management because they were students. As soon as they entered this great building the delegation scattered in every direction, some of the boys and girls going in pairs. In fact it was noticed toward the end of the week that a Michigan boy had become interested in a North Dakota girl. A Colorado boy in an Iowa girl, and several other friendships sprung up. There was a little pair from Tennessee that looked mighty fine arm in arm as they went from place to place.

"After seeing the wonderful treasures in this New Field museum the bugle was sounded and all assembled for the trip up Michigan boulevard and Adams street to the Board of Trade. By this time one boy had lost his cap, and as a consequence went bareheaded during the day. When going up Michigan boulevard one boy turned to the club editor and said, 'When do we get dinner?' A boy at Armour's the day before said, 'Here where we can get all we can eat.' One of the attendants warned him that he was going to watch him and see that he didn't take away more than he could eat.

"After leaving Michigan Boulevard the delegation, two and one-half blocks long, started up thru Chicago's busiest shopping center, crossing Wabash, State and other congested streets. Two mounted policemen rode up to Mr. Noble, who was at the head of the delegation, and said, 'What's your hurry? Who started this riot anyway?'

"Mr. Noble replied, "Mr. Policeman, this is a bunch of prize winners from the farms and what are you going to do about

With the 1921 Club Tour now history and a new unknown and untested National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work officially formed, Guy Noble sat at his donated desk in the American Farm Bureau office during that cold month of January 1922; the task before him must have loomed large indeed. It was up to Noble to find the resources for the \$30,000 budget optimistically approved by the Committee's board and that was not easy in 1922. Nonetheless, contributions were secured that first year from Meredith Publishing Company, Wilson and Company, International Harvester Company, Montgomery Ward and the Chicago Board of Trade. To help make contacts, Meredith loaned Hopkins on a part-time basis and other committee members helped too. While the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work started a number of ventures that first year, the coordination of the Annual Club Tour during the International Live Stock Exposition was one of the major activities. During that first year, the fledgling National Committee came far from reaching the optimistic \$30,000 budget goal. The recession slowed industry's participation in philanthropy and Noble often drew from personal funds to pay the Committee bills. At the end of 1922 - the first full year of operation - the organization's bank balance stood at \$6.10.

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS - THE 1920S

1922

The year 1922 is unofficially considered the first National 4-H Club Congress, although it did not carry this name until 1923 - the second National 4-H Club Congress. It was 1922, however, that the event really came into its own as a major, recognized youth event of the 4-H movement. This was due to a number of innovations that year.

Through the efforts of Bernice Carter Davis, educational director of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company, the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work arranged earlier in 1922 for a series of regional canning contests; 10 finalists were to compete in a national contest at the 1922 Chicago Exposition. Two teams winning the national contests would tour France under sponsorship of the American Committee for Devastated Europe, one of a series of philanthropic efforts to help Europe recover from the ruin of the war. Anne Morgan, of New York and France, prominent on the American Committee for Devastated France, made the offer with a \$12,000 grant. Before proceeding, Noble contacted C. W. Pugsley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture seeking approval for the contest. Noble said, "our general plan is to arrange for elimination contests at the county, state and sectional fairs and to have the 10 winning teams from the

sectional expositions come to Chicago to compete for the national honors. Such a contest ought to stimulate wonderful interest not only in the canning clubs, but in all the girls homemaking clubs in the United States and it should call the attention of the entire country to the importance of this phase of extension work." USDA responded, seeing no objection to the plan.

The space for exhibits and canning demonstrations was in the northwest corner of the old International building, separated from the animals by a board partition. Teams trained by Josephine Arnquist and Maude Sheridan, then leaders in Iowa and Colorado, won the competition and during the following June and July, the winning Iowa and Colorado teams and their state leaders toured France giving canning demonstrations for eight weeks in the devastated regions of France and learning about French cuisine.



Bound for Europe! In 1923 the Iowa and Colorado canning teams won trips to Europe. In the group are Josephine Arnquist, Iowa girls' leader; Maude Sheridan, Colorado leader; and Secretary of Agriculture Henry C. Wallace. (from *The 4-H Story* by Reck)



Selected America's healthiest 4-H girl in 1922 was Marguerite Martin of Tyner, Tennessee. (from "From a Dream to Reality")

Another widely publicized event took place at the national gathering in Chicago. Earlier in 1922, the Iowa State Fair had chosen the state's healthiest boy and girl as a publicity stunt. Noble witnessed the selection and decided to hold a national contest. State leaders recommended the healthiest boy and girl from their delegation. Amid a great deal of fanfare, doctors probed the young people, and the nation's healthiest boy and girl were declared. Names and pictures of the winners made the pages of newspapers throughout the country. The idea of selecting the healthiest boy and girl was undoubtedly a bit of a sham, but it did publicize the work of the National Committee and the serious intent of club projects to encourage health programs in rural America. (The health scoring was done behind screens at the end of the cattle barn under the direction of the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund.)

Montgomery Ward, in 1922, was the first company to sponsor educational awards on a national scale, the large portion of which consisted of trips to the National 4-H Club Congress for winners in Home Economics. This set the pattern for other donors to follow.

1923

The success of the previous two years - 1921 and 1922 - indicated that there would be even more young people in Chicago in 1923 and that space would be a problem for newly initiated contest events. In September, Noble decided to make a trip down to the Stockyards to visit A. G. Leonard, president of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company, about providing more space for displaying club exhibits and holding the contests. Noble was not sure what kind of a response he would get. Leonard sat quietly listening to Noble's plea... and, then responded beyond Noble's wildest hope. After hearing him out, Leonard asked Noble to get his hat, then ushered him over to Dexter Park Avenue, pointed to a huge 2-story structure - a building the Stock Yards had just renovated - and asked, "Now how do you want it arranged inside?"

It was the new Boys and Girls Club Building, all arranged as a surprise. The extra space came just soon enough with nearly 1,800 young people and their leaders arriving in just three months. Noble then enlisted the aid of Iowa Assistant Extension Director Paul Taff in organizing the Congress; Taff's association with the Congress continued for over 50 years.

It was in late 1922 that Noble went to a 4-H livestock show in Nashville, Tennessee, and visited there with G. L. Herrington, the state club leader from Tennessee. Talking about the Chicago Tours, Herrington asked why it didn't have a name other than that. He felt it merited something better. Between them they hit on an idea, so when the premium list was prepared for the 1923 show it was called Second Annual National Boys and Girls Club Congress. The "second" was to recognize that there had been previous events, and in small type underneath were the words "and fifth annual tour."

When the young people arrived that December of 1923 it was like a deluge. With leaders, there were nearly 1,800 present. They filled the short avenue completely, and stood in front of the new building while it was dedicated to the 4-H Clubs by Barney Heide, manager of the stock show.

1923 was the year of deluge. With more businesses giving prize trips than ever before, the event was growing faster than it could be managed. Noble's secretary recalled trotting along beside him, taking dictation as he marched down Michigan Avenue at the head of a battalion of youngsters.

The climax came during the annual banquet. E. T. Meredith and Horace A. Moses were there to speak as was O. E. Bradfute, then president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Walter W. Head, president of the American Bankers Association. The delegates started arriving, the boys and girls trooped into the largest banquet hall available in the city of Chicago at the Hotel Morrison, over-flowed the hall, stood in line up the stairway, through the lobby and onto the street outside the hotel. Since enough facilities were not available, many were turned away. The number of young men and women attending the 1923 Congress simply overwhelmed the organization. Planning was under the direction of a committee of state leaders, including Paul Taff of Iowa and Ray Turner of Michigan, along with Gertrude Warren and George Farrell from the Washington office. Even with the help of state and federal officials the committee was swamped. Reviewing the endless lines of young people, some of whom were unsuccessful in gaining entry to the final banquet, the organizers decided to limit the number of participants. In those days the committee had no advance notice of how many the States were to bring, and less staff to check how many actually arrived. After 1923 each state was allowed to send no more than 50 participants and had to notify the committee of the exact size of its delegation. This resulted in a more manageable size the following year.

1924

Another major "tradition" of Club Congress began in 1924. In the fall of that year M. S. Parkhurst of the Stock Yard Co. suggested a parade of 4-H boys and girls in the arena of the International Live Stock Exposition as part of one of the evening shows. The success of this event can be read in a later segment of this Congress history under the title: New Club Greeting Song and a Night to Remember, and can also be found in the National 4-H Promotion Compendium on the history website.

Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois talked to the group in 1924 at the International Harvester luncheon, introduced by Cyrus McCormick, Jr., then vice president of the company. Among things Governor Lowden said, "I think this is the most helpful movement in these modern times. You have the power within you to transform the agriculture of America."

The 1924 Club Congress witnessed the first "style" show, as it was called. Maude E. Wallace, then in charge of 4-H girls work in North Carolina (and later Home Demonstration leader in Virginia), was in charge. The girls modeled on the marble steps leading to the balcony in the ballroom of the Drake Hotel. Geneva Amundson, later an assistant State leader in Wisconsin, was named winner. Years later she made a facsimile of that first dress and appeared in the revue program again.

Some women leaders felt the style show event might be undignified, but it caught the public fancy and has been followed in every State and most of the counties.



Geneva Amundson of Galesville, Wisconsin, was winner of the first 4-H style show at the 1924 Club Congress. Her dress was navy blue pin-striped wool serge with red collar, cuffs, piping and buttons. Her hat was navy blue, trimmed with red.

Another significant trend of the period was the presentation of an award to the most outstanding boy or girl in the field of leadership. First winner of this trophy offered by H. A. Moses was H. Ford Mercer, a big lad from the Sooner State. His trophy was presented by Mr. Moses, who offered the cup over a period of 25 years. Ford Mercer became a spokesman for 4-H that following year, including a speech at the annual banquet of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

(Eventually the top two awards in leadership, achievement and citizenship became known as the Presidential winners, receiving silver trays given in the name of the President of the United States. A thorough history of the Presidential winners and these three program areas can be found in the history section ***National Presidential Winner***;

http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/National_Recognition/Presidential_Winners/

1925

By 1925 and 1926 the categories of junior exhibits had been broadened, even including potatoes, cotton and children's garments.



Congress Attracts Delegates from entire Continent
(from November 1925 National Boys and Girls Club News)

"The Fourth National Boys and Girls Club Congress and the seventh annual reunion of the 4-H Club family will occur November 27-December 4. If the number of inquiries, requests, telegrams and telephone calls coming into the office of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work at this early date is an indication, the Club Congress is destined to be a more impressive event than ever. Twelve hundred rollicking, happy and enthusiastic club winners and leaders are already registered.

"Only the livestock judging teams and the exhibitors of baby beeves will start the Congress on the 27th, on which day will occur the non-collegiate livestock judging contest. It is expected that a larger number of states will be entered this year than in 1924. One hundred and five head of baby beeves are entered in the junior feeding contest - quite an increase over 1924. They will be shown November 28 and sold at a special auction on Friday, December 4th. This will be the last of the special auctions which have been held throughout the autumn and which have already brought club members around \$110,000.

"In addition to the exhibits, demonstrations and a visit to the world's greatest live stock show itself, a magnificent educational and entertainment program is prepared for the benefit of these young victors of the soil. Everything in Chicago that is worth while seeing or listening to, that can be crowded into five short days will be presented. On Sunday evening, November 29th, a special religious service will be held peculiar to the needs of 4-H Club members and the 4-H movement. Monday will be given over to the International Live Stock Exposition and to a number of the competitive contests and that evening Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, is to be the host, following his custom of providing a "Thomas E. Wilson Day" banquet and entertainment for the entire group.

"Space does not permit a description of every feature of the program. Suffice it to say, among the numerous places to be visited are the packing plants, the stockyards, the Field Museum of Natural History, Lincoln Park, the Art Institute, the Furniture Mart, large food establishments, farm machinery and supply manufacturing plants, large mercantile establishments and many others.

"Such eminent and well-known men as O. E. Bradfute, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work; L. J. Taber, president of the National Grange; Fred W. Sargent, president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, and others including possibly women of national repute will address the young blue-bloods who represent 600,000 club members, the best of the eleven million boys and girls on the farms of the United States. The programs at the various centers of art and industry which the boys and girls will visit are to be demonstrational in character.

"During the week at least four banquets, three luncheons and two breakfasts will be provided by donors who are interested in the welfare of this group of young people. If anyone believes that the club members do not enjoy these festivals they should drop in on one of these occasions and witness the rapidity with which the foodstuffs disappear amidst the songs and yells of the various state delegations.

"The week of the Club Congress is a great week for club work. During this week of the victors to the agricultural capital of the world, the value of club work is portrayed in the exhibits and its character, health and social influences are extended."



The first three to win the Moses 4-H Leadership Trophy contest. *Left to Right* - Ford Mercer and Frances Smith of Oklahoma and Kenneth Hinshaw of Washington. Ford and Frances later became Mr. and Mrs. Mercer.

While Ford Mercer of Oklahoma was the first Moses trophy winner in leadership in 1924, Oklahoma won the top honor again in 1925... but it took a girl to win it this time - 18-year-old Frances Smith of Blaine County. When Frances first wished to enter club work there was no home demonstration agent in the county and she decided to compete with the boys in their own field. In poultry work, growing pigs, potatoes, corn and sweet potatoes, she helped arouse a keen spirit of rivalry among the boys and proved more than a match among her competitors on many occasions. Her interest in improved poultry led her to build up a flock that won prizes in county and state fair contests each year. She bought the first purebred pigs into her community and was the means of placing improved stock on a number of neighboring farms.

After home demonstration work was introduced in Blaine County, Frances enrolled for sewing, canning, food preparation, and home improvement activities in which she has done outstanding work. Frances has made 278 exhibits from her club enterprises, winning 132 first prizes. Apparently Ford Mercer was impressed by Frances' accomplishments, as well. History shows that later on the two of them were married.

The healthiest boy and healthiest girl at the 1925 National Congress were George Cuskaden, a 14-year-old Indiana farm boy, and Alice Burkhardt, of Audubon County, Iowa. Eliminating physical examinations were conducted by the staff physicians of the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund. State health champions only were eligible to compete in the national event.

Here are some of the facts about the health champions from over 90 years ago:

George Cuskaden was found to have the highest score, 97.7 percent. Deductions were made for filled teeth and an almost imperceptible tendency toward flat footedness. He has never touched coffee or tea in his life, preferring cocoa or straight milk as a beverage. He eats fruits every day of the year, apples being his mainstay. Since he was a wee tot his hours of sleep have been as regular as the sun, 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. in the winter and 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. in summer. He helps his father run a 200-acre farm near St. Paul, Indiana. Last summer his club pig took first prize at both the county and state fairs. "Regular hours, mother's cooking, meat two or three meals a day, milk and fresh vegetables all the year round, plenty of work and plenty of play" are the reasons George Cuskaden gives for his remarkable physical condition. With the exception of the flu, several years ago the boy has never been sick in his life. He is five feet, five inches tall and weighs 155 pounds.

Alice Burkhardt tells a very similar story. With more emphasis on the use of cereals for breakfast and a scientific balanced ration conducted by her mother, her diet has been much the same as George's. She is five feet four inches tall and weighs 131 pounds. Her score was 95.7 percent, deductions being made because of a slight cold contracted after arriving in Chicago, and because of slightly faulty teeth and insufficient muscular development in the arms. Alice is living

on the farm where she was born and where her mother is rearing a brood of six children of which Alice is the fifth. She suffered from measles and other children's diseases when she was smaller, but there was no later effect from these ailments. Her hours of rest too have been as regular as George's but she has been allowed more sleep, from 9 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. For exercise she walks four miles a day to school where she is a junior in high school. She washes dishes, rides horseback, plays basketball and tennis and is a member of the physical training class at high school.

In an article in the December issue of the *National Boys and Girls Club News* entitled "Club Congress Thrills - Fourth National Event Declared to be Best Ever," Paul C. Taff, Assistant Director, Extension Service, Iowa State College reports:

"It was a tiring but happy and enthusiastic group of 1,016 boys and girls and 221 leaders who closed the Fourth National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago last week. This great crowd of trip winners came expecting a big time and they were not disappointed. They came from 43 states and Canada and were as fine a lot of champions as ever gathered anywhere. More than one-half of the delegates were real state champions while the rest were district and county winners, the latter group being mostly sent by various railroads. Most of the delegates arrived Sunday, November 29, and found the program well arranged starting with church services that day and evening. This was also registration day at the La Salle and Congress Hotels.

"On Monday the program of trips got under way. Two battalions led by W. H. Palmer, State Club Leader of Ohio, and Wakelin McNeel, Assistant Club Leader of Wisconsin, as majors, were formed and marched to special elevated trains furnished through the courtesy of the Chicago Elevated Lines. The party was taken directly to the International Live Stock Exposition where they were welcomed by General Manager B. H. Heide. From then on through the rest of the day the buildings and exhibits were eagerly studied by the visitors. A parade of all the delegates was held in the arena in the evening which was a most impressive feature. The other days of the week were spent in sightseeing in and about Chicago.

"Space does not permit a recount of the many fine trips and entertainments given these winners. At nearly every meal (including breakfast on two mornings) they were entertained by someone and between times were treated to trips and sights which will leave a lasting and good impression on every boy and girl.

"As years pass on and Chicago plays host to the club congress, it is very noticeable that 4-H club work is becoming better understood and is being appreciated for its value to the rural young people. This year every individual and organization which came in contact with these winners gave their accomplishments and those of 4-H club work the highest possible praise.

"Mention should also be made of the exhibits, contests and demonstrations held during the week. The Club Building at the International Live Stock Exposition was a great attraction and was filled with fine and attractively arranged examples of club members' achievements.

"Every delegate and leader at this club congress left Chicago feeling a great debt of gratitude to the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work for the carefully planned and elaborate program provided for the week. A Committee of State Leaders assisted in planning the week's events but the National Committee, through its secretary, G. L. Noble, was largely responsible for carrying out the Congress.

"The club leaders, upon whom fall a large share of the task of developing club work through the year, feel that the Club Congress is a great event for them. It is the only opportunity they now have to come together for an exchange of ideas and to gather enthusiasm for the year ahead."

During 1925 a committee of three appointed by the extension directors made a survey of the Club Congress. In addition to being personally present throughout the week, the Committee secured data from Directors of Extension, the boys and girls themselves and from their parents. A summary of replies received from each of these three groups follows:

Replies from Directors of Extension:

- Does the Club Program at the National Club Congress help extension work in your state? (35 yes; 8 no)
Designate how it helps:
 - a. Increases enrollment (18 yes; 4 no; 1 doubtful)
 - b. Obtains better demonstration work (16 yes; 5 no; 1 doubtful)
 - c. More accurate reports (15 yes; 5 no; 1 doubtful)
 - d. Better spread of influence (20 yes; 4 no; 1 doubtful)
 - e. Additional worthwhile publicity (33 yes; none no)

- Does selection of national champions and champion teams help club work? (22 yes; 18 no)
What is effect on former club members
 - a. Increased prestige (37 yes; 2 no; 1 doubtful)
 - b. Willing to serve as local leaders (34 yes; 3 no; 2 doubtful)
 - c. Increased interest in farm life (20 yes; 9 no; 4 doubtful)
 - Have former trip winners continued in club work? (36 yes; none no)
- Replies from Club Members:
Will club members continue in club work after Chicago trip? (468 yes; 23 no)
Do club members who go to Chicago desire to work as local leaders? (461 yes; 25 no)
Does the trip to Chicago interest the young people in becoming stock raisers? (307 yes; 30 no)
Does the trip interest the young people in farm life? (403 yes; 2 no; 1 doubtful)
- Replies from Parents:
Do parents approve of the trip? (525 yes; 1 no)
Do parents believe that the Chicago trip helps extension work in the county? (364 yes; 3 no; 3 doubtful)

End of survey results.

In January 1926, Thomas E. Wilson, Chairman, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, received the following letter from the County School Superintendent in Jackson County Schools relating to the 1925 Club Congress:

"Dear Mr. Wilson:

"As a County Superintendent of Schools in Oregon, I want to tell you that your interest in Boys and Girls Club work has meant a great deal to one of our club members, Adena Joy, of Ashland, Oregon.

"Such a trip as that from southern Oregon to Chicago, together with the intensive visiting of business houses and factories in Chicago, is a piece of education so liberal as to equal a considerable period of months in school. In fact, it cannot be equaled by mere schooling. The social side, too, through luncheons and dinners where men of the large Chicago business world were present, held full value for all club boys and girls.

"Our Adena, though only thirteen years along the road, has a good background of training to observe, and is quite a thinker. She has already reported her trip to the student body of Ashland High School, over 300 boys and girls; and she is ready to give the benefit of her experience back into club work groups in any way that opens. The diary of her trip is very precious to her, and I can see where it may prove a valuable friend to her as she goes on through high school. In fact, I cannot see a stopping point for the influence outflowing from the trip given to this Jackson County girl. And the influence is really multiplied, as many times as there were boys and girls involved through your interest and support.

"It seems to me that you have something to be glad about - this going into the ambitious young lives that are coming along in the nation's ranks.

Most sincerely yours,
Suzanne Homes Carter, County School Superintendent

1926

The 1926 National 4-H Club Congress saw delegates from 41 States, Canada and Hawaii in attendance. These prize winners, in addition to competing for national honors by means of exhibits and judging contests were royally entertained by Chicago interests. Among the outstanding exhibits housed in the club building at the International Live Stock Exposition and nearby buildings were baby beeves, swine, sheep, corn, cotton, potatoes, club girls' outfits, children's

clothing, preserved food and home improvement. The demonstration contests, style show, health scoring and rural community leadership were features which commanded national and even international attention.

Entertainment for the week included four banquets provided by Thomas E. Wilson, the club members themselves, the National Live Stock Producers Association and the railroads; three luncheons provided by the Chicago Live Stock Exchange, the Corn Products Refining Company, the Furniture Mart and International Harvester Company; and, two breakfasts provided by Armour & Company, Swift & Company and Montgomery Ward & Company.

Among those who have been helpful through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in making it possible for these young people to attend the National Congress by means of offering educational trips are: Armour & Company, The Cudahy Packing Company, Montgomery Ward & Company, Wilson & Company, the Chicago Union Stock Yards, Russell Miller Milling Company, and the following railroads: Chicago Great Western; Chicago-Northwestern; Illinois Central; Santa Fe; Rock Island; Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Omaha; Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul; Baltimore and Ohio; and Southern Pacific. Reduced fares on the certificate plan have been granted and apply for every part of the United States as well as eastern Canada.

The 1926 Congress Program is shown below in detail. This is the earliest record of the complete program with this much detail:

Friday, November 26th	Non-collegiate livestock judging contest. Dinner at Saddle & Sirloin Club to coaches and winning teams by courtesy of International Live Stock Exposition.
Saturday, November 27th	Special tour of cold storage warehouse for benefit of livestock judging teams and other members arriving early. Junior livestock feeding contest. International Amphitheatre
Sunday, November 28th	Go to suitable place for morning service, Registration day. Special service in evening at Second Presbyterian Church. Leaders' evening meeting at Palmer House.
Monday, November 29th	International Live Stock Show Day. Go on special trains to Exposition grounds. Health contest. Educational trips to various departments of International. Demonstrations by state champion teams. Home economics judging contests. Luncheon and annual meeting of National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Thomas E. Wilson entertainment and dinner. Parade in International Amphitheatre.
Tuesday, November 30th	Packing House and Stock Yards Day. Women leaders breakfast. Breakfast to delegates by courtesy of Armour and Swift. Educational tour through packing plants. Meeting of state club leaders, followed by luncheon, courtesy National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Luncheon to delegates by courtesy of Chicago Live Stock Exchange. Special trips to Field Museum, Marshall Fields and Art Institute. Club members' own grand rally and banquet at Sherman Hotel. Talks by nationally prominent citizens.
Wednesday, December 1st	Division Day. Boys take special train provided by Chicago & Alton Railroad to the plant of Corn Products Refining Company. Trip through plant with guides. Girls breakfast with Montgomery Ward, later visit plant of North Western Yeast Company and Furniture Mart building. All groups go to Lincoln Park in afternoon. Banquet in evening for entire delegation at Congress Hotel by courtesy of National Live Stock Producers Association. Special party for state leaders by courtesy of National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.
Thursday, December 2nd	Grand Finale Day. Special transportation to plant of International Harvester Company followed by trips, luncheon and entertainment by courtesy of International Harvester officials. Special tours to two motion picture theaters, courtesy of Balaban & Katz Corporation. Final banquet in evening at La Salle Hotel by courtesy of railroads. Addresses by a railroad president and Edgar Guest, a popular poet in the early to mid-1900's, known as the People's poet. Formal distribution of all prizes and awards.
Friday, December 3rd	Visit to Field Museum, Art Institute and other places of interest for those not previously in attendance. Special noon luncheon for Illinois group given by courtesy of Illinois Relations Committee.
End of 1926 Congress program.	



One of the grandest events in all club work - the annual banquet of the National 4-H Club Congress. This shows the 1926 banquet.
From *The 4-H Story* by Hinshaw

1927

In 1927 the demonstration team contests were discontinued, however several more classes were added to the displays area, including canned goods and window displays. The 1928 Annual Report of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work estimated that Club Congress costs in the neighborhood of \$100,000 annually. The report also mentions one of the most significant indirect results of National 4-H Congress in Chicago is the complete harmony between agriculture and industry during the past four years. "Our work has been responsible for at least a part of this mutual friendly feeling," the report says.

Among some of the new features included in the educational program in 1927 was a music appreciation contest under the direction of Miss Fannie Buchanan of the Victor Talking Machine Company; group games led by John Martin of the Play Ground and Recreation Association of America and a horse show matinee as special guests of the International Live Stock Exposition. Also new, was a barbecue luncheon at the International Live Stock Show on Monday courtesy of Sears Roebuck & Co. Three of the nationally known speakers or entertainers on the program in 1927 include Mary Hastings Bradley, author and woman explorer of Africa, Edmund Vance Cooke, noted poet for young folks, and J. C. Penney, well known business man of New York, talking about boys and girls and how to be even more successful.

Helen Stevens Fisher's article in the December 1927 issue of National Boys and Girls News does a good job of capturing the spirit of the 1927 event:

"The Sixth National Boys and Girls Club Congress is over. It goes down in history as the most successful, most glorious 4-H Club gathering in 4-H Club history. It is a definite current example of the way in which club folk live up to their ideal of MAKING THE BEST BETTER. For unquestionably this Congress far exceeded that of last year - the best then.

"Exhibits this year were better, club work this year was better, club records were better - and club members and club spirit? Well, we won't say that they CAN be bettered, but the work they do is decidedly better. Boys and girls this year - 1,215 of them (including leaders) - swarmed in from 43 states of the United States. Some traveled two, three, even four days to get here. Iowa sent the largest delegation - 140 - while New Mexico contributed the smallest number - one girl, Thelma Wooten, who won the Montgomery Ward trip for outstanding work in the home economics projects. William J. Loeper coming from Valleyford, Washington, traveled the greatest distance.

"An international aspect was given the world Congress by a delegation of 38 champion boys and girls from Ontario, Canada, each Canadian being as enthusiastic over club work as any of her United States sisters.

"A group of 1,215 is not small even in Chicago, and as the corn huskers from Nebraska, the cowboys from Idaho and Arizona, the cornfeds from Iowa, the cowpunchers with their 10-gallon hats from Texas, the Quakers from Pennsylvania cavorted through the Loop singing "We're from Iowa," "Oklahoma is the grandest of the grand," "K-K-K-A-N-S-S-A-S" is here, there were plenty of Chicago bred onlookers lined up with drooping jaws and saucer-like eyes to witness the spectacle.

"To give you on paper the real 4-H atmosphere and spirit which bubbled and effervesced everywhere that week is impossible. You can only get that by attending and absorbing it first hand. I can give you only a cold recital of facts.

"4-H Club members were guests of the city. Transportation facilities were donated; theatres opened their doors invitingly to the visitors; business organizations breakfasted, banqueted, luncheon, and entertained them; the doors of the Art Institute and the Field Museum were opened wide to receive them. And what a time they had! Never were guests treated more cordially.

"Parts of two of the banquets were broadcasted - the club members' own banquet on Tuesday night over WLS, and the banquet given by the railroads on Thursday night over WMAQ. These programs went throughout the United States. And what a deluge of enthusiastic letters the stations have received from interested listeners in practically every state - persons who, though hundreds of miles away - wanted to be a part of the great gathering here.

"An account of the Congress is not complete without a word about the spectacular parade at the horse show when the delegates, wearing costumes which symbolized their states, marched into the big horse show arena on the International Live Stock Exposition grounds, waving banners, singing state songs, and giving state yells. It was one of the most unique, inspirational parades ever staged.

"Nor could we fail to mention the impressive scene around the picturesque camp fire in the La Salle Hotel at the club members' party, when 1,200 boys and girls, bubbling over with fun, sat absolutely quiet, almost reverent, listening to the bugling of 'taps'.

"The big thrill of the Congress came at the club members' own banquet, when Marie Antrim of Kansas and Fred Christensen of Iowa were announced the national health winners. Kansas and Iowa delegates nearly went wild. But when these two fine club members were introduced to the whole delegation, no one blamed the two states for being uproariously proud of their champions. The style show championship went to Olive Van Vuren of Wisconsin, who won the approval of the entire assembly with her smart street suit of blue poiret twille topped with a tan felt hat, all of her own making.

"The Club Congress was organized by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, of which G. L. Noble is Secretary. The Agricultural Colleges, the Department of Agriculture, the business interests of Chicago, and the farm organizations all contributed to the success of this great national event. Much credit is due Mr. T. T. Martin, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and all of the state leaders who manned the various departments."

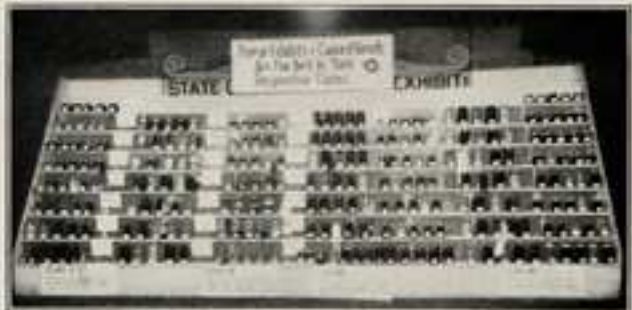
SCENES OF THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS



F. B. Heide, Manager of the International Live Stock Exposition welcoming a group of Club Congress delegates upon their arrival at the International Exposition.



The Hamilton County, Iowa, 4-H Band at attention in front of the 4-H Club Building.



A few 4-H Club Congress Exhibits in the Boys and Girls Club Building. Left above, 4-H clothing and potato exhibits. Right above, 4-H canned goods exhibit. Above, 4-H home improvement exhibits.

1928

The National 4-H Congress of 1928, and again in 1929, were conducted with an unusual degree of success and were more extensive than any previous event. New exhibits and contests included a national poultry judging contest, crops judging contest, meat judging contest, garden contest, canning contest; an egg show and sweet potato show. There was a considerable increase in the number of entries in exhibit classes which had been established for several years.

The December 1928 issue of the *National Boys and Girls Club News* carries a front page feature article on the Seventh National 4-H Club Congress by Georgene Mary Brameld:

"The gay 1200 of 4-H fame who frolicked through Chicago's wonderland during the seventh National Club Congress departed for their home states in a cloud of glory. Yes, they were a bit tired, those youthful farmers, but it was an exultant tiredness gained through a full week of glorious entertainment, exciting trips, and rollicking jamborees.

"On December 3, the week's events were set into motion when the entire 4-H assembly gathered before the Boys and Girls Club Building at the stockyards and were officially welcomed as guests of the International Live Stock Exposition by B. H. Heide, the general manager of that institution. During his address, Mr. Heide urged that 4-H boys and girls adopt 'service' as one of their mottos.

"Like every other outstanding event, the Congress had its red letter days which stood out alluringly on the week's crowded calendar of things to do and places to go. Of special interest to livestock devotees were the myriad of paths which led through the exhibition building where trim Angus, stocky Hereford, and massive Shorthorn vied for outstanding beef honors; where pigs of many breeds, the nation's best, dozed peacefully, regardless of the admiring glances cast in their direction; and where wooly sheep poked friendly, inquisitive noses through the wire to be betted. What an inspiration the International proved to be for the aspiring 4-H'ers! Then there was the Thos. E. Wilson banquet and entertainment on Monday evening - one of the highlights of the week. The boys and girls evidently appreciate Mr. Wilson as much as he appreciates them and their achievements.

"Rating high in interest, according to the many comments made by the delegates were the visits to the massive Armour and Swift packing plants, where, step by step, from butcher to final shipper, the boys and girls watched the processing of the meat that serves the nation.

"Of course there were banquets! And dearest to the hearts of the 4-H trip winners was their own banquet which occurred in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Sherman. The principal entertainment, which was the last word in variety and interest, consisted of state songs which were sung by the representative groups; a real, sure 'nough style show in which 4-H girls showed off the dainty costumes that they had planned and made as club projects; the 4-H Glee club caroled gaily, bringing forth burst after burst of applause from an admiring audience; and a Pullman porter's quartet sang quaint negro melodies.

"The big thrill of the evening occurred when E. I. Pilchard, specialist in junior club work, Illinois, announced that Thelma Svarstad, Brown County, South Dakota, and William Tobias, Saginaw County, Michigan, had been chosen as the national health winners. Bursts of triumph arose from the South Dakota and Michigan groups as the clear-eyed boy and girl stepped smilingly forward to be acclaimed by their brother and sister club members. Marie Rochwite, St. Louis County, Missouri, was named as the national 4-H style show girl for 1928. Marie' charmingly designed wool georgette costume was planned and made entirely by herself.

"On December 6 the entire body of delegates paid a visit to the extensive plants of the International Harvester Company and champions and near champions sat down to luncheon with the company's executives. The large scale manufacture of farm machinery was a revelation to them.

"The grand finale to the week's events occurred when the 1200, with their leaders gathered together for the last time at the New Palmer House as the honored guests of the great railroads that had given many trips to the boys and girls. Officials from the following roads were present: Santa Fe; Chicago and Great Western; Rock Island; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; Chicago and Northwestern; Illinois Central; Baltimore and Ohio; New York Central; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy; Chicago River and Indiana; Pennsylvania, Wabash and Alton. The feature of the evening's entertainment was an illustrated lecture entitled 'In the Wilds of Far Away Lands,' which was delivered by George K. Cherrie, famous explorer who accompanied Teddy Roosevelt on his trips to Central and South America."



This building in the Union Stock Yards area served as the headquarters for 4-H Congress exhibits and activities of the International Live Stock Exposition and a background for photographs of state contest winners, such as these girls sponsored by Montgomery Ward & Co. in 1929.

Wrapping up the decade, by the time the Eighth Club Congress was held in Chicago in December 1929 it had become established as a goal many serious 4-H members had in their sights - a trip to National 4-H Club Congress.

Charles H. Stonberg's feature on the front page of the December 1929 *National Boys and Girls Club News* offers a slightly different twist on reporting the Club Congress than previous years, dwelling more heavily on the many different judging contests that take place during Congress week:

"The Eighth National Boys and Girls 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition, November 29-December 6, was the best and most enthusiastic reunion of the National 4-H Club family ever held since the first 4-H tour in Chicago was inaugurated in 1919.

"A total of 1,052 boys and girls, the 4-H champions of 44 states and Ontario, Canada, spent a busy and 'never-to-be-forgotten' week at the 4-H Congress, demonstrating to the public the value and soundness of the 4-H Club movement. They were accompanied by their state and county club leaders, making a total of 1,281 who attended the National 4-H Club Congresses.

"These rural champions were the official representatives of 750,000 fellow club members. They exhibited the handiwork of their projects in the arena of the International amphitheatre and in the Boys and Girls Club building on the Exposition grounds. National honors were at stake in competitive demonstration team and judging team contests, for leadership and project records. During the week educational trips were made through the Union Stock Yards, large packing and industrial plants, and many points of interest in and about Chicago were visited. The social part of the Club Congress program included a regular routine of luncheons, dinners and banquets as the guests of large agricultural and business interests.

"4-H Club work came in for its share of honor in the 'blue book of agriculture' written during the recent International. A 4-H Club member and a former 4-H Club member demonstrated to the world that the grand championship of the fat stock classes which was won the previous year by Clarence Goecke, 12-year-old

Iowa 4-H Club member, was not an accident. When the final honors of the Fat Stock Show were awarded, Elliott Brown, a former 4-H Club member of Rose Hill, Iowa, proudly led his grade Aberdeen-Angus calf from the ring to the throne as grand champion of the International. Elliott was one year too old to show in the 4-H Club classes again this year. He has been an active club member in Mahaska County for several years and last year exhibited the reserve champion of the Junior Feeding contest. To make their demonstration more conclusive, the reserve grand championship went to another Iowa boy, Waldo Mommson, of Miles, whose slick Angus calf had previously been declared the grand champion of the junior show...

"On the following Monday the visiting club delegates visited the International Live Stock Exposition. Here they had an opportunity to watch the judging of the world's finest collection of blooded livestock, to view them at first hand in the informality of their stalls, and to see the numerous educational exhibits in the class of the International Amphitheatre.

"One of the most impressive and colorful events of the entire 4-H Congress was the 4-H parade on Monday night in the International Amphitheatre arena. Led by the eight-horse team and wagon of the Chicago Union Stock Yards, 1,200 4-H Club members and their leaders circled the arena until it was a billowy maze of colors. The delegates marched in state groups and carried banners telling the world they were proud of 4-H Club work and giving facts as to what their achievements for the current year were. From the center of the arena George E. Farrell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, introduced the group of national champions who rode in the 'band wagon' with him.

"Among those introduced were: Lois Bailey, Eugene, Oregon, and Theodore R. Lorelnz, Hitchcock, Oklahoma, girl and boy winners in the national 4-H leadership contest, who were awarded the Moses Trophy; John C. Patrick, White Oak, South Carolina, and Helen Haldiman, Monroe, Wisconsin, boy and girl winners in the national project record contest, who were awarded the Lipton Trophy; the personnel of Oklahoma judging team, winners of the livestock judging contest; Evert Neal, Linn County, Iowa, high individual non-collegiate judging contest; personnel of winning teams and high individuals in home economics and grain judging contests, winners in sewing, canning and room improvement exhibits.

"Highlights for the remainder of the week were: The 4-H Club members' own annual banquet and rally; the 4-H party; announcement of Florence Smock, Lake County, Florida, and Harold Deatline, Morgan County, Indiana, as winners in the national health contest; the naming of Mary Jeannette Irwin and Nancy Grosholl, both of Petersburg, Illinois, as winners of the clothing demonstration team contest, sponsored by the Chicago Mail Order Company; Maurice Butler, Chatham, Illinois, won the title of Junior Corn King; Minnesota won the first poultry judging contest of the Club Congress; the naming of winners in the mat judging contest, and the naming of the three Style Show champions."

1929

There were a couple of new highlights to the 1929 Congress. The Chicago Mail Order Company offered a contest for state clothing demonstration teams with the winning team, along with their state club leader in charge of Girls Club Work and the County Home Demonstration Agent or local volunteer club leader, as chaperons, winning a trip to Paris and London including visits to the battlefields, Versailles, Fontainebleau, and Windsor Castle. Mary Jeannette Irwin and Nancy Grosholl, both of Petersburg, Illinois, won the contest and the trip.

Another new feature included radio station WLS, the Prairie Farmer station, and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) having a studio set up on the Exposition grounds and making daily broadcasts across the nation. For an hour each day - from 12 noon to 1 p.m., NBC featured 4-H work directly from the studio.

By the end of the decade Club Congress was well established as the premiere event to attend. However Extension leadership was not unanimous in this opinion... it wasn't until the 1950s that every state participated. Extension Director Warburton's office at USDA had heard opinions relating to Congress from several state Extension directors during the decade. Asst. Director C. E. Brehm of Tennessee stated "just why this self-appointed committee to foster and develop boys and girls club work has come into existence and what help they can render to further develop this work, I do not know and have never been able to figure out other than to provide entertainment for these boys and girls when they go to Chicago," while Thomas Cooper, Director of Extension in Kentucky wrote, "I do not believe that it would be out of the way to pretty well cut out the annual meeting of club members at Chicago."

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CONGRESS - THE 1930s

Many of the next years, during the 1930s, had a sameness about them. Club Congress was still very special, but many of the events, while well received, had become traditional. Yet, every year there seemed to be changes... new ideas tried, more donor support, special activities and programs.

1930

Paul Taff, assistant director of extension at Iowa State College, became general superintendent of the Club Congress in 1930. W. H. Palmer, Ohio state club leader, was in charge of the educational tours to points of interest in and about Chicago. Gus A. Thorpe, assistant state club leader in Michigan assisted Palmer in this area. W. C. Abbott, Louisiana state club leader and chairman of the executive committee of club leaders in charge of the Club Congress was superintendent of all 4-H exhibits and contests with the assistance of W. J. Wright, New York; E. I. Pilchard, Illinois; M. H. Coe, Kansas, Pauline Reynolds, North Dakota, Allegra Wilkins, Nebraska and Bess Fleming, Alabama. George Farley, Massachusetts state club leader, was in charge of the 4-H Club programs to be broadcast over radio stations and networks during the week of the Club Congress. Over the years, Extension 4-H staff at the state and federal levels became increasingly involved in the planning and conduct of the Club Congress. The National Committee staff certainly continued to do the bulk of the work throughout the year, but during all of the daily activities of the week of Congress, Extension played a major role.

One change occurred in 1930 when Harold Harper of Indiana became the first 4-H member to preside at a big banquet. Many others followed in his footsteps over the years... even that becoming a tradition.

Another highlight of 1930 happened during the Monday evening Thomas E. Wilson banquet when the delegates were personally addressed by radio by President Herbert Hoover from the White House. This program was carried by 100 stations on both national broadcasting chains.

Hoover's Message:

"I cordially congratulate the boys and girls of the 4-H Clubs whose outstanding club work in their communities has earned for them this trip to Chicago. It is not possible to greet you personally, but I am glad to send you this direct greeting by radio.

"The club work which you share with almost a million other boys and girls in 4-H Clubs in every part of the Nation is one of real accomplishment. You are the future leaders in the oldest art of organized human society - farming. In many ways it is the best of all callings. Your program and your future leadership is its great promise.

"I am especially interested in the newer part of your club work which is identified with the fourth H in your club name, the H that stands for health. The investigations made by the Conference on Child Health and Protection, recently held here in Washington, showed that one boy and girl in every four is enjoying less than the full measure of health which is the inherent right of every human being. Most of their physical deficiencies could be prevented or remedied or compensated for if knowledge of the best ways of everyday living was spread to every family, every school, and every community.

"You know from personal experiment how much more flourishing is that row of corn to which the results of scientific investigation have been applied through your industry and skill. Imagine how much more flourishing would be to 10 million young human beings if equal industry should apply equally exact scientific knowledge to making them as strong and vigorous and perfect as a prize-winning row of corn. Not only would the world be materially enriched by their greater possibilities of usefulness when they grow up, but much more important than that, their own lives would be enriched by untold additions of joy and happiness.

"Millions of these children waiting to be set free from physical disabilities are children of the farms. They must look in part to you for the way out of their difficulties for you are proving yourselves to be the men and women of tomorrow to whom your communities will look for leadership - and our Nation will succeed only with the widening vision of each new generation of leaders."

Following the Wilson banquet, as was now tradition, the Club Congress delegation staged their annual 4-H parade during the evening horse show of the International Live Stock Exposition. Led by the eight-horse team and wagon of the Union Stock Yards Company, they marched in state groups and carried banners telling of their accomplishments and

achievements during the past year. Riding in the wagon were the newly crowned national 4-H champions who were introduced by R. A. Turner of the United States Department of Agriculture.

1931

By 1931, according to the Annual Report of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, the total annual cost of conducting the Congress was \$125,000. The report went on to say, "The worth of the Congress speaks for itself. It is the annual show window of 4-H Clubdom. It sets new standards of achievement and serves to publicize widely the 4-H Club movement."



The exclusively 4-H club band of Hamilton County, Iowa - a big feature of the Club Congress for several years. From 1931 Annual Report, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

**WHEN CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY PAID HOMAGE
TO 4-H CLUB MEMBERS**



International Harvester Company Luncheon during 1931 National 4-H Club Congress at which \$50,000 in scholarships were awarded; equivalent to over \$700,000. in 2015 dollars. (from 1931 Annual Report, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work)

When the 11 scholarship winners pictured in the front row above came to the National 4-H Club Congress as delegates, none of them knew they were winners until their names were called at the luncheon. They were then invited to take seats up front. As was explained at the time, these 11 are representative of members in advanced 4-H Club work: (from left to right) Gordon M. Cairns, South Kortright, NY, started in dairy club work seven years ago and today has a herd of 60 purebred animals; Susan Lindsey, Jasper, GA, completed seven projects the past year and in one she canned 561 quarts of products; Leo Sorenson, Marinette, WI, is a champion potato grower and demonstrator; J. Edwin McColm, Emporia, KS, made 79 exhibits and won over \$115 in prizes the past year; Ralph Stevens, Williamsburg, IN, holds high records in corn and pig production; Gladden Skinner, Lafayette, IN, fed three baby beeves and cared for a flock of 35 sheep; Merle Oleson, Merville, IA, was a member of the county and state champion home economics team; E. C. Adams, Jr., Blue Springs, MO, holds many championships in dairy work and is building up a herd of high producers; Oliver E. Anderson, Hudson, SD, climaxed 9 years in club work by growing 90 acres of corn which out yielded any field in the community; Betty L. McDaniel, Sneads, FL, holds high records in home and health projects; and Donald Mitchell, Baton Rouge, LA, raised 42 pigs the past year and won first prize at the state fair on ton litter. It is interesting, also to point out, that in the second row, seated in the center, Cyrus H. McCormick, Chairman of the Board of International Harvester, Alexander Legge, President of the company, and to his right, Cyrus McCormick, Jr., Vice President.



Another fine product of 4-H Club work. Robert E. Curry, junior corn king of the 1931 International Livestock Exposition. The lad is from Tipton, Indiana, and is 10 years old.

During the International Harvester Luncheon at the Tenth National 4-H Congress in 1931, it was announced by Cyrus McCormick, Jr., Vice President, that International Harvester would make a gift of \$50,000, the largest ever made by a single organization to further the 4-H Club movement, in the form of 100 scholarships worth \$500 each during the coming year to most outstanding 4-H Club boys and girls in the United States and good in any agricultural college. The purpose of the award, according to Mr. McCormick, was two-fold - to commemorate the centennial of the invention by his grandfather, Cyrus Hall McCormick of the first successful grain reaper in 1831 and to contribute substantially to the onward march of scientific agriculture.

The scholarships were geographically distributed and a Committee of representative club leaders; the Chairman of the Directors' Committee on Organization and Policy and a representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, would meet in the offices of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work early the next month to set up the machinery to make it possible for the Extension Service to select the most worthy 100 contestants. It was announced in April of 1931 that the judging committee had been selected: Secretary of Agriculture Arthur M. Hyde would function as chairman, along with E. J. Bodman, senior vice president of the Union Trust Company, Little Rock, Arkansas; Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, Nebraska; Frederick E. Murphy, publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Melvin A. Traylor, president of the First National Bank of Chicago, Illinois. The judging committee planned to meet in Chicago in November to select the 100 scholarship winners.



Encouragement to farm girls to become adept in canning fruits and food is given by the Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation through special prizes. Shown here in Kerr's Congress exhibit is 1931 National Scholarship winner, Pearl White of Chickasha, Oklahoma with the State Club Leader, B. A. Pratt.



They learned to make these pretty and inexpensive dresses through club work, just as thousands of other 4-H girls are doing, and making their worlds a happier, better place to live in. Each of the above was winner in her class at the 1931 National 4-H Club Congress. Left to right: Helen Louise Thomas, Amesville, Ohio, in her semi-tailored silk dress; Annette Yonkelowitz, Hoopeston, Illinois, showing a tailored wool dress; Louise Morgan, Buchanan, Georgia, with cotton school dress; and Mary Marley, Ashland, Massachusetts, in informal party dress. Miss Yonkelowitz was named national champion. Her complete outfit cost \$24.90. Each girl will receive an educational trip with chaperon in July, 1932, to the Shrines of American history which is provided by the Chicago Mail Order Company.



These radiant-faced 1931 state health champions were designated the top of the healthiest boy and girl contest at National 4-H Club Congress. Standing, left to right: Tom A. Jones, Washington, health score 98.8 percent; Willard Russell, Nebraska, 98.9; Judith Trath, Louisiana, 98.7; Hilda Hall, Florida, 98.8; William Saunders, Indiana, 99.1 (National Boy Champion); Kenneth Seely, Iowa, 99; Charles L. Gates, Missouri, 98.85. Seated: Nelle Moore, Alabama, 98.9; Ernestine Watson, Indiana, 98.65; Martha Ann Isaacs, Iowa, 99.4; Gertrude Heikes, Nebraska, 99.9 (National Girl Champion); Ardis Prouty, South Dakota, 98.9; Lura E. Rich, New York, 98.55

A new corporate donor in 1931 was Parker Pen Company, offering college scholarships in the project area of farm management and farm record keeping. Some 322 trips were offered by three railroads in 1931 - Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; Chicago and Northwestern; and Illinois Central Railroads.

1932

An entirely new feature of the 4-H Club Congress in 1932 was a National 4-H Theater Party held at the Auditorium Theater, one of the most beautiful show houses in America, at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening with 4-H Club members putting on the entire program. Several hundred prominent Chicagoans were invited and tickets offered to the general public to help defray the expense.

The December 1932 issue of *National Boys and Girls Club News* does a good job of covering the Theater Party program:

George Farley Makes Great Curtain Speech

"The National 4-H Theater Party, an innovation of the Club Congress, was a tremendous success. George Farley (State 4-H leader Massachusetts) opened it with as pretty a curtain speech as ever charmed an Auditorium Theater audience. All dressed up in tux he stepped impressively from a wing and had the throng's attention.

"In classic sentences spoken with the eloquence and sincerity of a William Hedge, the normally plain down easterner said it was the purpose of the entertainment to give a broad view of how the 4-H work is done and what its main objectives are. He asked the audience not to expect a finished performance, but rather one in which the players acted naturally. They did, and it made the show great.

"In a brief interval the curtain rose and there was spread across the great stage the different units in the organization of 4-H work. It was the organization on parade. A big spot light played upon the left side showing a local club meeting in session. Next it hesitated at county and state units, ending with the National Committee's board of strategy and representatives of the Department of Agriculture, explanations being spoken in the meantime by a club member.

"Ten episodes followed - We Work, We Play, We Learn and Earn, We Serve, We Grow, We Appreciate, We Achieve, We Live. Nearly 100 club members and a number of leaders took part in the various episodes. The demonstration of two boys from Knox County, Indiana, in loading properly a car of apples and peaches in which they used a miniature car and baskets was beautifully done. The demonstration of two Clayton County, Iowa, girls in showing the dressing of a baby in the old days and now was one of the finest acts in the show, humorous and instructive. The girls were true artists in handling the little garments and fitting them, and their movements were followed intently.

"Only one other episode matched this for fine acting. It was the minuet done by four girls in colonial costumes from Grinnell, Iowa. Their work was professional so far as the audience could see. (And some of the girls had been husking corn.) Evidence of the quality of their work was the sympathetic interest it elicited from the orchestra leader, James Kozak.

"The show made a powerful impression on Chicago people, as attested by letters to the National Committee. It was an enormous task to stage in so short a time and called for no small sacrifices by club members and Mrs. Bakke, the chairman, Miss Fannie Buchanan, Mr. Farley and the others whose courageous, adventurous spirits the enterprise challenged. Mr. Noble, who organized the show, but denies any credit, declares that its successful outcome demonstrates the extraordinary talent in 4-H leadership."

One side note to the above Auditorium Theatre presentation was recalled years later by Mr. Noble. "A select group of members of the National Committee were to play a small part in the production. In the group were Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Dynes, Mrs. Chas. Walgreen (wife of the founder of Walgreen Drug Stores), Guy Noble and Alexander Legge's secretary. We left our box and upon arrival on the stage found that everybody was nicely "made up" for the affair. We looked like palefaces. Mrs. Walgreen, however, was resourceful. Pulling lipstick and powderpuff from her purse, we soon appeared to be as presentable as any in the group, and the affair went off without a hitch."

Another 4-H-related promotion feat - probably starting before 1932 - but specifically documented in an article in the December 1932 *National Boys and Girls News* relates to the Chicago hype of restaurants offering 4-H raised beef!

"Thick juicy steaks and luscious cuts of roast beef from 4-H steers bought at the International Live Stock Exposition are being served this holiday season in leading hotels and restaurants of Chicago. Enlarged photographs of the steers with the club owner or the manager of the hotel holding them have been displayed in their lobbies. Menus are featuring the 4-H beef. It will grace the tables of many Christmas and New Year's dinner

parties.

"Hotel Shoreland will serve a special New Year's dinner of 4-H beef with Yorkshire pudding. This hotel got the white Shorthorn shown by Lester Reed, Bellevue, Iowa, for a dime a pound. Fred S. Wolffs, president of the New York Packing and Provision Company, bought 4-H steers for several hotels, including the grand champion, which was the black bodied whiteface shown by Kenneth Zink of Verona, Wisconsin. This went to the Knickerbocker Hotel for 25 cents a pound. Steaks will be served from this bullock at \$3 per plate. Mr. Wolffs arranged an exhibit of the carcasses of the steers on a motor truck with appropriate signs and paraded it through Chicago's busy downtown Loop. He has created a good demand for these beeves among high class establishments. Mr. Wolffs also bought the champion Shorthorn steer shown by Russell Kern of Springfield, Illinois, for the Hotel Bismark for 16 cents a pound. Harding's restaurants got the seventh place Angus calf shown by Raus Brown of Aledo, Illinois, for 14 cents. Lawrence Morgan's first prize Angus, which was champion in the open class, went to the La Salle Hotel at 12 cents. Of the 340 shown in the three breeds, 294 were sold at an average price of \$8.78. They averaged 995 pounds and brought a gross of \$25,672.40. The 46 unsold were retained by their owners to show later or for other purposes."

Media coverage was a growing area with each passing Club Congress. One of the most dramatic stories of the 1932 National Club Congress is how a word and film picture of the show was broadcast all over the continent through the newspapers, the press associations, photographic and news syndicates, private publicizing agencies, radio, and news reel releases. Operations of these agencies covered a period of about three weeks, the time during which the Club Congress was for them live news. Telling the story does not end there, however, because for weeks afterwards feature stories of the Congress appeared in periodicals and Sunday newspaper editions. And for weeks preceding the Congress, newspapers, farm and other periodicals carried releases announcing it. These emanated from the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, the International Live Stock Exposition, the press associations, syndicates, and other interests. The Chicago Association of Commerce magazine carried a double spread illustrated story by Howard R. Smith. The Hearst newspapers gave the Congress right of way. Arthur Brisbane, chief editorial writer, spent a day at the show and wrote a page one column editorial on it in the Sunday Herald and Examiner. The Chicago Daily News printed one of the best editorials on 4-H work and its objectives ever seen in a metropolitan daily. The Chicago Drivers Journal, as usual, gave the Congress events liberal treatment. Likewise the Journal of Commerce, Chicago's financial daily. The Christian Science Monitor, New York Times, Minneapolis Tribune, Des Moines Register and Kansas City Star all had features.

DRAFT

The news reel companies concentrated on the health champions, and an experience the pair will never forget was the afternoon they spent with photographers and feature writers in the ninth floor banquet hall of the Auditorium Hotel. When the still cameramen and reporters had finished, the pair lent themselves to the movie boys. For more than an hour they faced the cameras and dazzling lights of four companies, saying their impromptu pieces into the microphones. Each cameraman wanted a different pose, and a different little speech. Ross and Dorothy, the two health champions, showed that they were not only healthy, but thoroughly competent to handle themselves in difficult situations. They went through it all in a fine, willing spirit, appreciative of the honor club work had done them and glad to help sell America so well on 4-H that it may be extended to thousands of other rural boys and girls not now enrolled. Tuesday afternoon the moving pictures were taken and Friday they were in the movie houses of Chicago and other large cities. Eventually they will be shown in every important movie house in the nation, and perhaps abroad. The four news reel companies distributing the pictures are Paramount, RKO-Pathé, Fox Movietone and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Perhaps the most popular person at the 1932 National 4-H Club Congress was a special guest at the Thomas E. Wilson party, famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart, who presented the awards to the four boys winning the National 4-H Club Meat Animal Livestock Project Contest sponsored by Mr. Wilson.

One of the most elaborate banquet set-ups at 4-H Congress was in 1932, spurred on by Wakelin McNeel of Wisconsin (also known as Ranger Mac with his Junior Forestry Ranger Program) who directed the state 4-H forestry and conservation activities in Wisconsin for 40 years. He staged a super nature-appreciation affair. Some 80 conifer trees were "planted" around the stage and banquet hall. The menus were printed on birdseye maple. There were cones on the tables and special incense to bring the great open forests into man's smoky city. For a headliner they had a speaker representing the Audubon societies. The goal was to send the youngsters home, and the leaders, too, with a new appreciation of the great out-of-doors. But what did the speaker do? He talked about cats destroying birds, and dead cats in Brooklyn. Another disappointment, but that banquet is something the old timers talked about for years. The planning committee learned that the way to control a banquet is to have the program written in advance – including the speaker's comments!

The 1932 National Committee's annual report describes the management of Club Congress: "Seventy different officials are required to conduct the activities of the various departments of the Congress during the week. The field of the Congress falls into five main departments: The Exhibits; the Judging, Achievement and Health Contests; the Educational Tours; the Banquet or Evening programs; and the Leaders' Meetings where policy matters are discussed. To secure personnel well adapted to the administration of these departments and the coordination of all these efforts requires a considerable amount of time on the part of your managing director and the employed staff."

(While little is recorded on the discussions in the annual leaders' meetings at Club Congress, a brief report from the 1935 Congress mentions that the quality of the talks and discussions at the state leaders' meetings were highlighted by notable addresses given by Dr. C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension, United States Department of Agriculture; Dr. William F. Ogburn, distinguished service professor of sociology, University of Chicago; and Dr. Hedley S. Dimmock, Dean, George Williams College, Chicago.)

The 1932 annual report also announces that "4-H Clubs received special recognition from the chief executive of the Nation this year. This recognition comes in the form of two trophies awarded in the name of The President of the United States, one for the boy winner and one for the girl winner of the National 4-H Achievement Contest." Since 1928 the top



The National Style Revue champion of American 4-H clubs, Miss Mildred Startup of Shawnee County, Kansas, is shown here receiving a gold medal for her achievement from E. M. Schnadig, president of the Chicago Mail Order Company, which sponsored for the fourth year clothing projects among club girls of the nation. Miss Startup made and modeled the dress she is wearing. It is a two-piece light blue woolen suit with dark blue accessories, some of which she also made. The entire outfit cost \$19.45. She is 19 and has been enrolled in club work 5 years. The other three girls, left to right, are: Margaret Franklin, Vernon County, Louisiana, national winner in cotton dress class; Mary L. Chambers, Marshall County, West Virginia, national winner in silk class, and Helen Clark of Multnomah County, Oregon, national winner in informal party dress. All three were contenders for the national championship. The cost of the outfits of the three were, respectively, \$4.62, \$22.69 and \$10.35.

two winners in Achievement had won awards provided by Sir Thomas Lipton, however upon Lipton's death in 1931, the Presidential awards for Achievement became the replacement.

Transportation Plays Big Part



4-H'ers waiting for the train to take them to Chicago for the National 4-H Club Congress.
Courtesy Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co.

From the 1932 Annual Report:

"The part which modern transportation plays in the conduct of the National Club Congress is educational and indispensable. The rural boy and girl, unaccustomed as the general public is too fast, safe travel at its elbow, is highly impressionable in this field. From the time the 4-H delegate entrains at his home station for Chicago until he again departs after Club Congress, he is introduced to modes of travel which leave vivid and lasting impressions.

"The stories of their trips to Club Congress which most of the 1,100 delegates write for their home newspapers and other publications, invariably detail novel and pleasurable experiences on the great limited trains, in the Pullmans and on the diners. Many have never ridden in such manner, and not a few have never ridden in any train. To all of them the train ride is a great experience, which is further enhanced by the sights enroute of large cities, mountains, rivers and other features. The Mississippi River is one which delegates mention.

"Arriving in Chicago the street traffic is at once a source of wonder. The skill with which delegates are whisked along the avenues in taxis to their hotels occasions comment. Few have ever ridden a street car, the operation of which is a cause of keen interest, since 4-H'ers are electrically minded. How the elevated railroad, which they refer to as the "upstairs street cars" keeps its coaches from running off the track is a cause of speculation, as well as the manner in which they derive power from third rails. The big double decked busses likewise are objects of curiosity.

"One of the many stories of the wonders of Chicago's transportation system was carried to the folks back home by two boys. It details how they were separated from a touring party in Lincoln Park. On inquiring of a policeman the distance to the Auditorium Hotel headquarters they were told it was 2-1/2 miles. The boys were as upset at first as they were later overjoyed when, through the friendly help of the policeman and a surface line conductor, and a ride through a maze of traffic, they were landed within a block of their hotel."

(Interestingly, as far back as 1925 it was publicized in the November issue of the *National Boys and Girls Club News* that every passenger association in the United States and eastern Canada has granted reduced rates of a fare and one-half to the Fourth National Boys and Girls Club Congress. The regular one-way fare is paid for going journey at which time a certificate should be secured. Once delegations get to the Congress headquarters the officer in charge of transportation will start validating return trips at half-price.)

1933

Probably one of the major announcements for the 1933 National Club Congress was the National 4-H Corn Club Achievement Contest offered by the Nelson Knitting Company of Rockford, Illinois - a major manufacturer of socks.

The *National Boys and Girls Club News* offers some of the funny "Sidelights on the Big Week in 1933:

"The Minnesota girls nearly missed going on one of the day tours. They had set their shoes out in the hall at the Auditorium Hotel to have them shined, like they learned to do in the Pullman. It is not a hotel custom, so the porter didn't know what to do when the shoes were turned in. Miss Wessel, the girls' leader, waiting for her bunch in the lobby, grew desperate and investigated just in time to get the shoes back.

"The delegates coming from northwest states over the Milwaukee Road had a lot to say about the sights enroute. One was the white jack rabbits in eastern Montana and North Dakota. The boys got tired counting them.

"Gilman Stewart, 'corn prince', missed a thrill. He left for home too soon to receive a wire bid from a big seed company for his crop of corn. Vern Varney, in charge of radio programs, put it on his NBC broadcast, and Gilman probably heard it then.

"A game played at the 'Down on the Farm' party was to have delegates rise and talk, then listeners guessed where they came from. Congress delegates always remark about the differences in speech of members from different sections. Some one had Mr. Noble rise, and a half dozen voices cried, 'I know him--he's the big shot.'

"George Shambrook, Oregon corn champion, pulled a joke frequently to the dismay of his victims. When he wanted to refer to himself he would say 'My best girl's boy friend.'

"Chicago city and stockyards newspapers and other publications gave the Club Congress wonderful coverage - nearly 100 newspaper columns with scores of pictures. Chicago readers are still talking about the fine looking boys and girls and their records. Even a funny column writer did his turn. A local highlight found a small window loose in a taxi, according to the funny reporter. Asked how it happened the driver was reported saying: 'Well I drove a bunch of those husky 4-H girls the other evening and when they couldn't open the window I guess they just tore it loose.'

"Club Congress delegates get into unusual places. Near the end of the week a call came from Pres. Rufus Dawes' office at the World's Fair Century of Progress. 'We'd like to have a group of your champions over here to meet Mr. Dawes.' The hotels and stockyards were scoured for champions and a group sent over. They were received in the magnificent director's room and seated at the long triangular table, a feature of the place. Mr. Dawes made a fine little speech, had a photo taken with the group, and presented each with tickets to next year's fair. (Mr. Dawes was the brother of Vice President of the United States, Charles G. Dawes.)

"James O'Donnell Bennett, feature writer of the Chicago Tribune, got so interested in the boys and girls and their work he warmed up to a big story hung on the theme, 'The Triumph of Youth.' He compared some of the inexpensive dresses exhibited with fancy creations of State Street stores.

"Chicago packers and meat houses did a fine job finding buyers for the 4-H livestock. Swift bought Jimmie Padgett's grand champion steer for 61 cents a pound for Sears Roebuck. Crescent Packing bought the Graber champion Hereford for 20-1/2 cents a pound for Davis Stores. Sherman Hotel took three of the next highest sellers. Other Chicago buyers were Harding's Restaurant, Wabash Railroad, Stop and Shop, Marshall Field, Drivers Bank and Brevoort Hotel. The champion pen of lambs bought 20 cents a pound and the champion pig 15-1/2 cents a pound."

1934

May 19, 1934 was a sad day. Termed "Chicago's second greatest fire, the great stock yard fire destroyed the club building and many other treasures in the heart of the district for three blocks, including a portion of the elevated train tracks and livestock housed in the wooden pens. President Leonard of the Stock Yards, undaunted, erected new buildings and 4-H Clubs were included in his plan.



The new Boys and Girls Club building erected in the Union Stock Yards area in 1934 following the fire was dedicated during that year's National 4-H Club Congress

Gradually over the years, the Congress began to assume the characteristics it retained through multiple years. During the 30s, special dinners for the awards winners, the introduction of sports stars, and premieres of 4-H movies all found their places in the program.

In 1934 a new contest was announced - the National 4-H Club Accounting Contest, sponsored by the International Harvester Company. The records must cover a year's business, and if it cannot be done for the home farm the records of a neighboring farm will be acceptable. All records are to be kept confidential. An extensive list of merchandise prizes were offered to the year's winners: County winning records, judged by the state leader for the state prize, resulted in state winners receiving a choice of a 750-pound capacity cream separator or a \$100 merchandise certificate. (At least 10 percent of the counties in the state must be represented for a state prize to be awarded.) State winners were judged for sectional prizes, the country being divided into four extension regions. The sectional winners had a choice of a complete milker or a \$225 merchandise certificate. A national winner was chosen from the four sectional champions to receive the grand prize, which was a choice of a Farmall tractor, half-ton truck, or a \$500 merchandise certificate.

[Photo: IH half-ton truck

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: Feb/Mar 1935

[Photo: top photo, p. 12 (already scanned).

[Caption: This valuable International half-ton truck will be won by some 4-H Club member. From promotion for Farm Accounting Contest in *National Boys and Girls Club News*.

An interesting side note to the 1934 Club Congress. Mercer County, Illinois club folks had made many winnings over the years and with this assurance thought to bring Will Rogers with them to the National Club Congress as their special contribution. They had noted his visit to a 4-H show in Los Angeles and the complimentary remarks he made at that time. But, Will had to disappoint them, as he was working on a picture, however the Mercer folks reported that they had fun out of it anyhow. For the record, Will Rogers' remarks at the Los Angeles event were: "I was down in the Los Angeles Livestock Show, and I saw these hundreds of farmer boys that had fattened and cared for a calf, or pig, or

sheep, themselves. It's a thing called the 4-H Club. Somebody was inspired when they founded that. It's all over the country. By golly, they are a great bunch of kids, and they have some fine stock."

[Photos: Dedication of new Boys and Girls Building

[Publication: 1934 Annual Report National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

[Page: 8, 2 photos. (already scanned)

[Caption: The new Boys and Girls Building on the grounds of the International Live Stock Exposition is shown being presented to 4-H Clubs in dedication ceremonies by B. H. Heide, General Manager of the Exposition. Also shown is an interior view of the new Club Building showing cases for exhibits of clothing in state classes.

The 1934 Annual Report of the National Committee states "the high points of the Congress are: The dedication of the new 4-H Club Building; the outstanding speakers at the leader's meetings; the banquet programs and the education tours for the members. A new feature of the annual banquet of the delegates is a musical drama, also numbers from artists of the Chicago Grand Opera Company."

The delegates and leaders were very much impressed with the new three-story 4-H Club building of English architecture devoted to 4-H exhibits and activities. The building is located in a prominent and strategic point mid-way between the main exposition buildings and the north gate and adjacent to the Stock Yard Inn.

[Photo: Style Girl Champions

[Publication: 1934 Annual Report, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

Page: 10 (already scanned)

[Caption: 1934 National and Class Champion 4-H Style Girls. Left to right: Lucile Morris, 20, Greenwood, Indiana, national champion in wool dress for school which cost with complete accessories, \$27.92; Almetus McKinley, 18, Vicksburg, Mississippi, champion in wash dress class on a \$13.75 outfit; Lorane Havelly, 18, Mayetta, Kansas, "best dress" champion in a wool crepe suit costing with all accessories, \$18.93; and Virginia Charlton, 15, Autaugaville, Alabama, party dress champion in an outfit costing \$8.08. Each state winner received a prize trip to the national revue from the Chicago Mail Order Company, represented in the group by Miss Jane Alden, Stylist.

The December 1934 issue of *National Boys and Girls Club News* provides some additional "oddities" relating to that year's Club Congress:

"Mrs. Alexander Kerr, the wife of the president of Kerr Glass, donor of the 4-H canning program, personally canned fresh dates grown on her California ranch and brought them as special gifts to the Club members' own banquet. They were put up in Kerr jars, of course, and wrapped in bright red cellophane.

"Each year the ten-gallon fawn colored hats of the Texas boys attract much attention and the zeal of the lads in displaying them on each and every occasion sometimes calls for disciplining, as when the boys attempted to wear them into the University of Chicago chapel, where conduct must be just so and so.

"The tremendous amount of planning and work required in carrying out all the details of such a huge undertaking as the 'Spirit of American Music' dramalogue staged at the Club members' banquet was shown in assembling the shaving materials for the pioneer who removed his whiskers with an axe. Someone had supplied a shaving stick to the horror of the directors, who promptly ordered an old-fashioned cake of soap and mug. Elaine Massey, state girls' agent of Mississippi, said the 'Spirit of American Music' dramalogue at the Club Members' banquet was alone worth the trip to Chicago and asked for copies of the script so she could stage it in her state.

"Some leaders lunching at a popular Chicago restaurant asked for milk, and were amused when the waitress replied, 'Sorry, ma'am, we are all out. The 4-H kids are in town.'

"The calf scramble at an evening show in Dexter Park Pavilion was one of the most hilarious stunts ever seen. From the minute the 18 calves were turned loose in one end of the arena and the 30 boys started after them from the other end, the audience broke out laughing and shouting and continued for the 15 minutes the scramble was on. There was action every second. Here was a calf plunging madly forward with a boy following in headlong pursuit at the end of a rope. Other boys would head off the calf and then a battle royal followed to see who would possess it. At times a calf and several boys would all go down in a heap. The calf would crawl out and stampee away with boys in pursuit. After only two or three calves were left in a half dozen or more boys would be seen around each animal. The fun was side-splitting. Thirty boys were chosen to run down the eighteen calves which had been supplied by wives of prominent Shorthorn breeders. The stunt had been staged at the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben shortly before with similar results.

"Extension Director Kraus of Hawaii was a visitor at the Club Congress and International and enjoyed himself hugely.

"Indiana won 14 of the 59 major awards in the 4-H show. Twenty-two states won one or more. Oklahoma

captured five. Four each went to Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Nebraska. Minnesota and New York got three each."

1935

Club leaders and delegates at the 1935 National 4-H Club Congress were favored with a jar of fresh dates sent by Mrs. Alexander H. Kerr from her California ranch as a favor to each guest at the annual banquet of club members according to an article in the January 1936 National Boys and Girls Club News. Mrs. Kerr, who is President of Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp., sponsors of the canning program, thanked all those who cooperated in making the 1935 canning program a success.

A total of 41 state winners participated in the National Fashion Revue this year. A report states, "What girls can do with a few dollars in dressing themselves well if they know how to use the money is really amazing." Blue ribbon winners in the wash dress class produced their complete outfits at an average cost of \$12.35, in the suit class at \$24.61, the best dress class at \$19.41 and party outfit at \$12.68. Remember this was for accessories and everything.

[Photo: 4 dress revue winners with Jane Alden

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: March 1936

[Page: 4 top left

[Caption: The four National Style Revue winners receiving awards from Jane Alden, Stylist, The Chicago Mail Order Company, at the close of the 1935 Revue. Left to right: Irene Kracht, Aurelia, Iowa, in wash sport dress; Mary G. Yeager, Terre Haute, Indiana, in "best dress" entry; Clarabeth Zebring, Germantown, Ohio, in school suit, which won national honors over all; and Carol V. Clark, Cohoes, New York, party dress entry.

This was the second year for the National 4-H Club Farm Accounting Contest sponsored by International Harvester Co. Again, the contest showed that boys and girls are capable of keeping farm records which are of real worth in discovering weak spots in management and suggesting remedies. An Iowa boy, Robert Parmele, Davenport, Iowa, won the 1935 contest on a record kept on his father's 240-acre livestock farm. The record was a fine piece of work mechanically - some judges said it was perfect - and the boy's interpretation was lucid and practical. He used the analysis to compare the farm's efficiency with the average of 20 others of the same size. Possible changes in the farm's plan suggested by the boy to improve earnings were increasing dairy production, pork gains, egg production and labor and equipment efficiency.

For the first time in 4-H Club work, food preparation projects gained the support of a nation-wide contest in 1935, sponsored by the maker of the kerosene operated Electrolux refrigerator, Servel, Inc. of Evansville, Indiana. Entrance in the contest was simple and easy. Every bonafide food preparation club member was eligible, boys as well as girls. Requirements called for filling a standard report form as in other national contests.

[Photo: 4-H Food Preparation winners with Lily Pons

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: March 1937

[Page: 7

[Caption: National Champions in the 1936 4-H Food Preparation Contest shown with Miss Lily Pons, famous grand opera star with New York City's Metropolitan Opera, at the National Club Congress.

Outstanding during the 1935 Congress was the quality of the talks and discussions at the state leaders' meetings. Notable addresses were given by Dr. C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension, United States Department of Agriculture; Dr. Wm. F. Ogburn, distinguished service professor of sociology, University of Chicago; and Dr. Hedley S. Dimmock, Dean, George Williams College, Chicago.

1936

While awards programs are a major part of National 4-H Club Congress, much more detailed information on awards and their donors can be found in the 4-H history section: National 4-H Awards Programs. Therefore, the attempt to list each and every new award offering, or donor, will not be attempted in this specific section on the history of National 4-H Club Congress. However, having said that, 1936 brought us two new very exciting programs. The National 4-H Rural Electrification Program sponsored by Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and the National 4-H Program on Social Progress sponsored by Radio Corporation of America joined the growing list of donors and awards programs.

For more than a decade agricultural colleges had been conducting experiments to secure information on the cost and practicability of various electrical appliances for farm use. Now the federal government has established a Rural Electrification Administration to help farm families to share the advantages of electric power. Tying right in with this program more than one million 4-H Club members now have an unusual opportunity to investigate the possibilities of electric power, each on their own farmstead. This program offers project opportunities for members on farms that have electricity and different opportunities for those on farms that do not have electricity. There are also combined club group activities.

In July, 1936, while most of the country was still wrestling with the Great Depression, the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, in partnership with the Extension System, announced a new awards program quite different from any that had preceded it. Called the National Program on Social Progress, the new program was sponsored by the Radio Corporation of America, through its services, RCA Victor and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

Inspired by 4-H, the president of RCA, Mr. David Sarnoff, worked personally with 4-H to create the program to energize rural communities and simply help young boys and girls feel better about themselves and their future. It was a broad program encouraging community parties and cultural events where youth could expand their horizons, conservation activities, discussions and debates, volunteer programs and personal growth opportunities. The awards structure for the program was generous, including both individual and club awards along with county, state, sectional and national recognition. The top boy and girl in the United States were awarded \$500 scholarships at National 4-H Congress (nearly \$9,000 value today), plus a trip to New York City (each with chaperon) to personally meet with Mr. Sarnoff and tour RCA and NBC facilities. Both an appreciation for music and the hands-on use of radio broadcasting were integral parts of the program. The National 4-H Program on Social Progress was of great assistance in many rural communities which were experiencing low morale due to the Great Depression, and also was a highly visible program for 4-H.

[Photo: 4-H Program on Social Progress photo

[Publication: from segment on RCA National 4-H Program on Social Progress in 4-H Compendium

[Caption: No caption

1937

During 1937 two additional awards programs were made available and approved; namely, the National 4-H Dairy Production Demonstration Contest with awards by the Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation, and the National 4-H Home Grounds Beautification Contest, awards provided by Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen.

The 1937 National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work annual report provides an interesting commentary from a delegate to the Congress of a few years ago. This West Virginia boy whose name is Kenneth Pritchard of Pullman, mentioned first what he missed in school while attending Congress:

1. One chapel program.
2. Two chapters in World History (a) Struggle in England between the King and Parliament (b) Days of Louis XIV.
3. English (a) The group of colonial writers in American literature (b) Orators.
4. Civics (a) Local Rural Government (b) State and Local Finance (c) Commerce, Transportation, Industry.

What I gained from the trip:

1. Realized the size of Chicago.
2. How the very best livestock look.
3. The process of slaughtering, packing and preparing meat for market, as shown by a large packer.
4. Programs rendered at banquets were worth the time.
5. How tractor parts were made and assembled.
6. From what and how binder twine was made.
7. Worthwhile plays attended of different types.
8. Appreciation of beauty derived from Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, Art Institute and Conservatory.
9. New things learned about the sky at the Planetarium.
10. Size of stores as illustrated by Marshall Field's.
11. Helpful demonstrations at International Livestock Exposition.
12. Each place visited a liberal education in itself. My club leader and teachers said, "It was equal to a year of schooling, without doubt." I think so myself, if not more.

The same annual report carried several representative letters from parents about their children who attended the National 4-H Club Congress. Here is one example:

"Claudie is the fifth of our children who has been lucky enough to win a trip to Chicago and all have derived some educational value from it. For Paul, who went in 1936, the trip changed his whole life perhaps. For several years we wanted him to go to high school, but he always answered, "I have all the school I want." Then he won the Chicago trip, and on his arrival home the first words he said were, "I've decided to go to high school." On being asked why he said he had noticed one had to have an education to get anywhere. He kept his word. He is a freshman in Plerna, Montana, high school, is on the honor roll with five subjects, besides glee club and other activities. I believe it was the trip that changed him where his father and myself failed for four years.

Mr. And Mrs. Adolph Rieger, Montana

1938

By 1938 42 States were accepting one or more contests offered through the National Committee at Congress. The offerings that year included:

National 4-H Club Canning Achievement Contest	Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp.
National 4-H Dairy Production Demonstration Contest	Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corp.
National 4-H Club Farm Accounting Contest	International Harvester Co.
National 4-H Food Preparation Contest	Servel, Inc.
National 4-H Club Girls' Record Contest	Montgomery Ward and Co.
National 4-H Handicraft Project Contest	Dutch Kraft Corporation
National 4-H Home Grounds Beautification Contest	Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen
National 4-H Meat Animal Livestock Project Contest	Mr. Thos. E. Wilson
National 4-H Rural Electrification Program	Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. Co.
National 4-H Program on Social Progress	Radio Corporation of America
National 4-H Girls' Style Dress Revue	Chicago Mail Order Co.

The 1938 National Committee Annual Report states "The National Committee, through its donors, is one of the foremost contributors of scholarships to agricultural colleges."

A North Dakota Club girl who attend the 1938 Congress expressed her delightful philosophy as follows:

"I get much joy out of my 4-H work and then to have a reward such as this makes life full and wonderful. How can a 4-H Club member help but make his best better? You 4-H benefactors give many boys and girls who would not otherwise receive it, untold joy. What else could come from this generosity but big, wholehearted citizens. I wish, after this inspiring trip to improve my 4-H work, and to inspire our own club members to work and achieve better things. I hope our County and State leaders and trip chaperones will feel that they can call on me at any time for work and cooperate, that my work will meet with approval, and to inspire new members so every farm boy and girl in the United States will be a member of this great organization... Chicago's hospitality made us 4-H members feel so honored that had we been kings and queens of principalities, we could not have been more welcome."

(from 1938 Annual Report, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work)

1939

The 1939 National 4-H Club Congress was just as wildly anticipated as those that had come before. At 7:30 Sunday morning the delegations began to arrive, soon filling the Auditorium mezzanine registration place. All forenoon they came and went - Texas in their "ten-gallon" hats, brand new for the occasion - Minnesota with big red and gold pins bearing the figure of the familiar gopher - "Georgia Crackers" with their bright ribbon labels - Oregon with blue and gold arm-bands - New England boys and girls with a map of their section on lapel or sleeve - Kansas with sunflowers four inches in diameter. By late afternoon more than 1,200 leaders and members had registered from 45 states, two possessions and Canada, and received their green caps, tickets to the week's events, and other informative material.

Meanwhile W. C. Abbott, Louisiana State Club Leader, as chairman of the Extension committee directing Club Congress, was busy marshaling his various committee chairmen and their assistants who were to run things in the big week at hand.

Southern delegates had their wish granted when the weatherman provided a few snow flurries on Sunday. Bright, sunny weather followed, but it was cold. Little May Kitagawa from Hawaii spent the first few hours of her Chicago visit searching for a warm coat which headed her shopping list, and Juanita Lopez from Puerto Rico, accustomed to the sunny South Seas, had trouble filling in her registration card because of chilled hands.

For the second time, Radio Corporation of America brought its "Magic Key" program to Chicago for the delegates with president David Sarnoff leading the way. The broadcast was made from the Chicago Civic Opera House, and featured Gertrude Lawrence, widely known actress and other stage and radio personalities. Next the group boarded buses for a 45-mile tour of the city. Guides on each coach pointed out spots of interest. Later club members were welcomed to the Chicago Sunday Evening Club by Edward Foss Wilson, a member of the official board. The 4-H band contributed selections.

Chicago's early morning sleepiness was dispelled at 6:45 a.m. or soon after during Congress week when the Hamilton County, Iowa 4-H Band marched briskly along Michigan Boulevard by the Auditorium Hotel, calling all delegates to assemble. Monday it was a trip to the "Yards" to attend the Live Stock Exposition, followed at three o'clock by entertainment and dinner at the Chicago's Medinah Temple with Thomas E. Wilson as host. Later in the evening the aggregation returned to the Exposition to parade under state banners in the great arena.

Tuesday, bright and early, the boys breakfasted at the Swift and Armour packing plants and later toured the plants. Girls visited the Planetarium, Field Museum, and lunched at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in the Marine Dining Room overlooking Lake Michigan. Their hosts were officials of Montgomery Ward. Boys were guests of the National Live Stock Marketing Association at the College Inn of Hotel Sherman for luncheon and entertainment.

All returned to their hotels early to prepare for the big annual Club members' banquet in the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Stevens (later Conrad Hilton Hotel). Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas and Ex-Congressman John C. Ketcham of Michigan, co-authors of the act bearing their name which provided the first federal aid for Extension work specifically mentioning rural youth, were at the speakers' table and introduced with many other distinguished friends and leaders of club work. Scholarships totaling \$6,300, and trophies and other awards were presented among winners of national contests, who were seated at the second speakers' table. A wire greeting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt was read by Toastmaster W. J. Wright. Two songs were rendered by Richard Culkins of the Chicago City Opera Company, and a production was staged entitled "When Old Songs Were New." It was written especially for the 4-H banquet, with the idea that it might be used by local clubs. Souvenir copies were given each one present.

Seeing twine and farm machinery in the making provided Wednesday's diversion through the courtesy of International Harvester Company, which later served luncheon to all at their plant. An open dinner hour gave groups an opportunity to select their own dining accommodations.

A big treat was the Dress Revue and Party in the beautiful "Trianon" on Chicago's south side. The setting was perfect for the lovely costumes worn by the 40 state "queens" who passed in review. They had made their dresses, assembled their accessories, and wore the complete costumes for the approval of judges and assembled delegates. Following the naming of four "class winners" the young folks enjoyed an evening of social recreation, including games, stunts, and a magical demonstration.

Many compliments were paid Gladys M. Scranage of West Virginia and her committee for their fine handling of this event. Amy Wessel of Minnesota had charge of the games.

Thursday morning all girls visited the Chicago Mail Order plant where Miss Jane Alden was hostess at breakfast. After visiting the Art Institute, the girls joined the boys, who had been "seeing stars" at the Planetarium and viewing the

wonders of Field Museum, at a luncheon given by Sears Roebuck at the Stevens Hotel. Following an amusing "show" the group journeyed to the Museum of Science and Industry. This museum is located on the site of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 and is the only world's fair building remaining.

Thursday evening the "Loop" theaters afforded entertainment. Some state groups saw the latest movies - others attended plays and musicals. Many said goodbye and left for their homes that afternoon and evening. Friday might be called "shopping day," for the delegations who remained spent the day in Chicago's great stores, and catching the final glimpses of the great city which had opened wide its arms to them during the week.

Thus, the second decade of National 4-H Club Congress comes to a close. The history presented here may appear to be redundant at times, but the main purpose of going into the detail year after year is to show the non-ending dual thrusts - some Club Congress events becoming very traditional year after year - while still new things were continuously being tried and experimented with during most years. Both the Extension 4-H staffs from the state and federal levels and the staff of the National 4-H Boys and Girls Club Work time and time again showed their creativity, their professionalism... and, sometimes even their humor in planning and conducting the annual Club Congresses.

[Photo: String of busses

[Publication: From a Dream to Reality, a History of the National 4-H Service Committee

[Page: 17 (already scanned)

[Caption: Buses are ready to transport the Congress delegates to various locations around Chicago, maintaining a busy schedule for the whole week.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1940S

The decade of the 1930s basically allowed for experimentation with new ideas for events and competitions, allowing those which "didn't quite work" to pass into history, being replaced by others, more successful, which became the Congress traditions. The 1940s were quite different. There were three wartime Congresses - 1942, 1943 and 1944 - followed by peacetime and serious discussions about youth's role in addressing the issues of the day. The Congresses of the 1940s were really the beginning of delegate participation, while providing proper balances between conducting an educational program, a recognition program, and offering delegates opportunities providing new experiences.

[Photo: 4-H Parade in the Livestock Exposition arena

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: December 1940

[Page: Cover photo (in Composium under A Night to Remember)

[Caption: Concluding a record year of enrollment and achievement, 4-H youth of America marched in the great Arena of the International Livestock Exposition during the 19th National 4-H Club Congress in December 1940.

[Photo: Delegates with football player

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: January 1941

[Page: 9 top right photo, (already scanned)

[Caption: A bevy of food preparation winners surround Tom Harmon, All-American halfback from Michigan, for autographs at the 1940 Congress.

The Extension Committee on the Club Congress, M. H. Coe, State Leader from Kansas, as chair, created a set of five objectives for the Club Congress, providing a better way of measuring the experiences of the participants and the successes of the various Congress components:

- 1 To broaden the vision and viewpoints of rural youth through visits to points of agricultural, industrial, civic and cultural interest, as well as through contacts with young people from other states and with outstanding men and women who have achieved.
- 2 To build in rural youth a pride in, and respect for, agriculture and its contribution to society.
- 3 To assist in creating a public consciousness of the prestige and accomplishments of the 4-H Clubs.
- 4 To recognize and stimulate achievement among 4-H Club members through 4-H exhibits, judging activities and team demonstrations.
- 5 To provide an opportunity for State leaders to counsel together on subjects pertinent to professional improvement.

The Extension Committee stated that as you listen to the boys and girls tell the story of their impressions, they should reveal that one or more of the five objectives have hit the mark, that they have taken root in the consciousness of the youth, making him a better individual for his own good and that of society. Further, some of the activities of the Club Congress give tangible results, others intangible. The boy or girl who has won an award or banked a neat sum from the sale of a steer has something material to show for his efforts. The boy or girl who returns home with only mental images of great scenes may be empty handed, but still has acquired riches. And so all gain.

The inspiring gathering of club folks and friends at the 1940 annual banquet in the half-block long brilliant ballroom of the Stevens Hotel is preserved in panorama film, but no mere picture can ever convey the thrill it gave to any boy or girl present - the thrill that here was a body of youth incomparable.

1940 and 1941

The National 4-H Congresses in 1940 and 1941 were pretty much traditional and carried over the events of the late 1930s Congresses.

The 1941 Club Congress was held traditionally during the first week in December, then on December 7, 1941 came Pearl Harbor... two days after the 1941 Club Congress came to a close... and, we were at war. Reviewing the issues of National 4-H Club News for December 1941 and January 1942 looks like someone pulled a curtain down. Life had changed.

1942

The 1942 Club Congress, unlike many American events during this period, was not cancelled but continued on at the request of Extension... only considerably different. Boys and girls were busier than before with canning, collecting scrap, sewing and raising meat and crops. They bought and sold war bonds, and sent packages and letters to boys in service. More than 800,000 former club members were in the armed forces.

Attendance quotas at the Congress were cut and the Congress was shortened by a day. Discussions of teenage problems were substituted in part for the traditional tours. One of the major objectives of Congress was to rally the delegates to go home and get their fellow 4-H'ers more involved in the food production and scrap drives to support the war effort. Although many of the Club Congress traditional events remained on the agenda, the programs for this Congress were entirely different.

The 1942 Congress was billed as the First Wartime Club Congress. The 21st National 4-H Club Congress, despite its streamlined attendance and shortened duration, was acclaimed the greatest of its many history-making predecessors. It was the first Congress ever held in wartime and this was reflected in the serious mien of the 807 youthful delegates from 44 states, who represented a million and a half clubsters throughout the nation.

In group discussions, or listening to addresses of outstanding men and women; at special functions held in their honor, or in periods of relaxation during the four-day program replete with entertainment, the delegates reflected what was uppermost in their minds - their determination to help win the war by eclipsing in 1943 all previous records in food and fiber production, and conservation of materials.

Two main topics discussed by the delegates under the guidance of their leaders were: "What Are We Fighting For?" and "Youth's Contribution to Winning the War." Views expressed by the youthful participants in these discussions disclosed that 4-H'ers fully recognized the tremendous responsibilities resting upon agriculture in the Victory program for 1943.

There was no mistaking the fact that the visiting youth wholeheartedly accepted the challenges made in keynote addresses by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, and Director M. L. Wilson, Federal Extension Service, USDA, for still greater production, by a greater 4-H membership.

"Every farm boy and girl in America has a man's part and woman's part to play in helping to win the battle of production. Every one of you is called to be a loyal, effective and courageous soldier on the home front," said Secretary Wickard.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that "if the farm youth of the nation is to meet its victory goal in 1943, we shall need twice as many 4-H Club members as we have now."

Typical of the delegates' reactions to the Club Congress was that expressed in a letter from a Wyoming 4-H Club girl, who stated: "The programs at the various events brought the realities of war closer to all of us and made us realize how

important 4-H work is in winning the war. I came home with the resolution to do all I can to keep 4-H work active in our community, as well as to work harder myself."

In addition to the delegates, there were 195 local club adult leaders, and representatives of the Extension Service, both federal and state, attending the Club Congress.

Among the highlights of the Congress was the appearance of Allied war heroes from many war fronts at various breakfasts, luncheons and banquets. These heroes included Lieut. D. D. Jackson, U.S.N., of the ill-fated Yorktown; Lieut. Howard Walters, of the U. S. Marine Corps stationed at Henderson Field, on Guadalcanal island, with four Jap fighting planes to his credit; Ensign Leona Jackson, a nurse at Guam, and later a prisoner of the Japs in China; Sergeant Pilot Finn, of the Royal Norwegian Air Force, who escaped from German-occupied Norway to America, via Sweden, Russia, Turkey, around the southern tip of Africa, and England; and Corporal Alex Chisholm, of Canada, who participated in the Commando raid at Dieppe.

Each of these told of his war experiences at the Thomas E. Wilson banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House. At the Sears-Roebuck breakfast, Captain E. J. ("Iron Mike") Moran, commander of the U.S.S. Boise, which sank six Jap ships in the Solomon Islands area, told how his "one ship navy" crew fired 1,000 rounds of ammunition in 27 minutes, and after the victorious conflict, brought the battle-scarred vessel back to Philadelphia for repairs.

Captain Moran passed on to the clubsters the slogan which he had often given to the members of his crew: "When you play, play hard, but when you work, don't play at all." The 4-H'ers also were treated to a regulation Army breakfast, with loaves of bread as big as cannon balls, conversed among themselves over "walky-talky" microphones such as used by our army forces, and "got the feel" of an Army jeep.

As has been the custom since 1936, delegates and their leaders attended the Chicago Sunday Evening Club meeting on the first evening for the only religious event during the annual conclave. They took over the first part of the meeting to honor their members in the armed forces in a colorful ceremony. A number of former 4-H'ers now stationed at nearby Army camps were present.

This was followed by the main meeting, at which President Clifford W. Barnes greeted the clubsters as special guests at a typical nonsectarian service, with a music program by 125 singers, and an address by Dr. Lloyd Douglas, former minister of American and Canadian churches.

A display of record books of national winners in 1942 4-H contests was a magnet to delegates and their leaders as well as visitors. Spontaneous expressions of amazement and admiration were numerous over the achievements of the five canning champions who collectively put up 20,316 quarts of food, and dried and stored 8,720 pounds of meats.

Similarly, the accomplishments of the 12 clothing achievement winners in conserving materials by salvaging old clothes, and of the six food preparation top-notchers who collectively prepared and served 10,745 nutritious meals and 34,165 dishes, and baked 7,110 batches of breads and cakes, also elicited many highly favorable comments.

The well-laid plans of the home grounds beautification winners to conserve and improve natural beauty in their surroundings - as was revealed in plot drawings - also attracted much attention. And so it went with all record books in all contests.

So what were the impressions of delegates to this Wartime Club Congress?

"The trip was very educational, and I am ready to start a bigger and better year than any in the past. I think that much of the work of food production that must be done to win this World War II is up to 4-H members. I am planning to do everything that I possibly can."

Ruby C. Jesse, Montgomery, Alabama

"The discussion groups were very worth while, and the inspiration given by the men of the armed forces made me want to come home and do so much more for my country. The Club Congress was certainly wonderful, and makes us feel that other people are interested in our worthwhile work. We must even do more this next year."

Kathryn Chenhall, Spencer, Iowa

"It was very inspirational to know that so many people were backing club work, and also how they are depending on us."

Beverly De Wolf, Gilmore City, Iowa

"I got a clearer vision of the war."

Voncell Woodham, Hartford, Alabama

"It was very interesting to meet young people from all over the country and talk with them about their 4-H work and their States. It has made both history and geography more interesting. The States no longer seem far away, and I now realize the importance of youth and 4-H Club work to my country and for victory."

Frances Lord, Francestown, New Hampshire

"One of our club members made the comment as we were coming home relative to the radio play at the banquet, that it had solved his problem because he worried whether he should leave the farm and join the Army. I am confident that that particular boy will farm next summer as he has never farmed before. He happens to be the lone operator of the home place."

Mylo S. Downey, assistant State boys' club agent, Maryland

"All the months of expectations are over, and I spent one of the most inspiring and happy weeks in my life at the 4-H Club Congress. I hope that my fellow workers and I can fulfill all the plans that were outlined for us there."

Louise Griebel, Ballantine, Montana

"It made me realize how many club members there are in the United States. The programs made us love our country more. We will all try to do more to help win the war."

Elizabeth Medlin, Polkton, North Carolina

"I had looked forward to the Congress for some time and now I am trying to picture what 1,500,000 young men and women working on farms means for victory to my club members, friends, and parents."

G. W. "Bill" Edmondson, Culpeper, Virginia

First Wartime Club Congress

[Photos: Wartime Congresses

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: January 1943

[Page: 10 & 11 (probably already scanned)

Caption: Include the captions with the above photos; but not the story.

1943

When December 1943 rolled around, the 4-H Club Congress that year continued to carry a war theme, however it seemed to be somewhat "lighter" than the previous year. The January 1944 issue of *National 4-H Club News* provides highlights of the 1943 Club Congress:

"Having a wonderful time. Wish you were here," was the sentiment club members and leaders attending the 22nd National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago wrote to home folks. The 852 who registered were from 46 States and two provinces of Canada (from Quebec for the first time), and represented 1,700,000 members who would have given their right arm to attend the 4-day special wartime session.

Busy in the many activities of the 18-hour days, delegates still centered their attention on the problem of "4-H in War and Peace," the keynote of Michigan's Dr. Howard McCluskey's address, and the subject of general and small group discussions.

Although definite decisions were not always possible, more than one delegate received help on such matters as whether 18-year olds should vote, if essential farm work compares in importance with serving in the military forces, the duties of citizenship, whether marriages should be postponed and if a post-war depression is inevitable.

The ideas and conclusions were pooled at the big general assembly the last morning and proved these young citizens are ready to help "write the peace" or function otherwise for a better world. Leaders, too, talked things over and received inspiration from Federal Extension Director M. L. Wilson, and other speakers.

But the Congress was not all seriousness. Everyone had his lighter moments at the many breakfasts, luncheons, dinners and parties provided by prize donors. Sunday night the 4-H'ers were guests of the Sunday Evening Club in Orchestra Hall. They contributed a tableau written by Wakelin McNeel, Wisconsin assistant club leader, which showed what the 4-H Clubs of America are contributing to the war.

One of the big thrills was attending the annual party of Thomas E. Wilson, Chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Among honor guests was former 4-H boy, Capt. Thadd Blanton, Jr., of Gainesville Texas, who was one of Doolittle's boys in the raid of Japan. He and several other men and women from the various branches of the armed services told about their experiences serving with Uncle Sam. The boys in navy blue composing the Great Lakes Choir gave an unforgettable concert of favorite hymns.

Trips and tours made it possible for all to get at least a glimpse of what goes to make up Chicago; there were many memories carried home of Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, broadcasting studios, the stock yards, rides on the elevated and subway trains, name bands, and the baffling mind reader.

The Friendship Party at the Trianon was another dream come true. There, in one of the world's nicest ballrooms, all got to participate in the broadcast of the "Victory Parade of Spotlight Bands." Dancing and games soon broke the ice and brought a welcome let-down in the week's tension.

Thirty-seven girls strutted their stuff for a Victory Dress Revue of wartime styles, and showed that economizing and making over clothing couldn't keep them from the ranks of the well-dressed. The strains of familiar 4-H Club songs was another memorial occasion when the Kraft Choral Club sang.

All good things must come to an end and so did the 1943 Club Congress, but not until the curtain was rung down on the Annual 4-H Club Banquet at the LaSalle Hotel. It was the big night for receiving awards, scholarships, and honors and every winner who hadn't gotten a chance to take a bow earlier in the week, did then. Margie McKinley, Belton, Missouri, proved a very competent mistress of ceremonies.

Enthusied and happy, club members were ready to go back to work and school with more determination than ever to finish the big job they've started, and with them went many precious memories and the hope this would be the last Wartime Congress.

1944

Once again, wartime issues dominated the 1944 National 4-H Congress - the third Congress to be held during wartime - which was held at the Stevens Hotel. Each state's quota of delegates was reduced from peace-times 50 to a wartime 20, lowering the total to 905 registrants - 748 boys and girls and 157 leaders. Included were representatives from the U.S.D.A., Quebec and Ontario in Canada, Chile, China, Brazil and Columbia. Add to this assembly many special guests and some 75 news-gatherers from press and radio, and you have a fair picture of the colorful gathering.

In spite of unusual demands on everybody's time and attention, the records this year were especially good, better than the average in fact, and revealed a high standard of achievement. According to the judging committee, entries on production and conservation were really marvelous, reflecting the war effort.

The bulk of the delegates began arriving Sunday, a few coming beforehand for broadcasts and making radio transcriptions. This was the first year in which the National Committee arranged for such a series in which two or three winners in each of the national contests told the story of their achievements when interviewed by members of the radio staff. These transcriptions were "instantaneous" - that is, many records instead of one were all made with one operation, ready to be sent immediately to the local broadcasting stations in the various States interested.

Here are some of the Congress broadcasts, most of them on nationwide hook-ups: Saturday half hour programs on both CBS and the Blue Network, and an interview on WLS. On the Sunday Westinghouse program, 4-H accomplishments were saluted by John Nesbitt. For one hour Monday morning Don McNeill with his Breakfast Club, broadcast interviews with boys and girls at the Firestone breakfast; and that evening, on the regular Voice of Firestone program, further tribute was paid to 4-H. WLS gave over two Dinner Bell programs to group discussions. On WGN a former food preservation winner was interviewed, and Everett Mitchell told his WMAQ listeners of 4-H'ers at the stockyards.

During their last banquet Wednesday evening, delegates listened to George Olsen's band and witnessed the broadcasting of his weekly program, transcripts of which were made for all those in the armed forces. And that record

included a big "hello" from that roomful of boys and girls. Later, Westinghouse with its over-seas pick-up, featured Ted Malone with his 4-H story of George Strum, former North Dakota member and club leader.

Monday morning's assembly heard Commander Dana Farnsworth, U.S. Navy, and on Tuesday morning came Reuben Brigham, of the USDA, while Wednesday's program was given over to a panel of 4-H delegates. The whole assembly was divided into 13 discussion groups, with a State leader in charge of each, and in these smaller groups, a true-false questionnaire was used as the basis for discussions.

The remainder of Congress was given over to leaders' meetings, tours of the Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry and Art Institute. Mealtimes were always enhanced with sparkling entertainment, such as International Harvester's luncheon, when members of the "Oklahoma" cast sang, and Thomas E. Wilson's great banquet Monday evening, with vaudeville, community singing, and the John Nesbitt story of 4-H.

The winning group in every contest had some special breakfast, luncheon or dinner, each one planned in some especially charming manner. One of the features of the 1944 Congress centered around the celebration of the 10th anniversary for the 4-H Food Preparation Contest sponsored by Servel, Inc. They invited all their scholarship winners from the previous decade back to the Servel banquet at the 1944 Congress. The Servel banquet also featured actress Rhonda Fleming, who was a hit with the winners.

The last day featured the Dress Revue and a trip to the Stock Yards to view the International Live Stock Exposition. The day closed with the traditional final banquet.

1945

More than 900 boys and girls attended the 1945 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, Dec. 2-6, representing 47 states. Also in attendance were representatives of rural youth organizations in Ontario and Quebec, and students from China, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Peru who are studying agriculture in the United States.

A lot had changed since the 1944 wartime Congress. The war was over, leaving not only optimism but uncertainty - life in America had changed. While the format of Club Congress during the three wartime events had taken on a responsible, serious note, with much time spent by the delegates in group discussions, this was not lost on the 1945 Congress planning committee. The format would allow for continuing, serious discussions by the delegates.

The Congress theme was "4-H in a Changing World." In keeping with that theme was the launching of the 10-Point Postwar Program, which made the conclave one of the most significant in the history of club work. While discussions of the program's 10 points at leaders' and delegates' group meetings and general assembly gave the Club Congress its serious aspect, the exceptionally high quality entertainment features provided an enjoyable balance.

The 10 Guide Posts

- 1 Developing talents for greater usefulness.
...Think Sign - Leaders are born, not made. Are they?
- 2 Joining with friends for work, fun and fellowship.
...Think Sign - All people are "joiners".
- 3 Learning to live in a changing world.
...Is change inevitable? The wise way is to adjust to change? What do you say?
- 4 Choosing a way to earn a living.
...Should available jobs, rather than training, determine the life work of 4-H'ers?
- 5 Producing food and fiber for home and market.
...Is a good price the first essential for a farm family to make a good living?
- 6 Creating better homes for better living.
...The condition of rural homes indicates what farm families think they deserve to get from farming?
- 7 Conserving nature's resources for security and happiness.
...Most people believe in conservation, don't they?

- 8 Building health for a strong America.
...Every 4-H Club can do twice as much in 1946 for better health than was done in 1945.
- 9 Sharing responsibilities for community improvement.
...Older youth, including 4-H'ers, can do more to improve community life than adults are doing.
- 10 Serving as citizens in maintaining world peace.
...Inventions and discoveries of world-wide significance, such as the atomic bomb, should be made available to all people.

Presentation of the 10-Point Postwar Program and Organization for discussion was made on Monday morning by Kenneth W. Ingwolson, chairman of the National 4-H Post War Committee, Extension Service, USDA and J. P. Schmidt, Ohio State University. Following the meeting the 4-H delegates were divided into 15 groups to discuss the program. Guest speakers who appeared on Tuesday and their subjects were: Leland B. Tate, Rural Health Division, Farm Foundation--"Building Health for a Strong America"; Noble Clark, Associate Director, Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin--"Producing Food and Fiber for Home and Market"; Dr. Robert G. Foster, Merrill-Palmer School, Detroit--"Choosing a Way to Earn a Living," and Chris L. Christensen, vice president, Celotex Corporation and a director of the National Committee--"Creating Better Homes for Better Living. Later in the program, Chester Williams, Division of Public Liaison, U.S. Department of State, addressed the general assembly on "Serving as Citizens in Maintaining World Peace."

In Kenneth Ingwolson's presentation he told the delegates: "During the war you produced enough food to feed one million fighters for a year. You bought or sold 200 million dollars worth of War Bonds. You collected untold tons of scrap, fat, paper and metal. Can 4-H Club work be so organized as to mobilize the energies of youth that they may help solve the problems of peace as effectively as they have been organized for war?" He continued, "A national advisory group has given months of thought to these four questions: What are the problems that the experts say the people of America and of the world face after the war? How will they affect youth? What opportunities for youth are there to solve these problems? How can 4-H work be organized to help provide opportunities for youth to mobilize effectively toward solving problems of peace?"

J. P. Schmidt told the delegates - A girl wrote me this from the European war theater: "I sat in a country church yard one day last summer. Sat on a cold stone in front of a church that was started somewhere in 1100 A.D. The sun was bright. It was not too warm. The wind rippled the fields lazily. The church bells pealed their ever-song in a dutiful manner and died away. I almost expected the dead to rise up from under their stones in the church yard and come and chat. It was all so far away from everything, and then a dark OD Lib split everything asunder with its four props beating the air and making racket enough to deafen the dead. I only wonder if the racket being made over here and in the Pacific will be enough to keep us awake to make a third racket unthinkable."

"Time is a great healer. It will heal the wound, but it won't take away the scars. A new generation won't understand the scars - they can't until they've felt the wound. So it's up to us to teach them and this young generation of Europe that war is unthinkable." Schmidt went on to say that the letter was from his daughter, Birdie Irene, who had been in Holland and Germany for two years. A Liberator bomber had been named for her. One day it failed to return. Those on board were dearly loved. Schmidt said, "I'm bringing you Birdie's challenge to American youth... to you delegates of the 1945 Congress. Peace is something we must work for, cherish and revere. And, young people can lead the way."

It would be interesting to hear or read the complete, final discussions of the Club Congress delegates during the final assembly, after their three days of deliberations. The only coverage found was written by a staff writer for the Christian Science Monitor which is provided here:

There was loud clapping at the 24th National 4-H Club Congress when a farm boy declared the only way to world peace is through obedience to the Ten Commandments, and that the place to begin is at home.

This would spread then, he said, to the community, then to the State, the nation, and finally the world.

At the final session of the Congress, the 1,250 delegates (number included leaders) were summing up conclusions reached in previous group discussions. The questions ranged from world peace and the atom bomb to international trade, military training, and which should be built first, on a farm - a good barn, or a good house.

Three microphones were set up on the stage of a local theater for the final session with a panel of 12 boys and three girls ranged behind them.

All were free to talk - to take the microphone when and if they could. Their audience was the rest of the 1,250 delegates - who listened intently.

It was no cut and dried affair. There had been no rehearsals. Often several speakers sprang to the microphones at once. Sometimes there was sharp disagreement, even as among grownups and world statesmen seeking answers to the same questions.

"You said a mouthful" a second farm boy expressively, if a bit inelegantly, agreed with the first youth who wanted more obedience to the Ten Commandments.

"We need more unity. We have to look to God. Every one of us can go back to our communities and get into our rural church, and help to spread that good feeling that obeying the Ten Commandments would bring."

"Is your idea conversion," a farm girl queried. "We have to remember that much of the world is not Christianized."

And a third boy skeptically said: "I think Stan is being too idealistic for world politics."

One "realistic" step, he declared, would be for present 4-H Club members to search out boys and girls on obscure dirt roads who don't belong, and invite them to be members.

Then he would have 4-H Clubs meet with other youth organizations in their communities, to get acquainted and discuss local, national, and world problems.

Further, he asked that steps be taken to have 4-H Clubs, or their counterparts, in every country.

"We can settle these problems," he said, "but first we must know more."

And later from the audience, a Chinese youth, one of 18, at the Congress, who are in the United States to study methods of American farming, wanted to know what could be done to form an international 4-H club.

All the 4-H delegates agreed permanent world peace hinges on more acquaintance between the peoples of the world - upon more understanding of each other's problems.

When the atomic bomb was discussed, there was lively disagreement. Then a girl reached a microphone and ringingly said:

"Let's talk about atomic energy, and not the atomic bombs. You are talking about the bomb as if a future war is inevitable. We know it isn't. Let's consider what atomic energy can do constructively for all the world."

As for military training, one year of it might be all right just after high school some 4-H spokesmen said.

It would teach co-operation - needed for world peace - and educate some boys in the first steps of later professions - radar, perhaps, and such.

Other thought military training would interfere with, or at least postpone, chosen careers.

And this approach was promptly labeled by others "selfish." Still others contented compulsory military training would arouse distrust of the United States, and that in any event such training should be on a voluntary, not compulsory, basis.

Almost all agreed on the need for wide international trade, that no nation should, or could, consider itself self-sufficient.

"International trade," it was said, "develops good feelings."

Many a good-neighbor friendship was formed at this national Congress of rural young people.

The speaker at the 1945 Thomas E. Wilson dinner was Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson with the subject, "Assignment for Tomorrow." After congratulating 4-H'ers on "a great job well done" during the war, the Secretary said: "And now the 4-H Clubs are looking forward to their assignment in the days of peace. Ten peacetime aims. I am particularly interested in these objectives that 4-H is considering because they fit so well into our hopes for the future of all of agriculture and all of the United States. It will pay all of us to examine these goals closely - not just from the

standpoint of the 4-H Clubs - but from the part they will play in the United States in the years ahead." In addition to the Secretary, the Wilson event also featured Gene Autry and his troupe, brought in from the West Coast.

All of the awards banquets seemed to be stronger in the peacetime Congress event. J. L. Kraft, head of Kraft Foods, sponsor of awards in dairy production and dairy foods demonstrations, addressed the Kraft dinner, which also included the Kraft Choral Society. Fowler McCormick, president of International Harvester, donor of awards in the National 4-H Crops program, as well as 4-H Frozen Foods contests, addressed the guests at their banquet, which also highlighted the comic performers Olsen and Johnson. The final banquet concluded with a 4-H drama performed by a picked cast including "Ma Perkins" and "Jack Armstrong" of radio fame. 1945 was the first 4-H Friendship Party held at the famous Aragon Ballroom, sponsored by the Spool Cotton Company, donor of the 4-H Clothing Achievement program (in later years known as the Coats & Clark Company... and the party known as the John B. Clark Friendship Party, named for the president of the company.)

Charles F. Kettering, vice president of General Motors and head of their research program for nearly 30 years, was the speaker at the General Motors event. The noted scientist and inventor, who was born and raised on a farm, concluded his speech on farm and home safety with this statement: "When I see a group like we have here, and I know what this group is doing in all of its activities, I can say to you that as a supplement to American education, there is no one thing that I know of that will match the marvelous work that the 4-H Club and this organization is doing."

One footnote to the 1945 Congress - on the last morning of the event, Adela Rodriguez, of Venezuela, who is studying Extension work in New Hampshire, lost her purse containing \$115. The loss was announced at the Kraft luncheon for 4-H delegates. The 900 boys and girls present immediately started a collection among themselves, which totaled \$118. "That spontaneous, voluntary act, which reflects the spirit of 4-H, will make a fine impression not only in Venezuela, but in other South American countries," remarked an Extension worker.

It was reported that the 1945 Congress would be one that would long be remembered by the 4-H delegates and leaders - "veterans" acclaimed the 1945 event as the most outstanding of all those they had attended. "A new spirit pervaded the whole Congress, indicating the 4-H Club leaders and delegates felt this conclave meant the beginning of a new epoch in the 4-H Club program," was the view voiced by T. A. Erickson, former state 4-H Club leader, Minnesota. They all went home on a high note, anxious to start preparations for the 1946 event - the 25th anniversary of National 4-H Club Congress.

1946

What was once the dream of a struggling, city-implemented farm boy and a few big hearted businessmen to help rural youth get along in the world, saw its greatest realization the first week in December in Chicago at the 1946 National 4-H Congress.

It was the 25th Anniversary Congress, and it was what the youngsters would call an educational jam session. Approximately 1,400 people, including 4-H delegates and leaders from 48 States, Hawaii, the provinces of Quebec and Ontario in Canada, and foreign students from Chile, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, assembled at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago December 1. This year's theme was "Building Citizenship in a World Community."

Coinciding with the 1946 National 4-H Club Congress, the International Live Stock Exposition was back after a 5-year lapse caused by the war. The gates of the show closed for the last time on December 6, 1941, the day before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Officials expect all previous records for the show, which is considered the World Series of Agriculture, to be broken. Therefore, the traditional Monday night parade of delegates and leaders with their banners, before cheering thousands in the Live Stock Exposition arena was back!

Another highlight of the Congress was the premiere of the new 4-H movie, "Where the Road Turns Right," with all the major cast present. Sponsored by Sears-Roebuck Foundation and distributed by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, the movie was the result of a National Movie Contest promoted through the leaders' magazine, *National 4-H News*. 4-H Club leaders were encouraged to submit their story ideas about 4-H, and 4-H boys and girls were encourage to apply to become the actors in the film. A total of 809 club leaders and 1,346 members entered the contest. Clarence Snotsinger, a farmer from Barrington, Illinois won the story contest.

**[Photo: Original photo from 4-H film photo file
(see LLK) (already scanned)**

[Caption: 4-H'ers who played leading roles in the 4-H movie, "Where the Road Turns Right," pose during the premiere of the film at the 25th National 4-H Congress. From left: Gerald Cassidy, 19, Blytheville, Arkansas;

Betty Miller, 19, Wellfleet, Nebraska; Nancy Lu Kingzett, 19, Perley, Minnesota; and Hance C. Russell, 19, Westfield, Wisconsin.

Similar to the 1945 Congress format, delegates were divided into 15 discussion groups to formulate their own ideas, to be presented to a general assembly on the closing day. The discussion groups and general assemblies were major parts of the program. Assembly speakers in 1945 included John L. Strohm, president of the American Agricultural Editors' Association, who had recently returned from a trip through Europe and the USSR; M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension, USDA; Maynard H. Krueger, assistant professor of economics, University of Chicago; and Dr. Charl Ormond Williams, of the National Education Association.

End of the discussions came Thursday afternoon when a panel was set up in a "fight for the mike" session to supply a transcription for a national networks broadcast.

[Photo: Congress assembly stage

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

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Page: 17, top photo (already scanned)

[Caption: Delegates to the 1946 Congress are shown on the stage of the Eighth Street Theater in a "fight for the mike" session, which ended the series of discussions. J. P. Schmidt, moderator of the panel session, is seen at the right. (from January 1947 National 4-H Club News)

In this panel the members voiced their views, often in conflict, on the United Nations, the law of supply and demand, our educational system, and the inevitability of war.

In summary, it was reported that now it is hoped that 4-H members and leaders all over the country will take up and carry on until sometime hence the people of America will have opinions based on facts and principles with which to reach intelligent conclusions and convictions. Then, and only then, can we begin to have the kind of government envisioned by the signers of our Constitution. It may not be too much to expect to see that day, when we take into account that in the short life of the 4-H program and the National 4-H Club Congress we have made a large segment of our rural and village youth conscious of having a vital part in the direction of government at home and in the world at large by the public voicing of their opinions and the exercise of the ballot.

As reported in the Wessel book, "4-H: An American Idea," in the fall of 1946 Ed Aiton had been assigned to look into the possibility of international farm youth exchanges. At nearly the same time, O. T. Norris of the Young Farmer's Clubs of Great Britain was visiting in Washington. Prior to the war, the United States and Great Britain had exchanged dairy judging teams and Norris was interested in seeing the exchange renewed. Very quickly the two ideas coalesced into a general exchange of farm youth. Until more plans could be made, the two men agreed that a visit of several young English farmers to the National 4-H Congress would be a good interim idea. The young men traveled to Chicago and were very much impressed with the Congress and discussed the idea of a general international exchange. At the Stevens Hotel, Aiton invited the gathered state 4-H winners to donate funds in order to send seven American farmers to Great Britain the next year. From the balcony surrounding the auditorium 4-H'ers from across the country dropped dollar bills to support the effort. The generosity of the 4-H delegates provided the initial contribution for sending the Americans to Great Britain in 1947, starting the international farm youth exchange program (IFYE).

Being the 25th anniversary, it was a great year for recognitions of Extension workers, and 42 state leaders and associates from 29 states came in for special honors.

[Photo: Pic of those recognized for service to 4-H for 25 years (already scanned)

[Caption: At the 25th Anniversary of National 4-H Congress in 1946, recognition was given to those state and national 4-H leaders who had served the 4-H program for at least 25 years.

Shown here, front row, from left, are: J. M. Coverdale; Harriet Johnson, SC; Helen Cowgill, OR; E L. Ingalls, VT; Gordon Elcan, VA; C. H. Hartley, WV; R. A. Turner, USDA; Dr. C. B. Smith, Washington, DC; T. J. Newbill, IL; L. I. Frisbie, NE; T. A. Erickson, MN; Dr. A. B. Graham, OH; Gertrude Warren, USDA.

Second row: A. G. Kettunen, MI; H. C. Seymour, OR; Dorothy Emerson, MD; Marion E. Forbes, MA; L. F. Kinney, RI; W. H. Palmer, OH; H. E. Rilling, ND; Albert Hoefer, NY; C. B. Wedleigh, NH; T. T. Martin, MO; Mary L. Sanborn, NH; J. E. Tanner, MS; W. J. Jernigan, AR; A. J. Kittleson, MN.

Last row: G. L. Herrington, TN; H. M. Jones, MA; W. C. Abbott, LA; Paul C. Taff, IA; G. V. Cunningham, GA; R. W. Blacklock, FL; A. J. Brundage, CT; T. A. Sims, AL; and Robert Clough, MO.

Tributes were also paid to 10 "pioneers," some retired, who have made outstanding contributions to 4-H work nationally. They were Dr. C. B. Smith, A. B. Graham, T. A. Erickson, O. H. Benson, Milton Danziger, T. J. Newbill, J. A. Evans, G. E. Farrell, Gertrude L. Warren and R. A. Turner.

Four founders of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work receiving bronze medals were Thomas E. Wilson, J. W. Coverdale, the late E. N. Hopkins (who had just passed away prior to Congress) and G. L. Noble. Mr. Noble also was presented a fireplace set by State leaders in commemoration of his 25 years as directing head of the Committee, and a desk by the Committee, directors and officers.

While there were many highlights to this special 1946 25th anniversary Congress, there was also tragedy. During the Club Congress Reuben Brigham, 59, assistant director of Extension, USDA died suddenly, while attending the event, casting a shadow of sadness over his many friends and admirers that were present. E. N. Hopkins, the editor of Meredith Publishing's *Farm Boys and Girls News*, starting in 1919, and one of the founders of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work and a strong advisor to Guy Noble, also passed away at year's end in Des Moines. The year also saw the passing of B. H. "Barney" Heide, on August 3, 1946, the Manager of the International Live Stock Exposition, another founder of the National Committee, and continuing as a director until his death. The early, dedicated pioneers of National 4-H Congress were beginning to slip away.

1947

The 1947 National 4-H Club Congress started the second quarter century of annual Congresses in high gear. The Congress climaxed a club year in which more than \$300,000 had been offered in awards as incentives to better club work. Of course, one of the objectives of Congress is to secure recognition for the achievement of these outstanding members. In addition to the 795 educational trips to National 4-H Congress and the 115 college scholarships awarded during the event, we cannot forget the 143,500 gold and silver medals awarded at the county level to county winners, and the plaques, gold watches, U.S. Savings Bonds (over 1,000) and cash awards given at the state level in programs not offering the state trips to Congress during 1947.

In step with the times, the 26th Club Congress held in Chicago presented a "new model" program which retained the best of pre-war sessions and continued features evolved during the recent world conflict to aid in bringing it to a successful conclusion. The new program gave more time to the consideration of serious aspects of leadership, youth training and rural community improvement without removing anything of value as show window dressing.

The discussion sessions developed during the war Congresses to keep the thinking of youth and leaders in line with the American philosophy of life reached a new high this year in participation and enthusiasm. The theme was "Working Together for a Better Home and World Community." The Monday morning assembly keynoter was Lois Fisher, Chicago author and cartoonist. She talked on "You and the United Nations," and with her chalk lines, made clear the parallels between present efforts toward world cooperation and the struggle of the Colonies as they worked out our Constitution. Howard Y. McClusky, vice president of the University of Michigan, gave the assembly talk on Tuesday, with 4-H'er Rhonwyn Lowry, Moultrie, Georgia, the 4-H chairman. The topic, "Continued Education Vital in Democracy" offered ample material for the discussion groups. The Wednesday session was addressed by Mrs. Charles W. Sewell, director of the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who talked about "Our Home and the Part It Plays to Help Us Work for a Better Home and World Community." Some of the group discussions that followed were allowed experimental use of an "Opinion Meter," which makes it possible to register quickly the opinion of the whole group.

As in the past couple of Congresses, the Thursday morning assembly provided an opportunity for the delegates to report on their discussion groups during the week. Near the end of presentations, while discussing what 4-H'ers could do to speed the building of a better world community, Robert Bull of Maryland challenged: "Why can't we do something right here and now." In a matter of less than a minute the Texas boys sprang to their feet and started passing their big 10-gallon hats along the rows soliciting donations. The panel members reporting jumped off the stage to help with the collection. The answer was swift and real, \$662.35 was heaped on the stage. The panel left the assembly, riding in a police car to the bank and sent the \$662.35 at once to CARE along with a penned message from the panel - "From the Heart H of the 4-H's of America to the hungry urban boys and girls of Europe."

[Photo: Alaskan delegates

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

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[Page: top photo, p. 19 (already scanned)

[Caption: First Alaskan delegates to attend a National 4-H Club Congress were the trio shown above, who enjoyed everything about the event except the Chicago weather. They thought it was "cold." From left they are

Richard M. Dangler of Seward, who won his trip in poultry work; Flo A. Dinkel, Wasilla, in clothing; and Lynn C. Sandvik, of Palmer, in gardening. They are wearing a kind of hooded coat common to the territory. Mary Robinson, district home agent of Petersberg, came with them as chaperon.

Mayor Martin H. Kennelly of Chicago made the first personal greeting to Congress delegates that has been received from that office in a long time. Speaking at the Thomas E. Wilson dinner the mayor stirred the hearts of his listeners with the warmth he welcomed them, and the assertion that he hoped to establish fine small communities throughout Chicago just as 4-H folks were doing in the rural areas. "Such communities are what have made this country great," he said, "and what will continue to do so. It's fine to have you here," he continued, "but what you do back in the country is what counts."

And, the following telegram was received from President Harry S Truman at Congress headquarters:

"With a world situation such as we now confront, no theme could be more appropriate for the 26th National 4-H Club Congress than 'Working Together for a Better Home and World Community.' I extend warm greetings to the boys, girls and leaders in attendance. In particular, I congratulate Donald Stoten, Jr., of Indiana, and Lavona Thorndyke of Oklahoma, the winners of the President's Awards in National Achievement. With every good wish to all of the boys and girls in 4-H."

One afternoon and evening the delegates spent at the International Live Stock Exposition. They saw the afternoon horse show and come eating time a barbecued meal was served by the Curtiss Candy organization with entertainment by talent from the WLS Barn Dance.

1948

During the 1948 4-H Club Congress a thrill of a lifetime came to all the girls attending when Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, in person, entertained them at the Tuesday Girls' Record Luncheon at the Edgewater Beach Hotel on Chicago's Lake Shore Drive. Every one had heard - or heard of - this master radio showman, but actually to see him and his 69 musicians was one of the top-flight experiences of the crowded week.

And the one unforgettable spot on that program was hearing (and learning) the new 4-H song, "A Place in the Sun," which Waring himself had just written. The whole of the 4-H world will be hearing this music in days to come, but these privileged girls can always say "we heard its first performance!"

The 1948 Congress theme was "Creating Better Homes Today for More Responsible Citizenship Tomorrow." In the final assembly selected delegates summarized the week's discussions by recommending ideas to take home and put to work.

In this session it was pointed out by 14 members present from last year's youth exchange project that one of the best citizenship gestures youth of the nation could make for our foreign friends is material contributions, and in the collection which followed \$887.01 was raised. This money was directed to the new National 4-H Foundation of America for the account of the exchange project. (In the commemorative publication, "50 Years of Service to Youth... The National 4-H Congress and the National 4-H Service Committee," by the Extension Service, USDA, they give credit to the National 4-H Congress in the fact that the highly successful International Farm Youth Exchange grew out of a pass-the-hat fund collected from delegates at the Congress.)

At the annual meeting of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, during the 1948 Club Congress, Gertrude Warren for the Extension Service and John Coverdale and G. L. Noble, representing the National Committee, told of the work of Senator Capper in the 4-H field. Thomas E. Wilson presented a silver plaque engraved: "Honoring Senator Arthur Capper for his unceasing devotion to 4-H Club work during nearly half a century; his vision of its potential; his loyalty to its ideals and his support of its leadership." The senator, a publisher of constructive farm papers for over 50 years (*Cappers Farmer*), former Governor of Kansas, veteran of 30 years in the Senate, was co-author of the Capper-Ketcham Act which provided for further development of cooperative Extension work and 4-H. He concluded his acceptance by saying that what 4-H members have done has given him abiding faith in the boys and girls and men and women of America.

[Photo: Thos. E. Wilson with Senator Capper

[Publication: National 4-H Club News

[Edition: January 1949

[Page: 5 (already scanned)

[Caption: Thos E. Wilson (left) Chairman of the National Committee, presents the plaque to Senator Capper

in honor of his long service to 4-H Club work. (from January 1949 National 4-H Club News)

One of the highlights of the Final Banquet at the 1948 National 4-H Congress was the premiere showing of the new film, "The Green Promise," funded by Glenn McCarthy, a flamboyant oilman from Houston, Texas, and produced by Glenn McCarthy Productions. The film, about a 4-H farm family, starred Walter Brennan, Marguerite Chapman, Robert Paige, and child stars Natalie Wood and Bobby Ellis. Ten-year-old Jeanne LaDuke of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, a young 4-H'er, also starred in the film. Several of the film's stars, as well as Mr. McCarthy, attended the annual banquet.

[Photo: Actual photo of Robert Paige and Natalie Wood (already scanned; also in Compendium under The Green Promise)

[Caption: Robert Paige inducts child Starlet Natalie Wood into 4-H (press photo shot from "The Green Promise" film)

1949

The theme for the 1949 28th National 4-H Club Congress was "Better Living for a Better World." Interesting, and in keeping with the theme, prominent among the Congress speakers, at the Monday General Assembly, were three International Farm Youth Exchange delegates - Durward Lyon, Toledo, Iowa; Ruth Harris, Cheyenne, Wyoming and Charles Sperow, Martinsburg, West Virginia. The point was made that living abroad on farms, as these youths did, can do much to remove false ideas and foster good will and understanding.

There were a number of foreign visitors at the 1949 Congress, as in all past years, including Uruguay, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Switzerland, Denmark, Austria, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Turkey. Present from the Orient were Japan's deputy minister of agriculture, G. Katayanagi and assistant; and Jim Lee of the Korean 4-H staff. Cubans figured prominently among foreign visitors with Rodolfo Arango, director of agriculture; Dr. Enrique Bello, leader of 5-C Clubs patterned after 4-H, and his wife; and Antonio D. Calvache.

The World Premiere of a new 4-H film - "4-H Headlines" sponsored by New Idea Farm Equipment - was held at the 1949 National Congress.

[Photo: Delegates looking at exhibit

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: January 1950

[Page: 20 (already scanned)

[Caption: Almost any time during the 1949 National 4-H Congress 4-H delegates and their leaders could be found studying the above exhibit. It clearly explained the importance of keeping 4-H records; and, in keeping a 4-H Memory Book... a personal "scrapbook" of your 4-H experiences and memorabilia.

1949 was the 50th anniversary of the International Live Stock Exposition and 4-H was well represented. Congress delegates spent Wednesday afternoon at the matinee Horse Show, and opened that evening's show with their own colorful annual parade, entering the arena with their State songs and flags as thousands in the stands sang with them or cheered as their own home State came into view. Preceding each evening's entertainment, 4-H'ers staged a short program of demonstrations in the small arena on the second floor of the amphitheatre.

The decade of the 40s saw National 4-H Congress transition into a comfortable tradition. By the end of the decade major segments of the Chicago event would more or less stay a part of the Congress mission and agenda for a number of years to come - the general assemblies and discussion groups, the major all-Congress meal events, the individual awards program banquets, tours, announcement of national program winners, the ever-expanding media coverage, the speakers and dignitaries... each area very special in its own individual way, and together, resulting in continuing to make National 4-H Congress something very special as a 4-H key 4-H event.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1950s

In the early 1950s, for the first time, all states and the territories were taking part in National 4-H Congress. By the decade of the 50's, many of the components of Club Congress had been tried, tested and proven to be successes. Many had become "traditional" parts of the weekly events for many years... if not decades - The National 4-H Dress Revue, the parade at the International Live Stock Exposition, the Firestone Breakfast, Ford and General Motors luncheons, Coats and Clark Friendship Party, Thomas E. Wilson Dinner, Sunday Evening Club, Singer "Pop" Concert, Annual Banquet and more. The assemblies, news conferences, leaders program, international delegate activities,

alumni recognition event, tours, annual banquet... all were woven into the very busy program. Of course, there were new things added, "tweaks" here and there, strong speakers and programs, and outstanding entertainment, so the tradition blended in with the new in an exciting fashion that kept Club Congress fresh and alive.

1950

The 1950 National 4-H Congress began with a powerful Sunday Opening Assembly speaker, Judge Camill Kelley of Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Kelley had been elected judge of the Juvenile Court seven times, and was the second woman in the country to attain that position. An author and speaker, she was an authority on problems of youth and talked on Better Living as Individuals. Monday's Assembly speaker was Harold Stassen, president, University of Pennsylvania and former governor of Minnesota and presidential candidate, and Tuesday's speaker was W. Kerr Scott, governor of North Carolina and a former 4-H member and Extension agent.

J. P. Schmidt, assembly moderator for the assemblies said, "I wish you could have been in this final session! While 20 4-H discussion leaders shot questions with machine gun speed through traveling microphones, the 1250 delegates and other leaders and visitors sat silent, listening for every question and hanging onto every answer. Each member had his say about these questions - prepared statements - in their groups. There were 20 discussion groups of about 60 members each. A 4-H delegate led each of these groups in "huddle" style. That is, the 60 members broke down into conversation huddles of five members each, and decided whether they agreed or disagreed with the prepared statements. Then each group of 60, in its own forum, before returning to the general assembly forum, instructed its leader what to ask the speakers.

One question President Stassen was confronted with was: "It is time to stop sacrificing the lives of our boys in wars with Russia's stooges. Let's go directly to Russia, and give her a choice of peace or war." Stassen replied, "to start a 'preventive war' is bad. War is too terrible for us to be caught in the role of war maker."

A questioner asked Governor Scott which thing he thought we Americans feel belongs most securely to us - religion, government, school, business, health, recreation. He replied: "It will be too bad when you no longer cherish your own religion under a government which guarantees for you that right." Another discussion leader said that Democracy as taught today is so abstract that citizens see little connection with voting. Governor Scott agreed that our citizenship teaching in our schools must be pretty dry, else more of us would vote at every election. The governor could remember when just one vote decided the case for having a better school in his community. Bells hailed that victory for hours.

And, thus it went. Delegates were caught up in discussing real issues of the day and the speakers were delighted with the interaction with the young people.

Governor W. Kerr Scott is an old 4-H'er... as was Harold Stassen in Minnesota. Scott said he got to be a member of a girl's tomato canning club in North Carolina when he was a boy - his best girl was a member of the club. She was his future wife. As a one-time county Extension agent, Governor Scott organized the largest Jersey Calf Club in the world and now as governor of an important agricultural State he advises 4-H'ers, "to change with the times, adjust to conditions, and be masters of the situation."

Evening affairs at Congress started the decade in total tradition - the Sunday Evening Club at Orchestra Hall on Sunday; Thomas E. Wilson Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel on Monday; Friendship Party, sponsored by Spool Cotton Co. (Coats & Clark) at the Trianon Ballroom on Tuesday; Horse Show, Box Supper courtesy of Curtiss Candy Co., and 4-H Club Parade in the Arena of the International Live Stock Exposition on Wednesday night and the Annual Final Banquet and Farewell Party at the Stevens on Thursday night.

[Photo: Coats & Clark ad for the Friendship Party

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: December 1951

[Page: 108 (been scanned)

[Caption: Advertisement for the Friendship Party which appeared in the December 1951 *National 4-H News*.

Other all-Congress meal events included the traditional Firestone Breakfast on Monday morning, International Harvester Luncheon on Monday noon, and the General Motors Luncheon on Thursday noon. On Tuesday, the girls and women leaders had lunch at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, guests of Montgomery Ward, and the boys and men leaders dined in the Terrace Casino of the Morrison Hotel, courtesy of the National Live Stock Producers' Association.

One of the most impressive occasions, as in past years, was when all the youngsters stood at the Thomas E. Wilson banquet and sang "The Star Spangled Banner" as Old Glory waved illuminated by high powered spotlights, led by the inimitable D. Merrill Davis of Ohio, song leader.

Some 98 youths and adults from 11 countries, many dressed in their native costumes, lent color to this great gathering. Some had language difficulties, but there was never an instance when their "spirit" was any different from our own American 4-H'ers. One lad from Bavaria said, "I don't speak English well, but I can say the Congress is swell. Yes, we have 4-H Club work in my country and we hope it grow beeg."

Red Sox great, Ted Williams, was back to Club Congress in 1950, mingling with the delegates as he did a couple of years ago, along with television star, Dennis Day, all to the great admiration of the delegates.

By the 1950s the awards programs offered through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, including the trips to 4-H Club Congress and the scholarships, had expanded greatly:

Achievement - The President of the United States and The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

- Canning
 - Citizenship
 - Clothing
 - Dairy Achievement
 - Dairy Foods Demonstrations
 - Dress Revue
 - Farm and Home Electric
 - Farm and Home Safety
 - Field Crops
 - Food Preparation
 - Forestry
 - Frozen Foods
 - Garden
 - Girl's Record
 - Health
 - Home Grounds Beautification
 - Home Improvement
 - Leadership
 - Meat Animal
 - Poultry
 - Recreation-Rural Arts
 - Soil and Water Conservation
 - Tractor Maintenance
 - Better Grooming Scholarship Fund
 - Community Relations Scholarship Fund
 - Improved Ironing Scholarship Fund
 - Knitting-Crocheting Scholarship Fund
- Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp.
In honor of Mr. Thomas E. Wilson
The Spool Cotton Co.
Lederle Laboratories Div., American Cyanamid Co.
Carnation Company
Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc.
Westinghouse Educational Foundation
General Motors
International Harvester Co.
Kelvinator Division of Nash-Kelvinator Corp.
American Forest Products Industries, Inc.
International Harvester Co.
Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.
Montgomery Ward
Kellogg Company
Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen
Sears-Roebuck Foundation
Edward Foss Wilson and Horace A. Moses Foundation
Mr. Thos. E. Wilson
Dearborn Motors Corporation
United States Rubber Company
The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
American Oil Company, General Petroleum Corp., Pan-Am Southern Corp., Stanolind Oil and Gas Co., Standard Oil Co. (Indiana), Standard Oil Co. (Kentucky), Standard Oil Co. (Ohio), Utah Oil Refining Co.
The Toni Home Permanent Company
Gene Autry and Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.
Proctor Electric Co.
Spinnerin Yarn Co. Inc.

1951

George F. Church, president, American Association of Agricultural College Editors, gives his day by day perspective at the 30th Congress in 1951, a good, solid image of National 4-H Congress in the 1950s:

November 25 (Sunday) - This ends my first day of my first National 4-H Club Congress. Came here with self-assurance I could interpret this event from viewpoint of citizen and taxpayer. But now my cockiness is oozing away; this affair is so big - so many things happening.

Many accents in the hotel lobby and around Congress headquarters! Soft Carolina syllables, the harsher sounds of the mid-West, and the "pertater" of New England. Truly, these youngsters first time away from their home states must here learn quickly one lesson - tolerance of the ways of outlanders.

At general assembly, Director Guy Noble of the National Committee called for show of hands: About one-fourth of the delegates on their first train ride; about two-thirds first time in Chicago.

Supper with 31 representatives of 18 foreign nations. Singing of "Alouette" led lustily by a Greek delegate. Dr. Henry Bennett, Arkansas-born president of Oklahoma A & M and rapidly becoming a world citizen, speaks briefly: "It is my hope that understanding, good will and peace can encircle the earth through applying the principles of 4-H."

November 26 (Monday) - Hotel phone girls a half hour late with rising calls. We rural folk swamp their early shift. Thus late to crowded Firestone breakfast, and see entertainment only by using mirror on open ballroom door as periscope. Show is equally as good as a good musical movie, and mirror gives screen effect.

Missed presentation of soil conservation awards, but efficient pressroom had list of winners and reports of speeches. Wonder if club leaders know how much work is done so newspapers, magazines, newsreels, radio, and TV communicators can record and report these events? It is not automatic.

To a morning press conference for home beautification winners, to see how this publicity machine works. Jaded big-city reporters seem to lose their cynicism meeting these frank young folk with the fresh viewpoint. And what fun for Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen, award donor - as chipper and gay as the young ladies from Colorado and Kentucky who won two of her eight awards.

Met Jesse Safley, farm editor of Nashville (Tennessee) Banner newspaper, and former county agent. He helps answer one of my unspoken questions: "What is future of these young people?" by remarking, "My first trip here was in 1929 with a poultry team."

To Luncheon with International Harvester. Songs of various States by Notre Dame Glee club brings burst of applause, then at close "God Bless America" reminds us we are one despite our differences.

In afternoon, motor coach tour of Chicago. Young man in seat ahead busily and most intelligently discusses problems involved in Chicago's "Bronzeland," the huge Negro district. I muse: Farm youngsters know nation's urban problems better than vice versa.

At Wilson dinner sit beside Mr. Love, a regional Boy Scout executive, speaking well of each other's organizations. Virginia and Nebraska youngsters who complete our table soon forget "War Between States" in passing programs for autographs.

Winners of leadership trophies arise and accept awards from Thomas E. Wilson. Youngsters are on a spot, accepting leadership trophies in presence of 1,892 other leaders, young and old. Yet winners carry themselves with grace; their self-possession is evident.

November 27 (Tuesday) - Up early, and find there are four breakfasts for winners of various awards. So hard to choose I finally break my fast at hotel coffee shop, where waitress inquired greatly of "What is 4-H?" and spoke admiringly of the young people's conduct.

Congress theme, "Working Together for World Understanding," expounded at general assembly by Mrs. Raymond Sayre, president of Associated County Women of the World. "People," she says, "are different. We must learn to understand these differences." A good thought.

March at noon with 4-H boys, 4 abreast down the sidewalk of Michigan Avenue and into Chicago's famed Loop, for luncheon at Morrison Hotel. Metropolitan traffic, usually rude, waits politely, as we blithely march through red signal lights.

At night, 8 dinners for winners of as many different awards! With Illinois Extension Editor Hadley Read, assistant coordinator of information for the Congress, I choose tractor maintenance. We leave Minnesota's Harold Swanson, coordinator, to carry on; and are sympathetic on our return, for Wayne King and some of his celebrities entertained most pleasantly. We vote praise for young George Foster of USDA Extension, who neatly compressed a 20-minute panel on tractor economics into 6 minutes to put program back on schedule.

By busses to the Trianon Ballroom, 60 blocks southward, for Friendship Party by Spool Cotton Company. I watch Roger Leathers, Rhode Island Extensioner, take flash photos of Joanne Goodhue, whom he encouraged to win a recreation award. She calls square dances with skill of Oklahoman or Texan, and Mr. Leathers comments: "It gives you a great kick when you tell some youngster they can do something, and they come through and do it."

We oldsters watch the dancing. These girls, bless'em, so eternally feminine yet so competently capable. Those boys busily getting home addresses should beware, we graybeards know. Yet that's as it has been since Eden; well indeed that these young leaders should meet.

November 28 (Wednesday) - At breakfast, by The Sears-Roebuck Foundation, E. J. Condon, its chief, says 4-H training provides nation "a hard core of dependable citizenship." Several speakers remark how in this day when headlines proclaim failures in public and private trust, our hope is raised by 4-H. Purdue Glee Club performers with showmanship as well as fine voices, reminding that Land-Grant colleges teach "how to live" as well as "make a living."

Visited annual meeting of American Agricultural Editors' Association. Feel guilt for deserting 4-H but excuse myself thusly: Farm magazine and radio people are important to 4-H, and to all of agriculture. We are now a minority group which must use press and radio to tell our story. This 4-H Congress, by the way, is an excellent stroke of public relations for agriculture.

Dashed down with Ferdie Deering, the Editors' retiring president, to represent our respective organizations at Dearborn Motors luncheon honoring poultry winners. Sat at table with Louis Rymer of Cleveland, Tennessee, and felt myself honored to know this young man whose first 50-chick project has developed to a total of nearly 100,000 pounds of broilers in six years.

Merritt D. Hill of Dearborn Motors returned to the theme, "Those who think our country is going to the dogs should see this group." Also was pleased with his tribute to farm research, from which comes the new ideas 4-H youngsters adopt and help to spread.

Also pleased by honor given the 250,000 volunteer local leaders, represented by Edwin Burns, Brookhaven, Mississippi, and Mrs. William Berley of Portland, Oregon, leader for 26 years. These leaders, I muse, are like unto sergeants of the army; and everyone knows an army is no better than its sergeants.

This P.M. to the International Live Stock Show, again by busses; and am much impressed by great amount of organizing which goes into this Congress. I cannot comprehend all the details involved in moving 1,500 young guests by motorcade, so leave details to the National Committee and the screaming sirens of the Chicago motorcycle police who escort us.

Heard a souvenir vendor, peeved at his lack of sales, shout to a fellow salesman, "They're all broke; their mothers should have given them some money." Their mothers, I thought, had given them something far more valuable - judgment as to the value of money.

To bed at 11, feeling well aware I am no longer of 4-H club age.

November 29 (Thursday) - Late to U.S. Rubber Company's recognition of recreation winners; had to peer between newsreel camera and huge light to see show presented by winners. Expecting to applaud only politely after so much professional entertainment - suddenly found myself vastly enjoying it. My nomination for top billing: Tennessee youngsters skipping two ropes at once, then adding a couple of cane fishing poles to be jumped.

Liked comment by H. E. Humphreys, Jr., president and chairman of United States Rubber: "We put too much emphasis on knowing things and having things, and not enough on doing things and believing things."

Tonight was the climax - the annual banquet. Before nearly 2,000 persons, upwards of 140 individual winners receive awards personally from some 40 donors. Fanfares from the orchestra greet each group as a spotlight picks them out in the huge ballroom of The Conrad Hilton.

From vantage of speakers' table, I muse on beauty of young 4-H ladies. Must have character and personality, although they are picked for brains and ability, not beauty. Stared rudely, I fear, at Glendora Nichols of Mt. Airy, North Carolina, who sits immediately before me at canning award table with Mrs. Ruth Kerr. Most difficult to picture this Carolina belle disheveled with home canning; I decide her competence in the kitchen gives her the same poise there that she displays here. Probably same is true of all these winners.

A farewell party until 12, and leaders relax their chaperonage a bit to allow an extra few minutes for inter-state goodbyes. The square-dancing goes on until lights flash a warning. These serious-minded youngsters know how to have a good time, too.

November 30 (Friday) - Homeward train trip gives time for musing on future of these young people, and the near 2,000,000 others they represent. My answer, perhaps, came during General Motors luncheon Thursday noon. I recall how Ralph W. Moore of GM remarked upon large number of former 4-H'ers now in responsible positions in his organization, and commented, "Perhaps somewhere in this room is a future president of General Motors."

And I recall, too, that the waiter at my table at GM dinner was once a 4-H boy in Oklahoma, and that he was a competent waiter. I tell myself that whether on farm or city job, high or low, 4-H teaches true and competent and faithful service.

End of article.

1952

The following year - 1952 - the agenda and events of Club Congress were very similar but a feature written in the January 1953 *National 4-H News* by Dr. J. Allan Smith, University of Kentucky, and current president of the American Association of College Editors at the time, is being reported here - not so much because of the event coverage, but because of Allan's insights and interpretations of Congress - his first one.

If you've never attended a National 4-H Congress you'll have a hard time seeing one through my eyes, or anyone's, until someday, perhaps, you have the good fortune to see one through your own. I hope you may - for it's an experience that will renew your confidence in the present and your faith in the future.

But though I cannot hope to enable you to see the Thirty-first Congress as I saw it, let me share with you some of my impressions of it, day by day.

November 30 (Sunday) - When I come down to breakfast about 8:30 the halls of The Conrad Hilton are a swarm with youngsters and leaders, talking, laughing, hurrying this way and that. It's my first National Congress, and I'm eager with anticipation. I look around at the lapel badges to see where folks are from.

No need to look at the badges, though, to tell where those boys with the big western hats hail from. They seem a bit odd at first, on the slender young boys, those hats with the wingspread of a Canadian goose.

One looked-for sectional difference I fail to find anywhere to the degree expected. Do I only imagine that the speech of these young folks is much more nearly alike, regardless of where they hail from, than is the speech of their elders from the same sections?

Are radio and television, with their far flung networks, equalizing our language, smoothing out our regional differences in speech? If so, the effects would appear first of all in the speech of youth.

Sunday here at the Hilton is a time of gaining one's bearings, getting acquainted, edging into the feel and swing of the Congress - at the special 4-H church services (featuring Dr. Kenneth H. Hildebrand, Pastor, and highlighting Fran Allison of Kukla, Fran and Ollie TV fame) at the general assembly in the afternoon, and at the many receptions and get-acquainted buffet suppers in the evening.

By night the solidarity of the huge gathering is pretty well established and everyone is looking forward eagerly to the round of activities tomorrow.

December 1 (Monday) - To breakfast in the Grand Ballroom, honoring the winners of the soil conservation project - a banquet for nearly two thousand, with speeches and presentations, delightful entertainment, and food to keep a plowman going.

I remark to a neighbor that I've never before eaten baked potato for breakfast. When you're hungry, some morning, try it - with creamed dried beef. I glance at the program and run down the list of such feasts: seven breakfasts, luncheons, or dinners for everyone, and thirty-one for special groups! What havoc to trim waistlines this week!

Here at this kick-off breakfast the keynote, it seems to me, for the whole Congress is given by Raymond Firestone, in paying tribute to all the delegates and expressing pride in them on the part of all the leaders and donors who make the Congress possible.

"You belong here," he says to the delegates, "because you have worked, have been ambitious, have used your own initiative. You are here because you have been co-operative with others, and you have proved worthy of the faith of your teachers, your leaders and your folks at home."

The orchestra strikes up "Dixie" - and I'm startled by the shrill shout that follows. Now, I tell myself, I've heard the Rebel yell! But then the tune changes to "Yankee Doodle," and the same shrill shout arises, and I know that these are only the lively accents of youth, and the famous old yell is gone and its secret will perhaps be forever hidden.

To general assembly, and the capable song-leadership of D. Merrill Davis, and a panel discussion led by Clifton Utley, NBC news commentator - and always the low undertone of murmur, as the boys and girls visit.

Certainly there is no rudeness, no impoliteness to speaker or leader, nor even a discernible lack of attention - but everywhere, throughout the hall, youth is busy with the age-old task of becoming acquainted.

After a gala luncheon - tours of the city and of the Museum of Science and Industry for the boys and girls - and for the leaders, a meeting. I go to the meeting of leaders, overflowing the South Ballroom; I become aware that the National 4-H Congress is not merely a meeting for boys and girls: it is an opportunity for administrators and leaders to discuss their problems, gain new inspiration and new knowledge to help them do a better job.

Late to dinner and no places left. Arrangements are being made for the overflow crowd in the Normandie Lounge, but unexpectedly a reserved table not yet filled is opened - and I'm standing near: an excellent location almost in the center of the room.

Hard to say which is most inspiring, the brief talk by Thomas E. Wilson (Chairman of Wilson & Company and of the National Committee), or the emceeding of Francis Pressly (4-H boy from North Carolina), or the introductions of the award winners in leadership, citizenship, and meat animal projects.

I ponder over the tremendous but intangible value to our country of the training afforded in citizenship and leadership by the democratic functioning of our 4-H Club system throughout the country.

December 2 (Tuesday) - At breakfast in the Oak Room I sit, by chance, across the table from a wholesale merchant from Honolulu.

"I've been observing these 4-H boys and girls closely since Sunday," he says, "and in all my life I've never seen a finer-looking, more courteous and well behaved, more thoughtful and intelligent-appearing bunch of youngsters! Tell me about them." I was eloquent while the coffee cools.

"Then to the general assembly and dress revue. The chairman is a lovely, dark-eyed, slender American Indian girl from Oklahoma.

We stand to give the pledge to the flag - and then suddenly the words choke in my throat and I stand in silence, filled with emotion, listening to the rumbling murmur of the thousand voices, and seeing as a backdrop the unfolding panorama of our national history - the conflicts, often the injustices, among the many strains and races who have entered into the making of our people and into the gradually emerging solidarity of "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Looking back, we cannot be proud of all we have done in our past. And yet it is the sum total of all that past which makes us what we are today, which constitutes us still, as throughout the nearly 200 years of our national history, the one great hope of democracy on earth!

And it seems to me that there are few events in our national life today which better epitomize the solidarity of our people and at the same time the great hope of our future, than this gathering of 4-H boys and girls from every state in the Union and all our territories.

At noon, to the luncheon for leaders and donors - a roomful of state leaders in agricultural Extension and of national leaders of industry and commerce. No better program could have been provided than the uncoached answering of questions about 4-H Club work by a quartet of national award winners: two boys and two girls.

Their poise, enthusiasm, good judgement, ready expression, wit and general understanding of their subject completely captivate the audience.

[Photo: Gertrude Warren retirement
[Publication: National 4-H News
[Edition: January 1953

[Page: 15 bottom left (already scanned)

[Caption: Gertrude L. Warren, retiring USDA 4-H official, was honorary hostess at the Congress and received many gifts of appreciation for her 35 years of service to Club Work.

In addition to recognition throughout the week, at the 4-H Members' Banquet, G. L. Noble, National Committee director, presented Miss Warren with a typewriter; Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen gave her a check from donors; and C. B. Wadleigh, New Hampshire state leader and chairman of the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work, presented a bound volume of letters from co-workers and told Miss Warren that state leaders had arranged to have her portrait painted and hung in Warren Hall at the National 4-H Club Center in Washington, D.C. Earlier Thomas E. Wilson had awarded her a National 4-H Club Congress Distinguished Service Citation.

I listen and watch, and know I am gaining a new view of the scope and importance of 4-H work and a new realization of the function of commerce and industry in the promotion of the work.

Around me are a whole galaxy of sponsors of the Congress and donors of national and state awards which have served, year by year, as additional incentives to good 4-H Club work.

I look into faces alive with enthusiasm and earnest pride in their work, and I tell myself that here is concrete evidence of the stewardship of wealth, the voluntary investment of private resources in projects for the general good.

And I tell myself also that we must not be content until there are Extension activities for urban folks as well as for rural, and Congresses similar to this for the sons and daughters of labor and the professions and industry and commerce.

December 3 (Wednesday) - Breakfast for everyone and entertainment by proud representatives of one of our Land-Grant Colleges - the Purdue Glee Club. Then assembly, another luncheon where local leaders are honored, and the highlight of the day - an excursion to the Livestock Exposition - the horse show, and cattle, sheep and swine exhibits, and the parade of the 1200 4-H delegates. Far up toward the top of the high tiers of seats I lean back and watch, and muse upon the way things used to be in the pre-4-H days...

I remember a backyard "pig project" when I was about 12--at a time when I had never heard of 4-H. I saved nickels and dimes to buy two runty pigs. Out of scrap lumber I built a pen and trough and shelter. I slopped the pigs, pulled weeds for them, scratched their backs, tossed ear corn to them, and sat on the fence by the hour dreaming about them.

For runts they did well, and sometime along toward December they passed over the magic line between pets and porkers. In January came butchering time...

I muse about what I gained from that far-off project, and what I failed to gain, as compared with such projects today. Aside from a few observations into the nature of pigs, I learned nothing from my project. Nothing on disease control; nothing about adequate rations and cost; nothing about systematic business procedures; nothing of what constitutes a good pig. I kept no records.

Though a few playmates and an occasional grown-up cast a glance at my pigs, I never knew the thrill of showing them. Nor did my project lead in any way toward training and experience in the arts of social conduct and group living.

No devoted local leader or county agent guided my steps. No club meetings for exchange of ideas and information. No training in demonstrations, in public appearances, in leadership, in recreation, in manners and morals, in citizenship.

In fact, all those attributes and values which we look upon today as the core of 4-H training were lacking. I raised the pigs; they grew, and were slaughtered - and that was that. Thank God the projects are different now!

December 4 (Thursday) - A "Share the Fun" breakfast, where the 4-H'ers themselves take over the entertaining - and do a masterful job of it, too.

Professional entertainers at the various functions are good, and we see a great variety of them, but for sheer enjoyment I'll take the talent provided by the youngsters themselves. And I don't believe I'm alone in my verdict.

At noon - luncheon for all in new surroundings, followed by the final assembly session.

And then the climax of all the week, the Annual Banquet on Thursday night, where awards are presented to 198 national winners to the accompaniment of fanfares from the orchestra and cheers of 2000 fellow delegates and leaders and guests.

The emotional highlight of the entire Congress comes then, it seems to me, with the presentation of gifts to Gertrude L. Warren, retiring 4-H worker of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and with Miss Warren's eloquent and touching response.

I wonder, during these ceremonies, how thoroughly the boys and girls understand and appreciate the significance of what they are watching and hearing. Their standing ovation and prolonged cheering of Miss Warren leave no doubt of either their understanding or their appreciation. It sounds cold enough now, as I write of it - but at the time I was not the only one to wipe away tears.

Then the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner as spotlighted Old Glory fluttered in the breeze of a fan in the balcony - and finally the cheerful and vivacious cry of the toastmistress: "Dancing begins at ten!" It is the call to the Farewell Party of the Thirty-first Congress.

End of article.

In addition to delegates from all 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico at the 1952 National 4-H Congress, guests were also present from 29 other countries - the largest number of foreign countries ever to be represented at the Congress. Canada had representatives from Ontario and Saskatchewan. International representatives also represented Finland, Chile, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Turkey, Argentina, England, Israel, Mexico, Bolivia, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Austria, Norway, France, Belgium, Greece, Tunisia, El Salvador, Uruguay, Lebanon, Pakistan, South Africa, New Zealand, and India.

Some of the 1952 entertainment highlights included Wayne King and his Orchestra at the International Harvester luncheon; sports stars Allie Reynolds, Gene Sarazen and Charles Trippi at the Thomas E. Wilson dinner; Percy Faith and his orchestra at the Montgomery Ward luncheon; and, Lou Breeze and his orchestra at the Dearborn Motors luncheon.

[Photo: Complete front cover showing Congress banquet,

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: Dec 1953

[Page: Complete front cover (done scan)

[Caption: None

1953

Highlights added to the program for the 1953 National 4-H Congress included the first "Pops" Concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall, with Ford Motor Company as host on Saturday night and a special general assembly on Monday morning at Eitel's Palace Theatre - a special Showing Cinerama, hosted by International Harvester Company. (Cinerama movies - combining the words "cinema" and "panorama" were brand new, utilizing three theater projectors and an arched screen, the "outer" projectors showing the pictures in a crisscrossed pattern.)

John H. Kraft, chairman of the board, Kraft Foods Company, again hosted international representatives to Congress at a special dinner Saturday night in the West Ballroom of the Hilton. Delegates in 1953 represented Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, England, Finland, Formosa, Iran, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Philippines, Syria and Tunisia.

One of the featured assembly speakers was Dr. Grace Sloan Overton, of Adams, New York, a famous authority on love, courtship and preparation for marriage, speaking on marriage and home life problems. Dr. Overton has devoted her life to the building of sound personalities and enduring homes through her books, magazine articles and speeches.

The IFYE panel again was a popular assembly presentation, repeating IFYE presentations at Congress for several years now.

Emeryk Krosnowski, IFYE from Brazil, interrupted his stay on American farms for a week to attend Congress. The 21-year-old left his native Hungary and perhaps said goodbye for the last time to his mother and sister to study language in Switzerland and later migrated to Brazil. He has learned six languages, bought 100 acres of jungle land and attends college. He was impressed with how much the Congress demonstrated the wide appreciation for agriculture in America. Michael Khuory, Syrian IFYE, was impressed at how Congress brought out the spirit and maturity of rural young America, and Gilbert Devriendt, Belgian IFYE, marveled at this event's expression of American understanding and support of 4-H work.

Dr. Milton Eisenhower, president of Pennsylvania State College... and brother to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was also a Congress speaker, who praised the contribution 4-H work makes in teaching boys and girls responsibility and the ability to make decisions. He lauded the program for helping youth to grow to the height of their own inner qualities.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson was the feature speaker at the Thomas E. Wilson Dinner on Monday night. He was introduced by a 4-H member who was 1952 national leadership winner, William A. Davis, Jr., Valdosta, Georgia. The Secretary told delegates that: "Many of our present day agricultural leaders found their inspiration for leadership in their early training as 4-H Club members. It was part of their rural heritage. It is today part of their character." He then discussed the future of American agriculture and the part the boys and girls will play in it and explained his philosophy regarding the farm program, cautioning the audience that 4-H'ers should be interested in a long-range program because they, as young folks, have the most to gain or lose.

[Photo: Delegate introducing Secretary of Agriculture

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: Jan 1954

[Page: Front Cover (already scanned)

[Caption: Leaders of tomorrow receive inspiration and guidance from those of today at National 4-H Club Congress. 4-H'er William A. Davis, Jr., Valdosta, Georgia, introduces Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson to the delegates.

The 1953 Congress saw the first recognition of 4-H alumni in the new National 4-H Alumni Recognition program sponsored by Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. These eight first national winners included: Anthony Judge, Jr., retired, Department of Natural Resources, Rhode Island; John Walter Robinson, president of Robinson Furniture Company, Cleveland, Tennessee; Herman E. Talmadge, governor and U.S. Senator, Georgia; Myron W. Clark, Director of Marketing, Servicemaster, Inc., Chicago; Clarence Roy Ropp, farmer, Normal, Illinois; Mrs. Lloyd Williams, manager of Altus Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma; Governor Dan Thornton, Colorado; and Pauline Johnson Hanst, retired teacher in Oakland, Maryland, from West Virginia.

Another "first" in 1953 was the formation of a new club at the National 4-H Congress - called the Old Timers' Club. Because many functions, and particularly the major meal events, were crowded, many adults voluntarily joined the "Old Timers' Club" meetings which were held in the foyer of the ballroom and in the Normandie Lounge at the Hilton during meal times, dining on the same menu, and assuring that the boys and girls all got seated in the main dining rooms. It primarily was for those adults attending Congress who had been to these events before and didn't have a problem with "secondary" seating. (The Old Timers' Club concept remained for the duration of Club Congress in Chicago.)

As much as the delegates love their visit to Chicago, the City of Chicago always enjoys the role of playing host. Mayor Martin H. Kennelly, in 1953 put it this way, "The National 4-H Club Congress provides a great stimulation to the people of Chicago; it brings to us forcibly the youthful spirit imbued in every one of these youngsters." With a message to the parents and leaders, the Mayor said that they could be proud of their sons and daughters who have conducted themselves so well and to the great credit of rural America.

Yes, over the years 4-H'ers attending Congress have traditionally proved themselves perhaps the best public relations representatives of America's great farming industry.

The media who brings the story of Congress to the millions of readers and listeners through newspapers, magazines, radio, and television echoed the mayor's sentiments. When asked what Congress meant to her, Ruth Moss, Chicago Tribune reporter said, "You know, now I know how 4-H'ers feel when bombarded by questions. It gives us in the Chicago press a chance to write about something refreshing... to report about positive things. We can't help but enjoy and take with us some of the enthusiasm, exuberance and genuine feeling of friendship left us by 4-H'ers."

The significance of Congress to the entire 4-H movement in the words of the national leader of 4-H work in 1953, E. W. Aiton, was this: "We regard Club Congress as the climax of the 4-H Club project program. Here is an opportunity to bring reports and evidence of achievement of two million members to public attention.

"It is an occasion when representatives of the Extension Service join hands with friends in industry and private organizations to unite our efforts in behalf of this educational and character-building program for rural youth."

1954

[Photo: from front cover of 4-H News showing Sec. of State Dulles

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: January 1955

[Page: Front Cover (already scanned)

[Caption: Washington apples were given to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles at his appearance before delegates to the National 4-H Congress. Jean Oestreich, Ritzville, and Paul Selle, Spokane, made the presentation.

The 1954 Club Congress certainly held its own in offering both inspirational assembly programs and a full week of entertainment for the delegates. C. M. Ferguson, Administrator of the Federal Extension Service, was the guest speaker at the Sunday opening assembly, along with greetings to the group from youth representatives of the Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. E. W. Aiton, Director of 4-H, spoke at another assembly and yet another focused on "Working Together for World Understanding" with two IFYE's and two overseas youth, along with Kathleen Flom of the National 4-H Club Foundation as moderator.

International Harvester again arranged for a special showing of "This Is Cinerama" and provided transportation to the Eitel Theatre for the showing. Ford Motor Company previewed a new special 30-minute color film on 4-H that was so new it didn't yet have a title! 4-H delegates were asked to complete ballots giving their preference to tentative titles. At the banquets, Ford Motor Co. featured Ed Sullivan and his "Toast of the Town" Revue while the General Motors event had the Palmer House Revue. Sears-Roebuck again sponsored the Purdue Glee Club while Wilson & Co. brought in sports stars Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians and Don Little of the New York Giants... Westinghouse featured the "Harmonicats" and Kelvinator had Lee Ann Meriweather, Miss America. Coats & Clark, as tradition on Tuesday night, sponsored an all delegate Friendship Party at the Aragon Ballroom with music by Eddy Howard and his orchestra. And, speaking of tradition, the 4-H'ers themselves, were the entertainment again at the "4-H on Parade" at the International Live Stock Exposition... a tradition going back to 1924 - 30 years earlier.

William B. Ward, head of Extension information, Cornell University, as president of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, wrote a feature on the 1954 Congress in the January 1955 issue of *National 4-H News*, which appears below:

AMERICA'S FINEST CROP. "Reporters from Chicago's big papers and wire services had just finished filing their first stories on the 33rd National 4-H Club Congress when I walked into the press room Saturday morning, November 27.

"They already had interviewed a number of the 1,247 4-H boys and girls who had come with their leaders from every state in the nation, and Puerto Rico to reap some of the rewards of their achievements.

"In that press room a veteran reporter expressed what seemed to be the prevailing opinion among this group of 'hard-boiled' newspapermen:

"There's one bountiful crop grown on American farms which no one suggests needs any price supports or parity ratios. And it's the most precious product of rural life - clean-cut boys and girls."

"After interviewing and associating with scores of youngsters at the Congress for a week, I'm more convinced than ever of the wisdom of that reporter's statement.

"Those self-reliant, sincere, and unselfish boys and girls put a premium on useful work and the results of conscientious labor by turning heads, hands, and hearts to many things for a more satisfying life. Evidence of their unselfishness is this advice to 4-H Club members from the top national winners: 'Don't work just for the sake of winning awards, but do all you can for your club and for others.'

"There was a feature story in every delegate and leader, in the foreign visitors from 23 countries, and in scores of impressive and breathtaking events - enough to fill several issues of *National 4-H News*.

"I was thrilled over the heart-touching 'success' stories of delegates who had won over rheumatic fever, tuberculosis and polio, and gone on to become leaders of their groups. William Thompson, Bedford county, Virginia, has been on crutches since the age of three due to rheumatic fever. At a morning assembly he sang 'Count Your Blessings,' and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Grace Stannard of Cherry Valley, New York, won over polio at eight, and the loss of her mother two years later.

"Safety winner James Messerschmitt, Elizabeth, Colorado, helped put the brakes on teen age hot rodders, of such vital concern to many cities. A powerful antidote to delinquency, 4-H appears to be.

"Folks asked me if I had heard about Mrs. Joseph Kendler, local leader of Alaska. She paid her own way to the Congress to accompany her 'two boys' - Don Hurlock, poultry trip winner, and Henry Jenkins, garden trip winner.

"Arriving in Chicago 33 years ago from Germany, Mrs. Kendler visited Chicago kinfolks briefly, then went to Juneau, where she met and married Joe Kendler, a farmer. She taught herself to read and write English.

"In 1950 she helped organize the Mendenhall 4-H Club for boys and has led it ever since. She was speechless for moments when her district home agent, Arthiel Spaulding, told her of the boys' great fortune. She just was not use to things coming that easily, for she had not only led the boys, but got behind and pushed, as Miss Spaulding tells it.

"A surprise, for the boys which left them somewhat sheepish was the news flashed to the Congress press headquarters from the International Live Stock Exposition that 4-H girl exhibitors in the Junior Livestock Feeding Contest had won three of its most coveted awards. It was the first time for this to happen.

"At the Wednesday night show in the huge International Livestock Exposition amphitheater 16,000 people applauded as more than 1,200 4-H members in green and white beanies and overseas-styled caps marched four abreast and finally formed the four H's of their pledge. Then the arena was darkened and flashlights outlined the massive letters while the marchers lustily sang 'God Bless America.'

"The guest list read like 'Who's Who' in industry and agriculture. The awards, breakfasts, luncheons and dinners were provided by many industrial and civic organizations through the channels of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. Its cooperation in the 4-H program is a significant contribution to the future of the nation.

"Delegates, incidentally, helped relieve food surpluses, or so it seemed, by consuming king-sized meals. At one 6:45 breakfast, the time for all such events, Executive Chef Henry Wagner of the Conrad Hilton, reported the youngsters drank 400 quarts of milk and stuffed down 300 dozen eggs, 500 pounds of fried potatoes, 8,000 juiced oranges, 6,000 rolls and quantities of butter, jams and jellies.

"But the Congress wasn't all partying, dining and 'boy meets girl.' Delegates worked, too. They demonstrated the best in agriculture and home arts.

"They went to church on Sunday, and through the week talked over many important personal, national and world-wide matters in small and large groups.

"At the Thomas E. Wilson 37th annual dinner for delegates, leaders and many notables, we heard a person whom none will ever forget - John Foster Dulles. The courageous, globetrotting Secretary of State highlighted the theme of the Congress - 'Working Together for World Understanding' in his lucid statement on our nation's problems around the universe.

"Some of the Secretary's striking statements were:

"The goal of our foreign policy is to enjoy in peace the blessings of liberty.'

"We believe that one of the greatest contributions we can make to peace is to be ready to fight, if need be, and to have the resources and the allies to assure that an aggressor would surely be defeated. That does not mean being truculent or provocative or militaristic.'

"It does mean, in line with two of your 4-H precepts, seeking peace not only with the heart, but also with the mind.'

"Scores of 4-H members rushed to the head table to take flashlight pictures of the Secretary. A few ventured to get autographs. Then professional photographers took over and the television and new cameras began to grind away. Through it all the Secretary smiled often and waved to the delegates in the packed room.

"They also saw Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson who gave them a stirring message on problems of rural life and economy.

"A picture no one will forget was Nancy Mason, toastmistress at the Wilson dinner. The lovely, personable, 17 year-old 4-H member of Statesville, N.C., and a 1953 citizenship winner, had poise far beyond her years. Imagine her calmly introducing Mayor Kennelly of Chicago, Thomas E. Wilson, and other dignitaries - then the Secretary of State before 1,800 people in the room and millions on radio and television.

"So far, I've shared with you my own reflections. Let's see the Congress through the diary highlights of Erwin Schroder, state citizenship winner of Tribes Hill, N.Y.

"Enroute to the Congress he notes that such new experiences as eating and sleeping on a train and registering at the World's largest hotel made most of the delegates feel quite inexperienced. But they kept in mind the 4-H motto to 'Make the Best Better,' and it gave them assurance.

"Sunday morning Irwin watched hundreds of people unite in prayer, singing, and worship to God. Every head was lifted toward the Stars and Stripes for the singing of the 'Star Spangled Banner.' Most had not seen each other before, and were assembled in a strange hotel in a strange city. Despite this barrier, he observes all felt a common unity under God as they listened to Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand, pastor of the Central Church.

"The spirited band music, talent program, and the opportunity to meet new 4-H friends made the Firestone breakfast a never-to-be-forgotten experience. I was most impressed by the message from Raymond C. Firestone.

"It was on getting 'understanding,' and he used an old riddle to explain its acquisition, which runs: 'What is it that the more of it you take away the larger it becomes?' The answer is, 'A hole in the ground.' So it is, he said, with improving one's character. Through giving to others we add to our own stature.

"But Erwin noted that Mr. Firestone stressed that we must understand others if we are to serve them well, and he tried to apply the injunction in all his personal contacts the rest of the Congress.

"Erwin's reactions in Secretary Dulles' talk are enlightening, 'I found that without exception, each delegate concentrated on this vital message,' he wrote in his diary.

"We will surely keep in mind what he told us as we strive for newer and better pathways of service for 4-H - and above this for our country.'

"An entry on 'the 4-H spirit' reads:

"As the week progressed, I have become aware of the fine spirit here. The breakfast sponsored by Sears-Roebuck was a demonstration. Director Al Stewart of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, requested all delegates to join the club in singing The Lord's Prayer. The huge ballroom was filled with our voices."

"All week I have been very conscious,' the boy continues, 'that America and its industrial leaders are squarely behind the 4-H program.' The breakfast served by the United States Rubber Company was particularly impressive.

"The title, 'Share the Fun,' perfectly suited the event, for these entertainers were 4-H members just like ourselves.

"Our Obligation' is Erwin's final entry. It reads, in part: 'I am sure all delegates feel a sense of obligation to the people who have made it (the Congress) possible. We can go back to our local clubs and tell them of the importance of the 4-H organization, as we have come to know it this week.

"We can share new knowledge about 4-H'ers which represent far away states and foreign countries. By so doing we can give substance to our theme, Working Together for World Understanding.'

"As Dr. Kenneth McFarland told us at luncheon, we must not ask for more because we are already blessed with much. Rather we should accept the opportunities as they present themselves to us..'

"As Mrs. Ward and I traveled back to Cornell after the annual banquet, I kept thinking of a verse that seemed to fit 2,000,000 4-H members, their leaders, and all the other folks who have a part in this great youth program. It's one of Edwin Markham's:

"There is destiny that makes us brothers, None goes his way alone, All that we send into the lives of others, Comes back into our own."

1955

Delegates to the 1955 Congress represented the nation's more than two million 4-H'ers and were honored with the best entertainment, finest food and the keenest minds that the cooperative effort of 4-H and industry could bring.

For example, members and leaders attended a “pop” concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and two 4-H’ers outstanding in music, participated in the program.

- Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand, pastor of the Central Church of Chicago, conducted church services Sunday morning in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton. In the evening, Dr. Richard Raines, Bishop of the Indiana Area Methodist Church, spoke before the delegates at the Sunday Evening Club.
- Two entertainment features included “Cinerama Holiday” and a special high point, the Share the Fun Breakfast at which 4-H talent from all parts of the country performed. On Tuesday evening the whole Congress group danced to the music of David Carroll’s Orchestra at the Aragon Ballroom.
- Such Congress favorites as the Purdue Glee Club, 4-H Parade in the International Live Stock Exposition arena, and the national dress revue were again a part of the program.
- Thos. E. Wilson, National Committee chairman, had his big day as usual at the annual Wilson dinner and the press conference for meat animal and citizenship winners. In the excitement of picture taking Mrs. Wilson, watching on the sidelines, remarked: “Tom is 86, and isn’t it wonderful he can enjoy life that way.” Now that he is retired, Mr. Wilson spends much time on his Edellyn Farm counting the days until a new champion Shorthorn is born.
- E. L. Peterson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and C. M. Ferguson, administrator, Federal Extension Service, made appearances at the Congress; and, the International Farm Youth Exchange panel discussion pinpointed the presence of the many foreign visitors to Congress.
- George Round, Extension Editor, Nebraska, and current president of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, gave a reporter’s view of the 1955 National 4-H Congress in the January 1956 issue of *National 4-H News* which follows:

It would take a lot of adjectives and superlatives to report correctly the 1955 National 4-H Club Congress. There just aren’t enough words to do justice to a description of the ambitions, achievements and realizations of the 1,258 4-H boys and girls who were in Chicago.

Perhaps one can record the spirit of the event through personal reaction, observations of delegates and comments of outsiders on the goings-on.

There were more than 1,200 reasons why the Congress succeeded. Each delegate had a different version of his or her greatest thrills. To some it was the huge ballroom with the majestic banquets and dinners. To others, it was the Chicago Symphony pop concern on Saturday night... the appearances of sport stars and other celebrities.... the trip to the International Live Stock Exposition or the Aragon ballroom... or the museums and other tours.

The Hilton hotel was a magnificent palace to some delegates... Angela Heine of North Dakota, top Achievement girl in the nation, almost did not go to Chicago. She is a sophomore in college and engaged to be married. Her boyfriend kidded her about the achievement competition. Told her to tell “Ike to get me a good assignment in the army,” little realizing that she will visit the White House during National 4-H Club Week as one of the six 4-H’ers to present the 4-H Report to the Nation.

Folks from the Philippines, China, Peru and other countries were intrigued with the Congress... the event was homecoming for some visitors who came to Chicago during this time just to see the 4-H’ers and old friends among the adults. Many sons and daughters of former members were in the delegation.

James Cagney, the actor, was a surprise speaker at a breakfast for the entire group. Told how he got interested in conservation at the age of 11 when his mother took him to a lecture in New York City. He now owns several farms. Mr. Cagney recalled his favorite line in the movie, “Dead End.” It was, “Look, Mom, I’m dancing.” Reminded him of 4-H’ers because they’re always dancing before the world.

Chicago opened its arms to the visitors. Some may have viewed the delegates as small fry... or boys and girls from the country... or future farmers and homemakers. But that was not necessarily true. They were all champions.

One could not help but observe their youthful enthusiasm, their intelligent approach to serious problems or their great curiosity without realizing that they belonged to the greatest informal youth educational movement in America!

The city's big newspapers opened their hearts, and their pages to the 4-H'ers. They reported editorially that city-bred folks do not understand the wholesome philosophy of the hustling 4-H'ers... this was prompted by a member's statement that visits to friends should be made for sheer enjoyment of companionship and talk. Presume city folks go to see the nightly television fare.

So much for an informal recording of my impressions. Let's look at facts. We frequently heard the words "cream of the 2,000,000 boys and girls in 4-H Club work." And these young people were truly that.

Most had been in 4-H work for at least three years. Their records had survived close inspection at county and state levels, finally coming before a judging committee in Chicago.

Thirteen state and assistant state leaders from all parts of the country, under guidance of Fern Shipley, USDA, pored over the books for over a week... Saturday and Sunday were spent in the judging room. Time off was granted for diversion only when the interminable hours of reading and weighing achievements became too long.

From their deliberations came 186 names... the names of those who were to be revealed during news conferences at the Congress as champions in their fields. I watched them as they met the press, saw them on television, or heard them on radio in my hotel room, and champions they were... good public relations representatives for agriculture... helping city readers and viewers learn that it takes initiative and struggle and knowledge to succeed in the rural fields... assuring them that the pantries will be filled 20 years from now as they are today.

Representatives of 29 national award donors were there to present \$48,600 worth of scholarships to 162 of these national winners. I saw captains of industry thrilled with the stories these young people had to tell... watched them roll out the plush carpet at special events honoring the young people... and here is one reason no one person can tell the story of Congress. One night, at the same hour, there were 11 different functions for special groups of delegates.

The informality of these smaller gatherings was matched by the splendor of the larger events when the 1,258 boys and girls; 240 leaders and chaperons; and some 500 representatives of donor organizations, press, radio and television and other friends of 4-H Club work sat down together to eat. For their assemblies, the young people took over two theaters... the Palace, where they saw Cinerama Holiday and the Eighth St. Theatre, home of the WLS National Barn Dance, where they had their National 4-H Dress Revue, talks and discussions.

This is my account of an experience that must be seen to be believed. Boys and girls, all 1,200 of them, seemed to move on a split-second schedule. Advance arrangements left no stone unturned... busses were ready, and in adequate numbers when needed... the ever-faithful police escort whisked them through traffic... hospitality centers awaited in the great exhibit halls of the Hilton so delegates and leaders could kick off their shoes and rest... or they could occupy their time with fascinating crafts taught by Tennessee club members.

To me it is significant that the young people are so much the stars of the Congress. Everything is arranged with them in mind. Records are chosen by Extension judges... Extension committees determine the program and carry out the careful plans made by the National 4-H Committee... the result is a magical combination of fun, honor and education.

My last reminiscence is of Brunhilde Seidel of Maryland, who could not speak our language until six years ago, but was one of the stars at the Congress. "I love everything about 4-H," she was quoted as saying. "It's the best thing that ever happened to me..." Brunhilde, I think, typified a lot of the delegates, and Congress was a rich reward for her perseverance and achievement.

(End of George Round's article)

[Photo: 4-H delegates with James Cagney

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[Caption: The eight scholarship winners in the 4-H Water and Conservation program are shown with Raymond C. Firestone and actor James Cagney. The scene is from a film on the 1955 Congress produced by Firestone Tire & Rubber Company. (from September 1956 *National 4-H News*)

1956

The year 1956 was the 35th National 4-H Club Congress. The pre-Congress newsletter announced that all States except one would be in Chicago by Saturday evening, in time for the "Pop" Concert that evening. International representatives from 14 countries were expected to attend, including Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Italy, Paraguay, Taiwan, Algeria, Austria,

Belgium, Germany, Israel, Netherlands and Uruguay. (Fifty-nine countries have been represented at the Congress since 1947.)

Once, again, one of the major Congress assemblies featured the international theme of "4-H Around the World." This special presentation featured developments in implementing 4-H Guidepost No. 10, "Serving as Citizens in Maintaining World Peace." Participants on the program included: E. W. Aiton, Federal Extension Service; Kenneth W. Ingwalson, American Farm Bureau Federation; Doris Kowalt, IFYE from Michigan; Dr. Henry Ahlgren, Wisconsin; Alvis Partl, IFYE from Austria; Kenneth H. Anderson, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work; D. Merrill Davis, Ohio; Jack Good, 4-H'er from Virginia; and Norman C. Mindrum of the National 4-H Foundation.

Other General Assemblies included Dr. Carl S. Winters, speaking to the group at the Sunday afternoon assembly on "Youth's Glory Road." Dr. Winters is Pastor of the First Baptist Church at Oak Park, Illinois, and well known as a lecturer, writer, philosopher and counselor. On Tuesday, the General Assembly highlighted Dr. Evelyn Duvall of Chicago, noted author and consultant in Family Relations, on "Growing Up in Today's World."

For the first time, the two National winners in both Achievement and Leadership programs were announced as a finale to the Annual Banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton on Thursday night. Their identity was not revealed until that time.

Some of the Congress entertainment in 1956 included a production written and produced especially for 4-H at the Firestone Breakfast; Cinerama Holiday, through the courtesy of International Harvester; the Purdue Glee Club at the Sears Breakfast; the Crew Cuts and Lou Breeze and his orchestra at the Montgomery Ward Luncheon; The Malone Sisters and other top novelty acts at the Livestock Producers Luncheon, and a Big Time Circus Show at the Ford Luncheon. Highlighting the U.S. Rubber Breakfast was Share the Fun acts from all over the Nation. And, of course, the Friendship Party at the Aragon on Tuesday night and the Chicago Symphony "Pop" Concert, sponsored by Singer Sewing Machine Company, on Saturday night. Tickets were also available for the popular nationwide radio show, the "Breakfast Club" for all who wanted them. A special showing of the WLS Barn Dance was presented in the Eighth Street Theatre on Saturday afternoon.

1957

The Conrad Hilton Hotel - the world's largest - again played host to the more than 1,500 delegates and leaders attending the 36th National 4-H Club Congress in 1957.

Eighteen countries were represented at Club Congress in 1957 - Norway, France, Chile, Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Turkey, British Guiana, Brazil, Honduras, Korea, Taiwan, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Philippines, South Rhodesia and Ceylon. A special banquet was planned for this group of international delegates on Saturday, as in past years. A special meeting was planned for leaders to review progress in the 4-H People-to-People Program and to take note of the development of rural youth programs around the world.

Agricultural Secretary Ezra Taft Benson spoke to the boys and men leaders at the National Live Stock Producers Association luncheon on Tuesday, as well as making brief comments at the Leaders' and Donors' luncheon that same day.

In keeping with previous years, donor hosts again featured some of the Nation's top entertainment at their Congress events for the pleasure of delegates and leaders. Guests at the Firestone breakfast saw a variety show written and produced especially for 4-H. [For the fifth time high achieving 4-H members had the rare experience of being televised on the coast-to-coast ABC network "Voice of Firestone," featured in an interview with Raymond C. Firestone, president of the company.]

The Crew Cuts, who thrilled the girls with their singing at the 1956 Montgomery Ward luncheon, made a return appearance at the Ward's event in 1957 – can't forget "Sh-Boom Sh-Boom" and "Earth Angel."

[Photo: The Crew Cuts

[Publication: Color pic of the group in 1957 at the top of Wikipedia when you google The Crew Cuts.

[Caption: The group in 1957.

Arthur Godfrey appeared with the delegates at the International Live Stock Show on Wednesday afternoon. Delegates heard the Purdue Varsity Glee Club and the Purdue Choraleers at the Sears Breakfast, and saw Cinerama, "Seven Wonders of the World," as guests of International Harvester. Another traditional highlight was the Coats and Clark Friendship Party at the Aragon Ballroom.

1958

Officials Salute 4-H
(digital link, pages 14-15, Dec. 1958 National 4-H News)

From November 30-December 4, Chicago again rolled out the welcome mat for the more than 1,900 official 4-H Club delegates, adult leaders, and guests arriving in Chicago for the 37th Annual National 4-H Club Congress at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. By October 20, more than 1,800 4-H record books had been received at the offices of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, where they were processed and made ready for the 12-member National 4-H Record Judging Committee, who came in to Chicago from November 3 to 12 to select the Sectional and National winners in more than 30 4-H awards programs. Fern Shipley, Associate Leader, 4-H Clubs and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service, served again as chairman of the committee and John Banning worked with the committee full time in anticipation of taking over the chairmanship in 1959. Emmie Nelson served as liaison person from the National Committee, preparing the records for the judging team and functioning as liaison with the state 4-H offices, an assignment she professionally handled for many years.

Fourteen countries sent official International delegates who attended Congress full time - Bolivia, Republic of China, Ecuador, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Nicaragua, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines and Yugoslavia. A dinner was held for the special international delegates on Saturday evening, as guests of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.

The Betty Crocker Homemaking Test, open to high school seniors, was scheduled to be given all over the country on Tuesday, December 2. Because many of the delegates in Chicago on that date would miss the test back home, arrangements were made to have the test given in Chicago at the Conrad Hilton Hotel by Science Research Associates. The "Search for the Homemaker of Tomorrow" contest was sponsored by Betty Crocker of General Mills, donor of awards in the 4-H Food Preparation Program.

For the third consecutive year, four volunteer 4-H Clothing leaders were invited to Congress to appear on the Singer Breakfast program for leaders. The leaders, selected for their participation in the Leader Training Program "Getting The Most Out of Your Sewing Machine," were also recognized at the Annual Banquet on Thursday night.

Entertainment, again, was a treat to the delegates. The "Pop" Concert, one of the Congress highlights, sponsored by Singer Sewing Machine Company for the fourth consecutive year, was moved to Monday night. Featuring the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra, under the direction of Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, presented the program, including two 4-H Club members as soloists - Janet Harper, cellist, from Vicksburg, Michigan; and Steve Parks, tenor, from Normandy, Tennessee.

Some of the other entertainment features in 1958 included the new Cinerama "South Seas Adventure," the renowned "Dancing Waters" display, the Tune Toppers, the Harmonicats, Glen Miller's Orchestra, Sid Sherman and his Square Dance Band, the Palmer House Empire Room Review, the WLS National Barn Dance program, the Four Lads and the John B. Clark Friendship Party at the Aragon Ballroom.

Dr. Garland Russell, from the University of Maine, addressed the first Congress General Assembly for delegates on Sunday afternoon on "Youth Rides Out the Storm." The speaker at the Sunday Evening Club was Dr. Ernest Gordon, Dean of the Chapel, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. Other program speakers included Dr. Glyn Morris, Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Port Leyden, New York; Dr. Florine Young, Director of Psychological Center, University of Georgia; and Director W. A. Sutton, Georgia Extension, who discussed the Extension Scope Report on Youth Development. The Delegates' Program on Tuesday featured a "personal appearance" skit by Missouri 4-H'ers, followed by the National 4-H Dress Revue. Wilson & Company again provided the Box Supper in the International Arena on Wednesday. Delegate tours included visits to the Museum of Science and Industry, the Museum of Natural History and other points of interest.

A special careers session highlighted the Wednesday assembly. Realistically aware of the major link between a period of preparation for life and the actuality of making one's own future has created a real need for methods which leaders can employ to help youth explore possible careers. In 1958 at the Congress, delegates once again had an opportunity to investigate the roles in which they might be cast during the Careers General Assembly. Patterned after the 1957 assembly, the conference was based on two general areas, Home Economics and Agriculture, broken down into subdivisions. Extension personnel, resource people, and members of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work worked together to bring to delegates some thought provoking facts and theories in specific fields under these broad headings.

Dr. Glyn Morris, Director of Guidance, Board of Educational Services, Port Leyden, New York, set the scene for the sessions which followed. His speech had a three-fold purpose:

- To create an awareness of the jobs available to youth in a specialized world.
- To show the importance of self-analysis in choosing a career.
- To create an attitude toward the importance of the correct choice and proper attitude toward work.

Based on questions submitted by the youths themselves, the various career consultants proceeded to outline in talks the answers.

In general, the aim of the speakers was to show sources of help and guidance to create an awareness of opportunities and to break down incorrect ideas and prejudices that young people might have about certain fields. Theme of all the meetings was summed up by Dr. Morris who said that youth must have a realistic appraisal of their own skills and attitudes plus a sense of devotion to something beyond themselves.

Relating to the delegates queries, here are some of the youths' probing questions which experts sought to answer during the sessions.

Homemaking - Will automatic appliances replace the housewife? What community responsibilities do today's women have as homemakers?

Home Economics - How much longer before Home Economics plays an important role in foreign universities. What specific subjects are required for industrial Home Economics?

Communication - Does someone right out of college have a chance of getting a good job in communications? What is the background of some of the outstanding television personalities?

Agriculture - What is the starting salary of a county agent? How difficult will it be to get a job in Extension 5 or 6 years from now?

Farming and Ranching - Must a farmer go to college to be successful? Why so much unemployment? What about the benefits of specialization versus non-specialization?

Education - Why do home economics majors need Physics? What about available scholarships in Home Economics? What is the advantage of vocational training? What is the apprentice period?

Research - What are the opportunities for research in a small town? Do you need a Ph.D. for research? How did consultants get their jobs in research? What are the qualifications for a research job?

Questioning youth went home with keener insights into the practical facts of a given profession. Such exposures to leading figures in the work were an invaluable aid to the boys and girls.

The year 1958 brought significant change to the leadership at the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work and National 4-H Congress. Guy L. Noble retired as director of the National Committee after nearly four decades of service to the 4-H youth program. Thomas E. Wilson, the Committee's long-time chairman, died. Their departure marked the end of an era for the National Committee... and for 4-H. John Coverdale succeeded Wilson as president of the National Committee. One of the founders of the Committee, he had provided the first desk and stenographer for G. L. Noble, 37 years earlier, in the offices of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Norman C. Mindrum, who succeeded Noble, was a former 4-H'er in his native Minnesota. His personal interest and involvement led him into work as an assistant state 4-H leader, executive director of the National 4-H Club Foundation, and then director of the National Committee.

1959

The 1959 Congress theme was "Improving Family and Community Living" with more than 1,900 official 4-H Club delegates, adult leaders and guests attending.

The Delegates' Program on Tuesday featured a "personal appearance" skit by Illinois 4-H'ers, followed by the National 4-H Dress Revue. Dr. Evelyn Miller Duvall, Family Life and Marriage Consultant in Chicago and author of several books spoke on the topic "The Boys In a Girl's Life" at the Wednesday assembly. Some of the entertainers included celebrated movie and TV star, Pat Boone, at the General Motors Luncheon, and The Kingston Trio at the Montgomery Ward Luncheon.

Fifteen countries were represented at Congress full time in 1959 - Australia, Kenya, Ireland, Israel, India, Philippines, Cambodia, Korea, Nepal, Greece, Turkey, Brazil, Panama, Formosa and Spain.

The 1959 guests also included Extension Administrative representatives and Land Grant College officials - deans, extension directors, university presidents - from over 20 states including Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

A new Congress service featured in 1959 was the Club Congress Color Slide Set program. Color slides were taken during the entire 38th National 4-H Club Congress, including slides of events, tours and human interest happenings. Ralph McDade, visual aids specialist from Tennessee, was the photographer for this first year of the program. Slides were available for purchase individually or in sets of about 16 slides with a suggested script. 4-H delegates and leaders had indicated a need for such a service in reporting about Club Congress when they got back home. Some 1,800 slides were ordered during this first year of the program.

DRAFT

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1960s

Preceding the 40th National 4-H Club Congress in 1961, Norman C. Mindrum, Director, National 4-H Service Committee (name changed from National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in 1959) sent the following communique out to the States on the purpose of Club Congress:

Dear Friend of 4-H:

The 40th National 4-H Club Congress will soon be upon us. An anniversary is an appropriate time to reflect on the purpose of Club Congress developed through traditions, experience, and recommendations of leaders in 4-H Club Work.

Most significant is the recognition of individual achievement. Each 4-H delegate has attained a high degree of proficiency in a particular phase of 4-H Club work. Attendance at 4-H Club Congress is an earned privilege. It is a reward for the pursuit and achievement of excellence.

Congress delegates gain a broader perspective of our society. Every activity is planned to provide a significant educational experience.

The 4-H delegates will personally tell the nation about 4-H Club work. Nearly 300 eager representatives of press, radio, and television will be present to portray the 4-H story through mass media.

The 4-H Congress has become a traditional meeting place for 4-H staff, land-grant college administrators, donor officials, and representatives from many groups and associations related to agriculture. The sharing of ideas and philosophies does much to strengthen 4-H Club work.

With your help and cooperation it is our hope that the 4-H delegates will feel that "achievement" is still an important value in our society. We hope, too, that the well balanced Congress program will provide new and enriching experiences which will be helpful in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Norman C. Mindrum, Director
National 4-H Service Committee

Indeed, the above letter reflects the broad intent of National 4-H Club Congress after 40 years of existence. Not unlike the objectives in the early years - Congress remained traditional and true to its roots, providing quality education, recognizing achievement, strengthening the bonds between the public and private sectors, and promoting the 4-H story to the nation with mass media coverage. This continued to be the focus through the decade of the 60's.

Another event during the decade of the 60's took place in 1963 when the National 4-H Service Committee proposed the establishment of a Congress advisory committee to provide the assistance that earlier had come from ECOP's 4-H Subcommittee. A committee was appointed and met in two-day sessions reviewing the entire range of 4-H Congress activities. Most of the committee members recognized that the 4-H Congress was one of the most important public presentations of 4-H. As one committee member noted, many people took their entire image of 4-H from reading or viewing news coverage of the National 4-H Congress. The committee recommended more human interest coverage of the event with less emphasis on winners. The advisory committee also wanted the young 4-H delegates to become more involved in Congress activities. The National Committee director, who served on the advisory group, emphasized the educational nature of the Congress and hoped to see that aspect of the program strengthened. Particularly in the area of career exploration, the Congress advisory committee hoped for more involvement of young people in discussion and planning groups for future activities. The advisory committee felt that many of the traditional characteristics of the Congress should be preserved. Certainly after 1964 the recommendations of the advisory committee were evident at the National 4-H Congress.

1960

More than 1,900 official 4-H Club delegates, adult leaders, and guests attended the 1960 National 4-H Club Congress with a theme of "Learn - Live -Serve through 4-H." For the state delegations which arrived early, there was an

opportunity on Saturday to participate in the private 4-H showing of "Tomboy and the Champ." This full length motion picture, produced by Universal Pictures, was scheduled to be released for theatrical use early in 1961.

Westinghouse Electric Corporation, which was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its sponsorship of the 4-H Electric Program, hosted a Get-Acquainted Party on Saturday night in the Ballroom of the Palmer House. The Sunday Evening Club in 1960 featured Dr. Bryan Green, Pastor of a church in Birmingham, England, as speaker. Dr. Green had been a missionary to Ceylon and South Africa. The Delegates' Program on Monday featured a tour of the Melrose Park Works of International Harvester, with luncheon at the Oak Park High School Field House, while the Tuesday Delegates' Program centered around the annual National 4-H Dress Revue at the Studebaker Theater.

Monday night again featured the Singer "Pop" Concert under the direction of Dr. Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. The program, presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, featured two 4-H Club members as soloists - Janet Turbyne, contralto vocalist, from West Caldwell, New Jersey, and Joe Ronald Faucett, baritone vocalist, from Ozark, Missouri.

"Values To Live By" was the theme around which Wednesday's General Assembly centered. J. P. Schmidt, Professor Emeritus of Rural Sociology from Ohio State, moderated a panel of 4-H delegates with group discussions following.

This year the International Dairy Show was again a part of the International Live Stock Exposition, offering delegates an opportunity on Wednesday afternoon to view over 30 different breeds of cattle, sheep, swine and horses along with other educational and commercial agricultural displays, and view the matinee horse show and rodeo. Wilson and Company provided the Box Supper in the International Arena that evening preceding the 4-H Parade. Delegates were busy with tours on Thursday, followed by the traditional Annual Banquet on Thursday night.

1961

1961 was the 40th anniversary of National 4-H Club Congress. The headquarters continued to be at the world's largest hotel, the Conrad Hilton Hotel, in Chicago. Approximately 1,800 state winning 4-H records had been sent to the National 4-H Service Committee by October 20 where they were processed and made ready for the National 4-H Record Judging Committee. Judging took place November 2-11. The Judging Committee traditionally was made up of three state 4-H staff personnel from each of the Extension regions, a total of six men and six women. John Banning, Assistant Director, 4-H and YMW Programs, Federal Extension Service, served as chairman, and Emmie Nelson, Field Representative, National 4-H Service Committee, functioned as National Committee liaison.

As far as records indicate, for the first time, the National Association of Secondary School Principals placed the National 4-H Club Congress on the Approved List of National Contests and Activities for 1961-1962 making it easier for delegates to get permission to miss school during their Congress attendance.

Program highlights for 1961 show that Standard Brands Incorporated, celebrating its 10th year as a 4-H donor, again provided hospitality centers for 4-H delegates, adult leaders, and mass media representatives. Westinghouse Electric Corporation welcomed everyone to an evening "Get-Acquainted Party" at the new Edgewater Room of the Edgewater Beach Hotel... reminding the delegates that this party is "informal" and for the girls to save the high heels and party dresses for more formal events.

The Sunday Central Church Service featured television personality Danny Thomas, as the main speaker. The Official Opening of Club Congress on Sunday afternoon had a new sound in 1961... Massey-Ferguson provided funds for the appearance of the Wisconsin 4-H Band and Chorus at the Assembly. These groups were an outgrowth of Wisconsin's 4-H music program. The featured assembly speaker was Dr. Kenneth D. Wells, President, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, speaking on "How is Your Patriotism?"

The speaker at the Sunday Evening Club was Dr. David Read, a chaplain in Scotland for Queen Elizabeth before coming to the United States as pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. The evening's program and its recognition of 4-H Club members was televised by WTTW-TV, Chicago.

On Monday morning, following the traditional 6:45 a.m. Firestone Breakfast for all delegates, the American Home Economics Association, for the first time, sponsored a career exploration program for girls. At the same time, the boys were guests of the International Harvester Plant, Melrose Park. The luncheon, hosted by International Harvester, was back at the Conrad Hilton, for all delegates. It featured a new 4-H film, "Bridge to the Future," narrated by Chet Huntley.

The Monday afternoon general assembly featured foreign policy. Brooks Hays, Assistant Secretary of State, addressed the group after which group discussion took place under the direction of J. P. Schmidt, Peace Corps Training Officer at Ohio State University.

For the seventh consecutive year, a "Pop" Concert at Orchestra Hall was presented through the courtesy of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Dr. Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops Orchestra conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the program. The two 4-H soloists selected to participate in the Pop Concert this year were Marilyn Turner, a mezzo-soprano from Ohio, and 14-year-old Dudley Lockard, of Alabama, playing a piano solo.

Tuesday's program was packed, starting with the Sears-Roebuck Foundation breakfast featuring the Collegiate Singers of the Purdue Glee Club. "Crystal Ball Fashions" was the theme of the 15th Dress Revue sponsored by Simplicity Pattern Company, held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Pick-Congress Hotel. Luncheon for the boys was hosted by the National Live Stock Producers at the Pick-Congress Hotel, while the girls were offered luncheon "On Your Own" and the afternoon for shopping in Chicago's Michigan Avenue and State Street stores. The John B. Clark Friendship Party at the Aragon Ballroom, sponsored by Coats & Clark, Inc., completed the day.

Dr. Warren E. Schmidt, Director of Conferences and Community Services, University Extension, University of California, coordinated the Wednesday assembly on youth leadership and group effectiveness. The Wednesday luncheon, hosted by Ford Motor Company, featured Dr. Earl Butz, Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University, as featured speaker. Wednesday afternoon the 4-H'ers visited the International Live Stock Exposition, enjoying the horse show and rodeo. A special program honoring the 4-H Clubs of America was featured during the horse show, however for the first time, the 4-H'ers did not form their traditional parade in the Arena.

While for several years, the Thursday evening annual banquet had featured two or more groups selected from State 4-H Share-the-Fun programs as part of the entertainment, the specificity of these groups is not known. However, for 1961, a newsletter shows that the two groups included the Illinois 4-H'ers in the "Mop Dance" and the charade comedy from Michigan 4-H'ers. Everett Mitchell, nationally known radio and television personality, presented the national winners at the banquet.

1962

"Citizenship in Action" was the 1962 National 4-H Club Congress theme. All of the activities represented the exercise of citizenship responsibilities. The goals were to help all National 4-H Club Congress delegates develop: 1) understanding of the meaning of citizenship in our democracy; 2) deeper appreciation of, and commitment to, democratic ways of doing things; 3) skills which will help us analyze and solve problems facing us as citizens back home, and 4) understanding and appreciation of two segments of citizenship: citizenship as it relates to our economic system, and values to live by as related to our economic system. In addition to the planned Congress program, the Congress donor companies were also encouraged to incorporate the citizenship theme into their awards events.

States were asked to name three delegates to serve as discussion leaders for the Wednesday General Assembly. These delegates were trained in a special session on Tuesday. Basic to their training was the speech by Dr. Glenn Olds, President of Springfield College, at Monday's assembly. Information on economics was taught by E. P. Callahan of the Federal Extension Service. Dr. Charles Freeman of the National 4-H Club Foundation taught deeper understandings of citizenship. The training of delegates for their leadership roles was under the direction of V. Joseph McAuliffe, Federal Extension Service.

The 1962 event preview information explained the features of the beautiful new facilities of the Conrad Hilton Hotel after a major renovation program. The International Ballroom is on the same level as the Grand Ballroom. The Continental Room, ground level, will be used for assembly of delegates, headquarters, and registration... and, is adjacent to a new, modern Eighth Street entrance. West Exhibition Hall, lower level, is headquarters for all press activities including the tape recordings. (This arrangement would serve 4-H Congress for decades to come.)

The new International Ballroom was put to good use immediately as the setting for Saturday night's informal "Get-Acquainted Party" featuring Griff Williams and his orchestra.

The Sunday Church Services, conducted by Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand of the Central Church of Chicago, were held Sunday morning in the International Ballroom and televised over WGN-TV. Dr. Harold A. Bosley, minister, Christ Church, New York City, was guest speaker at the Sunday Evening Club, televised by WTTW-TV, Chicago. The 4-H Congress Sunday afternoon Official Opening Assembly featured a selection of 4-H songs by the Iowa State Singers. Max Exner, Iowa Extension Specialist in music, directs the group. The Iowa State Singers was in Chicago to make a recording of 4-H songs which was later made available through the 4-H Supply Service. The Opening Assembly keynote

speaker was a former 4-H'er and a 1962 national 4-H alumni winner - the Honorable Buford Ellington, governor of Tennessee, challenging the delegates to their citizenship responsibilities. Governor Ellington used the 4-H pledge as a part of his inaugural address when taking office as governor in January, 1959.

True with tradition, the 1962 delegates learned that they had to set their alarms early for Monday morning. The 6:45 a.m. Firestone Breakfast was a continuing tradition not to be missed - a hearty breakfast and colorful entertainment to begin the day. Raymond Firestone spoke on "Citizenship" and the head table once again included high-ranking officials of many major corporations supporting 4-H Club work. As in previous years, all people who attended the breakfast were given a year's subscription to the National 4-H News.

Following the Firestone breakfast, the Congress girls toured the Art Institute of Chicago (with special features of the "Treasures of Versailles" and the Thorne Miniature Rooms) while the boys toured the International Harvester plant in Melrose Park, Illinois. The entire delegation returned to the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton for lunch, hosted by International Harvester.

V. Joseph McAuliffe, Federal Extension Service, and two 4-H delegates, kicked off the Monday afternoon general assembly with "Citizenship As We View It," a review of the broad scope of citizenship. The presentation included material resulting from a citizenship study of the National 4-H Club Foundation. Each delegate received a copy of the manual, "Citizenship in Action." Dr. Glenn Olds, President of Springfield College, keynoted the assembly. His speech was used as the basis for the Wednesday general assembly and the Tuesday training session for selected delegates.

Two traditions on Tuesday included the Sears Roebuck Foundation breakfast with the Collegiate Singers of Purdue Glee Club, and the Simplicity Pattern Company-sponsored 4-H Fashion Review, "Fashion Prescriptions." Tuesday morning, after the breakfast, Battalion I of the delegates assembled in the Continental Room of the Hilton for their march to the Chicago Museum of Natural History, while Battalion II assembled in the South Exhibition Hall for their trip to the Museum of Science and Industry. This procedure was reversed on Thursday so that all delegates had the opportunity to experience both museums.

While most of the delegates attended the museums, the three delegates from each state named to leadership roles for the Wednesday citizenship program were busy in a training session with V. Joseph McAuliffe, FES; Dr. Charles Freeman, National 4-H Foundation; E. P. Callahan, FES; Dr. Glen Dildine, National 4-H Club Foundation; and Dr. Russell G. Mawby, Michigan.

The John B. Clark Friendship Party sponsored by Coats & Clark Incorporated was again held at the Aragon Ballroom with its never-failing starlit sky. Prior to the evening event there were a number of donor-sponsored awards banquets. These special affairs planned by donor companies are often major Congress highlights for their respective winners, each with a planned program, music and special awards. The General Foods dinner in 1962 featured Beatrice Finkelstein, senior research nutritionist associated with Whirlpool Corporation, who was engaged in research relating to foods and nutrition for the space traveler and had an important part in the development of the foods used by the astronauts in their orbital flights. A former National 4-H Alumni winner, W. D. Knox, Editor of Hoard's Dairyman, spoke at the Oliver banquet. Standard Brands Incorporated invited Mrs. John Sprague, 1911 bread-making champion from Iowa to join their festivities. She was the first girl to receive a diploma from a Secretary of Agriculture. A former clothing winner from Alabama, Miss Mamie Hardy, spoke at the Coats & Clark dinner, and the safety winners heard A. R. Forster on "Traffic Safety," another aspect of good citizenship. Kerr Glass Manufacturing Company capitalized on the citizenship theme with a talk, "Preserving Our Heritage," by John F. Blanchard, Jr., Headmaster, Wheaton Academy, West Chicago.

Outstanding leaders of agriculture, business and labor, were featured on a panel for the special delegates program on Wednesday, which carried the theme "Citizenship in Our Economic System." Through a process of small group discussion the delegates were able to present their questions to the panel members whose moderator was Dr. Russell Mawby, Michigan. The panel included: Andrew J. Biemiller, Director, Department of Legislation, AFL-CIO; Dr. Earl Butz, Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University; and, Dr. Glenn Olds, President of Springfield College.

Guest speaker at the Wednesday Ford Luncheon was Thomas R. Reid, Civic and Governmental Affairs Manager, Ford Motor Company.

The major event on Wednesday was the Wednesday Box Supper, Evening Horse Show and 4-H Program at the International Live Stock Exposition. In 1962 the 4-H Congress delegates again marched in the 4-H Parade in the evening program which also featured Arthur Godfrey, performing with his Palomino, "Goldie."

The final day of 4-H Congress included museum tours, the traditional General Motors luncheon, and the annual banquet and farewell party in the evening. Dr. Malcom D. Ross, Defense Research Laboratories, General Motors, was the guest speaker at the noon luncheon. The Annual Banquet gave special recognition to the accomplishments of the 4-H delegates and especially the national winners. The head table featured a delegate from each state. The entertainment for the annual banquet was the top vocal group from New Trier High School, an outstanding group hand-picked from 1500 students enrolled in the high school music program.

During the 1962 4-H Congress a new film was in production, sponsored by the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. After establishing the setting through scenes of well-known points of interest in Chicago, the film picked up highlights of the Congress. It included footage and brief statements from 1962 National 4-H Alumni Recognition Winners.

1963

For the 1963 National 4-H Club Congress, the theme "Citizenship in Action" used in 1962 was retained. As is always tradition, Saturday is the major day of arrival for most state delegations, including delegation registration. The popular Group Photographs of the state delegations go on throughout the day... and, sometimes into Sunday morning. A group photo of national winners from each state is made at the same time. Many of the media representatives are already busy on the scene by Saturday and news releases, radio and television interviews featuring the delegates are beginning to move out across the country.

By the 1960's, the international guests to National 4-H Congress had passed their peak in participation, however nearly 20 international delegates were present in 1963 representing at least nine countries - Jordan, Kenya, England, Philippines, Scotland, Nepal, Ethiopia, Jordan and Nyasaland. There continued to be an international representatives committee and special functions planned for them during the Congress week. State delegation leaders were also encouraged to invite these special guests to one of their state meetings to talk about their respective countries.

"Understanding the Changing American Community" was the theme of the three general assembly programs at the 1963 Congress. These programs were planned under the direction of the delegates' assembly program committee chaired by C. J. Gauger, Iowa. The committee asked Dr. William Kimball, Associate Professor, Resource Development and Extension Program Leader, Community Resource Development, Michigan State University, to coordinate the three assemblies. Dr. Kimball had been an 8-year 4-H member, National 4-H Fellow, 4-H Club Agent in Wisconsin, and Extension Agent in Michigan, before assuming his present responsibilities.

The first assembly on Sunday afternoon featured Dr. Maurice Crane, Associate Professor of Humanities, Michigan State University, challenging the delegates with a "think-type" program entitled "A diploma and A Suitcase." A musical highlight at the Opening Assembly features Dorcas Campbell, a former 4-H member from Virginia, who appeared as a performer at the "Pop" Concert at Congress in 1962, and most recently was named one of the top talent winners during the Miss America Beauty Pageant a couple of months ago.

At the mid-week assemblies, plans focused on developing delegate participation activities by participating in a "Clover Investment" program which gave the delegates experience in buying-and-selling procedures. Before the Congress they received a "shareholders' portfolio" of materials designed to teach them important economic principles. Then during the Congress, stock was sold, prices posted on a quotation board, and delegate stockholders attended an 'annual meeting' to hear reports by a Board of Directors selected from the delegation.

The Monday General Assembly had the theme, "Understanding the Changing Community." Dr. William Kimball moderated a panel of experts on "The Nature of This Challenge" followed by the delegates forming discussion groups around tables in the Grand Ballroom.

As the delegates assembled for the General Assembly on Wednesday morning, they had the answers to questions from Tuesday's discussion. The same panel of experts returned to answer the challenges by delegates. Four 4-H delegates presented the most pertinent questions. In addition, a roving microphone provided opportunities for members to ask any new questions from the floor. The program was then summarized by a speaker who had listened to the delegates' program all week.

Most of the all-Congress events - the banquets, tours, and entertainment - from the Get-Acquainted Party on Saturday night to the Final Banquet and Dance on Thursday night, remained traditional. The Simplicity-sponsored Dress Revue theme in 1963 was "Fashion Dividends." The Singer "Pop" Concert with Arthur Fiedler presented two special 4-H soloists - 17-year old Sharon Diane Braaten, North Dakota, playing the oboe and 14-year old William DeVan, Georgia, playing the piano.

1964

Following the citizenship emphasis for the third year, the 1964 National 4-H Club Congress theme was "Citizenship in Action: Values in Focus." Special emphasis on the theme of values was given in the Official Opening and the Monday and Wednesday General Assemblies. The Opening Assembly program opened with a special tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service and with the introduction of honored guests who were staff or friends of Extension and 4-H. "Values of Today" was the topic of Dr. John H. Furbay, lecturer, author, and global air commuter. Dr. Furbay's many experiences in government and business provided a wonderful background as 4-H delegates probed the subject of values. Additionally the first assembly included a pageant about the history of the United States flag presented by the Naval and Marine Aviation Cadets of the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

The Tuesday General Assembly on "Values in Focus" provided the delegates opportunities for discussions with two guest speakers: Wallace Fulton, Associate Director, Office of Community Services and Health Education, Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, and Miss Michael Drury, noted author from New York City.

Wallace Fulton, one of the speakers at the Tuesday assembly, moderated a panel dealing with the question of "My Value Building Responsibilities" at the Wednesday General Assembly. Panel members included: four 4-H members; Mrs. Fred Francis, 1960 National Alumni Winner; L. A. Hapgood, Assistant Secretary, Kiwanis International; and Wilbur Pease, State 4-H Club Leader, New York. After brief statements by the panel members, the delegates had time for discussion with each other, followed by an opportunity to challenge the panel members with questions and ideas. The four 4-H'ers on the panel represented the four Extension regions and were selected from a group of 20 delegates who worked with Mr. Fulton all week.

A new event in 1964 was the State-Sponsored Delegates Luncheon on Tuesday. Also new, as a result of a recommendation by the club Congress Advisory Committee, delegates could select a preference for Optional Tours on Wednesday afternoon... a Congress program component that lasted for many years following. Optional tours for 1964 included Shedd Aquarium, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Police Department, Adler Planetarium and the International Live Stock Exposition. Additionally, home improvement winners and one leader per state were guests of the S&H Foundation at a specially planned tour of the Merchandise Mart. All delegates continued to have the opportunity to visit the Chicago Natural History Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry on Monday afternoon and Thursday morning.

As usual, delegates were impressed with the music and other entertainment features at events throughout the week. Some of the highlights included Miss America and the Dukes of Dixieland at the General Motors Luncheon; country musicians Red Blanchard, Dolph Hewitt and the Sage Riders and the Johnson Sisters at the Swine breakfast; Miss Teen-Age America and the Ginny Tiu Family at the Ford Motor Company luncheon; the Cameos at the Dairy dinner sponsored by Oliver Corporation; Myron Floren, a former 4-H'er, from the Lawrence Welk's show, at the Firestone Breakfast; and Jim Nabors of the Gomer Pyle USMC TV show at the General Foods Corporation Foods-Nutrition banquet.

1965

"Young America and World Affairs" was the theme for the 44th National 4-H Congress in 1965. Emphasis was being placed on a very crucial subject that year and the Congress speakers were selected to give impact to the significance of young peoples' roles in that area. Assembly speakers pointed out ways in which young Americans could help in the cultural, economic and political aspects of international affairs. Since 1965 had been designated as International Cooperation Year, the theme was especially appropriate.

Keynote speaker at the Sunday afternoon Opening Assembly was Dr. George L. Mehren, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. In addition to his experiences at the Department of Agriculture and the University of California, Dr. Mehren had been a consultant to foreign governments around the world, including the United Kingdom, Scotland, Venezuela, Italy and Korea. A pageant about the history of the United States flag was presented by the Naval and Marine Aviation Cadets of the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida. The presentation was designed to show the history of the American flag and to instill in all the audience a spirit of National Patriotic Pride. Ten of the participants dressed in authentic period uniforms depicting important eras in our National Growth. Seventeen flags vividly portrayed significant influence in our country's history. The 50 piece Naval Air Basic Training Command Band accompanied the Pageant with music corresponding to the era depicted by each authentic flag and uniform.

At the Monday afternoon General Assembly, delegates were divided into six groups representing the following geographical areas: Latin America, West Europe, East Europe and Russia, Near East, Asia and Africa. Resource persons provided background information as a basis for delegates' discussions of social, economic, cultural and political affairs in respective geographical subdivisions. The resource panel included Giles M. Kelly, Senior Liaison Officer, Office

of Public Services, U.S. Department of State; Dr. W. J. Mueller, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State currently assigned to Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois as Visiting Professor on International Relations; Dr. Milton Rakov, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois; William Bross Lloyd, Jr., Editor, *Toward Freedom*, a monthly newsletter on colonial affairs, and freelance writer and speaker on Africa; Leslie L. Lewis, U.S. Foreign Service, 1946-57, Evanston, Illinois; George I. Blanksten, Professor of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; Keki Bhot, Foreign Correspondent for *Jame-Jamshed* and teaches courses on India, China, the Middle East and American Foreign Policy at the YMCA in Chicago; and Howard E. Law, Director, Inter-American Rural Youth Program, San Jose, Costa Rica.

Jerome S. Hardy, a vice president of Time, Inc. and publisher of *Life* magazine, spoke at the Wednesday Assembly on "It's a Big World Out There."

"You have been sentenced to a lifetime of learning," noted Hardy as he addressed the Congress delegates. He challenged the 4-H'ers to add three L's to their four H's. He told them to learn - to remember they would be students all their life and hoped some of them would be generalists in a world of specialists; to love something, a place or a person and do something you love to do; and to live. "If it's an idea, try it," he said, "if a trip is to be made, go; if a problem must be solved, tackle it; if a purpose, fulfill it. Above all, know you are alive." The noted journalist indicated there are three big worlds out there - the world of space, the world of politics and people and the world under the microscope. "You live in a world of radical, ceaseless, accelerating change," he pointed out. In this world "hunger is the daily companion of two-thirds of the population." This is "a world where you are involved everywhere," Hardy continued. "You are the lucky ones, you're the 'haves'. You can be your brother's helper or your brother's enemy. If you don't help them, they'll find it elsewhere." "It's a great big wide world out there and it's all yours. How I envy you," Hardy continued.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey, speaking at the Ford Motor Company Fund luncheon on Wednesday termed youth as the "volunteer generation." "Change what is wrong, give of yourself, be involved, be committed, do not be satisfied with mediocrity, take part in life," he challenged. "In your head, heart, hands and health lies the future of this land," he told the 4-H'ers. Noting the 75 nations of the world which have adopted the 4-H idea, Humphrey credited 4-H with its contribution to peace. "You are building peace with your International Farm Youth Exchange, you are building peace with your 4-H Peace Corps, you are building peace by what you do here at home," the Vice President said. "If you attend 4-H Club Congress, you will see the real youth of America and the spirit of the nation," added Humphrey.

Mary Jo Smith, one of six 4-H'ers presented with the presidential silver tray award, bestowed Humphrey with an honorary 4-H membership. "I'm glad you made it legitimate. I've been claiming I'm a 4-H'er because I felt that way in spirit and in heart and now I have the badge to prove it," he responded.

Also on Wednesday the 4-H Congress delegates received a message from Sargent Shriver:

"To 4-H Club Congress Delegates:

My congratulations to this year's delegates of the 44th National 4-H Club Congress. Tomorrow evening 40 of your fellow 4-H Club members will depart for their assignments in Brazil. These volunteers will be spending the next two years developing 4-S Clubs with the rural young people in Brazil. Like the hundreds of former 4-H Club members now serving in the Peace Corps, the volunteers leaving tomorrow will earn credit for our country and your organization. I sincerely hope that additional 4-H Club members will consider Peace Corps service.

Sargent Shriver, Director
Peace Corps

There was a sizeable group of international guests registered at Club Congress in 1965, representing Korea, India, Bolivia, Norway, Japan, Venezuela and other countries. Although Canadian delegates have been coming to 4-H Congress since the early 1920s, this year marks the first time that a national Canadian delegation of club members representing 10 different provinces, plus their chaperones, were at Congress, the delegation financed by the International Minerals & Chemical Corporation (Canada).

The traditional Wednesday evening event at the International Live Stock Show saw a few changes in 1965. Orion Samuelson, Farm Service Director of WGN & WGN-TV, narrated the only public appearance of the 4-H delegates during the National 4-H Club Congress. A 4-H Chorus presented a feature emphasizing Americanism (responsible citizenship) as a part of the program. Over 360 selected 4-H delegates participated in the program and all delegates were guests of the International Live Stock and Dairy Show Management and the evening Horse Show and Rodeo.

Since 1965 marked the celebration of the centennial of the Chicago Union Stock Yards, sponsor of the International Live Stock Exposition, the Wednesday evening affair carried special meaning to the delegates.

New in 1965 was the daily National 4-H Club Congress Newsletter - seven issues published... one prior to Congress and six issued daily from Saturday through Thursday. Copies of the newsletters can be found in the Print Materials Archive of the 4-H History Preservation website.

1966

The 1966 National 4-H Congress theme was "Pursuit of Excellence." Congress delegates had already displayed their personal pursuits by compiling excellent 4-H records. The 4-H Congress Committee, using the theme, secured speakers who also achieved excellence in their chosen professions.

Keynote speaker at the Sunday afternoon Opening Assembly was Mrs. Mary G. Roebling, Chairman of the Board, Trenton Trust Company, Trenton, New Jersey. She is a woman who has pioneered a long list of "firsts" for women. Mrs. Roebling told the 4-H assembly, "Personal satisfaction comes from the 'Pursuit of Excellence' which cannot be achieved without education. Learning is a continuing process which provides the individual with tools to reach his goal." She went on to say, "By attaining excellence in his field, an individual can realize a personal satisfaction that cannot be attained in any other way."

For years, the National 4-H Congress has opened with a story that portrays our American Heritage. In keeping with this tradition, the "History of Our Flag" written by William Gray for the National Future Farmers of America convention, was presented by a cast of 4-H'ers from the Chicago 4-H Clubs. All other participants, from the Chicago area, included the Deerfield High School Pep Band, the Singing Rockets Ensemble of Rich East High School, and the Park Forest and the 5th Army Headquarters Color Guard.

Monday morning, following the Firestone breakfast, the girl delegates and women leaders toured the Art Institute of Chicago, courtesy of the S&H Foundation, Inc. while the boys and men leaders traveled to Melrose Park, a suburb of Chicago, to see the International Harvester plant. At the plant they saw heavy-duty crawler tractors, rear dump-off-highway trucks, self-propelled scrapers, diesel engines and other power units being constructed. The Melrose Park plant employs 4,000 persons, operating seven production assembly lines. International Harvester tours started in 1918 before Club Congress even started. Following the morning tours, all delegates, leaders and invited guests were honored at the International Harvester Company annual Luncheon in the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton. The Serendipity Singers sang several numbers from their latest record album.

Rev. Thomas Haggai, North Carolina discussed the Congress theme, "Pursuit of Excellence" at the Monday afternoon General Assembly. A buzz session then preceded a panel of four 4-H'ers who fielded questions from the floor.

The Wednesday General Assembly highlighted Dr. Carl Byers, who recently completed 25 years as an outstanding Ohio school administrator and now is a guest lecturer for General Motors. He has gained a national reputation on the American platform as an educator-counselor and a humorist-philosopher and spoke on the topic "Pursuit of Excellence - Focus on You." Dr. Byers' homespun philosophy reflected his belief that there can be no straight thinking without the mental and physical tonic derived from a grin or hearty laugh. "I believe the world needs a rerun to the simplicity of this little fellow, who says, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you'" Byers said. "We must have pride in doing an honest day's work and satisfaction in carrying a job through to completion. There is no shortage of do-gooders; we need more good-doers. There should be more participation in constructive community and civic activities and a higher regard for citizenship."

Although traditionally Coats & Clark, Inc. has entertained the 4-H'ers at a Friendship Party on Tuesday night and Singer has sponsored the "Pops" Concert on Monday night, scheduling conflicts at Orchestra Hall prevented a Monday night concert... thus moving to Tuesday night, and the Aragon Ballroom was not available on Monday night for the Friendship Party! Thus, Coats & Clark Inc. sponsored a "Night on the Town" on Monday night at The Cheetah, a new night spot for teenagers, termed a "now Club," a center of happenings where something different is going on all the time. As described in the 4-H Congress newsletter, the club occupies two floors and accommodates about 2,600 people. The main floor is devoted to dancing and has two bands rotating on a stage that is an integral part of the dance floor. For those dancers seeking the spotlight there are three special raised platforms. The sound system has been especially designed so that the music can be heard in its full intensity on the dance floor, but won't hamper conversation at the tables. The lighting is something else... 3,000 colored bulbs that are electronically controlled to change color as the music changes intensity... and kinetic visuals bouncing off panels placed tent-like around the dance floor. The dance floor expands when the crowd overflows moving the entire back wall automatically adding 30 feet to the dance area. School clothes are in - skirts and sweaters, slacks and sport shirts and even sweat shirts. TV rooms, movies shown on the ceiling, mountains of

hot dogs and plenty of soda kept the teenagers happy... some of them just sitting and trying to take it all in. Adults were scheduled to arrive at 10:30 p.m. for half-a-night on the town. When they arrived, the delegates were having such a good time, they didn't even notice the adults arriving. The entire evening of dancing, fun and refreshments was a great hit with the delegates... the jury is still out on the reactions from the adults, but most of them felt it was an experience the teens will be telling their friends about over and over once they get back home.

As usual, there was plenty of top line entertainment at the 1966 Congress. For the first time, there were four queens in attendance at Congress events - Miss America, Miss Teenage America, Miss American Teenager and the American Dairy Princess. Food-Nutrition winners were delighted to meet TV star Gomer Pyle (Jim Nabors) at the Food-Nutrition banquet and heard several of his latest song hits ranging from opera to popular music. The International Harvester luncheon featured a show by the Serendipity Singers and the banquet for health winner by Eli Lilly and Company featured The Continentals with music by Danny Belloc's Society Orchestra. Jay and The Americans highlighted the State-Sponsored Trip Winners luncheon as guests of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

1967

Probably the most significant change to the National 4-H Congress program for 1967 was a new Tuesday evening feature - concert programs at the Auditorium Theater hosted by Tupperware, donor of the 4-H home management program. The historic Auditorium Theater, built in the 1880s by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan... and apprentice Frank Lloyd Wright, accommodated 4,000 and had near perfect acoustics. It was the first permanent building totally electrified in the United States. The word "ornate" does not do it justice... it was unbelievable with its gilt and gold-leaf, red velvet and stained glass windows in the ceiling. Closed in the late 1930s, and used as a bowling alley by the U.S.O. during World War II, it remained in disrepair and shuttered for most of three decades. Following a multi-million dollar private fund-raising campaign during the 1960s, the theater was totally refurbished to its original splendor in every detail, and rededicated on October 31, 1967. The 4-H event during Congress was its first public event since reopening and Joe Hara, President of Tupperware, brought in Up With People, one of the newest, most popular performing groups in America, to entertain the entire Congress delegation.

"Pursuit of Excellence" was kept as the Congress theme for 1967. Special tribute at the Opening Assembly was made to recognize Mylo Downey who had served 50 years in 4-H as a member, local leader, professional extension worker and as director of the national headquarters staff of 4-H. Mr. Downey retired from his position with the Federal Extension Service on October 1, 1967. Awards were presented to Downey from the National 4-H Service Committee, National 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Leaders.

The Monday afternoon Assembly provided a special team of consultants for round table discussions on "Pursuit of Excellence" vs. "Why Care?" Moderated by John Madigan, WBBM-TV (Chicago) Political Editor, his team of five consultants included: Captain James A. Lovell (astronaut), President's Commission on Physical Fitness; Mrs. Mary Merryfield, Columnist, Chicago Tribune; Johnny Morris, Chicago Bears All-Pro Flankerback; Samuel White, Jr. President, Oliver Corporation; and Judge Juanita Kidd Stout, County Court of Philadelphia.

The Tuesday Delegates Assembly included a panel of fashion experts discussing "Pursuit of Excellence in Personal Appearance," as it relates to both boys' and girls' attire. The presentation was immediately followed by the annual 1967 National 4-H Dress Revue - "Fashion Formulas" - presented by the 51 winners in the dress revue program. The assembly panel consisted of Robert F. MacLeod, Moderator, publisher, Teen Magazine; Jack F. Hodnett, American Institute of Mens and Boys Wear, Inc.; Sue Ellen Helland, Patricia Stevens Model Agency; Nancy Landen, 1967 4-H Club Congress delegate from Oklahoma; and Ruth Simon, Fashion Director, Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc.

An additional assembly on Wednesday evening was termed the "International 4-H Assembly." Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, spoke about the Food for Peace Program and how "grain is moving from the American heartland to Asia and Africa." He was very complimentary and excited about the 4-H program in the United States. Additionally, at the Assembly 4-H'ers learned how they can participate in worthy international projects such as CARE, Peace Corps, IFYE, and others. A troupe of dancers and singers presented a variety of international numbers.

The Wednesday evening International assembly in 1967 replaced the traditional Congress event at the International Live Stock Exposition and the Tuesday evening entertainment event replaced the traditional Friendship Party.

The 4-H'ers were excited about the Wednesday morning Assembly speaker - Ann Landers in 1967 was considered one of the 10 most influential women in the world, writing an advice column that appeared in 688 United States newspapers and receiving more than 30,000 letters a month. When she took the stage, Miss Landers announced "I am going to talk about Sex," and she did. "Sex is here to stay. Sex has a place of dignity in everlasting love. It is natural and normal and is not just a physical thing. It is spiritual, emotional and just like dynamite." She added, "Boys, don't marry for looks

because looks have been known to change. And girls, don't fall in love with a haircut; it's been known to depart forever. Getting married is the most important decision you will make in your lifetime. If you do it right, once is enough." Several tips were given to the 4-H'ers by Miss Landers. For the girls: 1) Steer clear of situations that might be overpowering; 2) Don't turn a guy on; you might not be able to turn him off; 3) Don't issue invitations you can't fulfill. And for the boys: 1) Keep your mind and body busy with hard physical work, sports and hobbies; 2) Cool it - don't think about one thing all the time."

Radio station WGN, Chicago, broadcast their noon show, "County Fair" live and direct from Club Congress throughout the week in 1967. 4-H'ers were interviewed by Orion Samuelson, Farm Director, and enjoyed live music played special for the program.

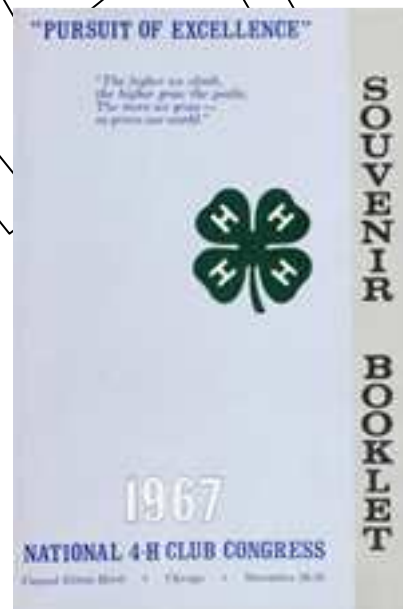
November 7 had been proclaimed Myrtle Walgreen Day in Chicago by Mayor Richard Daley. The occasion was the opening of the annual Chrysanthemum Show being held at the Garfield Park Conservatory, the largest botanical conservatory in the world. The show was held over for Club Congress delegates to tour the facility. Mrs. Walgreen, 88 years young, is on the National 4-H Service Committee board of directors and is a former donor of awards for the national 4-H Community Beautification program. She was known for her outstanding achievements in color photography and horticulture. The Myrtle Walgreen Chrysanthemum was named in her honor. Mrs. Walgreen and her late husband, Charles, founded the Walgreen Drug Store chain.

The Sunday morning church service with Dr. Hildebrand had a special guest speaker for the enjoyment of the 4-H'ers - Mr. H. L. Hunt, known "perhaps" as 'The Wealthiest Man in the World'.

One sad note relating to 1967. Guy L. Noble, who started National 4-H Congress back in 1919 and gave leadership to the event as director of the National Committee on 4-H Boys and Girls Club Work for many years, died suddenly on September 22 in California at the age of 79. A special fund in his memory was initiated by the National 4-H Service Committee.



[1967 National 4-H Congress Official Program](#)



1967 National 4-H Congress Souvenir Booklet

1968

A stirring pageant utilizing slides, music and narration introduced the 1968 National 4-H Congress theme, "Commitment to Responsibility." The Great Lakes Naval Training Marching Band and the University of Iowa "Old Gold Singers" provided much of the atmosphere. The Hon. Richard J. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, welcomed the delegates to the city.

Sunday night's Chicago Sunday Evening Club selected The Rt. Rev. John E. Hines as their speaker in 1968. Rev. Hines, the youngest man ever to assume the leadership of the nation's 3-1/2 million Episcopalians was the presiding bishop of

The Episcopal Church in the United States and dedicated to involving the Church in the central issues of the day. He believes "it is the obligation of the Church to speak clearly and frankly about Christian responsibility towards social and political issues. The Church is committed to fight (for) those who are in need, deprived and discriminated against." The evening program had the theme, "Christian Responsibility."

The Monday afternoon Delegate Assembly keynoter spoke on "Controversy." Charles W. Ferguson, an editor-at-large for *Reader's Digest* gave his views on national citizenship responsibility. Among his 10 books are the thought-provoking, "The Male Attitude," which deals with American history and provides the emotional background for present gunplay and riots, and "A Little Democracy is a Dangerous Thing." The Monday Assembly limelight had to be shared, however, with another star... who wasn't even human! The first year of presenting the 4-H Veterinary Medicine Scholarships were announced before the entire delegation. The honor of making the presentation went to none other than Lassie of the Lassie television program.

There were other stars appearing at Congress functions throughout the week. The New Christie Minstrels were featured at the International Harvester Company luncheon; singer Anita Bryant entertained at the Field Crops Science dinner; the Mayor of Indianapolis, Richard Lugar, highlighted the Health banquet sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company and television star Diahann Carroll entertained guests at the General Foods Food-Nutrition dinner. Entomology winners saw a puppet presentation of Lerner and Loewe's "Camelot" at the Hercules Incorporated awards dinner at the Kungsholm Restaurant and puppet theater. The new Miss Teen-Age America (chosen only a couple of days before Congress began) made her first public appearance at the Petroleum Power dinner. The current Miss America, Judith Anne Ford, appeared at the General Motors luncheon and Vonda Kay Van Dyke, Miss America of 1965 was at the Food Preservation event. Gold medal winner William C. Steinkrause, captain of the U.S. Equestrian Team, spellbound 4-H winners at the Horse recognition dinner as he told about his 1968 Olympic experiences.

Tuesday night's all-Congress concert at the Auditorium Theater, sponsored by Tupperware, featured the popular family group, The Cowbills - nine of them in all including seven performing, plus Bud, the father as general manager and "sound man" and Dick, one of the sons, as road manager and lighting technician. The enthusiasm of the young family, singing some of their hits like "We Can Fly" and "The Rain, The Park and Other Things" thrilled the delegates.

The Wednesday morning Delegates Symposium centered on "What is your responsibility to yourself, to your family and to your community." Delegates had an opportunity to interact throughout the program with a panel of three experts - Mrs. Juanita Kidd Stout, Dr. Harold E. Sponberg and Dr. Luther S. Roehm. Mrs. Stout comes in contact with all kinds of families in her work as Judge of the County Court of Philadelphia. She was the first Negro woman to be elected judge in America and is a national 4-H alumni winner. Dr. Sponberg, President of Eastern Michigan University, has been director of University Extension at Michigan State University and was also a former 4-H'er. Dr. Roehm is President of Merck Chemical Division, Merck & Co. and is a member of the National 4-H Service Committee.

1968 was a rough year in America with the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy, protests in the streets in many of our major cities... particularly against the war in Vietnam, and a Democratic convention with uprisings in Grant Park, directly across the street from the Conrad Hilton Hotel where Congress was being held. The significance of the turmoil of the year was not lost on the Congress delegates, nor the speakers. Dr. Roehm, president of Merck Chemical, during the Wednesday Symposium, said "both the elder who doesn't know what this younger generation is coming to... and the young hippie who doesn't trust anyone over 30, could profit from exposure to 4-H."

Judge Stout, at the same symposium, said "responsible protests must survive... they are the hallmarks of American Democracy... however, terrorist tactics can kill democracy." Raymond Firestone, speaking at the Firestone Breakfast, commended the current crop of 4-H'ers as better educated and better speakers for their generation than the vocal minority.

William F. McCurdy, President of the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, commenting on the extremely well-groomed appearance of the 4-H'ers assembled for the leadership luncheon. "Your appearance must reflect the pride you feel in the organization you represent, your family and your community," he said. "If the adult population believed what they read and hear, they'd think all young people were like the unwashed minority." And S. A. Halgren, senior vice president of Carnation Company, at the Dairy Foods banquet, in a talk on "Responsibility - When, Where, How Much?" said he felt too much attention has been paid to the underdogs in our society. "That is why I'm for the achievers, the upperdogs, the 4-H members we have here," he said.

The New Christy Minstrel Singers literally brought down the house with their boisterous, enthusiastic style of entertainment at the International Harvester luncheon. At one point in the program, the Minstrels' leader commented that the group didn't sing protest songs because they weren't mad at anyone. Furthermore, he said, they were tired of sloppy people protesting against work when they didn't work themselves and against wars they hadn't fought in.

Pandemonium broke loose. The 4-H'ers gave a standing ovation that lasted and lasted. This response obviously moved the entertainment group, and the leader said it was a pleasure to appear before such a fine group of Americans.

Brooks McCormick, International Harvester President, also seemed moved and commented that International Harvester and 4-H had been friends for a long time; 49 years to be exact, and that International Harvester is looking forward to next year when "we will spend our Golden Anniversary together."

1968 National 4-H Congress Official Program
(digital link)

1968 National 4-H Congress Souvenir Booklet
(digital link)

1969

With the futuristic theme of "Make Tomorrow Happen," the 1969 National 4-H Congress closed out the decade of the 60's. There was a new U.S. president who greeted the delegates with the following November 22, 1969 message:

"My congratulations to those who attend this 48th National 4-H Congress. As state and national winners in your Head-Heart-Hands-Health programs, you have more than proved your desire and readiness to become constructive leaders and good citizens. Your Congress theme, 'Make Tomorrow Happen,' challenges you to learn early and well how best to serve your community and country so that you may derive satisfaction and contentment in your life's careers.

"I particularly appreciate your focus on the problems of hunger and malnutrition wherever they exist. And I applaud the many welcome improvements you are making. You set a fine example for all American youth, and you strengthen our nation by your dedication to duty and willingness to accept responsibility.

"May you have an enjoyable and productive meeting."

Richard Nixon

Sunday set the stage for a good week! A rousing "Make Tomorrow Happen" pageant at the Opening Assembly centered around the Bloom Township High School Senior Chorus, folk singer Gene Cotton and the Green Buccaneers, a Chicago 4-H song and dance troupe led by 4-H'er Oscar Johnson. In a "Laugh-In" skit, the 4-H'ers outlined social concerns - racial equality, the H-Bomb, law and order, pollution, food for the hungry, and population explosion. Keynote speaker was Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin who announced a new grant of \$7.5 million for 4-H-type programs promoting nutrition education in the inner-city. Hardin, a former 4-H'er, said "We now face the likelihood that an additional 200 million people will be added to our national population in the short span of 30 years." He asked the audience to think about where these 100 million people will live.

"There must be created in and around cities, towns and villages of rural America a climate of opportunity - opportunity for good jobs - and healthful living in an attractive environment - opportunity for cultural and social satisfaction so that a growing number of families will choose to live there rather than migrate to the metropolitan areas, and so that additional families will choose to leave the cities and move to rural America," he said. "A sound policy of national growth does not mean telling people where they should live," Hardin stressed. "It simply aims at giving the Americans of tomorrow a reasonable choice between a good life in metropolitan America and a good life amid the cities, towns and farms of rural America."

Turning to the discontent of some youth today, Hardin said that there is reason for a healthy discontent on the part of young people who are impatient to see their ideals realized. "I say to you young men and women of 4-H: Keep your discontent - your awareness of that which needs to be improved. Keep your idealism and determination to forge a better world. But don't lose faith in America. Build on the good things that exist. Keep your perspective," the Secretary advised.

Sunday evening, after a large number of donor meal events, the delegates boarded buses to attend the World Championship Rodeo at the International Live Stock Exposition. Thrilled with seeing the Wilson and Co. Six-horse hitch and the Meister Brau Hitch, bareback riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, and bull riding, the evening's highlight was "Festus" from *Gunsmoke* (Ken Curtis), an alumnus of the "Sons of the Pioneers" a singing group that recorded some

truly classical western music, such as "Cool Water" and "Tumbling Tumble Weeds." Curtis also had appeared at the 4-H Sunday morning church service.

Monday morning provided the delegates with two main all-Congress meal events, the traditional Firestone breakfast and the International Harvester luncheon. Harvester provided their first luncheon for 4-H'ers 50 years ago in Chicago... during the first Club tour before 4-H Congress had even started. "You face challenges and opportunities in the 50 years ahead that will far surpass any we have conquered (in the past 50 years), International Harvester President Brooks McCormick told the delegates. He added, "your predecessors and mine have done a pretty good job of providing the food and fiber our growing country needed." McCormick cited these changes that have occurred in agriculture since International Harvester sponsored that first luncheon 50 years ago in Chicago: In 1919 there were some six million farms; in 1969 there are less than three million. Yet, he added, the average farm today is three times the size as that of 50 years ago. Today there are four million farmers as opposed to 13 million in 1919. After the speech, the luncheon delegates were entertained by The Brothers and Sisters singing out everything from George M. Cohan to Hair.

In addition to Monday's 50th anniversary luncheon by International Harvester, the Monday night "Pop" Concert also was special. It was the 15th annual Singer Company's concert with Conductor Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. Conductor Arthur Fiedler became a 4-H'er. D. Merrill Davis, the 4-H Congress official song leader, became a symphony conductor. And 4-H'ers sent their own music back across the footlights. Conductor Fiedler received his honorary 4-H membership pin from Dr. E. Dean Vaughan, director of the division of 4-H - Youth Development, Federal Extension Service. Merrill Davis conducted the Chicago Symphony in a "Happy Birthday" tribute to Fiedler on his 75th birthday as 4-H delegates sang out their congratulations from throughout Orchestra Hall. As a further tribute, Charles Weekley, assistant vice president of The Singer Company, presented Fiedler with a baton sculpture in honor of his 15th year as conductor for the special 4-H concert. The 4-H'ers, who annually seem to file into the Orchestra Hall for the concert with some trepidation, also annually file out with smiles on their faces and humming a happy tune. One unnamed boy was overheard whispering to a friend in disbelief, "Hey, I really dig this music."

To complete a very busy Monday, between the Firestone breakfast and IH luncheon, the boys had traveled to the International Harvester plant at Melrose Park for a tour and the girls went up Michigan Avenue to the Art Institute of Chicago to view the "Treasures of the Art Institute" and visit the Thorne Miniature Rooms and Rembrandt exhibit, courtesy of The S&H Foundation, Inc.

Monday afternoon featured a Delegate Assembly with Dr. James J. Gill, Harvard University health service psychiatrist. "Young people today have a great opportunity to influence the world, Gill said. "But," he added, "your ability to influence the world is only as great as your love for the world. Your ability to enrich the lives of men is only as great as your love for men." While praising delegates for their hard work and accomplishments, Dr. Gill urged delegates not to become so task-oriented that achievement becomes a goal in itself. "Many people are motivated to succeed by a desperate need for the praise and attention of others to assure them of their own personal worth. An emotionally healthy person is one who is able to accept difficult tasks and possible failure without becoming depressed or losing his self-esteem," Dr. Gill noted.

Tuesday morning started off with the first Bicycle Breakfast and a very happy first birthday for the newest national 4-H program sponsored by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. In the first year 35 states had already enrolled with a combined membership of 125,000 bicycle members. The breakfast guests were treated to an astonishing unicycle show... one cycle seat was so high that the youthful performer playfully dusted off the chandeliers while he was up there bumping the ceiling!

In no other event was the theme, "Make Tomorrow Happen," more strongly highlighted than in the Tuesday morning National 4-H Dress Revue. Catherine J. DeVries, 4-H stylist for Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc., narrated the "*Fashion Careers*" revue. In addition to describing the clothing made and modeled by state winners, Miss DeVries also gave details on each girl's future plans. Of the six national winners, four planned fashion careers. Among the careers planned by the state winners were: fabric fashion coordinator, designer of textiles, fabric shop owner, department store buyer, home economist, retailer, model, fashion illustrator, fashion consultant and fashion and accessories buyer.

The emphasis was also on careers in clothing and textile fields at the 4-H Clothing winners banquet sponsored by donor Coats & Clark Inc, where J. W. Shaver, president of Coats & Clark's Sales Corporation greeted each national and state winner personally.

A panel discussion on the wide range of retailing careers - from fashion designer to interior decorator to editor - highlighted the Montgomery Ward recognition dinner for Consumer Education - Home Economics winners. Also, 15

Wendy Ward Pacesetters, high school students from the Chicago area, presented "Youth on the Move," a swinging fashion show, as Edward S. Donnell, Montgomery Ward president, welcomed the group.

Many corporate officials, at their sponsored events, used the 1969 theme as part of their message.

William A. Kerr, president, Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation, at the Food Preservation awards banquet, asked the delegates "What kind of Tomorrow do you want to happen? A tomorrow of peace, tranquility, and the opportunity to work, serve and achieve in your chosen profession? Or a tomorrow of rioting and confusion blindly following those who would tear down everything that made this country great, yet offering nothing constructive in return? It is within your power to encourage and direct the youth of today to stand for that which is right and high-principled, to honor God and our country, and to provide a better, happier world for all mankind. You have already taken a giant step toward these goals by the example you have set for other youth through 4-H work."

"You, through your 4-H organization, will be more effective than any other group in building the world of tomorrow," William F. McCurdy, president, The Sears-Roebuck Foundation, told state and national 4-H Leadership winners at their luncheon.

At the luncheon for state-sponsored winners, Aubrey O. Cookman, director of public affairs, Universal Oil Products Co., urged delegates to help solve the problems confronting our nation and world. He also urged help for urban problems and the underprivileged and pointed out the need for population control in many parts of the world. The delegates were asked to use their enthusiasm and talents to help establish an enduring world peace.

"The world of tomorrow will be anything but easy," said John S. Reed, president, Santa Fe Railway System, at their dinner. "But your 4-H set of values will help you meet the challenge." Reed indicated that Santa Fe had been a 4-H donor on a regional basis for 47 years and will continue for many years to come.

The four H's got a new definition at the Ford all-Congress luncheon. L. E. Dearborn, vice president and general manager, Ford Tractor Operations, told the 4-H's that a sense of humanity, humility, history and hope, are the four "H" qualities which youth need to face the future. He said "4-H members have learned to take the best of the past and best of the present and applied it to the future. Those wanting instant progress are unwilling to wait for the egg to become a chicken."

A traditional leg of lamb was featured at the Sheep winners banquet with E. A. Trowbridge, Jr., president of Wilson Beef & Lamb Co., presiding. Special guest, Mac Percival, Chicago Bears kicker, congratulated the 4-H'ers on being champions and gave his own prescription for being one: C-onfidence, H-ustle, A-ttitude, M-orale, P-erserverance, I-ntelligence, O-bedience, N-erve and S-acrifice - CHAMPIONS.

State and national winners at the 4-H Health recognition dinner hosted by Eli Lilly and Company were thrilled to meet Olympic swimming champions, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hickcox from the 1968 Olympics; and, William C. Steinkraus, gold medalist and captain of the U.S. Olympics equestrian team, entertained the winners of the 4-H Horse awards program sponsored by Merck & Co. Inc.

For the third year, Tupperware sponsored a concert at the Auditorium Theater on Tuesday evening. This year's entertainers were The Establishment. The group presented a dynamic, creative show and did it with something to please every segment of the diverse crowd. The audience was on its feet and completely captivated when the troupe climaxed "Aquarius" with a fantastic series of discotheque lighting techniques. Had there been room in the aisles, the entire audience would have been dancing along with them. It was pretty clear at final curtain that the 4-H'ers would have kept the group singing all night if it had been possible.

Wednesday's Delegate Assembly highlighted a panel of adults moderated by Dr. R. O. Monosmith, state 4-H leader from California. The panel of experts said that racial inequality, the Vietnam War, drugs and unrest on the campus, are major problems of today that 4-H'ers can do something about. The panelists included Dr. John Mount, Vice President for Student Affairs, Ohio State University; Mrs. Grace Pleasants, Director of Program Development, Girl Scouts of The U.S.A.; and Bill Kurtis, Newscaster, WBBM-TV, Chicago. The issues were hot, and the questions from the delegates and responses from the panel went back and forth, no matter whether the topic was marijuana, student riots on campus, Vietnam, race problems or balanced media coverage, the discussions went back and forth for a lively assembly.

Marking the 25th anniversary of General Motors' sponsorship of the national 4-H safety program, at the General Motors-sponsored all-Congress luncheon on Thursday, R. C. Gerstenberg, executive vice president of General Motors, pointed out to the youth that "he liked those who made things happen better than those who let things happen," and said he knew that 4-H'ers were youth who made things happen. Gerstenberg continued, "I urge each and every one of you to

get all the education you can get; the greatest value of a formal education is to learn to use your mind." The Road Show Entertainers, from Toledo, Ohio, did their thing, playing and singing a number of swing tunes from "Spinning Wheels" to "Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows." Then, Miss America took the stage - traditionally always a hit with the delegates. She expressed the belief that the youth of today, "can overcome all obstacles in today's world and achieve great things."

DRAFT

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1970s

The 1970s brought both some celebration and some change to National 4-H Congress. Soon after the start of the 1970s - in 1971 - the National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Congress both celebrated their 50th anniversaries with great celebration. Nearly 700 media representatives registered at the Congress Press Headquarters to cover the event. A 50th anniversary history book was written. President Richard M. Nixon flew out to Chicago to address the 4-H Congress delegates. Hundreds of Congress alumni returned to Chicago for the final Congress banquet... too big to be held in the world's largest hotel, convoys of buses transported the thousands of attendees from the Conrad Hilton Hotel down to the new McCormick Place convention center several blocks away.

Later in the decade came the merger of the National 4-H Service Committee in Chicago and the National 4-H Foundation in Chevy Chase, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC. The new organization became National 4-H Council. Headquarters would be at the National 4-H Center... and, Chicago offices and staff were eventually moved to Maryland. But what about National 4-H Congress? Actually, it was unthinkable for this premiere event to leave it's roots in Chicago... the National 4-H Council's main event would stay in place at the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

1970

Again picking up on the National 4-H Week theme, the theme for the 49th National 4-H Council was "We Care," intended to express beliefs and concerns 4-H members have about our Nation and its people. A Nation focusing attention on societal concerns is a Nation that cares about people. 4-H members have a conscious awareness of the major concerns that affect our contemporary society. They want to be actively involved in planning and managing activities that give attention to these concerns. As good citizens of a democracy, 4-H'ers care about the future of their Nation and want to exercise a constructive role in helping to guide its future.

A new addition to the 1970 Congress was "Club 70," a place where Congress delegates could gather. Located in the Continental Room and open during the same hours established for the Continental Room, "Club 70" was designed to give delegates an area where they could meet informally and socialize with representatives from other states. A Delegates Conference Center, also new in 1970, was located adjoining "Club 70." This was a meeting area for Sub-groups of Congress delegates, open to all delegates on a voluntary basis. The delegate advisory committee coordinated activities.

The Congress got off to a good start with the traditional Get-Acquainted Party for everyone in the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton, courtesy of Standard Brands Incorporated.

On Sunday the Central Church Special 4-H Services for everyone at Orchestra Hall was under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand with the topic, "The Capacity To Care." Special guests - much to the delight of the delegates - were Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. This was the 50th year that the Central Church had officially been a part of the 4-H Congress program with a Sunday morning service.

The Official Opening Delegates' Assembly on Sunday afternoon included a Welcome to Chicago by Mayor Richard J. Daley. It was fitting for the mayor to be there since the presiding delegate at the Assembly was delegate Oscar Johnson, a Chicago born and bred 4-H member. Keynote speaker was Dr. Paul H. Cashman, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Minnesota. Dr. Cashman provided thought provoking ideas as he developed the "We Care" Congress theme. He challenged delegates to show "they care" about people by helping design ways to solve their problems.

A special program on Sunday evening in the Grand Ballroom brought in the "Kids from Wisconsin," sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company. The group of 60 musical ambassadors who are instrumentalists and singer-dancers, royally entertained the delegates with routines running from an instrumental Bacharach medley to a Roaring Twenties "Charleston."

The traditional "Pop" Concert under the direction of Guest Conductor Arthur Fiedler, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, entertained the delegates on Monday evening at Orchestra Hall, guests of The Singer Company. The Tupperware Concert at the Auditorium Theater on Tuesday night brought back The Establishment, the group that was so popular with the delegates in 1969. Westinghouse Electric Corporation sponsored a 4-H Fun Night on Wednesday, an evening of dancing and relaxing in the International Ballroom of the Hilton, plus enjoying nine 4-H share-the-fun talent groups interspersed between the two rock and roll bands. The special 4-H talent groups, the largest with 23 members, were brought in from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Montana.

As usual, delegates experienced top notch hospitality, food, music and recognition at nearly 30 donor recognition events spread across the week. Some of the 1970 entertainment at these events included Karen Sue Stenwall, America's

Junior Miss of 1970, appearing at the Petroleum Power buffet in the Museum of Science and Industry's Balcony Dining Room, guests of American Oil Foundation and Standard Oil Company (Kentucky); television star, Danny Thomas, entertaining the Food-Nutrition winners at the General Foods dinner; former Miss America Marilyn Van Derbur at the Eli Lilly and Company Health winners banquet; former Miss America Vonda Kay Van Dyke at the Kerr Glass Food Preservation event; and, the current Miss America, Phyllis George, at the General Motors luncheon.

Many of the corporate executives picked up on the "We Care" theme of Congress in the messages to their respective national and state program winners at their sponsored events.

Thomas S. Thompson, senior vice president, General Food Corporation, told food and nutrition winners and guests, "Sometimes we, of my generation want to hand over the future too fast to you. But you must say to the generation on the scene 'don't turn and walk away - join us in caring,' for caring must run through all generations and through all peoples."

Joe Hara, president, Tupperware U.S.A., at the Home Management recognition dinner, said: "4-H'ers learn to overcome obstacles and accept challenges and by their activities they have shown they care. The real benefactors are not only the winners themselves but the American people as a whole," he went on to say. "Today's young people have been the target of abuse but you represent the real majority of young people, the 'overlooked majority' who manifest their concern through constructive instead of destructive means... Adults too are concerned... but we have been too obsessed perhaps by concerns for the present. What we need to do is break away from the present, reflect on the past so we can gain perspective for the future," Hara told the guests. "We cannot progress in an atmosphere of despair. We are concerned... and answers will come. I have confidence in the future as a result of my faith in youth."

Henry S. Amalong, president and chief executive officer, Wilson-Sinclair, addressing the guests at the Sheep recognition dinner, also stressed the many aspects of the "We Care" theme.

The Thursday night Final Banquet is always the time to celebrate a successful week, recognize achievement and rededicate ourselves to returning home ready to do more - this year... to Care.

At the conclusion of the 1970 final banquet program, the delegates made a challenge: 4-H is caring... caring enough for others to share and to lead. We feel that by attending National 4-H Congress, we, as delegates, realize we must believe in people and their capacity to care. We care about *all* youth - we challenge you to care, too.

Upon returning home, our involvement will present great opportunities to influence the care given by others. This Congress has helped establish ways for us to strive to become better persons as we work toward a better world.

We believe the following expresses how this delegation feels about caring:

CARE

Now we have admitted that evil and wrong are there
And we have also admitted that we ought to care,

Now let's buckle down and start to work
On the age-old problems that we've tried to shirk.
And quit passing the blame from here to there
Yes, help us God to really care.
We can do these things if we really try
Let's admit what we are and quit trying to lie.
Let us be sensitive to the needs of others
And help us to live together and behave like brothers.
Let us be concerned with our fellow man
And try to help them whenever we can.

-Steve Sebert
West Virginia Delegate
National 4-H Congress

National 4-H Congress 1970 Official Program
(digital link)

1971

The staff of National 4-H Service Committee had two major objectives in viewing the 1971 National 4-H Congress. It was the 50th anniversary Congress... it had to be special. Yet, all the traditional events expected by delegates winning trips to this year's Congress had to remain intact... and, be even better. It was an intensive year for the staff, and for the many planning committees responsible for the various Congress components.

The theme was "4-H Bridges the Gap," emphasizing the genuine concern youth today have for helping alleviate critical needs of their communities and their country. Delegates attending this Congress had an important voice among America's youth as they strived to make tomorrow a better day.

The Program Planning Committee was particularly aggressive, with plans for assemblies, delegate seminars and tours.

On Monday the program offered 10 seminar sessions on societal concerns... Thursday provided delegates with opportunities to attend discussion groups on these same 10 topics.

The topics and resource leaders for each included:

Communications - "How do you carry the message?" How people relate to one another. Resource Leader: Darrol Bussler, Brownton, Minnesota

Community Development - "My community, whose responsibility?" Inventory and use of resources available for total development. Resource Leader: Dr. Lloyd L. Rutledge, Program Leader, 4-H and Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA

Economic - "The many faces of business" The free enterprise system... its relationship to people. Resource Leaders: Mrs. Elaine R. Pitts, Vice President, Corporate Relations, The Sperry & Hutchinson Company and Steve T. Walker, Director of Educational Programs, Public Relations Department, American Oil Company

Environmental Ecology - "Your World - no deposit - no return" The world we live in... responsibilities and action programs. Resource Leader: Dr. Ralph D. Grotelueschen, Manager, Environmental Control, Deere & Company

Health - "Kicks or kicked" Health as it relates to people, government and the environment. Resource Leaders: Dr. Ivan Bennett, Medical Research, Eli Lilly & Co. and William Pillow, Jr., Associate, Professional Relations, Eli Lilly & Co.

Personal Development - "Will the real me please stand up!" Human development... concept of self. Resource Leader: Dr. Hope Daugherty, Program Leader, 4-H and Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA

Politics - Roles and levels of participation where youth may become involved. Resource Leader: Dr. James R. Soles, Special Assistant to the President, The University of Connecticut

Poverty - "People without..." Understanding of environmental situation... analysis of resources... selection of alternatives. Resource Leader: Bruce M. Cole, Vice President, Financial Development, Communications and Marketing, The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Race - "We the people..." Acceptance as an individual... equal respect. Resource Leader: Rudolph Pruden, Program Leader, 4-H and Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA

Religion - "How to create God within yourself" Understanding of different religions. Resource Leader: Rev. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Jr., First Congregational United Church, Elmhurst, Illinois.

On Saturday, delegates had an opportunity to go out to the International Live Stock Exposition and visit the World Champion Rodeo and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride, compliments of International Live Stock Exposition.

The National 4-H Dress Revue, "Storybook Fashions," was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton, presented in cooperation with Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc. "The Kids from Wisconsin" were back again for a second year as special guests of American Income Life Insurance Company at the Sunday evening all-Congress event in the Grand Ballroom. Monday night featured the popular Singer "Pop" Concern in Orchestra Hall with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Guest Conductor Arthur Fiedler. For the fifth year, Tupperware sponsored a special evening in the Auditorium Theater, this year bringing in Randy Sparks and The Back Porch Majority. The Purdue University Varsity Glee Club entertained at

Monday's International Harvester luncheon and Miss America, Laurie Lea Schaefer, was at the General Motors' Thursday luncheon.

In keeping with the theme, the Center for Congress delegates only - initiated in 1970 as "Club 70" was offered again this year with the title "Gap Stopper". A place to meet informally, listen to music and socialize, the center was open each day during non-program hours until 12:30 a.m.

One man at the 50th Congress who seemed to be popping up at various events throughout the week was the former state 4-H leader and assistant extension director from Iowa, Paul Taff. At 84 years old, he was the only person who had attended all 50 National 4-H Congresses! Mrs. Geneva Erickson, first 4-H dress revue winner in 1923, was also present at this special event.

Six national 4-H award winners competed in a television quiz for "Agriculture U.S.A." filmed during the 50th 4-H Congress. The show is screened in 70 marketing areas. Produced by John Stearns, Pacific Palisades, California, the special videotaping in Chicago was done at the National Broadcasting Company affiliate, WMAQ-TV studios on the 19th floor of the Merchandise Mart. A "bull in the china shop" exercise really livened up one portion of the show. A 4-H'er from each team led a Hereford bull through fence lines with cups and saucers ready to totter for a fall if brushed by the bull. Judith McGinn for the West tumbled only five cups, but John Silva for the East toppled just four. Ninety young people filled the studio to root for their fellow 4-H'ers in the friendly contest. During the quiz "halftime," Norman C. Mindrum, director, National 4-H Service Committee, in a takeoff of the TV show, "Meet the Press," responded to questions of four reporters, Pamela Reeves, United Press International; Jim Merle, Chicago Tribune; Robert Allen, Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City; and Don Wishart, assistant extension editor, Iowa State University.

The Wednesday afternoon Delegates Assembly was one of the week's highlights - President Richard M. Nixon flew out from Washington, DC to address the National 4-H Congress delegates and to present the six presidential trays to the top achievers. The President's address was well received. The delegates were excited. And, the national media gave the event excellent exposure. What a long way we had come from that first Club Tour in 1919 and the first Club Congress in 1921.

[Photo: Nixon on stage waving to audience]

[Publication: file photo.]

[Caption: No caption.]

Remarks of President Richard M. Nixon
to the National 4-H Congress
(digital link, or link to this in the U.S. Presidents and 4-H segment)

IMPACT. Highlighting Press, Radio, Television
of the 50th National 4-H Congress
(digital link)

National 4-H Congress alumni - delegates to Congress in previous years - were invited back to the Final Banquet in recognition of the 50th Anniversary. As huge as the Conrad Hilton Hotel's International Ballroom is, this year it could not accommodate the final banquet. The Golden Anniversary 4-H Banquet had to be moved down Lake Shore Drive to the new McCormick Place Convention Center. The alumni started arriving in the afternoon and although the banquet did not start until 6:45 p.m., caravans of buses started moving the crowds from the Hilton Hotel down to McCormick Place at 5:30 p.m. The entire 1971 delegation, plus adults and invited guests, 2,600 people... the 4-H Congress alumni of a couple thousand more... the corporate officials and donor representatives... and even many of the press... all went via bus. The Golden Anniversary 4-H Banquet was held in Don Maxwell Hall at McCormick Place - followed by the Farewell Dance in the McCormick Place Ballroom featuring "The Ides of March." Unfortunately, we have not located any history of the Golden Anniversary 4-H Banquet and Farewell Dance but will add it when, and if, it is found.

One area that has not been covered to any extent in the yearly coverage of 4-H Congress in this history is that of media coverage. This is covered in a separate section of its own under Congress Highlights. However, the coverage of the Golden Anniversary Congress was so extraordinary, it needs to be mentioned here. Traditionally, National 4-H Congress had become one of the four largest media-covered conventions in the nation every year, but the 1971 Congress is at the top of the list.

While the Congress press headquarters shows 472 media representatives registering to cover the event, the actual figure was between 650 and 700 as most of the networks were allowed to have one person register for their whole

coverage team usually consisting of 10-25 people. When President Nixon flew in early that afternoon on Wednesday it took two planes because of the number of White House press corps members accompanying him.

Publicity for the 1971 4-H Congress had begun early. The National 4-H Service Committee produced for distribution prior to, during and after Congress about 200,000 copies of 700 different releases on state, sectional and national winners to some 9,000 press outlets and 7,300 radio-TV outlets throughout the country. Photographs of some 1,400 4-H winners were also distributed in various forms. Some 350 releases were pre-set in type to better service offset papers and photographs were pre-screened. The Chicago dailies, alone, carried about 12 pages (2,050 column inches) of Congress news and photos during the period of the Congress. These dailies have a combined weekday circulation of 1,870,000 and three of the four publish Sunday editions with a combined circulation of 2,130,000. Over 120 delegates were on local shows on 20 Chicago area radio and television stations during the event. In addition to the 7,300 radio-TV outlets receiving releases prior to Congress, television correspondents using the Congress sound-film facilities produced 18,300 feet of film for broadcast on 252 stations in 43 states and interviewed 393 delegates. In addition, 3,700 feet of film was shot for use in a movie on the 50th National 4-H Congress. Interviewing 1,430 delegates, taped radio recordings were produced for 703 stations in 49 states. Some 1,430 additional stations were served through various network hook-ups. Additionally, the hundreds of radio and television working press at the Congress produced coverage and interviews directly for feeds back to their home stations, many of them remaining at Congress for the full six days.

The Information Offices of the 50 State Extension Services provided additional coverage on their respective state delegations and state and national winners. And, most of the 60 corporate donors had their media reps present for coverage of their program's state and national winners, feeding the information to the business press and through their own house organs. Some donors made individual television interviews with every state and national winner in their program area. A team of 30 Extension information specialists from the universities were at Congress all week, functioning as staff as part of the Congress Press-Radio-Television operation. To say that National 4-H Congress saturated the news for a week may not be that much of an understatement. While it may not have made the TV network news every night, it is doubtful that there were many press-radio-TV outlets in the country that did not have at least some coverage of the 4-H achievers in Chicago.

National 4-H Congress Official Program
(digital link)

The following articles authored by Norman Mindrum, director, and Kenneth Anderson, associate director, National 4-H Service Committee, provide their reflections on these half century milestones for both the National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Service Committee.

Norman C. Mindrum, director, National 4-H Service Committee, wrote the following article in the November 1971 issue of *National 4-H News* in preparation for celebrating the National Committee's 50th anniversary the following month:

Let's Start a Committee

From those words, uttered by G. L. Noble in 1920, evolved a unique model of public-private cooperation... The National 4-H Service Committee... which this year marks 50 years of service to 4-H.

One of the first organizations of its kind, the National Committee continues to draw inspiration and enthusiasm from public spirited citizens who make up its membership. And the contributions, both technical and financial, made by America's private sector through the National Committee, are impressive in numbers and results achieved.

Today, more than 100 corporations, foundations, service organizations and individual donors support the Committee's work performed in cooperation with the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state land-grant universities. And through the years, the Committee has matched private resources with the primary needs of 4-H.

During the bleak depression years of the thirties, it helped people get a little enjoyment from life with plays, skits and songs printed in booklet form. The war effort received the total support of the National Committee in the early forties. And leader training, important all along, got a new surge of emphasis.

In the fifties, the National Committee obtained private resources for the start of an experimental urban 4-H program in the City of Chicago. The sixties saw the Committee intensify its services in the areas of educational aids, program development and innovation.

While the seventies have only begun, the National Committee is responding positively to the needs for... expanded youth involvement... strengthened volunteer leader programs... increased public and private resources... and a strong, relevant expanding 4-H movement.

Later this month, November 28-December 2, the Golden Anniversary of National 4-H Congress will be observed. Over the years, these annual events have provided thousands of 4-H members with opportunities for involvement, inspiration, education and recognition. Their accomplishments have been recognized with nearly \$3,000,000 in scholarship assistance, a challenge for their effort in the future.

On these dual anniversaries, the National 4-H Service Committee is mindful of its past services, but even more enthused about 4-H in the remainder of the seventies, eighties and beyond. It will continue to serve a dynamic, expanding 4-H program as an enabling organization. And with the partnership of the public sector - represented by the Cooperative Extension Service - and the private sector - corporations, foundations, individuals - the National Committee will continue to provide a viable system seeking new and diverse ways to help youth.

The National 4-H Service Committee welcomes your suggestions and support.

Norman C. Mindrum, Director
National 4-H Service Committee

In the following issue of *National 4-H News*, December, 1971, Kenneth H. Anderson, Associate Director of the National 4-H Service Committee, a position he had held for 33 years, reflects on more history of the National Committee:

Dreams Can Come True...

1971 marks a dual anniversary of 4-H -- 50 years of service to youth through National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Congress.

Many consider history -- even 4-H history -- dull, staid and uninspired. Yet others view it as a dynamic living saga, the story of strong leaders and dedicated people, of establishing goals and reaching out to achieve them, of coping with failures and successes, of responding to needs and changes. We think 4-H's legacies and contributions throughout the 50 years in which the national committee and 4-H Congress have been operating, have their share of romanticism and color.

The golden anniversary is a tribute to people -- men and women of conviction... boys and girls with varied interests and needs. It brings recollections of a fascinating story of how youth and youth leaders can be inspired, motivated and well served when government and the private sector team up for a common purpose.

Wouldn't it be thrilling now to listen in on discussions that took place on December 1, 1921, when the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work first was organized? Could pioneers then possibly have envisioned the potential significance and impact of the youth service program they were inaugurating? They all were prestigious leaders from the field of agricultural publishing, meat packing, fairs and expositions, farm organizations and government. Foreseeing the importance of the boys and girls club movement long before it came into national prominence, they recognized needs of agriculture and youth and tackled their service mission with zeal and enthusiasm.

The initial board's concern for a coeducational approach to informal learning-by-doing programs is reflected in the name -- National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. The magic label, "4-H", had of course, not come into national usage yet. In 1960, the organizational name was changed to National 4-H Service Committee.

Since the word "farm" was not included in the original organizational name, is it possible that pioneers could have foreseen that 4-H would some day be as popular in towns and cities as it is in rural areas? Historical records do not provide the answer.

Communicating the story of 4-H values and accomplishments to the public has been a 50-year mission of National 4-H Service Committee. Probably the first major achievement in this regard resulted from combined efforts of extension and national committee personnel in staging a 4-H parade of more than 1,000 members and leaders at the 1923 International Live Stock Exposition. Members proudly carried banners naming their home states, and huge signs proclaiming values of 4-H training. Nearly 8,000 spectators cheered, clapped and stomped their feet in admiration. The exposition manager broke into tears of emotion. 4-H made Chicago newspapers' front pages for the first time.

These are but a few road signs that tell how we got to where we are. They show dreams can come true.

In December 1971, commemorating the golden anniversary of both the National Committee and National 4-H Congress, a history book was released. Principal author was James T. Veeder, with the valued assistance and counsel of Kenneth H. Anderson and Paul C. Taff.

FROM A DREAM TO REALITY

A History of the National 4-H Service Committee 1921-1971

Digital Link

The December issue of *National 4-H News* also carried features on the golden anniversary of National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Congress, including a great historical dialogue authored by Norman Mindrum, Kenneth Anderson and Paul Taff on pages 26-31.

The December 1971 National 4-H News can be found in the Print Media Archive on the National 4-H History Preservation website.

1972

The 1972 National 4-H Congress theme was "A New Day - A New Way." On the day before Congress started the following letter arrived:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
November 24, 1972

"Warmed by fond memories of my visit with you at last year's National 4-H Congress, I am pleased to extend my warmest greeting through Secretary Butz to all who attend the 1972 sessions.

"Your meeting is traditionally a worthwhile experience, not just for those who attend, but for the countless fellow citizens across the nation who share a deep respect for 4-H activities and programs. It strengthens the faith of all of us in the future leadership of our nation to experience your constructive involvement in the development and progress of rural and urban America.

"The National 4-H Congress and the 4-H Service Committee are a dynamic force - an unbeatable combination of young men and women and participants from business, industry and all levels of government. Your discussions will surely help to formulate new plans for building a better future for all our citizens."

Richard Nixon

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz told National 4-H Congress delegates, leaders and guests: "Your theme, 'A New Day - A New Way,' is a provocative one. It covers a tremendous scope. It speaks of ideas and possibilities and challenges for all youth of America. This theme conveys your curiosity and zeal for the new... for the different... for the better. And it also suggests impatience with the past and with the old ways of doing things," Secretary Butz was the keynote speaker at the Opening Assembly of the 51st annual event.

"Your challenge is to make our American system move on at an even faster pace; to accomplish more good for more people," the Secretary continued. "No matter where you come from, your 4-H activities can make an impact in nutrition education, in health and safety, in fighting pollution and building a better natural environment, in helping see to it that science and technology, transportation and communication are all aimed at improving the quality of life in America. You are moving into an era of excitement and fulfillment," Butz reminded the 4-H'ers.

He pointed out that it would be difficult to identify any other youth movement which has the scope of 4-H in urban centers as well as rural areas; one with the heritage of successful leadership development; or one that so well exemplifies team work among young people and adults.

"I urge you to fathom more effective program activities... to produce new leaders... to find new ways for young men and women to enter into the mainstream of American life," Butz challenged the delegates. "If you do that - if you create the new way - you can look back with satisfaction that you helped make possible for America a new and better day." he concluded.

On Saturday - the day before Congress officially started - there was time for state delegate registrations, state group photos, interviews, and getting acquainted with kids from other delegations. In the afternoon, delegates were guests of the International Live Stock Exposition at the World's Champion Rodeo. And, in the evening was the traditional Get-Acquainted Dance featuring Head East Band, Ronnie Rogers and His Country and Western Band and the Kids From Illinois, a 20-member singing and dancing group.

Changes in evening schedules this year provided some opportunities for Congress program changes, as well. The "Pop" Concert with members of The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Guest Conductor Arthur Fiedler at Orchestra Hall, sponsored by The Singer Company, was moved to Sunday night, leaving Monday night open. Not to miss an opportunity, the Planning Committee developed a "Night at the Art Institute." All delegates, leaders and guests had exclusive use of the Art Institute of Chicago for the evening, courtesy of The Sears-Roebuck Foundation. Highlights of the evening included the painting galleries, the Oriental collection, the special exhibition on Barque and the Thorne Rooms. To assist delegates in getting full advantage of the evening, two "I Spy Games" were offered. These, in a sense, lead 4-H'ers through various sections of the Institute in search of specific objects of art. The Art Institute's Museum store was kept open for the evening and light refreshments were served on the ground floor.

For those teens tromping through the Art Institute all evening... and, returning to the hotel starved, Kentucky Fried Chicken provided box suppers for everyone between 10-11 p.m. in the East Exhibition Hall, with Colonel Harlan Sanders, founder of the fast-food chain, greeting his guests and signing autographs at the door. Remember, that day the delegates had already started out with the large Firestone Breakfast of the huge baked potato and chipped beef and gravy, and then the all-Congress International Harvester luncheon (featuring The New Christy Minstrels)... and, 15 awards program areas had donor-sponsored banquets Monday night prior to going to the Art Institute. (And, probably still some of the teenage boys were hungry!)

The Monday delegates program was split with half the delegates going to seminars and the other half going on optional educational tours in the morning and then switching for attending seminars and tours in the afternoon. The tours offered included the Shedd Aquarium, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Post Office, Chicago Life Styles, The Quaker Oats Company Test Kitchens, Johnson Publishing Company (publishers of Ebony and Jet), Field Museum of Natural History and Bus Tour of Chicago.

The 10 seminars offered were:

- 1 - *Decisions-Decisions-Decisions* - Resource Leader: Mrs. Suzanne Guthrie, Guthrie Associates, Consultants to Management, Tustin, California.
- 2 - *4-H Community Development* - Resource Leaders: C. B. Gilliland, Program Leader, Manpower Development, Extension Service, USDA and Dr. Lloyd L. Rutledge, Program Leader, 4-H-Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA.
- 3 - *Environmental Choices - "Because We're All in This Together"* - Resource Leader: Walter Jeske, Soil Conservation Service, USDA.
- 4 - *"Our Worth on Earth"* - Resource Leader: Rev. Ernest H. Huntzinger, Jr., First Congregational United Church, Elmhurst, Illinois.
- 5 - *"Volunteerism"* - Resource Leader: Dr. V. Milton Boyce, Program Leader, 4-H-Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA.
- 6 - *The Problems of Hunger: Some Hidden Dimensions* - Resource Leader: Rudolph B. Pruden, Program Leader, 4-H-Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA.
- 7 - *"Tell It Like It Is"* - Resource Leaders: Eleanor L. Wilson, Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA and Mrs. Sue G. Fisher, Assistant State Leader, 4-H and Youth Development, University of Minnesota.
- 8 - *Politics-Will Your Vote Count?* - Resource Leader: Larry Derryberry, Attorney General, State of Oklahoma.
- 9 - *How to Cope-Not Cop Out* - Resource Leader: Dr. Hope Daugherty, Program Leader, 4-H-Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA.
- 10 - *Civil Rights-Whose Rights?* - Resource Leader: Dr. B. D. Mayberry, Dean, School of Applied Sciences, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Tuesday's events included the National 4-H Dress Revue, "Photo Fashions," in the morning and a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry in the afternoon. Tuesday night featured "The Kids Next Door" in a special entertainment concern at the Auditorium Theatre sponsored by Tupperware Home Parties. "The Kids Next Door" was a talented singing group that started in 1966 with backgrounds and interests varying from the Beatles to Shakespeare. Success on national television resulted in concert tours and college appearances across the country, regular appearances in Las Vegas and daily at Disneyland.

Wednesday morning and afternoon again featured the seminars and optional tours offered on Monday so delegates could select two additional choices. The all-Congress noon luncheon was sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund.

Wednesday night provided a special treat - a new entertainment program area. The entire delegation was bused down to the Arie Crown Theatre at McCormick Place for a special "Evening with the Chicago Ballet Company" featuring "Carmina Burana" and excerpts from the "Nutcracker Suite," courtesy of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The production was under the direction of America's internationally acclaimed Ruth Page whose career has been associated with the world's greatest dancers, choreographers, producers and designers.

Thursday morning featured a special preview showing of a program from "Mulligan Stew," a new 4-H TV Series on nutrition, in the Continental Room. The Delegates Assembly provided an opportunity to announce the 1973 4-H Theme - "4-H Gets It All Together." There was a special presentation to famous designer Peter Max with a preview of a special 4-H scarf that reflects "the youthful joy of 4-H" designed by Max. The Assembly speaker was Dr. Robert B. Kamm, President, Oklahoma State University. His theme was "Five Wishes for You." He termed the wishes as simple, but more important than wealth or fame. They were: 1) I wish that you will be a thankful person. 2) Have an attitude of optimism. 3) Find joy in learning throughout your lifetime. 4) Find great satisfaction in your work. 5) I wish that you increasingly come to know your God. Dr. Kamm urged 4-H'ers to mix patience with their normal impatience to get on-with-the-job as they prepare to shoulder full-time responsibilities.

Some 600 delegates attended the recognition breakfast honoring key award winners. The event was hosted by Cities Service Company and was held in the Great Hall of the Pick-Congress Hotel. Ernest O. Back, representing Cities Service, introduced the 42 scholarship nominees from the 24 states in which the program is offered. Six scholarships were presented to 4-H'ers for their outstanding contributions of leadership, citizenship and community service.

TV star, Durwood Kirby, was at the General Foods Food-Nutrition winners banquet. He earlier had interviewed each of the 50 state and national winners on television to be sent home to their nearest stations.

Jack Linkletter, banquet speaker for the Veterinary Science banquet sponsored by The Upjohn Company, challenged his listeners to actively seek fulfillment by being aware on all levels of perception, goal oriented by putting plans in words each year and above all being enthusiastic in what each does. "The world is full of talented people unsuccessful because they had no enthusiasm," he said.

Anita Bryant entertained delegates and leaders at the prime rib banquet of the Beef winners hosted by Celanese Chemical Company, while the Sheep Awards program dinner, hosted by Wilson & Co., Inc. served roast lamb. Dr. Burdette Breidenstein, vice president of Wilson-Sinclair, the keynote speaker, complimented the winners for their leadership and willingness to meet the challenge of tomorrow. "We need young people and aggressive young leaders in private industry, he stressed. "We need people who realize the urgency of producing more food to feed more people."

National electric winners were guests of the Farm Electrification Council at a special breakfast which was followed by a rap session on the electric industry and its career opportunities.

Highlights of this year's recognition breakfast for bicycle winners was the first 4-H Bicycle Grand Prix. Winners, and a few brave leaders, competed in a time trial over a tricky obstacle course set up in the Hilton's Waldorf Room. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, program donor, earlier had honored sectional and national winners during a breakfast in the Williford Room. Now in its fourth year, there are 260,000 youth enrolled in the national bicycle program.

The General Motors all-Congress luncheon featured the Brothers and Sisters, a song and dance group, and Terry Anne Meeuwse, Miss America 1973. A. G. DeLorenzo, vice president and Thomas A. Murphy, vice chairman, represented the corporation. For the third year, GM executives met with state and national safety winners in an informal discussion get-together with free-flowing conversation regarding the 4-H safety program, career opportunities and corporate citizenship efforts.

Thursday evening was the traditional Annual 4-H Banquet, followed by the Farewell Dance, this year featuring the musical group, "McCookin."

1973

"4-H Gets It All Together," the 1973 National 4-H Congress theme, was interpreted this way: Nothing is so constant as change. The capacity of 4-H to adjust its program to new audiences, new situations and new learning opportunities is along its great strengths. While the basics of 4-H have not changed, the 4-H program has demonstrated the flexibility necessary to get it all together in terms of the interests and needs of youth and society. Delegates to the 52nd National 4-H Congress got it all together through a program filled with education and inspiration, achievement and recognition, trends and concerns, evaluations and solutions together with fun, fellowship and adventure.

Highlighting the program for Saturday was attending the International Live Stock Exposition and "The New Virginians" entertainment program hosted by American Income Life Insurance Company Saturday evening prior to the Get-Acquainted Party. The New Virginians were from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Theme of the show was don't be afraid to express your individuality and for an hour and a half, nonstop, delegates were entertained. Mary Pippen, a 4-H Congress delegate from Virginia in 1971, now a student at VPI and a member of The New Virginians, sang "Corner of the Sky" as an expression of "What 4-H means to me - great spiritual growth."

The 1973 4-H Congress Opening Assembly on Sunday Afternoon was keynoted by Dr. Thomas S. Haggai, provided through General Motors. Dr. Haggai told delegates, "It's not optional for you to 'get it together' - you owe it to yourselves to do so. The most important ingredient for you to succeed is commitment that will help overcome the ladder of success," he explained. "And make sure you don't confuse popularity and respect," he added. "The first sign of maturity is when you do something to earn respect that might lose you some of your popularity," he said.

An additional feature of the Opening Assembly was a Special Tribute to Kenneth H. Anderson, Associate Director of the National 4-H Service Committee. Due to his longevity in serving in a leadership capacity for 4-H at the National level - 36 years - it was deemed appropriate to acknowledge Ken at this particular time. A Kenneth H. Anderson 4-H Appreciation Committee has coordinated the effort. It will include, beginning with the 1974 National 4-H Congress, the first Ken Anderson educational scholarship presented to a 4-H citizenship winner. In addition, the National 4-H Center, in Washington, D.C. soon will include the Kenneth H. Anderson National 4-H Reference Gallery, already planned for the soon-to-be constructed J. C. Penney Hall. It will provide space for a reading-reference area, an art collection and a series of permanent 4-H exhibits.

Unfortunately, shortly before Congress started, Ken Anderson landed in the hospital with pneumonia. However, a special telephone hookup from his hospital bed was connected to the public address system to figuratively put Ken "on stage." "I just did not 'get it all together' for this Congress," he told delegates. Meanwhile, back at the Hilton's International Ballroom, Mrs. Anderson was on stage to accept a special plaque presented by Leonard L. Harkness, state 4-H leader, Minnesota.

Sunday night, Westinghouse Electric Corporation again sponsored a Special Evening with the Chicago Ballet, featuring "Bachanalia," the world premiere of "Collage," "Romeo and Juliet," and excerpts from the "Nutcracker Suite," at the Arie Crown Theatre at McCormick Place.

The traditional Firestone Breakfast was first on the agenda for Monday morning. Richard A. Riley, president of Firestone, told the group "One cannot omit beauty of spirit or beauty in the way we act, think, or serve." "In addition, we need to sacrifice some things in order to attain others. And we must remember what has been done before or we will relive all the mistakes," he warned.

Something slightly new in 1973, following the Firestone breakfast delegates in 15 program areas met with their donors in Donor-Delegate rap sessions for the rest of the morning. The rest of the delegates attended optional tours to a variety of locations.

The all-Congress luncheon on Monday was hosted by International Harvester Company. The Serendipity Singers entertained.

Delegates attended their choice of three mini-assemblies on Monday afternoon: 1) Choosing and Planning a Career: What Students Need To Know About Jobs, featuring Dr. Frank S. Endicott, Professor Emeritus, College of Education, Northwestern University and John H. Zimmerman, Manager, Corporate Personnel Planning, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company; 2) Your First Trip to the People's Republic of China or How to Eat Oily Peanuts With Chopsticks, by C.

R. Devine, Vice President, Reader's Digest Association, Inc.; 3) Agriculture: A Future for You, by Orion Samuelson, Farm Service Director, WGN Radio/TV, Chicago, interviews a panel.

On Monday night, same as in 1972, 4-H delegates and guests were treated to an evening at the Art Institute of Chicago. Highlights of the evening were paintings ranging from the 14th century to the present. Picasso's "Woman With a Dog" and Grant Woods' "American Gothic" were of special interest. Following the Art Institute, delegates enjoyed a Country Western Dance featuring David Rogers and his Orchestra and Leon Sash and his Orchestra, back at the hotel from 10 p.m. to midnight.

The National 4-H Dress Revue, "Fashion Harmony" was held on Tuesday morning. From 11 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. delegates and leaders first assembled in the Continental Room for a box luncheon and then went on a tour to the Museum of Science and Industry, courtesy of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Tuesday night Tupperware Home Parties hosted Special Entertainment at the Auditorium Theatre for the entire Congress delegation. The 1973 show featured The Earl Scruggs Revue.

On Wednesday, Delegate sessions were offered both in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Delegates were also offered tours to the Field Museum of Natural History in both the morning and afternoon, providing opportunities for delegates to have more selection. The 10 delegate sessions included:

- 1 - *LIVING WITH STRESS-How to Stretch Without Getting Bent Out of Shape.* Resource Leader - Dr. Hope Daugherty, Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA.
- 2 - *THE HEAT IS ON...* Resource Leaders - Steve Walker, Public Affairs Representative, Amoco Oil Company & George Travers, Executive Assistant to Executive Vice President, Commonwealth Edison Company.
- 3 - *ALCOHOL-The Decision is Yours.* Resource Leaders - Tom Enright, Highway Safety Management Specialist, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration & Julia Molander, Member, Department of Transportation National Youth Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.
- 4 - *THE WORLD OF 4-H.* Resource Leader - Francis Pressly, Director, International Programs, National 4-H Foundation.
- 5 - *SELF AWARENESS AND SOCIAL SKILLS-or "What Do You Say After You Say Hello?"* Resource Leader - Mrs. Marion E. Mathews, Counselor Intern, George Washington University.
- 6 - *OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN...* Resource Leader - Bette Jane McCabe, Standard Brands Incorporated.
- 7 - *SUPER CONSUMERS* Resource Leader - Deborah Swets, Specialist Projects Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs, Cost of Living Council.
- 8 - *PLANNED ENVIRONMENTS.* Resource Leader - George Greer, County Administrator, Carroll County, Maryland.
- 9 - *YOUR POWER TREE IN COMMUNITY LIFE.* Resource Leaders - Dr. Lloyd Rutledge, Program Leader, 4-H Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA & C. B. Gilliland, Consultant in Community Development.
- 10 - *...MORE THAN MONEY.* Resource Leaders - W. Richard Bryan, Executive Director, Community Services, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company & R. L. Crane, Director of Management Development & Training, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

The Wednesday luncheon, between the two delegate program sessions, was hosted by Ford Motor Company Fund, and featured The Honorable Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture, as speaker. Dr. Butz spoke on "Who Will Write the History of Good."

"These are times when the history of good does not dominate the news," he said. "It seldom does. The pages of men's history are filled with strife and struggle, with crisis and conflict, with disaster and disgrace.

"Yet through the centuries, and especially through recent decades, man has also been writing the history of good. The history of good is not transitory... We build on it from generation to generation to generation. That is the history of America... I am inspired even now to visit the Jefferson Memorial in Washington and to read the words, 'I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.' He (Jefferson) was speaking

of the tyranny of ignorance, the tyranny of prejudice, the tyranny of superstition, the tyranny of half-truth, the tyranny of untruth."

Secretary Butz pointed out that... "Our continued goodness as a nation will depend upon our success in thwarting such tyranny. "Big challenges await you who, if you choose, can write the next chapters in the history of good.

"You also owe much to the generations who will follow," the Secretary reminded the 4-H'ers. "You will serve best who resolves each day to write a line in the history of good. Some days, if you are lucky, you might even write a full paragraph. This is a great nation because it is a good nation. It is a good nation because so many of us, each in his own way, every day, writes a line in the history of good," he concluded.

Wednesday night featured the Singer Company's "Pop" Concert at Orchestra Hall under the direction of Dr. Arthur Fiedler, but this year featuring the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. The program also featured guest pianist Myron Romanul.

Additional donor-delegate rap sessions were held on Thursday morning, along with delegate optional educational tours. The all-Congress luncheon sponsored by General Motors featured the Brothers & Sisters and Miss America, Rebecca Ann King, an 8-year 4-H member in East Pottawattamie County, Iowa. For the fourth year, GM executives met with state and national safety winners for two hours prior to the luncheon in an informal get-together, including free-flowing conversation regarding the 4-H safety program, career opportunities and corporate citizenship efforts.

The Annual 4-H Banquet was held in the International Ballroom of the Hilton on Thursday night, followed by the Farewell Dance featuring "Approaching Storm" while Bill Scott and his Orchestra played in the Grand Ballroom.

1974

The theme for the 1974 National 4-H Congress was "We Can Make It Happen" - The inspired optimism of youth, the belief that no job is too large a challenge nor too difficult, is the 4-H story. Collectively and individually, over five million 4-H members are building for a better tomorrow by meeting the challenges of today with the confidence that "We Can Make It Happen."

Just prior to the opening of 4-H Congress, National 4-H Service Committee received the following telegram:

The White House

To Delegates, Leaders and Guests Attending the 53rd National 4-H Congress:

"I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to each of you as you open the 1974 National 4-H Congress. Your theme, "We Can Make It Happen," reflects the optimistic belief of youth that no task is too great a challenge.

"During this year, I have had the pleasure of personally meeting with several outstanding 4-H'ers. If they are representative of the more than 7 million young people in 4-H programs today, then I am confident that our Nation is in the best of hands for tomorrow. One of your young women members from South Carolina was among the 21 youth leaders who met with me in August to discuss some of the things the Government should do to help young people. And one of your young men from Minnesota has agreed to serve as the youth representative on my special Citizens Action Committee to fight inflation. I value their thinking and their dedication.

"As you meet this week with leaders from both business and government, I hope you will share freely your ideas and enthusiasm with them, as well as your commitment to the highest national ideals. By marshalling the unique talents and experience of every generation of our citizens in the task of working toward a greater American future, I believe we can truly "Make It Happen."

Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States

Speaking at the Opening Assembly of Congress on Sunday, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz urged 4-H'ers to use his new formula for national power. "My formula consists of horsepower x headpower x heartpower. I call these the 3-H's - the 3-H power equation," he said.

Butz, a former 4-H'er from Indiana, said that he is not concerned with "horsepower." "This country is organized for production," he pointed out.

"Headpower" also is not a concern. "We have by far a higher percentage of our young people enrolled in formal education than any place else in the world," he commented.

But, "heartpower" is not as strong as it should be.

"The pride in America that our people once felt has been slipping. Once again we need to dedicate ourselves to the principles in the Declaration of Independence and in our Constitution," the Secretary urged.

"The greatest challenge of your generation - of each generation in America - is to reaffirm its faith in America and in the goals and beliefs of our society," he said. "The generation must come forth and renew that vital spark - the spark that has flickered for some in the last decade," he warned.

Entertainment and fun were traditionally near the top of the list for the delegates. The New Virginians performed for the delegates and leaders on Sunday evening in the International Ballroom of the Hilton, courtesy of American Income Life Insurance Company. Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass entertained at Monday's International Harvester luncheon. The "Pop" Concert presented by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Arthur Fiedler, at Orchestra Hall, sponsored by The Singer Company, was held on Monday evening. The Establishment provided lively entertainment for the Auditorium Theater show sponsored by Tupperware Home Parties on Tuesday night.

Delegates enjoyed "A Special Evening at the Art Institute of Chicago," sponsored by The First National Bank of Chicago on Wednesday night, followed by a Sock Hop from 10 p.m. to midnight in the East Exhibition Hall of the Hilton. Pony tails, rolled blue jeans, and greased hair gave the Hilton a true '50s look - Tony Rugero, disc jockey from Radio Station WFYR, Chicago, played "oldies" but "goodies" for the delegates' dancing delight. Contests for the twist, jitterbug and boogie highlighted the evening.

The Wednesday noon luncheon sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund, featured a very special speaker - the legendary Jesse Owens, 1936 Olympics track champion who won four gold medals, a black man outpacing the German competition as Adolph Hitler looked on in disbelief from the stands.

"Take back home the friendships and loves God intended you to have," Owens advised the 4-H'ers as he shared some of the experiences he had encountered while climbing the ladder to his goal. To be the fastest man in the world was the goal Jesse Owens achieved in 1936 - breaking the world's record at the Olympic games in Berlin, Germany. On that day he also sparked a long-lasting friendship with a German track and field competitor.

Jesse Owens, urged 4-H'ers to remember this 4-H Congress as a goal reached and to take back home the friendships, experiences and knowledge gained. He continued by saying that "your leaders are your coaches" and that they will help you climb the ladder of success through building determination, self-discipline and proper attitudes to enable you to reach your goals.

The Thursday General Motors luncheon featured The Brothers & Sisters and the current Miss America, Shirley Cothran from Texas.

Donor-Delegate rap sessions, tours and mini-assemblies provided opportunities for delegates to view and discuss a variety of current issues.

1975

In recognition of the country's upcoming bicentennial anniversary, the 4-H Congress theme in 1975 was "4-H - '76... Spirit of Tomorrow." The Opening Assembly on Sunday afternoon was highlighted by music from the Great Lakes Navy Training Center Band. 4-H Congress delegates presented state flags and as each flag was spotlighted at the front of the International Ballroom, delegates and guests were taken on a tour of that state via color slides projected on a huge screen as they heard a brief description of each state's economic contribution. A salute to the free enterprise system provided 4-H'ers a quick overview of the private sector cooperators who work with the Extension Service in support of the 4-H program. A visual presentation - 4-H '76... Spirit of Tomorrow" carried out the Congress theme, tracing the progress of 4-H - and the nation - through the years.

All-Congress events were popular with the delegates - from The New Virginians performance on Sunday night, to the final banquet and farewell dance. The Monday International Harvester luncheon provided the entertainment of Fred Waring and his New Young Pennsylvanians. This year Waring is celebrating his 60th year in show business and 40 years of 4-H entertainment. Tupperware again sponsored an all-Congress performance at the Auditorium Theatre featuring

Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass. Throughout the two-hour performance, the 4-H delegates clapped, cheered, hooted and hollered their appreciation. The band's version of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" included a banjo solo that brought the 4-H'ers to their feet, and a patriotic medley during the second set drew a standing ovation and thunderous applause from the delegates.

Delegates and adults enjoyed "A Special Evening at the Art Institute of Chicago," sponsored by The First National Bank of Chicago. On Tuesday the delegates and leaders enjoyed a tour of Chicago's famed Museum of Science and Industry. Although admission was free to the museum, J I Case Company provided transportation for the 4-H'ers. Wednesday evening Westinghouse hosted all delegates and leaders to "Celebration '76," a musical revue, in the International Ballroom, that paid tribute in song and dance to America's 200th birthday. The theme for the Tuesday morning National 4-H Dress Revue hosted by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc. was "The Declaration of Fashion." Madeleine Greene, educational stylist, Simplicity, narrator for the show, not only provided commentary on the garments, but in keeping with the theme, made comments about how patriotic red, white and blue, influences individual fashions.

More than 25 donor/delegate rap sessions were held during the Congress.

The second National 4-H Photo Exhibition was held during National 4-H Congress. All photographs were taken by 4-H members with the exhibit being made up of about 250 prints on 150 mounts. The National 4-H Photo Exhibition is sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company. In addition, for the first time the National 4-H Poster Art Exhibit was held during National 4-H Congress. All entries were created by 4-H members ranging in age from 8 to 18. The National 4-H Poster Art Exhibit is sponsored by Coats & Clark Inc. By ballot vote, the 1,600 delegates to Congress chose the artist's concept which will become the official poster design for next year's national 4-H poster.

1976

The 1,600 delegates to the 1976 National 4-H Congress got off to a lively start early at the Saturday night Get Acquainted party. The dance floor of the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel literally shook as the delegates danced to three great bands - Eden Rock, The Don Caron Rock Unit and The Jade 50's. First, everyone was rockin' and hoppin' to the Mickey Mouse-Donald Duck March, then the delegates boogied down to the hottest hard rock sound around - that of Peter Frampton. Those who weren't rockin' and boppin' and boogiein' got a chance to eat some of Mr. Peanut's peanuts passed around to the delegates by Mr. Peanut himself. Standard Brands Incorporated sponsored the event.

At the Sunday Opening Assembly, keynote speaker Russell G. Mawby, president, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, interpreted the Congress theme - "4-H - Room to Grow." "4-H - and life - provide for each of us room to grow if we will. If each of us will do what we can do and ought to do to enrich our own lives and those of others, we will in fact be serving man's higher purpose," Mawby told the delegates and guests. Mawby, who attended Congress as a state soil and water conservation winner from Michigan in 1944, also urged the delegates to take advantage of the opportunity to meet people attending the Congress, especially the program donor representatives.

"It's a compliment to 4-H - and you - that so many busy people take time to be here. Don't miss the opportunity to talk with them - ask about their company, what it's like to work for a corporation and who owns the business," Mawby said.

Also at the Opening Assembly, the responsibilities of the National 4-H Council were explained to the delegates by Grant A. Shrum, executive director of the National 4-H Foundation. The National 4-H Council will begin its work February 1, 1977 when the merger between the National 4-H Service Committee and the National 4-H Foundation is completed.

Omer G. Voss, president of the National 4-H Service Committee, welcomed the group to the 55th National 4-H Congress.

Sunday evening the American Income Life Insurance Company again sponsored an entertainment program for the delegates and guests which highlighted the Purdue University Singers featuring songs including "Tie A Yellow Ribbon," "Warsaw Concerto," "I Got Rhythm," "Old Man River," and a bicentennial "I Am the Nation."

At the Monday morning Firestone Breakfast - the 33rd annual breakfast sponsored by Firestone - Mario A. DiFederico, president, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, told the delegates, "Sharing is what 4-H and freedom are all about. 4-H is an investment in yourself and in the future." If 4-H'ers share their experiences of National 4-H Congress, the president of Firestone feels that they can also help others to grow.

Most donors planned on hosting donor-delegate rap sessions during the week, sessions which had been growing in popularity over the past several Congresses. The sessions provided opportunities for delegates and donor

representatives to become personally acquainted and explore areas of mutual interests, career opportunities and to get to know one another better.

Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra were a hit with Congress delegates and guests on Monday evening as they danced and listened to the big band music in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom. International Paper Company and the National 4-H Service Committee jointly sponsored the event. The band entertained the delegates with their jazz-rock tunes that included "Theme from Star Trek," "MacArthur Park" and a medley from the rock opera, "Tommy." Orion Samuelson, vice president of WGN, Chicago, emceed the evening and was presented a Partner-in-4-H Award for his broadcasting services to 4-H, by Dr. E. Dean Vaughan, assistant administrator, 4-H Youth, ES, USDA.

A team of hair stylists discussed hair types, care and conditioning with the state dress revue winners during a hair care and styling workshop sponsored by Clairol, Inc.

The Thursday delegates assembly featured Dr. Harry E. Olson, Jr., a leading spokesman in the field of human resource development, author and international lecturer on human potential and skill application.

The 4-H Home Environmental awards winners, at their event sponsored by The Sperry and Hutchinson Company in the Crystal Ballroom of the Blackstone Hotel, listened to speaker Donald A. Hunziker, president, Lea Industries, urge them to consider home furnishings as a career opportunity, because "each year more and more money is spent on the consumer's home environment."

Jerry Clower, country comic of the year for the past three years (and a national 4-H alumni winner in 1976) entertained state and national Food Preservation winners attending the recognition breakfast hosted by Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation. Clower told stories of his childhood in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and as a county extension agent. He told the delegates how his life had been so vitally influenced by an assistant county agent for 4-H that he wanted to be just like him.

Tupperware Home Parties, donor of the 4-H Home Management Awards Program, sponsored the all-Congress program at the Auditorium Theatre Tuesday night. The program featured Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass. The crowd's cheering started with the opening number, "I Saw the Light," and kept going all through "The Orange Blossom Special" and "Wabash Cannon Ball" until the concert ended with a standing ovation. At the beginning of the evening, Harry Welch, advertising and public relations, Tupperware, introduced Tupperware's newest product - a green, four-leaf clover cookie cutter. After the performance it was distributed to everyone in the audience. The 4-H'ers were the first to receive the new product.

The third National 4-H Photo Exhibit was held during National 4-H Congress, sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company in cooperation with Cooperative Extension Service, National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Foundation. The 164 exhibitors represented 48 states and a cross section of creative 4-H photographers ranging in age from 9-19 years. After the Congress showing, the exhibit was featured at numerous national and regional events.

For the second time, the National 4-H Poster Art Exhibit was held during Congress, as well. All entries were created by 4-H members in age from 8 to 18. Participants were urged to design their posters based on one of three theme areas suggested by delegates to the 1975 National 4-H Congress - "4-H Is Action," "4-H Freedom to Be," and "4-H Brings Out the Best." Selected posters from the exhibit have been submitted to an artist for interpretation in designing the National 4-H Poster for 1977-78. The National 4-H Poster Art Exhibit is sponsored by Coats & Clark Inc, Cooperative Extension Service, National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Supply Service.

A special tribute was given to Tyrus (Ty) W. Thompson, assistant director, National 4-H Service Committee, at the Leaders' and Donors' Luncheon. Ty retired earlier in the year after a 38-year career of professional leadership in the 4-H program. He joined the National Committee's staff in 1949 as service director. Both he and his wife Pauline were present for the special recognition.

1977

Although National 4-H Congress in 1977 was the first Congress planned and managed by the new National 4-H Council, a merger of the National 4-H Service Committee and the National 4-H Foundation, the transition was almost unnoticeable. Most of the old National 4-H Service Committee staff were still headquartered in Chicago and nearby. Additionally, more staff assistance from the old 4-H Foundation staff came out to Chicago to assist.

National 4-H Council received the following telegram shortly before the opening of Congress:

THE WHITE HOUSE

"I am very proud to send greetings to the delegates and leaders at this Fifty-sixth National 4-H Congress. Your theme, "Freedom to Be," presents a challenge for nearly six million 4-H young people to set goals, seek greater knowledge and develop challenging and satisfying life skills.

"The focus of this year's Congress program on jobs, careers and economics is particularly appropriate. 4-H is highly respected as a "learn-by-doing" institution through which young Americans gain a better understanding of our heritage and a deeper awareness of their own potential. It is a program based on our national belief in the dignity of work and in the right of individuals to contribute to their own well-being and to the progress of society through gainful employment.

"4-H enthusiasm and interest in sharing citizenship responsibilities bode well for your future. As you meet this week, I know you will display all the vitality and resourcefulness that traditionally characterize your fine program. I hope you will return to your homes enriched by the experiences you have shared, by the fresh ideas you have developed and by the friendships you have sealed as colleagues in this very worthwhile endeavor.

Jimmy Carter
President of the United States

As referenced in President Carter's message, the Congress theme this year was "Freedom to Be." This was carried out throughout the week by the various speakers.

Dr. Whitt N. Schultz keynoted the Opening Assembly on Sunday. "You 4-H'ers are all winners," he said. "You've got first down and goal to go." Schultz, of Kenilworth, Illinois, was a career consultant to corporations and executives. He told the 1,650 Congress delegates, "You are all leaders, but being contented is only for cows! The strong can be stronger and the right can be righter. Today's young people show a considerable wisdom when they prepare positively and creatively for jobs, careers and economic education," Schultz said. "Continue your education. There's a shortage of good people. Employers want well-trained young people who are optimistic, enthusiastic, individualistic and imaginative. These are the four characteristics of leaders," he said.

Also at the Opening Assembly, Dr. W. Neill Schaller, administrator, Extension Service, USDA, said 4-H helps get young people into the race of life. "It involves winning and reaching higher, and losing and picking yourself up," he said. "With this help of 4-H, we can chart a new course that will give a "Freedom To Be" to those less fortunate than you and I," Schaller continued.

During the week, delegates focused their attention on jobs, careers and economic understanding at various assemblies, discussion sessions and donor/delegate rap sessions. On Monday morning delegates met in mini-assembly groups to explore career planning options through the American College Testing Program, (CPP) Career Planning Program, which helped identify individual interests, abilities and experiences as related to the world of work. The CPP was sponsored by Montgomery Ward & Co. CPP was designed to help Congress delegates identify and explore personally relevant occupations and educational programs. The program puts it all together, relating interests, abilities, and past experiences to career planning. Test results are then translated into useful information, not just scores. An individual report was prepared for each delegate which provided a comprehensive summary of his or her abilities, interests, experiences, and goals and helps them relate the information directly to eight career clusters.

On Tuesday the delegates met in mini-assemblies to focus on jobs, careers and economic understanding featuring career panels of donor representatives, educators and Chicago business professionals. The mini-assemblies were on: business, sales and management; business operations; trades, crafts and industries; technologies; natural and social sciences; health services and sciences; creative and applied arts; social and personal services. Partial costs of the career program were covered by Montgomery Ward & Co., donor of awards in the 4-H Consumer Education program.

On Monday night the delegates were entertained in the International Ballroom by Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra. Ferguson thrilled the audience with performances like "Theme from Rocky" and "Theme from Star Wars." The evening started with a surprise appearance by comedian Jerry Lewis who introduced Maynard Ferguson as, "Numero uno in jazz."

The Tupperware Home Parties entertainment for the entire Congress delegation on Tuesday evening at the Auditorium Theatre featured The Amazing Kreskin, the internationally-known mentalist, who dazzled the audience with a seemingly supernatural display of mental power. A nightclub entertainment act, "The Prodigy," followed Kreskin's performance.

Wednesday evening was "A Special Evening at the Art Institute of Chicago" hosted by The First National Bank of Chicago, followed back at the hotel by a relaxed evening of Dixieland Jazz, hot dogs and coke, courtesy of the Ford Motor Company Fund.

Some of the highlights of donor events included the traditional Bicycle Grand Prix as part of the bicycle program awards banquet sponsored by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. The delegates got a laugh out of a bicycle race on the track (set up in one of the hotel ballrooms) between Norman C. Mindrum, executive vice president, National 4-H Council, and Formula One race car driver Mario Andretti. Not quite reaching his speed record of 209 m.p.h., Andretti easily gained a lead on Mindrum in the first turn of the Bike Grand Prix course, and maintained that lead as he crossed the finish line and the checkered flag went down. Mindrum, sporting racing goggles and hat, awarded him first place. Andretti conducted the remainder of the 4-H Grand Prix, featuring four teams of bicycle project winners competing on the same course. Andretti presented the winners with championship trophies. Andretti, speaking before the race, said, "I like being with a group of winners, and you only become winners through sacrifice and perseverance. It's always good to celebrate the end of a season; to look back and swell on some of our achievements, but even more important, don't be afraid to dream of more of the same in the future."

Entertainer Jerry Lewis entertained the winners at the Food Conservation & Safety banquet hosted by Reynolds Metals Company; William L. Anderson, president, American Veterinary Medical Association, addressed the Veterinary Science winners banquet sponsored by The Upjohn Company; Miss America Susan Perkins appeared at the General Motors luncheon with The Sparrows, a Canadian blues rock band, performing the entertainment. The Sparrows later morphed into the popular heavy rock group Steppenwolf.

The Thursday morning assembly featured speaker Sandy Karn, a former Congress winner in entomology, and current consultant to business firms, telling delegates "hang on to the philosophy of your theme 'Freedom to Be' for the rest of your life." Also during the assembly, Dr. E. Dean Vaughan, Extension Service, USDA, presented a Partner in 4-H Award to Mrs. J. C. Penney. Vaughan particularly cited the time and money given by Mrs. Penney, members of the Penney family and the J. C. Penney Company for the building at the National 4-H Center named J. C. Penney Hall in honor of her husband. In accepting the award, Mrs. Penney said "I have considered myself a partner in 4-H with my husband for many years. My association with 4-H is an extension of his lifelong commitment to 4-H." Mrs. Penney closed by telling the delegates of her husband's philosophy regarding young people. "If you want to build for a decade, cultivate trees. But if you want to build for centuries, cultivate young men and women."

The concluding Annual Banquet on Thursday night began with the traditional introduction of all 230 national winners. Presidential awards were announced by Dr. E. Dean Vaughan, assistant administrator, 4-H Youth Programs, Extension Service, USDA. Having attended more than 40 National 4-H Congresses, Kenneth H. Anderson shared the spotlight during the Annual 4-H Banquet. After 39 years he retired December 16 from National 4-H Council.

1978

Firestone Breakfast starts "A Day to be Remembered." It began as Richard A. Riley, chairman and chief executive officer, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, hoped it would "as an extra special day in a super-special week..."

This was the 35th time Firestone had hosted a 6:45 a.m. breakfast that 4-H'ers around the country are sure to remember. The first surprise was sweet rolls served with creamed chipped beef on baked potatoes. Breakfast ended with 4-H members standing, "swinging" and clapping to tunes belted out by the Sunshine Express, a musical group from Columbus, Ohio.

Under the 4-H Congress theme "Freedom to Be..." Mr. Riley explained, "All 4-H members need to look to other parts of the world to see what we have and what we all too often take for granted. To be born free is a gift; to stay free requires responsibility. Your freedom to be is limited only by your responsibility to do... to do what is necessary and proper to preserve the right to keep your freedom to be.

"I want you to think seriously about, and I hope remember, these significant parts of your theme," Mr. Riley continued. "Freedom to be is freedom to develop into the person you want to be... Freedom to set goals and reach for opportunities. Freedom to seek knowledge and discover your talents. Freedom to learn and explore new horizons. Freedom to appreciate people of other cultures and other lands. Freedom to gain inspiration, develop skills and intelligently use available resources to prepare yourself for the future.

"The presence of these freedoms to be and freedoms to do constitutes the difference between a life of preparation and fulfillment and a life of false starts and procrastination," Mr. Riley concluded. The 4-H'ers cheered approval.

In recognition of Firestone's 45 years of valuable support to 4-H, National 4-H Council presented Mr. Riley with a President's Honor Roll citation during the breakfast.

"Freedom to Be... Responsible," is the way Opening Assembly keynote speaker, The Honorable Carol Bellamy, President of the Council, City of New York, finished the Congress theme. "I find your theme particularly intriguing," she said. "The unfinished phrase 'Freedom to Be...' I would finish with the word *responsible*; responsible not just to yourselves as individuals, but to the local, national and universal community which surrounds you. I'd finish it that way because it's the way you'd like to finish it, too. It appears to me that developing a positive sense of responsibility is what 4-H is all about."

Music, refreshments and 1,750 enthusiastic delegates filled the Hilton's International Ballroom Saturday night at a get-acquainted party sponsored by Standard Brands Incorporated. Delegates danced to the music of three alternating bands: Eden Rock, Dale McCormick and the Xceptions, and Lorenzo Smith and the Desired Effect. Peanuts were served by Mr. Peanut himself, who became a favorite photographic subject and dancing partner.

Sunday evening the delegates enjoyed a festive program in the International Ballroom, sharing music and laughter with the Purdue University Collegiate Singers. On behalf of the American Income Life Insurance Company, which presented the evening's entertainment for the ninth year, J. R. Johnston, director of the Special Risk Division, welcomed delegates to the program and congratulated them on past accomplishments. "Your freedom to grow is your freedom to grow in knowledge," said Johnston, who challenged delegates to continue serving their generation.

Fred L. Hartley, chairman and chief executive officer, Union Oil Company of California, spoke at Tuesday's Delegates' Assembly on Energy. "Energy - Where do we stand? Where do we go from here? How do we get there? The answers are important since our nation and our standard of living have been built on energy," Hartley said. After touching on inflation, balance of payments, jobs, need for conserving energy, and increasing our future energy supplies, Hartley remarked, "Now is the time to think BIG. Now is the time to broaden your sights, to stretch your minds and your imaginations!"

"Have we forgotten the benefits of bountiful energy - more jobs, more goods, a higher standard of living?" he asked the 4-H'ers. "I hope not!" he emphasized. "Our nation will need all the energy sources creative minds can develop and we can do it in an environmentally sound manner."

"We need greater flexibility for oil companies on which to operate. No matter what success we have in developing additional energy sources, petroleum will be our prime source, probably until the 21st century. And domestic petroleum prices must be permitted to rise to world levels," he said.

The unlimited energy of over 1,750 4-H'ers combined with the incredible beat of Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra seemed to shake the Hilton's International Ballroom Monday night at a dance sponsored by International Paper Company, donor of awards in the forestry program.

On Tuesday evening, Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation, in celebration of their 50th anniversary as a 4-H sponsor, hosted the entire delegation at the Auditorium Theatre for a special performance of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's "Oklahoma." Dr. Eugene Williams, assistant director, extension, 4-H and youth development, Oklahoma State University, presented a citation to Mrs. Kerr in recognition of the company's support of 4-H. Mrs. Kerr recounted the growth of the 4-H food preservation program. She saluted the increasing number of young men who are now participating in food preservation projects. The evening also was special because 76 Indiana 4-H'ers and 12 adults had worked nine months to present the evening's musical. They came by bus from the Ft. Wayne area to put on the one-time performance for 4-H Congress, their third performance... and, the delegates loved it!

The Wednesday Assembly in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom featured the National 4-H Fashion Revue. The assembly speaker was Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, a former 4-H'er for nine years. He briefly described his optimism about the future of the organization. "We tend to look upon tomorrow as frightening because it is different from today. But for you 4-H'ers, who can accept the inevitability of change, tomorrow is an exciting new frontier." Bergland then invited the delegates to "take a shot at the Secretary of Agriculture," and the remainder of the program was spent in a question and answer session.

On Wednesday evening delegates enjoyed an evening at the Field Museum of Natural History with its 10 acres of exhibition space and exhibits designed to help visitors discover the beauty of other cultures. A concert of southeast Asian music featuring Kay Ekstrom, Balinese dancer, was presented by the Northern Illinois University. The First National Bank of Chicago hosted the evening. Following the museum evening, later back at the hotel, all Congress delegates were invited to "Hot Dogs and Cokes" and Dixieland music, courtesy of Ford Motor Company Fund.

The Thursday assembly featured a presentation from representatives of the National Collegiate 4-H Clubs and a speech by Astronaut Charles M. Duke, Jr.

Current Miss America... and former 4-H'er from Virginia, Kylene Barker, appeared at the all-Congress General Motors luncheon on Thursday.

The announcement of the Presidential Winners highlighted the Thursday night Annual Banquet. Following the banquet, delegates closed the week long National 4-H Congress with a farewell dance.

While all this was going on, delegates participated in 850 radio and television interviews which were recorded and sent back to hometown stations before Congress ended. In addition, 40,291 news releases were prepared and sent to publications across the country, featuring Congress delegates and programs.

1979

Rich in 4-H experience, U.S. Senator Larry Pressler of South Dakota keynoted the 1979 National 4-H Congress Opening Assembly. An announced Presidential candidate, Pressler attended the 4-H Congress as a delegate himself in 1960 and 1962. In 1961 the 4-H Clubs sent him to the World Agriculture Fair in Cairo, Egypt. In 1963 he presented the "4-H Report to the President" to President John Kennedy in the oval office.

The Senator told the delegates that they were the best bargain in the country. "He explained it this way: "Twelve dollars and seventy five cents (\$12.75) per 4-H member returns benefits worth a half a billion dollars. The Federal government contributes \$64 million for the support of 580,000 volunteer 4-H Club leaders. Each volunteer, however, spends the equivalent of more than a thousand dollars in time, supplies and gasoline. It would, therefore, take at least \$580,000,000 to purchase that which is donated by the 4-H Club volunteers. Thus the 4-H program returns nearly \$10 of volunteer value for each Federal dollar invested. The additional value of 4-H members is immeasurable."

The Saturday night get-acquainted party was co-sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and Standard Brands Inc. Sunday evening The Singing Sergeants and their rock group Mach I provided entertainment for Congress delegates, sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company. And, Monday night International Paper Company sponsored a Maynard Ferguson "event" in the International Ballroom of the Hilton.

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company hosted the traditional chipped beef on potatoes breakfast at 6:45 a.m. Monday morning and International Harvester sponsored the all-Congress Monday luncheon. During the luncheon, Brooks McCormick, chairman of the executive committee of the International Harvester board, received recognition honoring IH for 60 years of 4-H support.

The New Christy Minstrels ("This Land is Your Land" and "Green, Green") performed at the 4-H food preservation recognition event sponsored by Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation; and, The Wisconsin Singers entertained the health winners at the Eli Lilly and Company and Kraft, Inc. Co-sponsored banquet. Cutting the rug was the theme for the Annual Hot Dog and Coke supper sponsored by the Ford Motor Company in the International Ballroom of the Hilton Wednesday evening for achievement winners. Ray C. Kooi, director of the Ford Motor Company Fund, who will retire before the next 4-H Congress, was honored during the recognition dinner. Grant A. Shrum, executive vice president, National 4-H Council, paid tribute to Kooi for his many years of service to 4-H and presented him a framed photograph from the National 4-H Photography Exhibit.

Miss America Cheryl Prewitt appeared at the General Motors luncheon for all Congress delegates. The 4-H safety winners were honored at the event. More than 360,000 4-H'ers participated in the safety program during 1979. John Krug, manager of field and corporate programs for GM said, "4-H has never looked better for us."

Orange juice from Tropicana Products, Inc., served in the foyer, started off a pre-breakfast reception for 4-H home management winners. Sponsor of the program, Beatrice Foods Co., is a division of the company. Guest speaker at the event was Roberta Baskin, WLS-TV, Chicago. Balloons with ribbon streamers, supper fixed in straw baskets, gifts under a tree have become part of a traditional setting honoring state and national fashion revue winners. The supper was held Sunday in the Beverly Room, Hilton. The gifts were scissor sets for women; shaving kits for their escorts.

On Thursday night the entire delegation attended the Annual Banquet where the Presidential Award Winners were announced. The farewell dance started immediately after the banquet was completed.

While National 4-H Congress annually attracts 1,700 of the most outstanding 4-H members in the United States to Chicago, to one of the highlights on the annual 4-H Calendar, after 58 years the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy's 4-H Subcommittee felt it was time to appoint a task force to study the Congress. The committee's mission was to investigate ways in which this annual event may be strengthened and improved. Chairing the task force was Leonard Harkness, state 4-H leader, Minnesota. Committee members: Dr. Charles W. Sappington, state 4-H leader, Mississippi; James O. Baker, state 4-H leader, Delaware; Glenn M. Bussett, state 4-H leader, Kansas; Howard E. Jones, state 4-H leader, Arizona; Ms. B. J. McCabe, vice president, J. Walter Thompson Company; Judith Webb, public affairs representative, Amoco Oil Company; Ronald O. Woods, manager, youth and field activities, public relations staff, General Motors Corporation; Kemp Swiney, 4-H-SEA-Extension, USDA; and Ray Crabbs, National 4-H Council. The committee met on October 19, 1979 to set the basic outline for deliberations that would take place throughout the winter and into the spring of 1980. The sessions would include a gathering of information during the 1979 National 4-H Congress from representative members of the Cooperative Extension Service, the private sector and 4-H participants.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1980s

Even slightly before the beginning of the decade of the 80's, parts of National 4-H Congress were beginning to slip away. While the programs offered through the assemblies and workshops remained strong, and the donor-sponsored awards programs... and their banquets were strong and as vibrant and exciting as ever, other areas... due mostly to expense, were slowly disappearing. Gone was the International Live Stock Exposition (in fact, the Chicago Stock Yards was gone); the all-Congress luncheons sponsored by General Motors and the Ford Motor Company Fund; the "Pop" Concert with Arthur Fiedler; the John B. Clark Friendship Party at the Aragon Ballroom; the entertainment programs at the Auditorium Theatre sponsored by Tupperware; and the Congress program for leaders. Make no mistake - National 4-H Congress remained a quality event well worth attending... a trip well worth striving for. The delegates continued to have a trip of a life time... and the sponsoring donors remained as energized and dedicated as ever with a number of new things replacing the old. But, historically speaking, some of the traditions were gone. Supposedly after 60 years, this was to be expected.

1980

"America faces a precarious and chaotic future unless the youth of today prepare for it," Philadelphia Jurist Juanita Kidd Stout told delegates at the Opening Assembly of the 59th National 4-H Congress on Sunday afternoon. Judge Stout of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas told 4-H'ers that solutions to anticipated problems of more pollution, a less stable ecology and a less stable world politically lie in knowledge.

"To cope with these expected problems," the Congress keynoter said, "the youth of today must expand their horizons of knowledge, honesty, integrity and responsibility."

Judge Stout, who became the nation's first elected black woman jurist in 1959, urged 4-H'ers to pay special attention to expanding their knowledge of foreign languages and computer sciences, two areas she said are indispensable for success during a time of international crisis; and an era of international trade and travel; and an era of information explosion.

On Sunday evening the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants entertained the delegates, hosted by American Income Life Insurance Company of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Danny Davis and The Nashville Brass and Rushour captured the hearts of 4-H delegates during the Monday night entertainment and dance, sponsored by International Paper Company.

Gliding down the runway in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom Wednesday morning, 49 state winners in the 1980 National 4-H Dress Revue program looked good! Coordinated by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc., makeup experts and hair stylists from Clairol and I. Magnin helped participants prepare for the big event.

"The 1980's are a time of change. They're also a time of opportunity - especially for 4-H youth." This was the gist of a welcoming speech by T. T. Lithgow, Jr., President of Fleischmann Bakery Ingredients Division of Standard Brands Incorporated, sponsor of the national 4-H bread program. Speaking on "Expanding Horizons," the theme of this year's Congress, Lithgow said the outlook is good for youth today, but they must be ready to take advantage of all the changes taking place. "Expanding horizons really means seeking out opportunity," he said. "This is what 4-H is all about. I would

implore each of you to expand your horizons - to make sure you're in the right place at the right time." Dinner entertainment for the bread winners included the Singing Rockets, a choral group from Rich East High School and Miss America finalist, Miss Connecticut, singing "A Song For Tomorrow" which she composed herself.

National and state agricultural winners were recognized at the 61st annual all-Congress luncheon hosted by International Harvester Company. In applauding the 4-H'ers and their accomplishments, Ben H. Warren, president of IH's Agricultural Equipment Group, noted: "It is a special occasion for those of us who are privileged to serve as partners of 4-H. This luncheon is about you - the young people who represent every state in the land. It's about the excellence you have achieved." Warren pointed out that regarding the agricultural winners, some 15 million 4-H'ers had enrolled in agricultural programs nationwide during the 26 years his company has sponsored the award.

James L. Dutt, chairman, Beatrice Foods, and Virginia Knauer, former White House assistant for consumer affairs, tossed out a joint challenge to 4-H home management winners. Speaking at a recognition breakfast sponsored by Beatrice Foods for the national and state winners, the two leaders urged youth to build on the significant gains they have demonstrated to push consumer knowledge even further.

Health winners at the Eli Lilly and Company awards dinner in the Gold Room of the Pick-Congress Hotel were treated to a talk by Wilma Rudolph, triple gold medal winner in the 1960 Olympics. Ms. Rudolph said "discipline, motivation, inspiration and hard work are the keys to success."

A number of workshops were held during the week including workshops on Contemporary Lifestyles by Juanita J. Reed, Extension 4-H Specialist, University of Minnesota; Dollars and Sense, by two representatives of Montgomery Ward & Co.; Parents... Friend or Foe? By Dr. Ron Daly, USDA; Free Time - Quantity or Quality, by June McAuliffe, South Dakota; International Interdependence, by Gwen El Sawi, National 4-H Council and Lloyd Besant, Chicago Board of Trade; 4-H International Opportunities; 4-H on the College Campus, presented by four former 4-H'ers from North Carolina; Looking Your Best Workshop, sponsored by Clairol.

Delegates assembled Thursday morning for an exciting review of the fun, pageantry and other highlights of the 1980 National 4-H Congress. Featured during the session was the presentation of the National 4-H Congress Visual Newsletter, a computerized presentation using 12 slide projectors and a 32-foot screen. The delegates cheered wildly as the slide presentation flashed countless memories of unforgettable experiences of delegates attending the week-long premier 4-H event. The production was made possible during Congress week by Mark Dearman of the North Carolina State University visual communications staff.

While all this activity was going on, delegates also participated in approximately 1,000 radio and television interviews which were recorded and sent back to hometown stations before Congress ended. In addition, some 27,000 news releases were prepared and sent to publications across the country, featuring Congress delegates and programs.

The Congress donors for 1980 funded 288 scholarships valued at over \$262,000.

1981

The pathways young people choose to follow will determine their own futures and the future of their communities, the nation and the world, according to a former 4-H member who went on to become president of Oklahoma State University.

In addressing an opening assembly of more than 1,700 delegates and guests at the 60th National 4-H Congress Sunday afternoon, Dr. Lawrence L. Boger described the pathways available to youth as travel, learning and leadership.

He encouraged 4-H'ers to travel abroad as a way to learn more about their own country, saying, "You can't appreciate what America is if America is all you know."

"4-H has much to offer along the pathway of learning," Boger emphasized, pointing out that knowledge gained in the classroom is reinforced and enriched when applied in projects that are part of the 4-H "learn by doing" tradition.

As a colorful addition to the ceremony at the opening assembly, flags of all states were presented with a brief history of each design.

Walter R. Peirson, chairman, Board of Trustees, National 4-H Council, described 4-H as the "common bond" among an otherwise diverse audience representing great variety in background, interests and philosophy. He noted that the 1,650

delegates to Congress represented nearly five million 4-H members throughout the country and encouraged his audience to "reach out and help others along the pathway of the future."

Dr. Mary Nell Greenwood, administrator, Extension Service, USDA, told delegates "We are aware of the vital role played by the 4-H program - a program that strengthens and broadens the service of Extension in agriculture."

The new president sent the delegates the following greetings:

THE WHITE HOUSE

"It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings to all those attending this year's National 4-H Congress.

"I am well aware of the tremendous amount of work each of you has completed to arrive at this level of achievement. You are the state winners in your projects, and you should be very proud of your success.

"I commend you for the close working relationships you have developed with your sponsoring businesses in the private sector. It is heart-warming for me to see business place such a significant value on the leadership training that you are receiving. It tells me that today's business leaders have confidence that the free enterprise system will continue to thrive with your leadership in the future. I'm sure you see this not only as a compliment but also as a great challenge.

"Many of you now stand on the threshold of that challenge, the same threshold that has been approached by over forty million other 4-H members before you. I hope you will never lose the sense of duty and dedication that has been taught during these years in 4-H.

"We Americans have come to realize that the success of our great nation depends on a renewal of the vitality and genius of our people - people who are willing to do what is needed to make our system of government work. The achievements that have brought you to this Congress prove that you have that vitality and genius. You have also demonstrated a strength in leadership. Knowing this, I look to the future with confidence and with faith in each of you.

"You have my best wishes for continued success in your 4-H work and my congratulations on your winning projects."

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

The annual Monday morning Firestone breakfast featured the traditional creamed chipped beef on a baked potato as a main attraction on the menu. A group of 2,000 4-H'ers, leaders and donors were introduced to the eight national automotive winners of \$1,000 scholarships and 22 state winners. Robert S. Bowen, group vice president, spoke on the theme of this year's National 4-H Congress, "4-H Pathways to the Future." He told the group he wouldn't lecture them on hard work because that is something they all know a lot about. Instead, he challenged them to strive for more. "You're not only 4-H'ers, but 4-H winners, the best, the cream of the crop," he said. "My message is not work harder, but keep up the hard work. You can be winners in anything you put your mind to."

State and national winners had their moment in the spotlight when 4-H'ers excelling in agricultural programs were honored Monday noon during the annual all-Congress luncheon sponsored by International Harvester Company. Ben Warren, IH vice chairman and vice chairman of the board of trustees of National 4-H Council, introduced the national winners after noting that the "Pathways to the Future" theme of the 1981 Congress "truly sums up what 4-H is all about. Few other institutions in society offer the opportunities for future growth and can open as many different doors as 4-H."

Edsel B. Ford II was the guest speaker at the annual achievement award recognition dinner, hosted by Ford Motor Company Fund. "I'm proud that our company has been sponsoring your achievement awards program for 30 years," Ford said. "It's almost startling to realize that, counting two million young people competing for these awards each year, even allowing for some repeats, about one-fourth of the population of America may have participated in the achievement program over the past 30 years." Ford praised the 4-H program for teaching young people everything from nutrition to car care. He noted that in his hometown of Detroit, juvenile crime is down 60 percent in areas with 4-H centers.

"Through your work in 4-H, you have learned to become better consumers," Stephen L. Pistner, president and chief executive officer, Montgomery Ward & Co., told consumer education winners at their recognition dinner. "One of the greatest problems faced by the country and this company today is the need for a quality product," Pistner continued. "The public has no base of knowledge to make wise consumer decisions. Educated American consumers, such as you,

will allow our company to better serve the public." Prior to the dinner, 4-H'ers met Pistner and company officials at a reception in Montgomery Ward's corporate headquarters.

Dr. Jacob E. Mosier, head, Department of Surgery, Kansas State University, and past president, World Veterinary Association, addressed the veterinary science program winners, hosted by The Upjohn Company. "Young people in 4-H learn decision-making skills, sensitivity to others, a proper perspective on life and a self-established heritage of achievement," Mosier said. "These qualities lay the groundwork for successful years ahead."

State and national winners in the 4-H safety program were treated to an appearance and songs by the reigning Miss America at their recognition luncheon, sponsored by The General Motors Foundation. State and national winners in the petroleum power and automotive programs also were invited to the luncheon. Miss America, 20-year-old Elizabeth Ward, Arkansas, sang several songs including "After You're Gone" and "The Singer." She said, "I believe in what 4-H stands for. You have goals and I believe you'll help this nation become what you want it to be." P. K. Hoglund, vice president and general manager, Electro-Motive Division, said: "General Motors is proud to be part of an outstanding organization like 4-H. The 4-H program looks at a human being as a totality. And your 4-H clover with its H's and the pledge denote the development of the total person."

Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass entertained at a party hosted by International Paper Company during the week. While Davis' band featured traditional country-western tunes, another group, Rushour, featured rock music.

Grammy Award winning artist Peter Nero entertained Congress delegates at an all Congress event hosted by the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation.

A variety of educational workshops were well attended by delegates during the 60th National 4-H Congress. Focusing on the theme, "Great Expectations," the workshops were based on two concepts - "I Need Me," and "We Need Me."

The "I Need Me" workshops included sessions on "I Like Myself," conducted by Ray McGee, St. Paul, Minnesota; "Taking Care of Business," by B. J. Allen and Ruth Milton, Extension 4-H youth specialists, University of Florida; "Stamp Out Stress," with Dr. Hope Daugherty, program leader, 4-H youth, Extension Service, USDA; "Go For It," by Dr. Gordon Beckstrand, program leader, 4-H youth, Extension Service, USDA; "So You're Looking For a Job," with Robert P. Fordyce, youth services, consumer markets division, Eastman Kodak Company; and "Let's Be Friends," Susan S. Myers, Extension specialist, family life, University of Minnesota.

"We Need Me" sessions included: "Let's Clown around," by Mary Miller, 4-H program assistant, Adrian, Michigan; "Looking Your Best," with Cathi Hunt, director, consumer affairs, CLAIROL; "Hearing It Straight," by Ed Johnson, director, Employee Assistance Program, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company; "Amer-I-Can," by Gwen El Sawi, program manager, National 4-H Council; and "100% Positive," Dr. Burl Winchester, consultant, Human Energies Development Institute.

On the last morning of Congress, delegates, adults and guests had an opportunity to keep in shape with two special workshops, entitled, "It's A Rec" and "Come Move With Me." "It's A Rec," led by Dr. Allan Smith, program leader, 4-H youth, ES, USDA, featured recreational activities suitable for both indoors and outdoors. "Come Move With Me," offered aerobic exercises.

An address by Mary C. Jarrett, assistant secretary for food and consumer services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the "visual newsletter," a 30-minute slide and musical history of the 60th National 4-H Congress, highlighted the final assembly of delegates Thursday morning.

A national 4-H alumni award recipient and once a Virginia delegate to a National 4-H Congress, Jarrett said: "My experiences in 4-H helped form the foundation for my present job."

She encouraged young people to reaffirm their "individual responsibility" to help others. She then cited several national 4-H winners as examples of today's young people "who are willing to make the best country in the world even better."

Several hundred friends and associates of Norman C. Mindrum, president, National 4-H Council, honored him at the 4-H Leaders and Donors Luncheon in the Hilton's Boulevard Room. With an announced retirement of October 1982, Mindrum at that time will complete more than a half century of association with 4-H as a member, local leader, county, state and national professional. Since 1953, he has headed Council and its predecessor organizations. In tribute to Mindrum's leadership and service to 4-H, Orion Samuelson, WGN-TV and radio farm director, narrated a script outlining Mindrum's life from childhood in Minnesota to his three decades of national professional service in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. Special recognition also was given to his wife Dorothy, four sons and their families, who were in

attendance. Walter Peirson, Council's chairman, and Blaine J. Yarrington, former chairman of the National 4-H Service Committee and Co-Chairman of the group of Friends of Norman C. Mindrum, announced the newly created Norman C. Mindrum Educational Fund of \$40,000.

1982

Young people should become the pathmakers of the future. They must learn that resources don't exist; they become. "Resources," according to Dr. Allen A. Schmieder of the U. S. Department of Education, "are the inventions of people's minds."

Addressing the Opening Assembly of the 61st National 4-H Congress, Schmieder said, "We have not become the greatest nation in the world because of our resource base. We are the greatest nation because we have the world's greatest political, economic and educational systems. We have created that powerful resource base."

The keynoter explained society underestimates the ability and maturity of youth. "You have enormous capacity to do almost anything - solve problems, create innovations, bring enthusiasm and energy to almost every task," he said.

Schmieder stressed the need for looking at the 'big picture.' "Too often," he said, "we want practical application for everything we hear. But at places like this, we should philosophize, dream, imagine. There are plenty of other times for the nitty-gritty," he continued.

The drama of the Opening Assembly included the presentation of colors from each state as the 505th Air Force Ceremonial Band of the Midwest played.

Addressing the group, James L. Dutt, chairman and chief executive officer, Beatrice Foods Company, and chairman of the board, National 4-H Council, also took an optimistic view of the future.

"I am enthusiastic about the future of 4-H and its continuing success in matching the exuberance of youth and experience of adult leaders," Dutt said. "I am confident 4-H will continue to maintain a high standard of excellence, preserving the values of human worth and individual dignity that have been the hallmarks of this great nation." Saluting the donor representatives, Dutt added, "It is particularly significant that 4-H continues to merit this outstanding commitment by America's private sector in this difficult economic period."

President Ronald Reagan, honorary chairman of National 4-H Council, sent greetings via videotape at the opening assembly and by written message read at the final banquet. In his message he praised the public, private partnership that has been the foundation of 4-H for more than 80 years. He also congratulated the 4-H winners.

A total of 1,619 4-H members from 50 states and Puerto Rico were in attendance. During the week, scholarships, totaling \$259,000, were awarded to 181 top achievers.

During the week Congress delegates had the opportunity to attend workshops covering a variety of issues including: stress, clowning, computers, decision-making, resume preparation, alcohol abuse, first aid, and health and nutrition. Field trips were also a part of the Congress program. Delegates had the opportunity to visit The Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago City Hall, Chicago Fire Academy, Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust, Playskool, Inc., International Academy of Merchandising and Design, Sears Tower Skydeck, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Historical Society and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. In addition, courtesy of the Agricultural Equipment Division, J I Case Company, delegates toured the Museum of Science and Industry.

The Michigan Performing Art Troupe entertained Congress delegates and guests. The only one of its kind in the country, the troupe, comprised of nearly 50 4-H members from across Michigan, performed a variety of pop and country songs, as well as dance and drama routines from television and Broadway productions.

And, as always, there were dozens of donor-sponsored meal events, each carefully planned to provide the winners with an enjoyable experience, and carrying a message of hope and advise. Advise extended by the donor hosts at some of these banquets appears below:

Robert S. Bowen, president, sales and marketing operations group, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, hosting the automotive winners, said "4-H winners today have much in common with a large number of America's leaders. When you leave Chicago, you will align yourself with more than 40 million 4-H alumni. These people are some of the most successful, outstanding people in our country, and they got their start from the same 4-H roots as you."

Patsy Houghton, youth and education manager, American Simmental Association, told the beef project winners they represent the future of the beef cattle industry and challenged them to "consider this responsibility seriously. You were selected for this award because you are a leader, and you will work hard at promoting the industry."

A new 4-H donor - The Quaker Oats Company - hosted the bicycle recognition luncheon. Luther C. McKinney, senior vice president, law, corporate affairs and corporate secretary at Quaker Oats, told the winners. "The beginning and end are like the wheels on your bicycles - the end is only the beginning. You may be tempted to consider this the end of your efforts, but when you leave Chicago, keep in mind that your continued achievement depends on viewing this year's work as just the first step.

The lights went up on a Broadway theme for the 31st annual bread awards dinner, hosted by Nabisco Brands Inc. The menu was a real production. Starting with "Dream Girls" punch, followed by "42nd Street" stroganoff and "South Pacific" salad, the dinner was topped off with "Chorus Line" mousse. The critics gave this one rave reviews. T. T. Lithgow Jr., president, Fleischmann Division, Nabisco Brands, Inc., challenged 4-H'ers to start making the important decisions concerning their future today. He said they would come across many crossroads and they must choose those goals and opportunities that would help others and also enrich and benefit them as individuals.

"Working with 4-H members does a lot for me," said Robert G. Laidlaw, president, Coats & Clark Inc., during the recognition dinner for clothing award winners. Laidlaw added "it's easy to get depressed about newspaper and television accounts of bad news, but working with 4-H members and leaders gives me a sense of pride and hope for our country. The 4-H program is a wonderful, significant part of the U.S."

Stephen Pistner, president and chief executive officer, Montgomery Ward & Co., addressed winners and guests at the consumer education banquet at the company's corporate headquarters. He challenged the 4-H'ers to help lead a new effort in their communities to find out what people want and then get it for them. Most of the 4-H winners in consumer education this year were young women, so Pistner offered a special message for both women and minorities: "It is difficult for women in business," he said. "There is no equality. But I am here to tell you that bright, competent women have a ready-made break in a business today. Put aside the issue of prejudice. It will always be there, only the words will change," Pistner continued. "You are in a world of unique opportunity for women, so don't stand still. Demand your rights."

Imagine 1,000 helium-filled balloons and ribbons suspended from the ceiling? That was the scene at the fashion revue basket supper, hosted by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc. It added a light touch to the cozy informal atmosphere as the 1982 fashion revue winners munched on chicken and enjoyed the entertainment provided by The Joe Gattone Trio and singer Jimmy Damon.

Robert L. Seelert, group vice president, General Foods Corporation, urged the winners in the Food Nutrition Awards Program "to fight against the malaise of alienation in life that comes from too much specialization." To avoid this narrow, limiting perspective, Seelert recommended a balanced view of life. He also commended 4-H'ers who are "multi-dimensional and experience things first-hand. This makes you winners."

Dr. Roger H. Hull, president, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, was the guest speaker at the home management awards breakfast, hosted by Beatrice Foods Company. Hull discussed choices one must make in today's society. "Everything in life is a choice," Hull said, "for there are at least two sides to every issue. The choices we make are important because ultimately one has to be held accountable for what one decides to do." Hull added that young people today are faced with many serious choices, including what college to attend, what area of study, and what future vocation or career to explore. "By exercising the choice to be winningly involved in the 4-H program, young people are learning to make the right choices - the choices that will help them in future endeavors," he said.

"Enjoy, be constantly grateful to be alive, and try for growth" was the advice from John M. Allen, vice president, Reader's Digest, to winners in the 4-H leadership awards program. "If you are following that 'Pathway to the Future,' it will not be easy, but it will be exciting, challenging and a real thrilling experience," Allen said. "Thousands of simple ideas are still around that never made it to the successful future they sought." He urged 4-H'ers to be alert to these good ideas, like the founder of Reader's Digest, who started with only a good idea and drive. "That good idea was to make it easier for individuals to enjoy many books and novels by condensing them," Allen said. "That drive built an international company." As he encouraged 4-H'ers to grow and improve, Allen offered three secrets of success: "never take yourself too seriously, never take yourself too seriously; and never take yourself too seriously."

An audio/visual production, comprised of selected photos from the record books of each photography winner, highlighted the photography awards banquet, hosted by Eastman Kodak Company. Guest speaker, William L. Sutton, senior vice-president and director, corporate relations, Eastman Kodak Company, offered a summary of what 4-H'ers

said in their record books - from how they financed the project to the adventures they encountered while trying to photograph a subject. "Your schools have certainly benefitted from your photography," Sutton said. "I'm told each year's record books tell of fine work 4-H'ers are doing for school newspapers and yearbooks. But this year, I wonder how any of your schools could have put out a yearbook without you!"

The public speaking award winners were feted at a recognition dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel across from the Union Oil Company facility, in Schaumburg, Illinois. William Redding, manager, regional public relations, gave brief welcoming remarks and introduced a former 4-H'er, who was a national winner in 1976, and now is employed by Union Oil as a marketing specialist.

1983

Approximately 1,600 4-H delegates representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico, gathered at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago to be recognized for their achievements as state, sectional, and national winners. During the Congress they were reminded many times that with this achievement comes an obligation to set even greater goals and to assume leadership roles.

Ken Miller, senior program associate, Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, told those attending the wood science recognition dinner that his company's endorsement and support of the 4-H wood science program reflects the company's concern for effective use of the nation's natural resources. "Weyerhaeuser Company is vitally concerned about the future of America's forestlands," Miller said. "And we think it is important for people to understand the flow of wood fiber from the managed forest, through the manufacturing process and into the thousands of consumer products that are a part of everyday life. We are all affected by that cycle." He commended the young people for their work in the program, and added, "We are pleased to be a partner with 4-H."

T. T. Lithgow, Jr., president, Fleischmann Division, Nabisco Brands, Inc., speaking at the banquet for winners in the bread program, which his company sponsors, put it this way: "Don't ever stop learning. That implies a great deal more than just 'book learning.' Develop your own personal 'data bank'.... You are the major resource of America's future and we have every confidence you will utilize it to its fullest potential."

At the food-nutrition banquet, James L., Ferguson, chairman and chief executive, General Foods Corporation, said it somewhat differently. He urged the delegates to remain flexible and adaptable, ready to shed outdated practices and seize new opportunities. "One of the reasons you 4-H'ers are here tonight, as winners and achievers," Ferguson said, "is because of your ability to grow and change.... This is a process - an educational process - that never ends."

Edward P. Czapor, vice president and group executive, General Motors Corporation, told safety award winners and guests, he was very impressed "with what's going on in 4-H." He described his feelings by saying industry and agriculture blend together well, each supportive of the other. Czapor, who heads GM's electronic components group, called 4-H "an important contribution to the progress of mankind." He said international activities of 4-H will help increase productivity around the world. In keeping with tradition, the newly-crowned Miss America 1983, Debra Sue Maffett of California, also attended the luncheon.

Against a dramatic backdrop of a Santa Fe Railway train, scholarship winners and delegates who won a Santa Fe educational award to Congress were honored at a banquet hosted by The Santa Fe Railway System. In his welcome to the 4-H'ers, John S. Reed, chairman and chief executive officer, Santa Fe Industries, pointed out that it takes good people to run a good company, and good people to run a great country. "We know the territory and we know that 4-H members exemplify the kinds of people we will want in the future to help run both our company and our country," Reed said.

Marking its 60th anniversary of supporting a 4-H scholarship awards program, Chicago & North Western Transportation Company hosted a recognition breakfast for the recipients of the C&NW scholarships awarded by the company. Doug Christensen, vice president, marketing and pricing, C&NW, told the young people that "agriculture, forestry and railroading are not your glamour industries, but the young people in attendance are the future for all three."

Illinois State Senator Kenneth McMillan challenged sheep program winners to "keep growing, learning and improving. If you don't you'll cheat yourself, agriculture and others who have supported you, because the professional you are today, won't be professional enough tomorrow." McMillan, a former 4-H'er, was a delegate to National 4-H Congress from Illinois in the beef program, because there was no sheep program at that time. He followed in the footsteps of his father who attended National 4-H Congress in 1940. McMillan also represented the National Suffolk Sheep Association, a new sponsor of the program, along with The American Hampshire Sheep Association, American Sheep Producers Council, Sheep Industry Development Committee and the National Society of Sheep Records.

Over 200 state-sponsored winners from 38 states and Puerto Rico were recognized at the annual luncheon for State-Sponsored Winners hosted by Federal Land Banks and Production Credit Associations. Keith K. Kennedy, president, Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of St. Louis, Missouri, pleased the audience with a motivating recognition address, then Charlie Plumb, who was a Vietnam prisoner of war for more than six years, inspired the delegates to appreciate life, their freedom and their country, to set challenging goals and to be proud as individuals. Both Kennedy and Plumb shared with delegates their own 4-H experiences.

The six national winners in the veterinary science program gave extemporaneous speeches when receiving their awards at their dinner, hosted by The Upjohn Company. Some described their projects, noting they were involved in activities such as assisting veterinarians; observing animal surgery; aiding the elderly by bringing small animals to convalescent homes; and researching consumer protection in beef inspections at packing plants.

Throughout the week at recognition events, representatives of donor companies paid tribute to the sound values and practical skills 4-H members acquire because of the program's strong educational base in the land-grant university system and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. At get-acquainted sessions, delegates met and exchanged views with key executives from the corporations that sponsor their programs.

The 62nd National 4-H Congress opened on Sunday afternoon with the traditional flag ceremony, including all of the state flags, and the 505th U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Band of the Midwest.

In his opening remarks, James L. Dutt, chairman, chief executive officer, Beatrice Foods Co., and chairman of the board of trustees, National 4-H Council, told the assembly that Congress offers the best in recognition, educational challenges, inspiration, and cultural growth. Keynote speaker Michael Broom, president, Tomorrow's America Enterprises, told the 4-H'ers that opportunities are something that must be earned. "Rewards are in proportion to the service you perform," he said. "I suggest that each and every one of you gathered here today reach down into your heart and pull out a dream and use what you have learned in the 4-H program to attain it."

During the week delegates got a broad exposure to Chicago's rich resources, getting opportunities to absorb much of Chicago's educational and cultural wealth by touring such landmarks as The Chicago Board of Trade, City Hall, the Chicago Historical Society, Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum of Natural History.

J I Case Company sponsored a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry. DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. took winners in agricultural careers to the Board of Trade and Heindol Commodities. Amoco Oil Company hosted petroleum power winners and other interested delegates at the Standard Oil Building for an "Energy Adventure Presentation." Horse winners toured the Bingham Quarter Horse Farm, courtesy of Richard and Karen Bingham. Westinghouse Electric Corporation took electric energy winners on a tour of the Fermi National Accelerator Labs, and The Santa Fe Railway System sponsored a tour of its headquarters for Santa Fe and Gulf Central winners. Bread winners were given a tour of a plant of Nabisco Brands, Inc., the program sponsor, and health winners spent an afternoon at Kraft Kitchens and Laboratories, courtesy of Kraft, Inc. Eastman Kodak Company took its winners to the Eastman Kodak lab; The General Foods Fund, Inc gave food-nutrition winners a tour of its Kool-Aid plant. Beef winners toured the Mid-America Commodities Exchange, courtesy of the American Simmental Association.

Throughout the week, the delegates were offered workshops focusing on issues of major concern to teenagers. Life After High School, Stamping Out Stress, Looking Your Best, Selling Yourself, and Positive Thinking. Other topics covered were Consumer Issues in Agriculture, Self Esteem and Family Relationships, and Issues in Production Agriculture.

There was a variety of all-Congress events; a Get-Acquainted Party sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and Nabisco Brands, Inc.; a performance by The Purdue Collegiate Singers sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company; a multimedia presentation on the history of agriculture and an interpretation of 4-H by the North Carolina 4-H Performing Arts Troupe sponsored by the Banks for Cooperatives; a 4-H Holiday Pops concern by the Orchestra of Illinois with Shari Lewis as guest conductor sponsored by Amoco Foundation, Inc., Beatrice Foods Co., International Paper Company, Kraft, Inc., and The Santa Fe Railway System; and a hot dog party and dance sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund.

The National 4-H Fashion Revue, highlight of the Wednesday assembly, featured program winners demonstrating the secrets of "Dressing for Success." Wearing clothing they had made themselves in their fashion revue projects, program winners modeled ensembles suitable for the office, after five, and casual wear. The Fashion Revue was presented in cooperation with Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc. and White/Elna Sewing Machine Company.

One of the most talked about events at Congress and one worth rising at dawn to attend was the Firestone Breakfast, served in the International Ballroom at 6:45 a.m. on Monday morning. The traditional breakfast fare of a baked potato covered with creamy chipped beef was served with dispatch by white-coated waiters, while the Norm Krone Orchestra played a medley of tunes, each with a state theme.

On Thursday morning, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block addressed the delegates assembled in the International Ballroom. "Nothing is more exciting than to be here with you," Block began. "That's because you are the future leaders, the future movers." Block spoke about his personal involvement in 4-H while growing up on the family farm in Illinois, saying that the experience had enriched his life.

"As 4-H'ers," he continued, "I hope you are eager to talk about the importance of agriculture, not only in your lives but also to the nation. The fact is, agriculture has an impact far beyond the fields and feedlots. Our farm industry is a trillion dollar asset to this country."

Block spoke about the interdependence of farms and cities and pointed out that one of the values of National 4-H Congress is that it brings together urban and rural young people and provides opportunities for a "cross-fertilization of ideas" that leaves "both sides richer and stronger - and more aware of how much they need each other."

The 4-H winners gathered together one final time for the annual 4-H banquet that traditionally brings Congress to an end. After dinner the six presidential tray winners were announced. Dr. Mary Nell Greenwood, administrator, Extension Service, USDA, presented silver trays in the name of the President of the United States to the six winners.

The banquet and the Congress concluded with a multimedia presentation, recapping the week's events and highlighting the corporations that made those events possible. The tumultuous response from the 4-H winners left no doubt as to the level of appreciation these young people have for their support.

1984

It was a dream come true for the nearly 1,700 young people who attended National 4-H Congress at The Palmer House, Chicago, Nov. 25-29. (The event had moved to the Conrad Hilton's sister hotel in the Chicago Loop for this one year while the Hilton was undergoing major remodeling.) The five-day event honoring the delegates for their achievements consisted of recognition banquets, live entertainment, field trips, educational workshops, special guest speakers with words of encouragement, and the awarding of 284 individual scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$1,500.

This 63rd National 4-H Congress was the culmination of years of hard work and persistence for most of the delegates. At the Opening Assembly on Sunday afternoon, keynote speaker Judith K. Hofer, president and chief executive officer, May Co., California, spoke to delegates about the importance of setting goals - being committed to something, being curious, asking questions, and performing to achieve desired results - all "intrinsic" parts of the 4-H experience.

"You have a built-in advantage over many of your peers because you have already begun to learn how to compete and win. Competition brings out the best in us, when the spirit of competition makes us go the extra mile, even if we lose; the effort is worth it, because it strengthens us and makes us wiser for the next goal," Ms. Hofer said.

Twenty-eight years ago, Judith Hofer, one of America's most successful business-women, was a bright-eyed delegate to National 4-H Congress who said she wanted to go again. She not only met her goal, but as Open Assembly keynoter!

At the many recognition events sponsored by donor companies, representatives paid tribute to the values and practical life skills obtained through the 4-H program. John A. George, president, International Paper Company, talked about the theme of this year's Congress - "Building on Experience." "There are several aspects to experience. On the one hand, we learn from experience. That aspect is embodied in the practical principle of learning by doing. There is also another aspect - drawing people together through shared experiences. This happens in families, in clubs and communities and, ultimately in large segments of society. Both kinds are part of 4-H." he said.

At a banquet for food-nutrition winners, Jerry M. Hiegel, executive vice president, General Foods Corporation, and president and chief executive officer, Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation, said, "Your presence here is a testimony to the fact that you have talent. The competition you experienced at the local and state levels helps prepare you for the competition that you will face as you go through life."

During the week delegates had the opportunity to explore career interests, cultural institutions and hobbies. Groups visited The Chicago Board of Trade; The Chicago Tribune; the Art Institute School of Design; Chicago Mercantile

Exchange; the Marriott Hotel; the University of Chicago; Museum of Science and Industry; Adler Planetarium; Field Museum of Natural History; Shedd Aquarium; and a local radio station.

J I Case Company sponsored a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry for all delegates. Amoco Foundation, Inc., sponsors of the petroleum power awards program, took petroleum power winners on a tour of the USS Silversides, a World War II submarine, and provided a tour of the Standard Oil Headquarters which included an "Energy Adventure" presentation. Public speaking winners were given a tour of Union Oil Headquarters, courtesy of Union Oil Company, Union 76 Division. Horse winners toured the Bingham Quarter Horse Farm, courtesy of Richard and Karen Bingham. Westinghouse Electric Corporation took electric energy winners on a tour of the Fermi National Accelerator Labs, and health winners toured Kraft Kitchens Laboratories, courtesy of Kraft, Inc.

Throughout the week workshops were offered focusing on issues of major concern to teenagers: Don't Go Home and Blow It (focused on positive thinking); Wardrobe Planning and Management; Grooming; Self-Esteem/Stress; Presenting Yourself Professionally; the Bald Eagle: Its Status and How You Can Help; Selling Yourself; Computers, Producing a Resume that Gets Results; and Public Relations for 4-H.

A cultural highlight of the week was a special viewing of the Art Institute of Chicago's exhibit of "A Day in the Country." The Institute opened its doors for the 4-H delegates and a representative from the museum gave a presentation on the history of French Impressionism as it related to the exhibit.

On Wednesday, the National Fashion Revue, sponsored by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc. and White/Elna Sewing Machine Company, dazzled the crowds with the latest fashions.

There was a variety of all-Congress events including a Get-Acquainted Party sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and Nabisco Brands, Inc.; a performance by The Purdue Collegiate Singers sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company; a 4-H Holiday Pops Concert by the Orchestra of Illinois with Shari Lewis as guest conductor and a hot dog party and dance sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund.

The National 4-H Photo Exhibition, featuring more than 170 black and white and color prints of photos taken by 4-H members was displayed throughout the Congress. The show was sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company, National 4-H Council and the Cooperative Extension Service.

1985

Years of hard work and determination brought nearly 1,700 young people to The Chicago Hilton (formerly Conrad Hilton Hotel), Chicago, November 29-December 5, for the experience of a lifetime - the 64th National 4-H Congress. At this premier event of the 4-H year, members are recognized for their achievements and have an opportunity to meet with key business executives and government officials, participate in educational workshops, tour the cultural sites of Chicago and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

Throughout the week, national and regional scholarships totaling \$287,000 were awarded to 4-H members in some 50 program areas. The awards were presented at recognition events where 4-H'ers were honored for their achievements and reminded of their responsibilities as American citizens and tomorrow's leaders.

Douglas Danforth, chairman and chief executive officer, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, speaking at the banquet for winners in the electric energy program, told 4-H'ers, "You Latched onto a chance to learn something new, to meet new people, to experience new challenges, to grow as an individual and in teamwork with others. And you had the desire to excel - to rise above common performance to do something special - something extraordinary."

At a banquet for winners in the 4-H food-nutrition program, sponsored by General Foods Fund, Inc., Philip L. Smith, president and chief operating officer, General Foods Corporation, and a member of National 4-H Council's Board of Trustees, talked to delegates about leadership. "To be a leader, you must provide clear direction on what has to be done to create that vision. Then you have to do the difficult things needed to create the vision and behave consistently with your values and beliefs. Have the courage to stick to those beliefs and behave in accordance with them, because frequently, our values are tested."

A message from President Reagan encouraged delegates to share their 4-H experiences with others. "The challenge which now faces you is to show once again that 4-H strengthens youth and America, by sharing your ideals of helpfulness, citizenship, and leadership with your families, communities, and country. This is a major responsibility. It will demand great dedication and commitment. I have confidence in you. You will not fail."

Congress officially opened on Saturday afternoon with a musical tribute to 4-H's new theme, "4-H for Youth for America." The show, "Celebrate Youth," performed by the Minnesota 4-H Arts-In Players, set the tone for a week filled with enthusiasm, patriotism and spirit.

U.S. Representative Mike Synar (D-OK), a former 4-H national winner, spoke at an inspirational service on Sunday morning about how 4-H influenced him. "It taught me very early that hard work and determination do amount to something... 4-H taught me to have optimism and to have dreams."

At the keynote assembly that afternoon, delegates heard from Rafer Johnson, former Olympic decathlon gold medalist and torch bearer to open the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Johnson's appearance was sponsored by The Southland Corporation. His message to delegates was, "Be the best you can be and give of yourself to your community."

Tom Sullivan, renowned singer, composer, actor, author and reporter for ABC's 'Good Morning America,' shared his songs and thoughts with delegates at a Thursday morning assembly. Sullivan, blind since birth, urged delegates to cultivate their own uniqueness and individuality. "Live life on the naked edge, as a celebration of your own uniqueness. Recognize that the joy of reaching the top of the mountain isn't half as much fun as the scramble up the side."

Throughout the week, delegates participated in workshops on a wide range of topics such as computers, presenting yourself professionally, personal appearance, saving wildlife and young people and farming.

Tours of Chicago's educational and cultural sites gave delegates a chance to really experience the "Windy City"; The Art Institute; Museum of Science and Industry; Adler Planetarium; Field Museum of Natural History; Shedd Aquarium, The Chicago Board of Trade, the Chicago Historical Society; The Art Institute School of Design; Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Jane Addams' Hull House; Goodman School Theatre, Marriott Hotel, NBC-TV; and Ray Vogue College of Design.

Donor companies sponsored special educational trips to their company headquarters and other places of interest related to the program they sponsor. Westinghouse Electric Corporation, donor of the 4-H electric energy program, sponsored a tour for their program winners of the Commonwealth Edison Power Plant. Will County Station. Petroleum power winners toured Standard Oil Company headquarters and saw a demonstration of the first plastic engine for race cars, courtesy of Amoco Oil Company.

Other special events during the week included a get-acquainted party, sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and Nabisco Brands, Inc.; The Purdue Collegiate Singers sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company; and a hot dog party and dance, courtesy of Ford Motor Company Fund. The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company hosted the 41st traditional Firestone Breakfast where 2,000 people gathered for the long-standing traditional fare - chipped beef on a baked potato.

Wednesday morning featured the annual fashion revue presented by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc. and White/Elna Sewing Machine Company.

The week's activities climaxed at the annual banquet Thursday night where the six presidential award winners were announced. The banquet and the 64th Congress concluded with a multi-image slide presentation recapping the week's events and highlighting a salute to donors.

1986

"People often ask me, 'What's the most important thing you've gained from 4-H?' I then pause and think of the club meetings, the county fairs, the friends, the projects, the demonstrations, the trips and awards. With all this in mind, I have to say the most valuable thing I've gained from 4-H is something I haven't received yet... because it's my future. Although I don't know exactly what the future holds, I know that it will be bright and promising..." said Lisa Swallows, a Congress delegate adviser from Tennessee.

Those remarks kicked off the 65th National 4-H Congress, December 6-11 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, where more than 1,700 youth delegates were recognized for their achievements in 4-H.

Congress participants are chosen as state, sectional or national winners for achievement in citizenship, leadership, community service and other individual 4-H projects. Extension staffs within each state select state winners from county winners. The selection process may vary from state to state. However, sectional and national winners are selected by the national record book judging committee comprised of 16 judges, four from each geographic region. A uniform judging process is assured by use of the National 4-H Report Form, submitted by each state winner for national judging.

Developed around the theme, "4-H for Youth for America," the premier event on the annual 4-H calendar treated participants to a myriad of inspirational speakers, educational workshops and tours, recognition luncheons and banquets and live entertainment. The delegates were asked earnestly to consider recognition for their achievements as the beginning of their future goals for excellence. They were urged to continue being outstanding leaders shaping the future.

More than 40 national donor companies provided trips to National 4-H Congress and recognition events for 4-H program winners. In 1986 the following new donor support was added: Wrangler Brand, Beef Program; Sears, Roebuck and Co., Capstone Assembly; American Cyanamid Company and Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dairy Program; Sunday Inspirational Speaker, Nationwide Insurance Company; Adult Program and Hospitality Center, J. C. Penney, Inc.; Loan of Video Equipment, Sony Video Communications; and Printing of the Annual Banquet Program, John and Cynthia Jedd, The Colson Company.

Congress delegates participated in educational workshops and tours. The workshops covered a wide range of topics such as international relations, personal appearance and professionalism, U.S. farm policy, fitness and health; and saving a place for wildlife. The tours included The Chicago Board of Trade, National Livestock and Meat Board, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago Botanic Garden and International Academy of Merchandising and Design.

A get-acquainted party sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and Fleishmann's Yeast Inc.; the Purdue Collegiate Singers sponsored by American Income Life Insurance Company; and a hot dog party and dance, courtesy of Ford Motor Company Fund, provided some of the formal Congress-wide entertainment. The delegates provided their own informal entertainment when they exchanged mementos and made friends in the delegates' center - when they had a few spare moments.

Keynote speaker at the Sunday Delegate Assembly, Captain James A. Lovell, former astronaut on Apollo 8 and 13 space flights, gave an in-depth account about space travel. He based his message on Ellison Onizuka's statement, "no boundaries, no lines... only space." The Opening Assembly was dedicated to Ellison Onizuka and the spirit of the other Challenger astronauts killed in the space tragedy. During the Keynote Assembly, Mrs. Lorna Onizuka, the astronaut's wife, presented the 4-H flag her husband carried on the Space Shuttle Discovery mission in 1985. He had credited much of his success as an astronaut to his 4-H experience. "The activities Ellison participated in and learned from in 4-H, the friendships he developed, were treasured throughout his life... Please accept this flag on his behalf. I know that he's pleased to know that it's being returned to you," she said.

Tom Sullivan, renowned singer, composer, actor, author and reporter for ABC's "Good Morning America" shared his songs and thoughts with delegates at the Thursday morning assembly. Sullivan, blind since birth, urged delegates to cultivate their own uniqueness and individuality. His appearance at Congress was sponsored by Sears, Roebuck and Company.

"There's no doubt in my mind and no doubt in President Reagan's mind... or anybody else, Democrat or Republican... of the special role you play in shaping the future of this country. There's no doubt about it, the country's in good hands," Senator Robert Dole (R-Kans.) told delegates during a special National 4-H Congress assembly. He also commended the 4-H organization for providing youth with activities to say "yes" to.

1987

You could think of National 4-H Congress as a bridge over which a select group of 4-H'ers cross to young adulthood.

Of course, all young people make the journey whether or not they attend Congress. But at such a singular event, you almost can see the transformation before your eyes.

Kids arrive in Chicago at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, bleary-eyed and clutching their luggage. Loose tee shirts bunch over disheveled jeans. Weary from bus rides across the country or ragged from jet lag, they huddle with friends they know from Lockport, Knoxville, Centerville or hundreds of other towns in nearly every state.

They're typical teenagers. But once they enter the hotel, they change in appearance and attitude. From the start, they sense something is different. Dress-up clothes become the norm and they are open and eager to be their best, try everything and delight in the adventure they've earned. For 66 years, through generations of 4-H families, this uncommon alchemy has worked its magic.

But nothing you've ever heard about Congress measures up to an event that's been months in the planning stages - a mutual effort of donors, National 4-H Council, the Cooperative Extension System and the U.S. Department of

Agriculture. The theme "4-H For Youth For America," tied to the bicentennial celebration for the Constitution, provided a forum for 4-H members and adults to discuss current events and concerns, attend workshops, and take part in educational field trips. Efforts were directed to strengthen career development to help young people identify individual skills and personal work values.

Several celebrities joined the 1,600 4-H'ers and nearly 500 adults at Congress. Dr. Joyce Brothers, well-known psychologist, gave the keynote address at the Congress Opening Delegates' Assembly, the Red River Boys played for a concert and dance, and Tom Sullivan, blind since birth, challenged his audience to reach their full potential. Many other skilled presenters came from the ranks of volunteers, faculty and business professionals.

While each participant may name one event or another as a favorite, everyone agreed that two of the most impressive galas open and close Congress.

In the International Ballroom, lights are lowered, the music commences, and flags are unfurled as delegates introduce their states' colors, carrying banners to the stage for the keynote assembly. The final banquet, a glistening affair in which everyone dons the finest attire, spotlights national winners in each project. This lavish meal is followed by the farewell dance in the Grand Ballroom, a sedate affair tinged with nostalgia. The same 4-H'ers who appeared hesitant to leave their friends in the beginning, now enjoy the company of the new friends they have made during the week's events.

Enthusiasm is high for the Fashion Revue, the midweek event that brings cheers from the crowd as 4-H'ers, rivaling professional models in poise and flair, take a runway in the latest styles, many of which they have designed and made themselves.

Tension tightens throughout the week when outstanding 4-H'ers are interviewed during Congress for the final selection for the Presidential Awards. In 1987, 12 young people were recognized for their achievements.

It's difficult to convey the scope and wonder of National 4-H Congress. Schedules are packed with dawn-to-dusk events that include tours to historic sites in Chicago, trips to business establishments, donor/delegate rap sessions, recognition dinners and much more.

Many young people see Congress as the pinnacle of their 4-H careers, the final extravagant episode. Actually Congress is all that and more. It's also a beginning - the start of a new set of challenges - the bridge to the responsibilities of young adulthood. That bridge leads many 4-H members to take up meaningful roles in their communities, become volunteers, head service organizations and continue to carry out the motto to learn by doing - doing for others.

During a motivational Tuesday evening assembly at National 4-H Congress, teen delegates representing all 50 states pledged support to a new "Strive for Excellence" national crusade against drug abuse. The Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. was launching the program as a major assault on reducing drug and alcohol use by reaching large numbers of youth throughout the nation. The Entertainment Industries Council began five years earlier with a conviction that people in the entertainment industry wanted to do something concrete about the frightening spread of drug and alcohol abuse in the nation, particularly among the youth.

In announcing the program at 4-H Congress, Dennis Windscheffel, EIC "Strive for Excellence" project coordinator, stated "positive peer pressure is one of the best methods of organizing the resources of youth and their ability to help each other. Positive peer influence programs help to develop and enhance self-esteem, as well as problem-solving and decision-making skills. To get our youth to influence one another in a positive direction against drug and alcohol use could be the best course of action this country takes to combat drug and alcohol abuse."

Heinz Vinegar became a new national 4-H donor with a three-year commitment to co-sponsor the National 4-H Food Conservation, Preservation and Safety Awards Program starting in 1988. Through its support, Heinz Vinegar will recognize 4-H youth achievement, help develop and disseminate educational publications, and offer opportunities for 4-H clubs to earn other educational resources.

(Additional information on the history of the 1987 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1988

More than 1,600 outstanding 4-H members from across the nation gathered in Chicago at the 67th National 4-H Congress. During the week-long program, 279 national and regional scholarships totaling \$284,000 in educational grants were awarded in some 40 program areas supported by corporations and other private-sector organizations.

Keynote speaker, Dawnn Lewis, co-star of the hit TV series, *"A Different World,"* set the tone for the week, urging delegates to take responsibility for their own choices in life.

In keeping with the theme of Congress, "4-H for Youth, for America," delegates took part in educational workshops focusing on critical issues facing young people in our society - issues ranging from career planning to resisting the lure of drugs. They also had the opportunity to take career-exploration field trips to a variety of organizations in the Chicago area.

Activities also included special entertainment and social activities; the National 4-H Fashion Revue, featuring 4-H'ers modeling ensembles they created and coordinated; special events honoring award winners; and a luncheon honoring outstanding 4-H alumni. The 12 winners of the National 4-H presidential Awards, the highest honor bestowed on 4-H members, were announced during the Congress Annual Banquet; the award sponsored by Reader's Digest Foundation.

The completion of the 5-year \$50 million Campaign for 4-H was celebrated on December 6 during the 67th National 4-H Congress. The 1,600 teen delegates to the Congress were joined at the Tuesday night gala by nearly 1,000 guests representing leadership of the public-private partnership of 4-H support. Many corporate executives, university officials, government representatives, leaders from cooperating organizations and associations attended.

From the opening ceremonies with the U.S. Navy Color Guard and the National 4-H Congress Chorus singing "America the Beautiful," to the closing with the music group Three Dog Night playing their hit song, "Celebrate," the recognition event, "America's Youth: The Challenge and The Opportunity," was something special.

Major Campaign donors were honored and revered with standing ovations as young delegate advisors boomed out their names to come on stage. Videos shown on large screens reflected the dramatic impact the 5-year funding effort will have on youth education, and the Master of Ceremonies, comedian Tom Dreesen, moved the program along in a very meaningful way. As special effects video were used to visually build to the final Campaign total and the emcee announced \$58 million - \$8 million over the Campaign goal - celebrating was in order!

Campaign Chairman Robert B. Gill, vice chairman of J. C. Penney Company, Inc. And vice chairman of Council's board of trustees, stated, "the fact that 4-H was successful in meeting, and surpassing, the Campaign goal clearly signals that this youth development program has a constituency and a support base that is strong and deep across America." Thirty-seven major donors committed one-half million dollars or more to the Campaign... all 37 of these donors were present at the event and honored on stage.

(Additional information on the history of the 1988 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1989

Some 1,600 outstanding 4-H members from across the nation gathered in Chicago in December 1989 for the 68th National 4-H Congress. Delegates from 49 states and Puerto Rico, selected for outstanding achievements in their 4-H project work, enjoyed five days of educational and recognition activities. During the event, 239 national and regional scholarships, totaling more than \$295,000 in educational grants and supported by corporations and other private-sector organizations, were awarded in some 40 project areas.

Among highlights of the event were the National 4-H Fashion Revue, featuring participants in the National 4-H Fashion Revue Awards Program, sponsored by Simplicity Pattern Co Inc., VWS, Inc. and Sew News; educational visits to a variety of organizations in the Chicago area; and a series of workshops exploring the Congress theme, "Celebration of Choices."

(Additional information on the history of the 1989 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS - THE 1990S

The 1990's saw the end to National 4-H Congress in Chicago. It was a good 70 year run. By the late 1980s, some of the national awards donors were beginning to look at other options for support.

A growing number of Extension staff - as well as some of Council's board of trustees - was saying that national awards and 4-H Congress were too exclusive, not involving enough of their membership for the time and money expended. They felt that the large amount of corporate resources going into the scholarships for national winners, the trips to Chicago and the operation of 4-H Congress, itself, was supporting too small a group of "successful" 4-H'ers and should be better utilized in supporting programs with far broader audiences with greater needs.

On the surface, this certainly was a legitimate position. In addition, as had been apparent for several years, Congress was becoming too expensive for some of the donors, particularly the costs of the Congress events, travel expenses for the trip winners, and other operational costs. In 1989 41 awards programs were offered through Council. Of these, 31 were major programs and 10 special scholarship programs. By 1991 the number of full awards programs had dropped to 29 with several of these funded by National 4-H Council; other donors were paring back the number of trips and scholarships.

A second audience from within Extension, however, was looking more broadly at the awards programs. The county medals provided by the awards donors were literally reaching into every county in the country... into nearly every club. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of teens retained their membership in 4-H for eight and 10 years with the singular goal of winning a trip to National 4-H Congress. This goal... this dream of winning a trip to National 4-H Congress was a major factor in retaining many older 4-H members in the program year after year. However, the handwriting was on the wall.

In March 1994, Richard J. Sauer, president, National 4-H Council, announced the decision that National 4-H Council would no longer be supporting National 4-H Congress, nor the national awards programs.

The 1994 National 4-H Council annual report states:

"In March 1994, we announced that National 4-H Council would no longer manager National 4-H Congress after 1994. While this national event has been a significant part of Council's programming for a long, long time, it was inevitable to the Board that the decision was necessary and; in fact, overdue. This decision was a very difficult one for us. At the same time, this change opened the door on possibilities for a very different future, and it contributed to the success of our transformation to a fundamentally new mission. Council will no longer be able to rely on a major revenue stream from what had once been a large assembly of significant corporate partnerships supporting national 4-H awards programs. The short-term result is a projected operating loss for fiscal year 1994-95, as Council continues to transition people functions, organizational teamwork, and funding partnerships in support of the new mission."

While National 4-H Council attempted to move the national 4-H awards program donors over into new opportunities of support for 4-H, it was not totally successful and a sizeable number of the long-time donors that had partnered with Council for decades were gone. As for National 4-H Congress, the Extension leaders in a number of the states decided that the event needed to be continued, but not in Chicago. Within a year of two, National 4-H Congress was again being offered, first in Memphis; and, finally in Atlanta. It is not the same as National 4-H Congress in Chicago, neither in structure, nor in design, however the intent was to give the 4-H youth attending the Congress new experiences, fellowship and broaden their horizons. In general terms, these were the same goals of the Congress years ago when it was at the world's largest hotel, on the banks of Lake Michigan in downtown Chicago.

1990

(Additional information on the history of the 1990 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1991

Over 1,500 young people received trips to the 1991 National 4-H Congress in recognition for their 4-H achievements, During the event \$294,500 in educational scholarships was awarded.

McCall Pattern Company, VWS, Inc., The Viking and White Sewing Machine Companies are joined this year by House of Fabrics in sponsoring the annual Fashion Revue at National 4-H Congress.

The National 4-H Photo Exhibit carried a new dimension in 1991. Some 100-plus prize-winning photographs exchanged between youth from the United States and Russia sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company. The joint photographs became a traveling exhibit throughout the United States and the Russian Federation of unified countries.

(Additional information on the history of the 1991 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1992

(Additional information on the history of the 1992 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1993

(Additional information on the history of the 1993 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

1994

(Additional information on the history of the 1994 National 4-H Congress will be added when reports and records are located.)

CONGRESS TRADITIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

[Photo: Total page of photos/captions.
[Publication: National 4-H News
[Edition: December 1953 (already scanned)
[Page: Total page of photos/captions. page 34.

Opening Assembly

The Opening Assembly on the Sunday afternoon of National 4-H Congress was always considered the official opening of the event and pretty much traditional over the years. It was perhaps the one event of Congress that was not just for the delegates... it had multiple additional audiences - extension staff, corporate donors, members of the National 4-H Council's board of trustees, other special guests, and the media.

There was pageantry. Usually the Color Guard and Band from the Great Lakes Naval Station, the parade of state flags, pledges to the U.S. and 4-H flags, singing of the National Anthem and often a production introducing the Congress theme. There was always a keynote address, again usually setting the tone for the Congress theme. Introductions and welcomes were made by the President and Chairman of the Board of National 4-H Council and the head of 4-H at the Federal Extension Service, USDA. Sometimes the mayor of Chicago would welcome the group to the city. And, often, the President of the United States, as Honorary Chairman of the National 4-H Council, would send greetings and congratulations to the delegates and wish them a good week. In later years, delegates, or delegate advisors (a group of selected 4-H'ers from the previous year's Congress), acted as Master or Mistress of Ceremonies and took a heavy part in the program. The Opening Assembly was always inspirational and uplifting. The objective was to set the tone for the coming week... and, the Opening Assembly always seemed to accomplish this mission.

[Photo: Presiding delegates with Mayor Richard J. Daley
[Publication: From a Dream to Reality, a History of the National 4-H Service Committee.
[Page: 47 top right photo (should already be scanned; or, A Dream to Reality is scanned and on the history website)

[Caption: Presiding Delegate Oscar Johnson, Jr., Chicago and Lynn Kelly, Torrance, California, escort Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley to the platform for his welcome to delegates who attended the 1970 National 4-H Congress.

Also, traditionally, there was an Adults' Tea following the Opening Assembly, a time when the adults and VIP's at the Opening Assembly could renew old acquaintances and meet new ones.

Sunday Evening Club/Central Church Special 4-H Services

Both the Central Church Special 4-H Services on Sunday morning and the Sunday Evening Club (yes, on Sunday evening) were a part of the Congress program for decades.

The Central Church Special 4-H Services were held in the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel or Orchestra Hall during most of the years of Congress. For many years as an optional event in which Congress delegates could attend... and, which most of them did. Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand led the service for many years, starting in 1948. It is believed that 1973 may have been the last year for Dr. Hildebrand. A very special program was always created for the visiting 4-H'ers. Delegates participated on the program along with noted VIP's and musical groups. It was truly inspirational.

The non-denominational Central Church was founded shortly after the famous Chicago fire by 50 business and industrial leaders to serve visiting people from across the United States and around the world. With Dr. David Swing as its first pastor, the church was organized "downtown where the people were," ministering without regard to class, color, or creed. The church soon was housed in the Central Music Hall, State and Randolph streets, where Marshall Field and Company store was later built. The church later filled the Auditorium building before moving to Orchestra Hall, where it was located for many years. For a brief time near the end of World War II, the church moved to the Studebaker Theatre and then transferred to the Conrad Hilton Hotel. In 1966, the Central Church returned to the spacious confines of Orchestra Hall. The service was televised for many years over WGN-TV (Channel 9).

The annual visit of 4-H members and leaders during the National 4-H Congress was one of the significant occasions on the calendar of the Chicago Sunday Evening Club since its beginning in the 1920s. All Chicago was proud to see these young people, four abreast, march down Michigan Avenue and file into the great Orchestra Hall auditorium to attend this famous nonsectarian service. Since the early days of the Congress, 4-H members had visited the Club, which arranged a special music program and brought an outstanding religious leader in to give the address. The great Orchestra Hall organ accompanied the famous choir. Selected 4-H club delegates also took part in the program, which was televised during the 1960s. The entire program prompted inspired enthusiastic letters of approval from the 4-H delegates year after year. 1968 was the last year that 4-H Club Congress participated in the Sunday Evening Club.

[Photo: Congress delegates in citizenship ceremony

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: December 1946

[Page: 52. (should be scanned)

[Caption: More than 150 Congress delegates who had reached the age of 21 participated in a citizenship ceremony at the Chicago

Sunday Evening Club during the 1941 Congress.

Firestone Breakfast

The traditional 4-H Congress Firestone Breakfast... what a way to start a week so bright and early on a Monday morning! Few recollections of Club Congress go by without the mentioning of the Firestone Breakfast menu - a giant baked potato topped with creamed chipped beef. For many delegates this was a first, and it was the traditional fare for decades - but not always.

As the story goes, when the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. first became the sponsor of the all-Congress breakfast in 1943, Mr. Firestone was asked what he would like the hotel to serve. His response was his all time favorite breakfast - rainbow trout. This was not an inexpensive meal to prepare and serve to the nearly two-thousand attendees at the breakfast and after the event was over, Mr. Firestone observed that many of the tables still had the plates of trout... untouched. Therefore, the breakfast menu the following year was changed to Firestone's second most favorite breakfast - baked potato with chipped beef.

J. Allan Smith, Extension Editor, University of Kentucky, and president of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, experiencing his first National 4-H Congress in 1952 describes the Monday morning Firestone Breakfast this way: Went to breakfast in the Grand Ballroom - honoring the winners of the soil conservation project - a banquet for

nearly two thousand, with speeches and presentations, delightful entertainment, and food to keep a plowman going. I've never before eaten baked potato for breakfast. When you're hungry, some morning, try it - with creamed dried beef. Here at this kick-off breakfast the keynote, it seems to me, for the whole Congress is given by Raymond Firestone, in paying tribute to all the delegates and expressing pride in them on the part of all the leaders and donors who make the Congress possible. "You belong here," he says to the delegates, "because you have worked, have been ambitious, have used your own initiative. You are here because you have been co-operative with others, and you have proved worthy of the faith of your teachers, your leaders and your folks at home." The orchestra strikes up "Dixie" - and I'm startled by the shrill shout that follows. Now, I tell myself, I've heard the Rebel yell! But then the tune changes to "Yankee Doodle," and the same shrill shout arises, and I know that these are only the lively accents of youth, and the famous old yell is gone and its secret will perhaps be forever hidden.

[Photo: Raymond Firestone accepting award

[Publication: Wessel book 4-H: An American Idea

[Page: 290.

[Caption: Raymond C. Firestone, center, accepts an award presented in 1968 to The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company for 25 years of service to 4-H. Kenneth H. Anderson, left, and Norman C. Mindrum, right, of the National 4-H Service Committee, make the presentation. (from *4-H: An American Idea*)

National Live Stock Exposition Parade

[Photo: Parade at Live Stock Exposition

[Publication: From A Dream to Reality, A History of the National 4-H Service Committee

[Page: 18

[Caption: The parade of 4-H youth at the International Live Stock Exposition started in the early 1920s and continued as an annual feature of National 4-H Congress for more than four decades.

4-H'ers were attending the National Live Stock Exposition in Chicago before the beginning of National 4-H Congress. The two events were normally held at the same time of the year, in early December, and closely linked. Starting in 1919 with the first Tour, 4-H delegates were given free admission to the National Live Stock Exposition. In the early days, bringing 4-H young people to Chicago was primarily to give them an opportunity to see the great agricultural events at the International Live Stock Exposition.

It was in 1924 that the management of the exposition suggested that the 4-H delegates to National 4-H Congress form a parade one evening of the exposition, directly following the horse show. The full report of this inspirational evening can be found in this section under New Club Greeting Song and a Night to Remember.

For decades, the 4-H delegates paraded at the International each year, and then in later years, attended the Horse Show and Rodeo at the Amphitheatre until the early 1970s.

National 4-H Dress Revue

[Photo: National 4-H Dress Revue

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: December 1968

[Page: Center pic, p. 41. (should already be digitized)

[Caption: 1967 National 4-H Dress Revue

The National 4-H Dress Revue was a major feature of the National 4-H Congress for seven decades. Initially called a "style" show, the first event took place at the National 4-H Club Congress of 1924 with Maude E. Wallace, in charge of 4-H girls' work in North Carolina, in charge. Some women leaders felt the style show event might be undignified, but it caught the public fancy and has been followed in every state and most of the counties.

For most of the years, starting in 1947, the event has been hosted or coordinated by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc, working with donor partners and a Congress 4-H Dress Revue Committee. The annual dress revue usually had its own theme and was very popular with the delegates.

National Awards Donor Banquets and Events

There were, of course, the all-Congress donor events like the Firestone Breakfast, Ford Luncheon, General Motors Luncheon, and others, but the separate, individual awards donor banquets were very special. They were usually

intimate, yet classy and formal. Traditionally the banquets were set up with round tables with seating for eight, white linen table clothes and napkins, crystal and china with silverware place settings of from 5 to 8 pieces... usually male waiters dressed in white coats and gloves, black pants. Courses at all banquets were served; few had buffets. The banquets were dress-up affairs - party dresses for the girls, suits and ties for the boys.

Most the banquets, if they had a full program representing most of the 50 states, had 120-150 attendees; others were smaller - the state and national winners in that particular program, their state chaperone, representatives from the donor company, and other special guests including the Federal Extension Service, National 4-H Service Committee (National 4-H Council), media representatives and others.

There was usually a professionally printed program listing the state and national winners, the menu and the program, itself. Most had live music, either a small four or five piece music group, or strolling violinists, usually playing appropriate dinner music. There was entertainment at the end of the banquet... often a magician, comic or similar type, but sometimes a recognizable name like Jim Nabors or Jerry Lewis.

There was a formal program. Normally a representative from the donor company acted as Master of Ceremonies but it could be most anyone. Delegates normally were called upon to lead the pledges and give the invocation. All state winners were recognized and given awards. National winners were normally recognized with a biography of their accomplishments and sometimes even were asked to say a few words. Meals were always "top drawer" with an appetizer, salad, entree and dessert. It was not uncommon to see steaks or prime rib served. Normally there was a special souvenir gift at place setting of each of the winners; sometimes for all attendees.

The key objective throughout was to make the state and national winners - the special guests at each banquet - "feel special." It was their night. The winners looked forward to it... and usually left with pleasant memories of a very special event when it was over.

Annually, corporate executives got "caught up" in the mystique of 4-H Congress and their respective program winners. The week at Congress was "uplifting." Joe Hara, president of Tupperware USA, donor of the National 4-H Home Management Awards program, commented that his kids told him they loved the days each year following his return back home having been to National 4-H Congress. He was so happy and energized that he made them happy.

For many years, Robert P. Fordyce, youth services, consumer marketing division, Eastman Kodak Company, was the official donor representative for the National 4-H Photography Awards Program sponsored by Kodak. Bob Fordyce was the classic example of the type of donor rep who loved Congress and made it his mission to learn everything he could about the 50 state and national photography winners attending the Chicago event each year. Before Congress he made a special trip from Kodak headquarters in Rochester, New York to Chicago to review the record books. As part of their awards banquet for state and national photography winners at National 4-H Congress, Kodak featured an audio/visual production comprised of selected photos from the record books of each photography winner. Fordyce made a photo "mug shot" of each winner for his files and he knew the state and national winners' names and could associate their name with their face for memory before the delegates ever got to the Conrad Hilton Hotel. He would try to meet as many of the state delegations as possible, upon arrival, and walk up to the photography winner, address him or her by their first name and introduce himself as representing Kodak in welcoming the delegate to Chicago. Talk about a first impression! Fordyce, and the nearly 20 other Kodak reps at Congress, always had the Kodak Suite at the Hilton open all week so photography delegates could feel free to stop by at any time and chat. Each winner was given a camera the first day... if they needed one, and all the photography winners could stop by the suite for free film and processing. Kodak sponsored a get-acquainted event early in the week, had a formal photography banquet, donor-delegate rap sessions, and took the photography winners on a mini-tour to a large Chicago commercial photo processing lab near the Hilton. After Congress, delegates received a special Kodak-sponsored photography newsletter so they could keep in touch with each other. The photography delegates and Kodak representatives always had a good camaraderie and felt at ease joking and poking fun at one another. One year during the photography recognition dinner, Bob Fordyce was presiding. In his opening remarks he told guests that before leaving Rochester he carefully had checked the printed program to be sure there were no errors. But, after reviewing it again that morning before the banquet, he found one - the error was Colby H. Chandler's title. He was listed as executive vice president, but should have been listed as president of Eastman Kodak Company. Mr. Chandler had been named to that position since arriving in Chicago! The delegates got the humor and loved it, and Mr. Chandler had to smile.

[Photo: Photography Get-Acquainted event

[Publication: 1976 Congress Review

[Page: Bottom of page 4

[Caption: It was fun time as photography winners became acquainted during Sunday evening's dinner hosted by Eastman Kodak.

There were many other "Bob Fordyces" among the donor representatives. These donor reps often felt as much a part of 4-H as perhaps any 4-H extension agent or state staff person. They were seen more prominently at National 4-H Congress, but they often worked on 4-H activities year-round. Many of them traveled to the states to put on workshops and seminars in their respective program areas. They often would appear at local awards nights to make the presentation for their awards' area. They were involved on program developmental committees developing the literature to support their program area. (In the case of Kodak, in addition to the photography awards program, they sponsored the development of national photography literature, a national 4-H photography television series, photography leader forums, a national 4-H photo exhibit and other training aids and events.) Many of the awards donor companies kept in contact with their past winners. Several did surveys of their winners on a five and 10 year basis.

The hundreds of National 4-H Congress donor reps which have served their corporations over the years... and served 4-H as well, are in a special class. They helped make National 4-H Congress what it was... and helped strengthen the 4-H programs, in not only the awards and recognition area, but also in the subject matter area.

"Pop" Concert with the Chicago Symphony

For years - no for decades - the "Pop" Concert for delegates, leaders and invited guests, was one of the highlights of Congress. It was traditionally presented by The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, held in magnificent Orchestra Hall on South Michigan Avenue, just a few blocks north of the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

The first "Pop" Concert was in 1953, on Saturday night, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company. While for most delegates, an evening of entertainment by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra would be a new experience, the concerts over the years traditionally received high marks from the delegates. A Texas delegate, Don McGinty, attending that very first "Pop" Concert in 1953 said "I feel those who planned our entertainment paid us a high compliment when they arranged for a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra... it was evident that all appreciated the artistry of this magnificent ensemble. We felt a warm glow of satisfaction that two 4-H'ers should appear there as guest artists."

In later years the concert was under the direction of Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, courtesy of The Singer Company. Dr. Fiedler loved coming out to Chicago and doing this concert for 4-H'ers... and did it continuously for 20 years.

Year after year, for many of the delegates, they didn't really know what to expect... certainly a new experience. "A symphony orchestra; a concert, I don't think so!" As was also tradition, the program always started with some rather "long hair" music, and the delegates always sat rather quietly, politely applauding after the music ended. Perhaps Dr. Fiedler did this as a little test or a teaser, with a smile on his face. Then, he would change pace, getting into more modern "today" music and would have the band "pull out all the stops" so to speak. The 4-H'ers were pleasantly surprised. The 4-H'ers loved it! The delegates left Orchestra Hall having witnessed the best music lesson in their lives... year after year, singing and dancing their way back to the Conrad Hilton Hotel, six blocks down Michigan Avenue. And, even though it was often a cold December night, usually Dr. Fiedler would come along with the delegates, arm in arm, three or four on each side of him, strolling down the avenue, even though in later years he was in his 80s.

Traditionally for many years, the two guest soloists at the 'Pop' Concert came from the 4-H ranks - talented soloists and musicians, most of them still current 4-H members. Unfortunately, we do not have a list of these young men and women who performed so professionally with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, however the following account in the December 1957 issue of *National 4-H News* identifies the 1957 performers and tells a little about their accomplishments:

Helen and Wilbur are returned by Singer

"Listening to the Chicago Symphony in Orchestra Hall has long been the big Saturday evening event for 4-H Club Congress delegates. It's a rare experience with the added point of interest that the two soloists are always from among their own 4-H ranks.

"This year Singer Sewing Machine Company, sponsoring this artistic treat, is bringing back soloists who have previously appeared on this annual program, for their performances merited an encore.

"The two youth so honored are Helen Bovbjerg, 20-year-old lyric soprano from Brandywine, Maryland, last year's soloist, and Wilbur Jensen, 19, Langlois, Oregon, who brought along his trumpet in 1953.

"Miss Bovbjerg is now a senior scholarship student at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, and her training has included piano and clarinet as well as voice. In addition to her appearance with the Chicago Symphony, she has been soloist for the Rochester Civic Orchestra, appeared on radio and TV, and this past summer went to Europe as soloist on a concert tour.

"Wilbur Jensen began trumpeting when he was seven years old. His parents encouraged him and provided lessons. Skill with his chosen instrument developed until, in 1951, he was privileged to play with Louis Armstrong. Following that, he played as guest with many of the famed band leaders - Claude Thornhill, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and others.

"Another high honor came to young Jensen. He was a two-time winner on the Horace Heidt amateur show. He has always combined his many state and national concert performances with a variety of 4-H activities. Wilbur is now a sophomore at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon."

[Photo: Arthur Fiedler conducting Concert
[Publication: 1974 Congress Official Program
[Page: 15 (has been digitized)
[Caption: Dr. Arthur Fiedler conducting the
Singer "Pop" Concert

It is believed that 1974 may have been the last "Pop" Concert for the 4-H Congress. During that performance Fiedler conducted a medley of Gershwin-Anderson tunes. Orchestra arrangements of "I Got Rhythm," "Embraceable You," "Bidin' My Time" and "But Not For Me" were played. The last arrangement on the program contained three current hits - "The Way We Were" by Hamlisch, "The Entertainer" by Joplin and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" by Raye-Prince.

Auditorium Theater Concerts

[Photo: Auditorium Theatre
[Publication: 1974 Congress Official Program (could be some better interior shots on the Internet; YES, google Chicago Auditorium Theatre))
[Page: 19
[Caption: Chicago's Auditorium Theater

The Auditorium Theater, on East Congress Parkway, two blocks from the Conrad Hilton Hotel, is an inspiring theater with 4,000 capacity. The building was built in the 1880's, dedicated on December 9, 1889 with President Benjamin Harrison and Vice President Levi Morton in the audience. It is the work of famous architects Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan and is without a doubt one of the most magnificent theaters in the world. Adler worked out the near-perfect acoustics and the heating and ventilating system still used today. A regular conversation on the stage can be heard in the upper balcony. Sullivan designed all of the ornamentation including the carpet pattern, cast-iron columns supporting the balconies, the grills, the woodwork of the fireplaces, moldings, the seats, the hardware and the curtains. Frank Lloyd Wright, as a very young man, did most of the detail work for the ornamentation. The Auditorium was the first permanent building totally electrified in the United States. Perhaps no one will ever fully understand Louis Sullivan and the meaning of his Auditorium Theater just as no scholar will ever extract the last philosophical nuance and emotional throb from Hamlet. But you can enter his masterpiece and gaze at those great arches soaring above and submerge yourself in the golden light and ponder the meaning of the beauty that Sullivan left behind.

The National 4-H Club Congress used the facility several times during the 1930s. The theater was closed during World War II and used by the military as a U.S.O. facility. The huge stage was a bowling alley. Following World War II the building remained empty and in disrepair. In 1947, Roosevelt University bought the building and turned it over to a group called the Auditorium Theater Council. The chairman of this fund-raising group, Mrs. John V. Spachner, began a long fund-raising campaign to completely refurbish the theater to its original 1889 condition - a cost of \$2-3/4 million. And, finally, on October 31, 1967 the Auditorium was re-dedicated - one of the grandest events in Chicago in some time with search lights cutting through the evening darkness and black limousines lined up around the corner three abreast for six blocks up Michigan Avenue, dropping off dignitaries as they arrived.

The following month, National 4-H Congress became the first group to use the new Auditorium when Tupperware hosted an all-Congress concert on Tuesday night featuring "Up with People!" This young group was launched by 130 students just two years earlier, dedicated individuals who canceled personal plans, sold their cars and emptied bank accounts and took to the road... winning the country over by storm. A "Young American" spokesman said the Auditorium Theater was the best theater in which the group had performed. The Young Americans couldn't get over the magnificent

acoustics and overwhelming beauty of the theater. In fact, rehearsal that afternoon was a half-hour late getting started while the youngsters simply stood on the stage looking at the elegant surroundings in awe.

Joe Hara, President, Tupperware, welcomed the 1967 National 4-H Club Congress delegates to the evening's event. He said "never before have two groups so enthusiastic and dedicated as the Young Americans and the young 4-H'ers met in such a setting." It is hard to say which group benefitted most. Both have high standards and beliefs. Their futures should be equally rewarding.

For several years following 1967, Tupperware Home Parties, donor of the National 4-H Home Management Awards Program, entertained the entire delegation at the Auditorium Theater with other concerts. Some of the groups who entertained the 4-H'ers included The Establishment, The Cowsills, The Earl Scruggs Revue, The Kids Next Door, and Randy Sparks & The Back Porch Majority. Kerr Glass Manufacturing Corporation, celebrating one of their 4-H sponsorship anniversary years, entertained the 4-H delegates with a production of the stage play, "Oklahoma," at the Auditorium Theatre.

Congress Tours

Early on, according to the 1925 Annual Report of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Guy Noble reported the recognition of changing some of the educational tours, making them "more demonstrational" in character.

While in the earlier years, tours to the major meat packing plants were part of the agenda, they eventually dropped out of the itinerary. Trips to the Board of Trade and Marshall Fields also seemed to be off the program after the first few years, although the Board of Trade appeared as an optional tour later on during a very few years. Five tour sites remained on the Club Congress program for decades and were always popular. Obviously, the first was the International Live Stock Exposition... which was basically the forerunner of Club Congress. The tours to the plants of International Harvester started in 1918 or 1919 and went well into the 1970s, although in later years became primarily a tour for the boys and men leaders of Congress.

The Art Institute of Chicago always had both changing exhibits and traditional features such as the miniature Thorne Rooms.

The Field Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Science and Industry were on the tour list for every delegate for most of the time Congress was in Chicago.

During the main Congress years of the 1950s-70s, the Field Museum was one of the world's foremost museums of its kind. Its 12 acres of exhibits on nature and man ranged from displays of dinosaur skeletons and fossil plants to its renowned series of animals of the world, mounted in life-like settings. Also popular with visitors were the halls on prehistoric man, ancient Egyptian life and Indians of North and South America. The museum housed the world's largest collection of plant models, showing evolution from primitive bacteria to flowering plants. This exhibit included displays on foreign woods; unusual plants, including the Cannon-ball tree; fossil plants and the Hall of Useful Plants which explained the many products that come from plants. A Coal Age forest - 285 million years old, armored fishes of the ancient past and dinosaur skeletons were just a few of the exhibits in the prehistoric area. In the geology exhibit there was the Hall of Gems, meteorites exhibit and displays on the polar regions, rocks, minerals, how the earth began and the changing face of the earth. Also a reproduction of a chamber at Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico. The story of mankind was effectively shown, including an impressive collection on the civilizations of China and Tibet and mummies and relics from Egypt, Pompeii and Babylonia. There were Stone Age tools and utensils, a Cameroons king's house from Africa and displays of items depicting folkways of the peoples of Oceania.

Likewise, the Museum of Science and Industry, known as Chicago's "number one tourist attraction," welcomed nearly three million visitors a year back in the 1950s and 60s. The museum housed a huge structure which was formerly an exhibition building for Fine Arts at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Much of the popularity of the museum was the effort to keep it modern with constantly changing exhibits. The museum's world-famed working coal mine was one of the most popular features, a realistic reproduction of a typical Southern Illinois coal field operation. Visitors descended the main shaft into the mine on a real hoist, and then went by electric cars to the working face. The International Harvester Company had a life-size replica of a typical midwestern farmstead... including 4-H activities as one of the features in the exhibit. In the 1960s the museum was featuring medical science and health displays including the "Human Heart" exhibit where a 16-foot tall replica of the human heart could not only be entered, but visitors could hear it "thump." A Mayo Clinic exhibit showed a series of some of the surgical and medical techniques of the famous clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. You could also listen to the countdown of a Polaris missile as it was fired from an atomic submarine at the U.S. Navy "Seapower" exhibit, and examine a real space capsule. "Motorama" was the name of

General Motors' exhibit which gave a complete history of transportation from the first wooden wheel of the caveman to a peek into the travel wonders of the future.

It was no small wonder that the delegates from rural America traditionally placed the tours to these two museums near the top of their list of highlights from the Club Congress.

During the 1960's, National 4-H Club Congress began to offer one afternoon of optional tours to the delegates. The options changed slightly over the years but some of the choices included the Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Garfield Park Conservatory, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago Police Department, Johnson Publishing Company, The Quaker Oats Company Test Kitchens, Chicago Post Office, Jane Addam's Hull House, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Operation Breadbasket, Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago City Hall, Chicago Fire Academy, Goodman School Theatre, NBC-TV, Ray Vogue College of Design, Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust, Playskool Inc., International Academy of Merchandising and Design, Sears Tower Skydeck, Chicago Historical Society, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago Tribune, and the Chicago Sun-Times/Chicago Daily News.

Thomas E. Wilson Day

[Photo: Citizenship winners with Thomas E. Wilson

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: January 1950

[Page: 19 Bottom right; pull photo from Thomas E. Wilson Day, from Compendium)

[Caption: This picture really tells the story. DiAnne Mathre of Illinois and Dwight E. Nelson of Iowa, top Citizenship boy and girl at the 1949 National 4-H Congress stand with Thomas E. Wilson. The awards were made in honor of Mr. Wilson. The deep admiration of Thomas E. Wilson by the Congress delegates for four decades is reflected in the faces of these two winners.

Other than some of the tours... and the International Live Stock Exposition, itself, probably the Thomas E. Wilson Day banquet is the only traditional National 4-H Club Congress event which actually pre-dates the Congress.

It was in 1916 - Thomas E. Wilson (chairman of Wilson Meat Packing Company; and, also founder and president of Wilson Sporting Goods Company) had come to the International Live Stock Exposition to view the cattle. He owned one of the top herds of Shorthorns in the country. He happened to see a group of club boys examining the exhibits and stopped to talk to them. He saw that they were keenly interested in what they were viewing. Years later, Wilson recalled, "I thought perhaps I could help them in some way." He started that very day by inviting the 11 boys and their leader to lunch with him. Although the dinner in 1918 is technically considered the first Thomas E. Wilson Day Dinner, this invitation to 11 boys in 1916 really was the beginning.

The January 1919 issue of "*The Wilsonian*," the Wilson & Co. employee newsletter, carries the following account of the 1918 event:

BOYS AND GIRLS OF OKLAHOMA, INDIANA, MISSISSIPPI
WISCONSIN, GUESTS OF WILSON & CO.

"All Excelled in Live Stock Raising.

"Seventy-six boys and girls from Oklahoma, Mississippi, Indiana and Wisconsin were guests of Wilson & Co. on December 4, 1918 to celebrate their success in winning trips to the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago for excelling in live stock production in their respective states.

"Mr. Thomas E. Wilson was host to the boys and girls at a luncheon in the company's restaurant. Many of the youthful livestock raisers were attending the livestock convention at the expense of the packing company, which, through the generosity of Mr. Wilson, offered trips as prizes.

"The boys and girls were taken through the various departments of the packing plant and were told of the methods of handling food products. They were interested in noting the slaughter, dressing, chilling, cutting and shipping of beef.

"When Mr. Wilson explained to them the different cuts of beef and told them how certain breeds of animals produced certain grades of beef, they listened attentively and made many notes.

"In his address to the boys and girls Mr. Wilson said: It certainly is a privilege for me to talk to you boys and girls today. I understand there are about 76 present and it is my hope that these clubs will soon grown to the extent that we may have a thousand boy and girl visitors come to Chicago under similar circumstances.

"You are to be complimented for the very important work which you are doing. It is especially important from the standpoint of laying a foundation for not only a better future for yourselves, but also for everyone in general.

"While I think it is important for you to be close students of livestock production, I believe you also should be close students of the meat-packing industry. I want to impress upon you that all difficulties between producers and packers is caused principally because of a lack of thorough understanding between them. When the packer understands more fully the many problems confronting the producer and the producer understand more clearly the difficulties confronting the packer, then we will have a better understanding all around. I am quite sure it is just as important for us to understand the other fellow's business as it is our own when we are doing business with him.

"I am hopeful that the present getting together of both industries in stabilizing hog prices will grow into what has become to be a much needed organization. This body of producers and packers will be able in a fair and impartial manner to iron out many of the difficulties which arise from time to time.

"I wish to have it distinctly understood that this packing industry is far from being a secretive business such as many appear to believe. On account of its various activities, the packing business becomes a decidedly complicated affair, requiring considerable study, but not too much so for you to understand fully in time. I would be pleased to meet any of you at any time to help you in studying the business of Wilson & Co.

The following year, on December 4, 1919, Wilson again hosted boys and girls during the International Live Stock Exposition as reported in the January 1920 issue of "*The Wilsonian*":

**MR. THOMAS E. WILSON HOST TO BOYS AND GIRLS,
AGRICULTURAL CLUB MEMBERS**

"They came from seven years old up and sang and whistled and cheered, not to mention feeding up on a banquet that did real business to a lot of food.

"They came from Indiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Idaho and Illinois to attend the International Live Stock Exposition as a prize for their proficiency and industry in raising livestock; these future livestock experts of the nation. 'Willie' and 'Butch,' and 'Chuck' and 'Red' and 'Shrimp' and the whole bunch were on hand and they gave youthful cheer to the Wilson & Co. schoolroom at the Chicago headquarters, where the 60 boys and girls gathered as guests of Mr. Thomas E. Wilson at his annual banquet to the boys and girls who come to the great International Live Stock Exposition.

"And, Mr. Wilson made the subject of many college yells from the Indiana delegation and followed by the Mississippi that would not be worsted, enjoyed the affair from start to finish.

"To his left sat Lester Nicholson of Laurel, Mississippi, just turned seven years, whose little bright eyes sparkled and shone as he watched the crowd. Occupying the place of honor was wee little Miss Mildred Robb of Kentland, Indiana, of Master Nicholson's age. Shy and lady-like, she appeared to appreciate her position and acted with becoming modesty and dignity but when the magician drew doves from apparently nowhere and who was able to do a multitude of tricks with an egg before her very eyes, well, she just abandoned her dignity and let her mouth gape while her eyes stared wide open in amazement that any human being could do such wonderful tricks.

"There were grown-ups at the banquet also. Mr. J. A. Wigmore of Hillsboro, New Mexico, who owns a 400,000 acre ranch and raises thousands of head of cattle sat to the left of Master Nicholson and to his left was the distinguished James W. James of Chloride, New Mexico, a cattle raiser and ranchman of note. There appeared at the meeting Mr. John Brown of Monon, Indiana, who, Mr. Wilson explained, was one of the greatest cattle feeders of the country.

"Amiable Dr. R. F. Eagle, in excellent spirits, conducted the meeting in masterful style and was just as much of a 'kid' as the smallest member of the party.

"In addressing his guests, Mr. Wilson said:

"Sometimes, I think, youngsters do not fully appreciate the big things they are doing; that they do not have the appreciation of the value of the things they are doing.

"The work you are doing is a big work and as you grow older its importance will become more important to each and every one of you boys and girls here.

"I have not forgotten, in the slightest, that I once was a boy, but when I look back, considering present conditions, I wish that I might have had some of the opportunities which you have today. Had I then, the help which you have, I know it would have been a good thing for me as it will be for you. The good that you are doing will be felt beyond your own family and beyond your own state. I recall just a few years ago that boys' and girls' clubs were very few, but now they extend over many states. You, by your work, are influencing the whole country and your work will be marked as that accomplished by the great International Live Stock Exposition. Ten years ago horses and cattle were shown at the International which we thought were very fine and great examples of the best in breeding. Today those same animals could not be allowed to participate in the show. That shows what can be done by cooperation of effort.

"The work you boys and girls have undertaken is important and if you feel way down deep that you are suited and stick to it, you will succeed. It is bad policy for a fellow to keep shifting around all of the time. Of course, you will strike some rough spots but you will get through them easily if you stick to your purpose; you are bound to progress and do well.

"Mr. Wilson then told the boys and girls of how he became identified with the meat packing industry and hurriedly sketched his career to the present time to illustrate to them more vividly the excellent advice which he gave them.

"I came here of my own effort and without a pull. I didn't need a pull because I don't believe in it. I felt satisfied within myself that what I was doing was right.

"A test which I put myself to always was to ask myself whether my father and my mother would be glad to see me do the thing that I was then contemplating. It is a pretty good test and one which cannot lead you wrong.

"There is not a boy in the room who has not had as much opportunity as I have, and who has not just as much good common horse sense to succeed. I look forward to next year to see 100 present."

The Thomas E. Wilson dinner did, indeed, go on the next year... with over 100 present; and, for many more years to come, and the 100 grew into a dinner guest list of well over 2,000. It was always a very special highlight of each Congress and is known for some of the very special guest appearances over the years - Explorer Richard E. Byrd, Amelia Earhart, Ted Williams from the Boston Red Sox, "Red" Grange, Helen Hicks, Charlie Grimm and many others. Sports stars "of the day" were particularly popular, some years as many as eight or 10 sports celebrities would be present. This is probably due to the fact that Thos. E. Wilson, besides being chairman of the meat packing company, Wilson and Company, was also the founder of Wilson Sporting Goods Company and had a close relationship with sports stars from all the major kinds of sports.

[Author's note: There is a discrepancy in the actual year of the first Thos. E. Wilson Day dinner. "From a Dream to Reality," the history of the National 4-H Service Committee, by Jim Veeder with assistance from Kenneth H. Anderson and Paul C. Taff, the date 1916 is used. This date is also used in several other references. Various Thos. E. Wilson Day printed programs use the date 1917 and one even uses 1918. The story remains exactly the same regardless of the year and the interpretation of how we classify "first."]

Mr. Wilson became chairman of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in 1924, a position he proudly held until 1958, the year of his death.

Several copies of annual Thos. E. Wilson Day printed programs have been located and digitized and are in the Print Archives of the 4-H History Preservation website.

Friendship Parties at the Trianon and Aragon Ballrooms

During the decades of the '40s, '50s, and '60s the 4-H Club Congress delegates were treated to special dancing parties, earlier on at the Trianon Ballroom on the South side of Chicago, and later... starting in 1954, at the Aragon Ballroom on the North side. Both of these ballrooms were built during the 1920s at over one million dollars each. Elegant doesn't really seem to be a big enough word to describe either of the locations. You can imagine the looks and the thoughts of the young delegates as they entered these establishments. Not only were the surroundings beyond belief... but the parties were meant to be a time to have fun on top of it!

Hosted by Coats & Clark, Inc., starting in 1954... and perhaps even earlier, the event was termed the John B. Clark Friendship Party and Coats & Clark truly made the delegates feel like very special guests.

Trianon Ballroom - During the 1920s dance crazes were sweeping the nation. Hoping to capitalize on this trend, entrepreneur Andrew Karzas sank \$1 million into the construction and promotion of a new dance hall on Chicago's South Side. Located at Cottage Grove and East 62nd Street, Karzas' Trianon Ballroom was Chicago's most expensive and most extravagant dance hall when it opened in 1922. Its spacious dance floor with Louis XVI-style decor could accommodate up to 3,000 dancers, while the ballroom's alcoves and upper level could hold just as many. Declining interest in public dancing prompted the closure of the Trianon in 1954 and it was demolished in 1967 by urban renewal authorities.

[Photo: pic 1, <http://chicago.urban-history.org/sites/ballroom/trianon.htm> (pull photos from Compendium)
[Caption: Dance Floor, Trianon Ballroom, circa. 1935

Aragon Ballroom - The enormous and extravagantly decorated Aragon Ballroom opened in 1926 in the heart of Chicago's booming Uptown district. The owners, brothers Andrew and William Karzas, who had built the Trianon Ballroom four years earlier, really outdid themselves. The second-level dance floor was reached by ascending a thickly carpeted grand staircase guarded by large plaster dragons. Once upstairs, patrons entered another world. The ballroom was designed to resemble the courtyard of a Moorish castle. Palm trees and twinkling lights resembling stars in the blue ceiling were added to give dancers the feeling they were spending the night under a clear, Spanish sky. Built to hold nearly 8,000 people, the all-maple dance floor rode a cushion of cork, felt, and springs that vibrated to the music of the Aragon's bands. Some of the regular bandleaders at the Aragon included Freddy Martin, Wayne King and Dick Jurgens. The ballroom was open six nights a week with weekly attendance regularly topping 18,000 during the '20s, '30s and '40s. Regular dance schedules at the Aragon ended in 1964 and after that year the establishment was used for a variety of events including rock concerts, disco nights, roller skating, wrestling matches...and, occasional dances.

[photos: 2 pics, <http://chicago.urban-history.org/ven/dhs/aragon.shtm> (pull photos from Compendium)
[Captions: Dance Floor, Aragon Ballroom, circa. 1935 and Aragon Ballroom's Grand Staircase

The following full page advertisement for the John B. Clark Friendship Party appeared in the December 1959 *National 4-H News* (digital link, p. 100, Dec 1959 National 4-H News) (already digitized)

The last John B. Clark Friendship Party was held in 1966.

4-H Congress Final Banquet

If the traditional Opening Assembly of National 4-H Congress was meant to be inspirational, setting the scene for Congress week, then the traditional Thursday night Final Banquet was like the second part of a set of bookends. It was an event to which all delegates and others attending Congress looked forward to. There was a large orchestra which played throughout the evening. The head table featured one delegate from each state, representing that state delegation. Every national winner... all 200+ of them, were introduced and stood for applause as program groups. The top awards - the presidential winners in achievement, leadership and citizenship - were announced at the final banquet. For the last three or more decades, a 4-H'er was the Master or Mistress of Ceremonies. The spotlighted American flag blowing in the breeze in the top corner of the darkened International Ballroom during the singing of the national anthem, the 100 waiters marching in in the dark, each with a lighted baked Alaska cake held above their head, led by Santa Claus... and, the band playing Jingle Bells, was a fitting climax to the serving of the banquet meal, itself. Some 2,500 delegates, leaders and guests individually served by waiters so professional that nothing ever seemed to go wrong. The Final Banquet was under the leadership of Norman E. Johnson, 4-H Supply Service Manager, for decades, and that, too, meant that nothing would go wrong. The final banquet was as traditional as it gets... and every year's new crop of delegates seemed to love it.

This tradition seemed to start early. Viola Carnes, a 1929 Congress delegate from Antelope County, Nebraska, aptly describes the dessert presentation at the Final Banquet held in the ballroom of the Palmer House, as guests of 12 railroad companies. She says, "only the movies afford such a spectacle as the feature of the evening. A train of approximately 125 cars, made of ice of various colors, each bearing a ball of ice cream which served a table, was brought in by the many Negro waiters. The engine of the train, molded of ice, was about three feet in length, while the cars were in proportion. To add to the impressiveness of this event, the lights were dimmed so that only the glistening shape of the shining ice train and the smiles of the waiters were visible."

[Photo: Annual Banquet photo
[Publication: 1934 Annual Report, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

[Edition: 1934

[Page: 16 and 17. (already digitized)

[Caption: Shown at the 1934 National 4-H Club Congress annual banquet are the 1,500 club folks and friends who attended the annual banquet in the Stevens Hotel's largest ballroom. A new mark in educational entertainment was reached in the presentation of a musical drama, "The History of American Music," under the general direction of Howard Southgate with Louis A. Bachman, directing the orchestra and Morris A. Epstein, narrator, supported by a cast of 100 including the Pickard Family and other radio artists, and Miss Marjorie Gillam and Robert Long of the Chicago Grand Opera Company.

Everett Mitchell, veteran NBC Chicago farm director, known nationally for the familiar salutation with which he started each daily program - "It's a beautiful day in Chicago" - was the Master of Ceremonies for the Annual Banquet for 35 years, starting in the early 1930s and going up through 1965.

Over the years the Final Banquet included skits and plays by the 4-H'ers themselves. More than one premiere showing of a new 4-H film entertained the banquet participants. It was pure tradition, yet each year there seemed to be something new. And, it always accomplished the goal of sending the delegates homeward bound in a high note.

Conrad Hilton Hotel

"I'll never forget it. I still feel the nostalgia when I walk into the Hilton Hotel."

--Clayton Yeutter, U.S. Trade Representative, and later, Secretary of Agriculture, recalling his experiences as a delegate to National 4-H Congress and the impressive Conrad Hilton Hotel.

[Photo: Conrad Hilton Hotel

[Publication: Wikipedia Hilton Chicago

[Caption: View of the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

During the early years of Club Congress the delegates stayed at various Chicago hotels, usually the girls in one facility and the boys in another. But for many delegates the "home" to National 4-H Congress in Chicago was the Conrad Hilton Hotel (earlier called the Stevens Hotel and later the Chicago Hilton Hotel and Towers and now the Hilton Chicago). This was the headquarters for decades - for many years the largest hotel in the world.

Opening in May, 1927 as the Stevens Hotel (built at a cost of \$30 million), it was the largest hotel in the world with 3,000 guest rooms. It had a rooftop 18-hole golf course with real grass, a 25,000-volume private library; an art gallery; a five-lane bowling alley; a swimming pool; and its own hospital, police force, fire department, and three-story industrial laundry. To say that it was roaring-twenties opulent is an understatement.

In 1945 Conrad Hilton acquired the property, and in 1951 the hotel was renamed after its owner. It was the flagship hotel of the Hilton chain. Since that time it became internationally famous as a headquarters for business, religious, political, and civic convention meetings. As the world's largest hotel it provided friendly, trouble-free service to almost one million guests annually. The hotel went through a major renovation in the early 1960s, and again during the 1980s at a cost of \$185 million dollars. Major structural changes were made, including the reduction of guest rooms to 1,543, enlarging most of the rooms to twice their original size. The hotel now had numerous public rooms and five ballrooms. The hotel employed over 2,000 persons to serve its guests at that time, and the staff spoke 30 languages.

The Conrad Hilton Hotel was apparently a good place to work as many of the staff worked there for most of their careers, often 25 or 30 years, no matter whether you were a housekeeper, elevator operator, a waiter or electrician. The delightful lady in the coffee shop, who was from New Zealand, had worked there for well over 20 years. George, the Greek, a waiter who was a "fixture" for many years, knew most of the donor reps, corporate executives and Council staff by name and was a true professional. In fact, all of the Hilton staff were true professionals. If a banquet scheduled for 120 people was set up and ready to go and 15 minutes before the guests arrived the hotel staff learned there would be 160 people, five additional tables appeared, were set up, and the food quantity was increased so that 15 minutes later it was a banquet occasion for 160 that came off without a hitch. This is the way the Hilton worked.

The Conrad Hilton Hotel is a huge building, occupying a full city block north to south and more than half a city block east to west. It is situated on Chicago's stately Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park and Lake Michigan. As you step through the Hilton front doors on Michigan Avenue, you enter the spectacular Great Hall with its restored gold leaf frescoes and elegant, graceful curving staircases leading to the Grand Ballroom and other meeting space on the second floor. Immediately to the left is a corridor leading to the shopping area and escalators to the lower level exhibition halls. Continuing through the Great Hall, you come to the central (north to south) corridor. Across this corridor, directly in

front of you, is the elevator lobby with 14 elevators on the north, west and south sides. To the right of the elevator lobby is the main hotel registration area.

The second floor of the hotel features the Versailles-inspired 16,600-square-foot Grand Ballroom with its 22-karat gold frescoes and crystal chandeliers, and the nearly 22,000 square-foot International Ballroom. In addition, the second floor houses the Normandy Lounge, overlooking Grant Park, and is graced by chairs from the ocean-liner, S. S. Normandy. Also, on this floor is the Boulevard Room. For some period of time (during the 4-H Congress years) this was a nightclub that featured a floor show on ice.

For that 4-H farm lad from Nebraska or a Montana ranch, or girl from southern Mississippi or Maine, this complex was their home away from home for a week. It is no small wonder - like Clayton Yeutter - that many of them were awe-struck. It happened when they walked into the hotel's door... and just continued to get better!

[Photo: Conrad Hilton with 4-H Report to the Nation team
[Publication: National 4-H Service Committee Comments
[Edition: March 1959 (should already be digitized)
[Caption: Conrad Hilton, president of the hotel corporation bearing his name, poses with 4-H Report-to-Nation team members.

As the headquarters hotel for National 4-H Congress, both the management and the staff took a special interest in 4-H, and beginning in 1950, became the donor of the "4-H Report to the Nation" program. The Conrad Hilton Hotel contributed financial support for trips around the country for a special Report to the Nation team to promote 4-H and tell their stories, which often included reports to corporate executives and the President of the United States, as well as the media.

National 4-H Awards Programs

There probably was no stronger 4-H partnership between the public and private sectors over the years than that of the national 4-H awards programs. The dozens of awards program donor corporations... most of them representing Fortune 500 companies, were truly friends of 4-H. By the 1960s and 70s the average donor tenure was 19 years, with most of them having spent millions of dollars. These donors of the national awards programs provided county medals, state trips and national scholarships as recognition to hundreds of thousands of 4-H members each year. State winners lucky enough to receive a trip to National 4-H Congress in Chicago experienced a week they would never forget. And thousands of national winners over the years appreciated their educational scholarships as an assist in going to college and launching a career.

There is a separate section on this website featuring the history of the National 4-H Recognition and Awards Programs. Readers are encouraged to visit this section.

Awards Record Judging

[Photo: Record judging team
[Publication: National 4-H News.
[Edition: January 1945
[Page: 12 Bottom right photo (might already be digitized)
[Caption: Judging Committee of leaders who awarded 65 scholarships in 15 national contests valued at \$13,400 in 1944 are, from left: Geraldine Fenn, SD; Maxine Naugher, MS; H. E. Rilling, ND; Iva Mae Gross, NY; R. A. Turner, Chairman, Washington, DC; G. J. McKenney, KY; and C. T. Meenach, WA. They checked 507 records.

The November, 1952 issue of *National 4-H News* carried an excellent feature on the record judging procedures that year. After 25 years as chairman of the national judging committee, R. A. Turner, Extension, USDA, stepped down from the position after 1951, being replaced as chairman by George Foster, Southern Field Agent for the Federal Extension Service.

Records submitted by 4-H members for national awards might be likened to submission of evidence to the Supreme Court. They must be concise, accurate proof of accomplishment from which judges can name individuals deserving of honors to be awarded during the National 4-H Club Congress.

Judging is done by members of the Extension Service. State and assistant state leaders - three from each of the country's four Extension sections - are named by the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work with approval of

respective directors. These 12, with Chairman George Foster from the Federal Office, review all records and name the winners.

The part the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work plays is comparable to its work on all awards' programs - it cooperates closely with Extension and makes the arrangements for the judges. This includes securing of space for the committee to work, processing and organizing records and furnishing stenographic help.

Procedure in handling records for judging is to have all books come to the National Committee offices in Chicago by November 1. There a crew under direction of Emmie Nelson, field representative, and Iris Miller, office manager, works around-the-clock checking each record for eligibility and completeness, telegraphing for missing information.

Once the record goes to the judges, incompleteness may weaken the chances of the boy or girl.

About 1,500 records come in by the first of the month. Lists of state winners in each program are compiled according to the Extension section from which they come - East, South, Central or West. Following the judging telegrams are sent each state 4-H leader who has a winner, giving the date on which news of the award can be released to newspapers and radio.

During this two-week period a group of writers goes through the records getting stories on state winners for release to home papers. National winner stories are written for release to publications represented at the Congress, to press associations and those requesting special stories.

Because records must be processed between the first of the month and the day judges convene, it is important that all parts of the record required by regulations be included. With the great number of records to be read and evaluated, it is equally important that they be concise and well organized. Weighing accomplishments of so many club members in so short a time puts heavy pressure on the judges, but efficient organization on their part assures that all records are fairly reviewed.

A few years ago the distinction between record books and memory books was established. Big, heavy volumes with much miscellaneous material were being submitted. Since wading through club snapshots, ribbons, recipes and clippings did not add much to the judges' knowledge of the growth of the boy or girl, the judges asked for smaller volumes, better organized and containing only the material essential to that program. Thus, the standard report form, the narrative, pertinent pictures, representative clippings, ribbons and project books were requested.

Club members, of course, find much pleasure in the memory book and are encouraged to keep one, but it should be separate and apart from the record book and should be exhibited locally.

In addition to being books of evidence, record books are likened to mirrors by Miss Nelson. She frequently talks to local club leaders on the subject, pointing out that the book reflects the accomplishments of the member.

By looking at their record books, boys and girls can see the degree to which they have participated in club activities and how much they have improved in project work. It is an over-all view of their development and usefulness.

From a business standpoint the record book will show expansion of projects and will give the member the know-how to keep business or personal records.

The record is a part of project work, not an additional task. By encouraging good recordkeeping, the leader can keep abreast of the growth of the member.

And by watching his own reflection in the mirror of his record, the member can critically evaluate the work done, know when growth should be rounded out by new experiences or activities. By observing the reflection, a member can be helped to develop capabilities to the fullest.

While changes in the record book judging process have taken place gradually over the years, the above narrative gives a fair review and approach to the subject.

National 4-H Alumni Awards Recognition Program

To help secure needed volunteers and to draw attention to the accomplishments of former 4-H members, the National 4-H Alumni Recognition Program was created in 1953 with Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation as donor of the

awards. While the program recognized outstanding 4-H alumni, it also triggered an active search for all former 4-H members and encouraged their participation as leaders and resource persons for the 4-H program at all levels.

"Behind the success of most 4-H Club members, there is the quiet dependable help, inspiration, and influence of 4-H alumni." This statement by a state staff member in the 1950's aptly sums up the importance of former 4-H members in the continuity of 4-H Club work. The first national winners were honored at a special awards luncheon event at National 4-H Congress in 1953, sponsored by Olin Mathieson.

As sponsor of the program, Olin Corporation annually provided up to four gold-filled recognition medals of honor in each county. Each state was offered four burnished copper recognition plaques mounted on walnut to annually award to four state alumni honorees. Eight national awards were offered each year. National winners received a 10-K gold key and an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago where they were honored at a special alumni recognition banquet sponsored by Olin Corporation. Each national winner was extended the privilege of "telling their story" as part of the banquet program.

Olin Corporation gave up their sponsorship of the program after 1977. The program was sponsored by Production Credit Assns. In 1978 and by the National 4-H Council and Friends of Kenneth H. Anderson from 1979 through 1985. Starting in 1986, the alumni recognition program and annual alumni recognition luncheon at National 4-H Congress were hosted by Beatrice/Hunt Wesson Grocery Group/Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn. Orville Redenbacher, himself, had been honored as a national 4-H alumni winner a couple of years earlier. The year 1992 was the last year for honoring national 4-H alumni winners at Congress in Chicago.

During the nearly 40 years of the 4-H alumni recognition program over 300 outstanding alumni had been honored at the national level. Some of them include:

Senator Herman Talmadge, Georgia
Hon. Dan Thornton, Governor of Colorado
Hon. Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture
Senator W. Kerr Scott, North Carolina
Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth, Harvard University
Alexander Nunn, executive editor, *Progressive Farmer*
Jesse W. Tapp, chairman of the board, Bank of America
Senator John Sparkman, Alabama
Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., astronaut
Hon. Buford E. Ellington, Governor of Tennessee
Dr. Paul A. Miller, president, West Virginia University
Hon. William L. Guy, Governor of North Dakota
Dr. Emil M. Mrak, chancellor, University of California, Davis
Dr. George Beadle, Noble Prize winner in Genetics
Jane Marsh, winner 1966 Tchaikovsky Intl. Competition in Moscow
Edd H. Bailey, president, Union Pacific Railroad
Dr. E. T. York, Jr., provost, University of Florida
Jean Ritchie Pickow, internationally known folk singer
Janet Cowger, former missionary nurse in Haiti and the Congo
Judge Juanita Kidd Stout, Philadelphia County court judge
Rep. Jamie L. Whitten, U.S. Congressman from Mississippi
Hon. Robert W. Scott, governor of North Carolina
Stanley Dreyer, president, Cooperative League of the USA
Dr. Russell G. Mawby, president, W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Rep. Carl B. Albert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Tennessee
Senator Dale Bumpers, Arkansas
Dr. Walter Washington, president, Alcorn State University
Dr. William E. Lavery, president, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Johnny Bench, catcher, Cincinnati Reds baseball team
John L. Huston, president, National Livestock and Meat Board
Hon. Earl Butz, Secretary of Agriculture
Robert E. Delano, president, American Farm Bureau
Hon. John W. Carlin, governor of Kansas
Hon. John R. Block, Secretary of Agriculture
Senator Thad Cochran, Mississippi

Hon. Martha Layne Collins, governor of Kentucky
Orville Redenbacher, Orville Redenbacher Gourmet Popping Corn
Orion Samuelson, vice president, WGN Continental Broadcasting
Hon. Albert Gore, Jr., vice president of the U.S.
Reba McEntire, country music entertainer
Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry, president, University of Illinois
Dr. James E. Martin, president, Auburn University
Joseph "Joe" Robbie, owner, Miami Dolphins
Dr. William E. Skelton, president, Rotary International
Rep. Tony Coelho, U.S. Congressman, California
Dr. John S. Toll, president, University of Maryland
Rep. Jim Kolbe, U. S. Congressman, Arizona
Ken Montford, president, ConAgra Red Meat Companies
Colby H. Chandler, chairman and CEO, Eastman Kodak Company
Dr. Max Lennon, president, Clemson University
Gene L. Swackhamer, president, Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore
Harold "Red" Poling, chairman and CEO, Ford Motor Company
Hon. Clayton Yeutter, Secretary of Agriculture
Pat Head Summitt, head coach of women's basketball, U. Of Tenn.
Roy Acuff, country singing legend
Hon. Harry Carrico, chief justice, Supreme Court of Virginia
Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Maine

A complete listing of national 4-H alumni recognition program winners and more thorough history of the program can be found on this website at:
<http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/Alumni/>

Congress Operations

From the very beginning, one of the key successes of National 4-H Congress was that it was planned in great detail, it ran on time, and it was efficient. Many of those who were most heavily involved had planned the Congress year after year. They were experienced. This included Guy L. Noble, George Farrell, E. N. Hopkins, Paul Taff, Gertrude Warren and Ken Anderson. The experienced staff of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work kept the Congress plans moving throughout the entire year. Extension committees... of which there were many, ran the Congress during Congress week and leading up to the event. Also, it did not hurt that the headquarters hotel for most of these years - the Conrad Hilton Hotel - had a superb staff, many who had also experienced decades of Congresses and were keenly aware of how it operated.

George Round, president of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, in his recap of the 1955 4-H Congress, says: "Boys and girls, all 1,200 of them, seemed to move on a split-second schedule. Advance arrangements left no stone unturned... busses were ready, and in adequate numbers when needed... the ever-faithful police escort whisked them through traffic... hospitality centers awaited in the great exhibit halls of the Hilton so delegates and leaders could kick off their shoes and rest... to me, it is significant that the young people are so much the stars of the Congress. Everything is arranged with them in mind. Records are chosen by Extension judges... Extension committees determine the program and carry out the careful plans made by the National 4-H Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work... the result is a magical combination of fun, honor and education."

One of the best insights on Congress operations appears in the December 1952 issue of *National 4-H News* under the title. "Work of Many People Makes the Congress "tick":

The Extension Service, churches, industry, civic clubs and publicity media all combine to make the National 4-H Club Congress a memorable event for the 1,200 deserving boys and girls who come to Chicago.

Literally hundreds of individual organizations within those categories work with and through the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work to perfect arrangements for the five-day fete.

For example, Chicago's Central Church stages a special morning service at the Hilton Hotel for the delegates and leaders; several hundred newspaper, radio and television representatives are on hand to send the news - constructive news made by young boys and girls - to every corner of the land; industry, national and local, pays the expenses of the young people to the event and acts as hosts to them at the many affairs while there.

Behind all the bustle and glamour is a story of careful planning and diligent attention to detail. That is the story to be told here.

For this year's Congress, that story began with a meeting of the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work last January. Reports of committee chairmen from the previous session were examined. Committees to develop the delegates' program and leaders' program were appointed and held their first planning meetings.

Representatives of the National Committee brought in their own staff reports and suggestions, and broad plans for the 1952 Congress began to take shape. Previous experience, new ideas and suggestions from those who had taken part became the building blocks for fashioning a still greater National 4-H Club Congress.

Chairmen for 25 committees were named by the Subcommittee chairman, and he and National Committee representatives coordinated to round out a total committee membership of some 225. Most of these groups do not meet prior to the Congress. Chairmen do their planning based on experience in Chicago and reports of previous committee heads. Files of material are assembled for them in the National Committee offices, so a night spent reading through and organizing information after their arrival in Chicago brings them up-to-date on duties.

Thus when the tours committee, for example, takes the entire 1,600 delegates and leaders out of the Exhibition Hall at the Hilton in two columns, four abreast, they know that buses will be parked and waiting for the group to board. They know there will be no shivering in the cold and no wondering where the transportation is and when it will arrive.

Congress Committees include: Headquarters, which staffs the Congress Headquarters at the Hilton, answering questions and directing and coordinating activities; Delegates' Program, selects speakers, determines types of discussion to be held and makes similar arrangements; Leaders' Program, same function for the adults; Judges, National Awards Programs, who select those to receive sectional and national awards; Group Discussions, to handle actual mechanics of discussion for the more than a thousand who take part.

Educational Tours, the committee that assures that delegates reach scheduled appointments on time; 4-H Parade, which sets up mechanics for the parade in the International Live Stock Exposition arena on Wednesday night; Dress Revue, which works out script and all other details for the 48 state winners (this is one committee which holds meetings before the Congress); Recreation-Rural Arts Exhibit plans and arranges the display in Exhibition Hall; Open House, to make arrangements for receiving, serving and entertaining adults at an evening function.

Home Economics Brunch, sets up the meal event for home economics leaders Sunday morning; Orientation, develops tips on behavior for delegates and counsels the group at the Opening Assembly; Annual 4-H Dinner, makes arrangements for the final banquet; Admissions, the group which checks coupons at the door to meal events and assures that no club member goes hungry because of a lost ticket; Music, handles group singing.

4-H Box Supper, the group that works with the donor on arrangements for the meal at the International Live Stock Exposition; Hospitality, serves as hosts and hostesses and auditions boys and girls, selects those to serve as chairmen of Congress events; 4-H Exhibits, International, plans and sets up the exhibit at the stock show.

Sunday Afternoon Tea, completes arrangements for this get-acquainted event on opening day; Sunday Evening Club, selects a boy and girl to respond to the greeting at the church service there in the evening and makes arrangements to get the group to the hall and seated; Press, Radio and Television serves the hundreds of publicity representatives at the Congress, prepares material for publications not represented, sets up press conferences and radio-TV appointments and follows through to be sure the delegates are present; International Representatives, helps to integrate the foreign visitors into the activities; Friendship Party, makes plans for the big Tuesday evening at the Trianon Ballroom; and the Farewell Party Committee, which organizes that final event.

Complete? Those who make the arrangements try to make it so by foreseeing every eventuality and planning for it before it happens. It must be that way when a group as large as this is put through such a rigorous schedule for five long days. And they are long. They start at 7 a.m. and run well into the evening, frequently 10 p.m. and later.

Of course, all of the Extension folk who come have no time to make arrangements, have printing done and so on in advance, so preliminary work falls to the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work staff.

Hotel arrangements, bus schedules, tour timetables, work with hosts at various events, press invitations, radio shows, coordinating menus and entertainment - all these and dozens more are carried to completion so when the speaker at a leaders' meeting on Tuesday morning reaches for a piece of chalk to sketch a point on the blackboard, chalk, blackboard and eraser are all there.

A doctor is on call, rooms are set aside for a dispensary so ailing boys and girls can check in with the nurses that are on 24-hour duty. The effort is to make the Congress safe as well as enjoyable.

Actually, of course, this is only part of the organization necessary to make a Congress possible.

During the five days, delegates are guests at about 40 events with industrial concerns as hosts. Organization varies from company to company, but many of them have committees to handle their functions smoothly. For example, those who provide talent usually audition the acts before the show.

Arrangements are made for table hosts, dignitaries at speakers' tables, favors for guests and the other niceties that cause the boys and girls to say they are treated like kings and queens in Chicago.

At the same time, Extension folks in the states are making their plans for gathering far-flung delegations. Sometimes it's easy. They gather at a central point and board a train together. In other places, delegates may come on one rail line, some on another. Or they may gather in a certain car of a train as it proceeds across their state.

Most of the young folks are strangers, so they must first get acquainted with each other, then with what is expected of them in the Windy City. That leaders do a good job of impressing them with their responsibility as representatives of 4-H Club work is now a legend at the Congress.

Hilton Hotel officials, who probably see more convention groups than anyone else, say 4-H'ers rate orchids for their decorum.

So, because these young boys and girls show such promise of becoming good citizens, hundreds of people find pleasure in the arduous and exacting task of making the 4-H Club members' dream trip to Chicago "the best ever."

Leaders' Programs

It was recognized early that the 4-H Club Congress provided opportunities for programs and special events for the state extension leaders, county staff and volunteer 4-H leaders attending as chaperones and to help with Congress operations. The 1926 program mentions at least three such events, including a state 4-H leaders meeting and also a party for adults attending the Congress one evening, sponsored by the Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. There probably were events for the leaders or adults even before this date, but not specifically mentioned in the Congress reports.

For most of the years of Congress there was a Sunday Tea for adults, following the Opening Assembly and a special Leaders and Donors luncheon.

The documentation on the leaders' programs at National 4-H Club Congress are spotty, but representative years as they have been located, give a good indication of the types of programs offered:

1938 - Highlights of the leaders' programs at the 1938 National 4-H Club Congress were talks by three prominent educators, as follows: Dr. Ralph Tyler, Chairman of the Department of Education and Chief Examiner, University of Chicago, on "Evaluating 4-H Club Work;" Mr. Ray Johns, National Secretary, Town and Country Section, National Y.M.C.A. on "The 4-H Movement in American Life;" and Dr. John D. Russell, Special Assistant, U.S. Advisory Committee on Education, University of Chicago on "Problems of Vocational Education." Their talks appear in the "Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual National 4-H Club Congress" which has been distributed to College Presidents, Extension Directors, State Club Leaders, Board members, and others interested.

1952 - There were three sessions on three different days. At one session R. B. Tootell, Director of Extension, Montana, spoke to "4-H, A Part of the Extension Program," followed by a panel discussion. A second session had two parts: a discussion "Strengthen the International Farm Youth Exchange Program," led by Warren E. Schmidt, Extension Service, USDA; and, a discussion, "Your Future as 4-H Leaders," led by Gertrude L. Warren, Extension Service, USDA. The third day was comprised of a panel discussion on "What Constitutes a Sound Public Relations Program for 4-H Club Work." R. O. Monosmith, State Club Leader, California, moderated with a panel comprised of Earl C. Richardson, Extension Editor, Michigan; Conger Reynolds, Standard Oil Co.(Indiana); John Strohm, *Country Gentleman*; and William MacDonald, Radio Station KFAB, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1953 - Again, three major sessions on three separate days. First day was a combination Extension leaders meeting with County Extension Agents; G. A. Lineweaver, Iowa, presiding. C. M. Ferguson, Director of Extension, USDA gave a

presentation on "Extension Today," followed by a panel, "The Needs of the Extension Worker in Working with Young People." J. P. Schmidt, Ohio, moderated the panel which included Frieda Schroeder, Montana, representing the National Home Demonstration Agents Association; C. T. Hall, Kansas, the National County Agricultural Agents Association; and Lloyd Strombeck, New York, National 4-H Club Agents Association. The second day included a progress report of the Extension Subcommittee by G. A. Lineweaver, Iowa, chairman, and a speech, "Our Challenge in Meeting the Needs of Youth," by H. L. Ahlgren, Associate Director of Extension, Wisconsin. The third day's session was highlighted by a presentation, "How Knowledge of Human Relations Helps Club Leaders" by Dr. Ralph Tyler, Director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Science, Ford Foundation; and "A Visit on Current Developments" by E. W. Aiton, Leader, 4-H and YMW Programs, USDA.

1964 - The first session had two exciting features. "A New Look at National 4-H Club Congress and Leaders' Session" by Mylo Downey, Director, 4-H and Youth, Extension, USDA; and, an impetus to science education in 4-H was given by Dr. Nyle C. Brady, director of Science and Education, USDA, speaking on "Enriching Our 4-H Project Programs Through Science." Another leaders meeting discussed "Work with Youth in Families with Low Income." After a talk, "The War on Poverty," by a speaker from the Office of Economic Opportunity, there was a symposium by Dr. Ray Scott, Assistant Administrator, Federal Extension Service; Earl Pettyjohn, Assistant Director, Division of Resource Development and Public Affairs, Federal Extension Service; and John W. Banning, Assistant Director, Division of 4-H and Youth Development, Federal Extension Service. The final day there was a selection of two leaders meetings to choose from. One dealt with animal science and the other with food-nutrition science. The first offered a panel on "Science in Animal Projects" with Tom Wickersham, Extension Specialist, Iowa; Dr. Frank Baker, Extension Animal Scientist, Federal Extension Service; and Dr. C. Dobbins, Extension Veterinarian, Georgia. This was followed by "Science in Action - 4-H Poultry Projects" with W. R. Jenkins, Extension Poultryman, Federal Extension Service and A. L. Carter, Assistant Manager, Franchise, Department, Heisdorf & Nelson Farms. S. F. Ridlen, Poultry Extension Specialist, Illinois then moderated a panel of poultry industry representatives. In the food-nutrition science session, Dr. Evelyn Spindler, Extension Nutritionist, Federal Extension Service, spoke on "Including More Science in Food and Nutrition." Following this, a symposium moderated by Fern S. Kelley, Assistant Director, Division of 4-H and Youth Development, Federal Extension Service discussed the topic with reports given by representatives from Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Iowa.

1965 - Dr. Ralph W. Tyler, President, National Academy of Education, spoke on "Theories of Learning and Their Application to the 4-H Program," followed by a discussion, at the first leaders' session. The second day's session was broken into two parts: clothing science and plant science. In the first session, Dr. Anna Jean Treece, University of Tennessee's Head of Resident Clothing Department, spoke on "Principles of Social Psychology Applied to Clothing," and Alice C. Linn, USDA Extension Clothing Specialist spoke on "Implications for Our Programs." The plant science section featured John E. Hutchison, Texas Director of Extension, speaking on "Plant Science - New Approaches in 4-H." The final day's leader session continued with the clothing and science subject areas. In the clothing session, Irieha Meyers, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Consumer Services, USDA, spoke on "The Young Person as a Clothing Consumer." Ruth Ann Nine, Penn State Extension Clothing Specialist, spoke on "Clothes, Money and You" and Ruth Jackendoff, Wool Bureau, Inc. also gave a presentation. In the plant science section several state reports were given on new approaches in plant science.

1977 - Three adult sessions were held. W. Neil Schaller, administrator, Extension Service, USDA, spoke on "Extension's Commitment to 4-H," and Donald J. Carstensen, regional Vice President, The American College Testing Program, gave a presentation on "Jobs and Careers" at the first session. Also William P. Peterson, acting regional representative, U.S. Department of Energy, concluded the first session with a discussion on Energy. Triad buzz groups and questions followed the speakers. The second day's session included a presentation by two Illinois 4-H interns discussing "Youth Concerns about Energy." James M. Patterson, manager, public affairs operations, Standard Oil Company (Indiana); Michael J. Tate, program leader-4-H programs, Michigan; and Kemp Swiney, program leader, 4-H Youth Programs, ES, USDA, served as panel members discussing energy, with buzz groups following. The final day's session included Wisconsin 4-H'ers and staff reporting on "Youth Concerns about Jobs and Careers." They were followed by a presentation of "National Committee on Jobs and Careers" with Hope Daugherty, program leader, 4-H Youth programs, ES, USDA; Robert P. Fordyce, youth services, Eastman Kodak Company, and Larry Brown, National 4-H Council, followed by buzz groups.

VOLUNTEER LEADERS - A Richly Rewarding Week. Most of the volunteer leaders who have the experience of attending National 4-H Congress as part of their state delegations, do so as chaperones and usually have a number of commitments throughout the busy week. However, like the delegates, they too, come home energized and inspired by the Congress. An article specifically on this issue appeared in the December 1957 issue of *National 4-H News* based on interviews with leaders attending the 1956 National 4-H Club Congress.

Mrs. Raymond E. Spencer, Middletown, Connecticut, learned at Congress "that everything begins at home," and in her own words, "I came back fired to go ahead and put just twice as much of myself into 4-H work - not just into my two clubs, but into my community and state as well."

The many impressions that add up to an emotion, and later an action, were told by Kenneth Burwood, Oakdale, Connecticut. "The impression that Congress gave me was that I was part of something immense. 4-H is held in such high esteem that you can't help but feel that your members must grow into the kind of person who rates such praise. Congress showed me that most of the state champions started as 10-year-olds, beginners, in the clubs at home. Any leader who can encourage a member to work and to learn is helping him in some degree to become a better person."

The experience of Congress helped Mrs. Alvin Kasuske, to bring back to her duties as local leader in Milbank, South Dakota renewed energy. She found "that the consideration given our 4-H'ers by donors and prospective donors proves how valuable the work of 4-H leadership really is. I can't help but try to be a better leader and to help other youngsters to become interested in 4-H."

Interest in the Heart-H was expressed by Mrs. Harmon Robinson, West Point, Mississippi. "After hearing the wonderful preachers at the Congress, I feel we should develop more of the spiritual within our boys and girls. What I heard and saw made me feel that this is a small world, after all. I can serve as a leader better because of a broader knowledge of the outside world." In the future, Mrs. Robinson will "stress the importance of record keeping to each member so they can get to the 'top' and win a trip."

Hearing the speeches made at Congress, and seeing the record books of 4-H'ers displayed, gave Mrs. Verlan Reed, Cheyenne, Wyoming, some valuable insights. "Congress made me want to come back home and work harder than ever with the young people. Speakers brought out today's important problems that help us to better understand and assist the teenagers."

The international aspect meant a good deal to her, as it did to many of the leaders: "The presentation of all the IFYE's and the realization of how much 4-H does mean to other countries... was most impressive. It has developed more friendliness."

Working the plan comes only after planning the work, a lesson reinforced by Congress for Miss Nora Himel, Supreme, Louisiana, who says, "Talking with boys and girls from many states and countries about their 4-H Club work has been most impressive and most helpful." In her memory, Congress has remained "vivid."

"A great help to any leader," says Mr. Wilfred J. Raymond, Apopka, Rhode Island, "is being able to meet other leaders from states and countries and exchange ideas as I did. I was very much impressed by the talk on "Growing Up in Today's World" given by Dr. Evelyn Duvall." Mr. Raymond was referring to the speech concerning teenagers and their problems, a highlight of the Congress.

Perhaps the various attitudes of local leaders can best be expressed in total in the words of Levi Ayers, of Kosuth, Mississippi, who touched the mainsprings of 4-H leader-thinking in his memories: "I am proud of the privilege of being an adult leader." He rejoiced in his own contributions, but the things he saw and heard at Congress, "caused me to regret that I had not made even a greater investment to this noble cause of developing young people." Such "regret" has turned into positive action in the leading duties of Mr. Ayers. "Since my return from Club Congress, I have spoken to our Junior 4-H Council, Saturday 4-H Club and Adult Leader's Council," he reported. "I have plans to visit several civic clubs and am preparing a radio talk - all on my trip to 4-H National Club Congress. Every boy and girl I meet and talk with, I encourage." In summing up his views that 4-H is an outstanding organization, promoting greater leadership for the future, Mr. Ayers concluded in his own words what many leaders have reported: "4-H is helping to build a stronger democracy, one that the howling winds of Communism cannot break through... a healthier nation, physically, socially and spiritually."

(End of article)

National 4-H News carried comments from volunteer leaders from the 1957 and 1958 Club Congresses in features covering those years, as well.

For many years the *National 4-H News* hosted a special breakfast for volunteer leaders on the Sunday morning of 4-H Congress. The staff would discuss upcoming editorial content and query the leaders for their opinions on a variety of topics. Each volunteer leader was given an opportunity to talk about their local club back home. Additionally, the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company traditionally provided a 1-year subscription to *National 4-H News* to the entire Congress delegation with copies of the current December issue always stacked on each table at the Monday morning Firestone breakfast.

Allied Groups at Congress

Over the years a number of participating groups held their annual conventions and/or board meetings or other events in conjunction with National 4-H Congress on either a regular or occasional basis.

These conventions and meetings included: Agricultural Relations Council, National Farm-City Committee, National Association of Farm Broadcasters, Newspaper Farm Editors' Association, American Agricultural Editors Association, American Association of Agricultural College Editors, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, National Association of Home Demonstration Agents, Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work, Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Power Suppliers Conference, National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Invitational 4-H Poultry Judging Contest, National 4-H Livestock Conservation Demonstration Contest, and others, including many national 4-H Program Developmental Committees.

[Photo:

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: February 1950

[Page: Cover photo (should be digitized)

[Caption: This photo, from the cover of the February 1950 *National 4-H News* shows a group gathered at the 1949 4-H Congress: From left, Henry Krebsler, former president of the National 4-H Club Agent's Association, Litchfield, Connecticut; Mrs. Luella M. Condon, past president of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association, Walla Walla, Washington; Cecil G. Staver, chairman, Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work and State Club Leader, Ft. Collins, Colorado; Robert A. Dyer, president, 4-H Club agent's group, Hudson, New York; Rex E. Carter, president, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Mary S. Switzer, president, home demonstration organization, Buffalo, New York; and A. G. Kettunen, former chairman of the 4-H Subcommittee and State Club Leader, East Lansing Michigan.

With the full week of National 4-H Congress and the International Live Stock Exposition, along with all kinds of smaller groups meeting, some of the agricultural working press fondly (or not so fondly) referred to Congress week as the "Week from Hell!"

Speakers, Entertainers and Other VIP's

The list of celebrities who have attended National 4-H Congress over the years in various capacities is impressive. It includes movie stars and stars representing hit television shows of the period... a broad range of entertainers from opera star Lily Pons to comedian Jerry Lewis; from singer Pat Boone to magician Harry Blackstone Jr.; Kreskin, the mentalist; and designer Peter Max... and, orchestra conductors Fred Waring, Wayne King, Percy Faith, Lou Breese, Griff Williams, Ted Weems, Maynard Ferguson, Glen Miller's Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Arthur Fiedler of the Boston "Pops."

And there was Actor James Cagney and Actresses Gertrude Lawrence and Rhonda Fleming; also Jim Nabors, Andy Griffith, Don Knotts, Dennis Day, Danny Thomas, Eddie Albert, Diahann Carroll, Anita Bryant and Jack Linkletter. Cowboy western stars attended Congress in full force - Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, and Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy, Rex Allen and The Cisco Kid. Also, Ed Sullivan, Arthur Godfrey, Ken Curtis (who was currently playing "Festus" on *Gunsmoke* while at 4-H Congress), and TV host David Letterman.

Other entertainers included the musical groups... Alabama, The Cowsills, Randy Sparks and the Back Porch Majority, the Kingston Trio, the Crew Cuts, Up With People, The Establishment, Three Dog Night, The Kids From Wisconsin, Serendipity Singers, Earl Scruggs Review, Chandler Conspiracy, Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass, The Dukes of Dixieland, Dolph Hewitt and the Sage Riders, The Kids Next Door, The Continentals, Jay and The Americans, New Christy Minstrels, The Brothers and the Sisters, The Ides of March, the Harmonicats, Head East, The Red River Boys, the Four Lads, The Going Things, and The New Virginians. Miss America attended 4-H Congress every year for many years, and Miss Teen-Age America often was in attendance.

Explorers and astronauts were present over the decades - Polar explorer Rear Admiral Richard Byrd, Aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart, Astronauts Captain James Lovell and Charles M. Duke, Jr.; Sergeant Alvin C. York, famous hero of World War I; General David Sarnoff, head of RCA, Columnist Ann Landers, Dr. Joyce Brothers, billionaire H. L. Hunt, Col. Harlan Sanders and Orville Redenbacher. Sargent Shriver, as Director of the Peace Corps, was at 4-H Congress in 1962.

Sports stars were also prominent guests - Olympic gold medalists Jesse Owens and Rafer Johnson; 1968 Olympic gold medalist and captain of the U.S. equestrian team, William Steinkraus and 1960 3-gold medal Olympian Wilma Rudolph; Ted Williams and Bob Feller from baseball, and Babe Didrikson Zaharias - a star in both golf and track and field. Also, Formula One race car driver Mario Andretti, Helen Hicks, of golf fame; Frank Thomas, Charles Trippi, Gene Sarazen and Charlie Bachman and Jay Berwanger.

Political figures also gave some major speeches at 4-H Congress. Vice President Hubert Humphrey gave a luncheon address, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles gave an impressive address at Congress, and President Richard M. Nixon was a major speaker at the 50th National 4-H Congress. State governors, U.S. Senators and Congressmen and Secretaries of Agriculture were present on a regular basis.

Corporate executives - many of them representing Congress awards program donor companies - could be numbered in the dozens every year.

[Photo: Rear Admiral Byrd with 4-H'ers

[Publication: from either Space and Astronauts segment or 4-H Promotion Compendium

[Caption: Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the National Committee, brought Rear Admiral Richard E.

Byrd to the National 4-H Club Congress in 1930

to give delegates the inspiration a great

national hero--the only man to fly over both

the North and South Poles. Admiral Byrd is

shown here making scholarship awards to the

three national winners in the Thomas E. Wilson

contest. Mr. Wilson is on the extreme left

and his son, Edward F., stands to his left.

The three scholarship winners from left to

right are: Harold Hamilton of Pine Plains, NY;

Walter Jaeger, Sherwood, OR, and Carl Oldham

of Charlottesville, IN.

[Photo: Amelia Earhart with 4-H'ers

[Publication: from either Space and Astronauts segment or 4-H Promotion Compendium

[Caption: Pictured here is one of the final acts of the

1932 national contest among club members in

meat animal projects. What a story it tells,

what emotions it portrays! Four boys outstanding

in the nation in their lines of club work, are

being honored by Amelia Earhart, only woman to

fly the Atlantic, while Thomas E. Wilson, who

sponsors the contest, is interestedly looking

on. Miss Earhart was guest speaker at Mr.

Wilson's annual party for 4-H delegates. The

four boys (left to right) are: Vernon Epling,

Newberry County, South Carolina; Joe Church,

Payette County, Idaho; William R. Bennett,

Harrison County, West Virginia and Floyd Weaver,

Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

[Photo:

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: December 1963

[Page: 3 (already digitized)

[Caption: A smiling Don Knotts pins a badge on a 1961 4-H Foods-Nutrition awards winner, Glenda Luke, of Mississippi, as Andy Griffith looks on. The badge makes Glenda a deputy sheriff of Mayberry. At the time Don Knotts and Andy Griffith visited 4-H Congress they were starring in one of top television hits of the 1960s, The Andy Griffith Show.

We certainly cannot leave this section about entertainers without acknowledgment of D. Merrill Davis, Jackson, Ohio, who was the official National 4-H Congress song leader for many years. At assemblies, or while the delegates were waiting in the gathering area to go on tours or to other locations outside of the hotel, Davis would often be seen in front of the group leading them in song or some other form of entertainment.

[Photo: D. Merrill Davis leading a song

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: December 1952

[Page: 78 (already digitized)

[Caption: Taken at the 1951 National 4-H Congress, the photo shows song leader D. Merrill Davis making like a duck as he leads the delegates in a song about six little ducks. Here are the words and actions:

Six little ducks (hold up six fingers)

That I once knew (point to self)

Fat ducks (arms extended wide apart)

Skinny ducks (bring hands close together)

They were too (hold up two fingers)

But the one (one finger held up)

Little duck with the feather in his back (hands behind, palms up, with fingertips touching and moving up and down)

He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack (hands in front, palms together - open and close palms on the three "quacks," or you may clap three times)

Down by the river they would go (hands extended in front, palms down, move back and forth denoting waves)

Wibble wobble, wibble wobble (hands in front, palms together, point right on "wibble," left on "wobble," like a duck)

To and fro (hands still together and point from you and toward you)

But the one little duck with the feather in his back,

He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack (repeat motions for last two lines of first stanza)

"The songs we sing should DO US GOOD" - A feature in the December 1957 *National 4-H News* highlights the story of D. Merrill Davis.

International Guests at Congress

Canada had a delegation at the 1920 Junior Club Tour. It is not known if there were any Canadian representatives in 1919.

In 1927 Canada had a delegation of 38 boys and girls at Club Congress, but it wasn't until 1965 that Canada had their first national delegation representing 10 provinces of Canada.

At the 1947 4-H Congress, in addition to Canada, there were representatives from Brazil, Bolivia, Panama, Uruguay, Ecuador, China, Sweden, Great Britain and Poland. There were also five representatives of Young Farmer Clubs of the United Kingdom, who were visiting farming sections of the United States.

[Photo: South American delegates

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: January 1948

[Page: Bottom pic, p. 19 (should already be digitized)

[Caption: No one seemed to enjoy the 1947 4-H Congress any more than a group of South American "students" who are shown here with Extension Director M. L. Wilson of Washington. From left they are Eduardo Arze of Bolivia; Senorita Alicia Salas, Ecuador; Senorita Mair Perdona, Uruguay; Mr. Wilson; Senorita Lucia Arcos, Ecuador; Jose Pardini, Panama, and Miguel Bechard, Brazil.

[Photo: Canadian and Cuban VIPs

[Publication: National 4-H News

[Edition: January 1950

[Page: Bottom left, p. 18 (should be digitized)

[Caption: Prominent among visitors from neighbor nations at the 1949 National 4-H Congress were James D. Moore, of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Club Work and Rodolio Arango, Director General of Agriculture, Cuba.

In addition to the delegates at the 1952 National 4-H Congress representing all 48 states, plus Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico, guests of Congress represented 29 other countries that year - the largest number of foreign countries ever to be represented at the Congress up to that time. Canada had representatives from Ontario and Saskatchewan. International representatives also came from Finland, Chile, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Turkey, Argentina, England, Israel, Mexico, Bolivia, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Austria, Norway, France, Belgium, Greece, Tunisia, El Salvador, Uruguay, Lebanon, Pakistan, South Africa, New Zealand and India.

International Friends. A feature article about the international guests at National 4-H Congress in 1958 appeared in the January 1959 issue of *National 4-H News*.

(Digital link to p. 11, Jan 1959 National 4-H News)

For many years there was an International Committee which coordinated all of the activities of the international guests at 4-H Congress and special meal functions were planned just for the international delegates. Starting in the late 1920s, John Kraft, chairman of the board, Kraft Foods Company, hosted a special dinner for international representatives to Congress on the Saturday night of Congress. State delegation leaders were encouraged to invite international guests to their state meetings to talk about their home countries. And, particularly from the late 1940s up into the 1970s, International was often a strong component of the Congress theme and assembly topics.

By the 1980s, there is little indication in the records that international guests were present at National 4-H Congress... at least not on a regular basis. Even the Canadian delegation was missing.

National 4-H Congress and Its Media Coverage

The National 4-H Service Committee (National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work), from its beginning... through its entire history, placed a heavy priority on 4-H promotion, visibility and media support.

The media exposure during National 4-H Congress, where anywhere from 300-600 media representatives covered the event in person, where local Chicago newspaper writers worked nights prior to the event writing hundreds of releases on a freelance basis, and where Extension information staffs untiringly helped cover the event with even more press, radio and television, made National 4-H Congress one of the top four media exposed conventions in the entire country year after year... even during the years of the national political conventions. The Awards program donors contributed even more to the Congress coverage by promoting their program winners within their own industries through house organs and other specialty outlets.

Staff of the Information Services Department of the National 4-H Service Committee worked non-stop on Congress publicity from Labor Day through New Years Day, often working 12-hour days and seven days a week. They hired top-flight reporters from the Chicago daily newspapers to come in evenings to write the hundreds of articles on state and national winners. They hired additional support staff for the postal mailings to nearly 20,000 media outlets across the country... and, to sort and categorize the clippings that resulted. The Committee subscribed to three national clipping services to make sure all coverage was documented. The impressive reports to the national awards donors following Congress is one of the reasons the Service Committee was capable of retaining their national donors on the average of 19 years each.

The November 1929 issue of *National Boys and Girls News* carried a story on radio broadcasts from the International Live Stock Exposition and National Club Congress. It states that P. C. Taff, assistant director of agricultural extension and assistant state leader of Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, is in charge of 4-H Club Congress radio programs, with the assistance of Mrs. D. B. Phillips of Mt. Washington, Ohio.

Activities of the state champion boys and girls 4-H club members attending the eighth annual 4-H Club Congress, and short talks by individual champions will be popular features of the radio broadcasts during the week of the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago. WLS, the Prairie Farmer station, and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) will have a studio on the exposition grounds with daily broadcasts direct from the show reaching across the nation. Daily from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. the National Broadcasting Company will feature 4-H work direct from the studio.

The Swift and Company program of WLS will feature short talks from boys and girls winning trips to the 1929 Club Congress. The talks by boys will come at 12:45 on Nov 29, Dec 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. From two to four boys will give short talks from the following states in the order named: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana, one state group being broadcast each day. The same plan will be followed in the girls program at 2:00 p.m. during Martha Logan time on Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. On successive days girls from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan will appear on the program.

A 4-H Club program will be broadcast for one hour each noon on the dates of Nov 30 and Dec 2 to 6 inclusive, during the Club Congress. This program is sponsored by the Columbia Farm Community Network comprising the following stations: WBBM, Chicago; WCCO, St. Paul; KMBC, Kansas City; KOIL, Omaha; KMOX, St. Louis; WFBM, Indianapolis; and WIBW, Topeka or KFH, Wichita. This will give opportunity for the 750,000 4-H club members in the United States and their parents and friends, to listen to the 1,000 champions and national winners representing them at the 1929 Club Congress.

The club members' own annual banquet at the Sherman Hotel on Tuesday night, Dec 3 is going on the air over WLS.

WJJD, Mooseheart, will broadcast the Thos. E. Wilson banquet at the Union Stock Yards on Monday evening, Dec. 2 and the Railroad Banquet (Final Banquet) in honor of the 4-H Club members at the Palmer House on Thursday evening, Dec. 5.

WMAQ, of the Chicago Daily News, will announce news flashes of the 1929 Club Congress. WENR is arranging programs on Monday and Wednesday.

While it is known that radio broadcasts covered some of the Club Congress events during earlier years, this report on the very specific coverage in 1929 is the earliest of this type of information.

The 1938 Annual Report of the National Committee states that the Chicago daily newspapers gave more coverage to National 4-H Congress than any year previous. "Chicago news media carried 179 columns of 4-H text and pictures during the annual event and reached an estimated 15 million people. Were all of this publicity put into one issue of regular size newspaper page, it would make up into an edition of 22 pages—13 pages of pictures and 9 of text."

Further, releases relating to announcement of award activities and achievements of winners were printed in newspapers and magazines having a circulation of 66,000,000 in 1938. This is based on returns from two clipping services with duplicates eliminated and allowing no credit for slippage in the clipping services. This means that considerable more news was printed.

1938 appears to be the first year with thorough documentation of media coverage. As explained in the Annual Report, "The National Club Congress has come to be a mecca for writers from all sections of the United States and a fountain head of human interest information about 4-H Club work. The publicity work of the Congress necessitated the employment of four extra employees during the event in 1938. For the first time in addition to extending invitations to farm magazine representatives, a campaign was directed to a select group of general magazines chosen on the basis of character of publication, circulation, and reader interest. This campaign led to having representatives at Club Congress who wrote stories for Christian Herald, Scribners, Christian Science Monitor, Liberty and Rural Progress. In addition stories appeared in the following magazines regularly represented at Club Congress: Farm Journal, Successful Farming, Country Home, Farmer's Wife, Country Gentleman, Capper's Farmer, Ohio Farmer, Michigan Farmer, Wisconsin Agriculturist and Farmer, Wallace's Farmer, and others. This special drive led to stories in the following publications having a circulation of one million or more: Pathfinder - December; Farm Journal - January; Hygeia - January; Successful Farming - January and March; Farmer's Wife - February; Country Home - March; Rural Progress - March; and Liberty - July."

Representatives of all the major news-reels were specially invited to the 1938 Club Congress and were given special assistance for the first time. As the result of this campaign, the newsreel media brought 4-H to the attention of millions of theatre-goers throughout the United States. Hearst Metrotone News, Universal, and Movietone News all covered the Congress and subsequently booked the films. Pathe was also represented.

A mention in the National 4-H News coverage of the 1948 Club Congress is the first noted relating to the Congress press committee, although it is assumed that there had been one for several years. The story relates that Extension editors were invited to the 1948 Congress as special guests and 36 registered, including their president, Glenn C. Rutledge, Mississippi State College, and Secretary Earl C. Richardson of Michigan State College. They were guests of the National Committee at a buffet supper at which Guy Noble, director, welcomed the group and Les Troeger, editorial director, told of the growth of the Congress press staff from Purdue University's Tom Johnson and himself to the current

one of 23 workers. Headed up by C. R. Elder of Iowa State College as coordinator, with Chief Lester Schlup and Ralph Fulgham of the Washington office serving in special capacities, and Joe Tonkin also of Washington on radio and TV, the Extension editors rendered invaluable service at information headquarters in supplying the needs of the 300 persons covering the Congress in some capacity.

It was probably 1950, that the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work began hosting the media on Thursday evenings at a Press, Radio, Television Representatives Dinner in the Stevens Hotel. This gave the National Committee information staff an opportunity to honor and thank the press-radio-TV committee members that had come in from the State and federal Extension information offices and worked so hard all week serving the working press, as well as thanking those working media reps who attended this special banquet.

[Photo: p. 28 From a Dream to Reality book (should be digitized)]

[Caption:

For many years, the National Farm and Home Hour beamed the 4-H story to listeners across the nation. Its popular host, Everett Mitchell, over the years, interviewed many 4-H members including 1950 national Tractor program winner Marcus Hoelscher, Rowena, Texas

[Photo: file photo

[Caption:

Often donor companies brought in celebrities to interview their state and national winners. Here Durwood Kirby is interviewing a Food-Nutrition winner in 1972 to send back to her hometown television stations.

[Photo: p. 218 Wessel book, 4-H: An American Idea (should be digitized)]

[Caption:

National 4-H Congress often provided a forum for important public statements. Here Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin announces a \$7.5 million appropriation for 4-H nutrition education programs in low-income urban areas.

[Photo: p. 10, Jan 1949 Natl. 4-H News (digitized)]

[Caption:

Facilities of the mobile studio of WJR, Detroit, Michigan, were made available to radio representatives during the 27th National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, and WJR reports that radio farm directors from 60 stations were served. In the picture Frank E. Mullen, pioneer of agricultural broadcasting, congratulates Wallace Kadderly, left, of KGW, Portland, Oregon, the new national president of the Radio Farm Directors. To the right of Mullen are Marshall Wells, WJR Farm Director and Phil Alampi, WJZ, New York City, secretary-treasurer of the RFD organization.

[Photo: p. 30, Jan 1952 Natl. 4-H News (has been digitized)]

After all the deadlines had been met, sometimes a bit heroically, the "Committee on Horseplay" of the press, radio and television committees of the National 4-H Club Congress had a session of relaxation. Commandeering props used in the national 4-H food preparation press conference the "boys" and "girls" set up the huge plate as it was used in the guessing contest at the farewell Party and had a press conference on themselves. When all of the participants have finished showing the picture around it is expected to represent a "circulation" comparable to some of the strictly news shots of the Congress.

One of the "VIP" not in the picture is the official photographer, Al Lighthall, who wanted the thrill of making the picture, which was pretty much his idea. The others, showing unmistakably their happiness in the conclusion of a long and hard assignment, are shown by numbers: (Extension members are identified by their State; others are National Committee workers. A "P" after names indicates "Press," and an "RT" means radio and television committees.)

1 - Wayne Swegle, P-Mich; 2 - Fletcher Sweet, P-Tenn; 3 - Mylo S. Downey, P-Liaison, Md; 4 - William Kennedy, RT-Ala; 5 - Mrs. Dene Ratermann, RT; 6 - Aleta McDowell, P-Liaison, Wyo.; 7 - Dr. Landis Bennett, visual aid specialist, N.C. recording Congress in pictures; 8 - Everett Bierman, P-Wash. DC; 9 - Osgood Magnuson, RT-Liaison, Minn.; 10 - David Ryker, P-Okla; 11 - Hadley Read, P-Ill, assistant coordinator; 12 - Leslie E. Troeger, P-chairman; 13 - Jeanne McGovern, P; 14 - Leighton G. Watson, RT-W.Va; 15 - Kenneth McDermott, RT-MO; 16 - George Axinn, RT-Del; 17 - Harold Swanson, P-Minn., coordinator; 18 - Gail Wilson, P; 19 - George F. Church, representing College Editor's Association, Okla; 20 - A.B. Heiberg, P; 21 - Lester A. Schlup, Chief of Information, Extension Service, Washington, DC; 22 - Melvin Berg, P-N.Dak; 23 - Iris Miller, P; 24 - Joe Tonkin, RT-Extension Service, USDA, chairman; 25 - Mrs. Dorothea Holstein, RT-Liaison, Nebr; 26 - Frances Arnold, RT-Texas; 27 - Mrs. Stasia Phee, P; 28 - Vance Van Tassel, P-U. of Illinois student; 29 - I. B. Johnson, P; 30 - A. P. Parsons, P-Iowa. Absent on duty were Wm. S. Humphries, P-NC; Larry Sarbaugh, Ohio; J. A. Murray, Ill; and Clem Lewis, NJ, all on RT. How Many Flash Bulbs? Best guess on the number of used photographic bulbs shown on the huge plate at the Farewell Party of the National 4-H Club Congress

was made by Phillis Kilmer, 17, of Minster, Ohio. Her guess of 1,028 bulbs was just short of the actual number, 1,036. She won a set of 10 selected 8 x 10 photos of Congress scenes offered by the official photographer, Al Lighthall. The bulbs shown were estimated to be about a fifth of the total used by photographers of all publicity services covering events of the Congress. This would mean about 5,000 bulbs were shot in making perhaps two-thirds as many pictures, which in one way or another are spread all over the nation and some to foreign lands.

IMPACT Highlighting Press, Radio, Television of National 4-H Congress in Chicago:

1968 4-H Congress Impact
(digital link)

1971 4-H Congress Impact
(digital link)

1972 4-H Congress Impact
(digital link)

CONGRESS STORIES WORTH REMEMBERING... AND RE-TELLING

New Club Greeting Song and a Night to Remember

When the young people arrived in December 1924 for the National Club Congress, even though everyone thought that all the "firsts" of the 1923 4-H Congress couldn't be out done, 1924 did it again!

That fall of 1924 M. S. Parkhurst, president of the Stock Yard Co. suggested a parade of 4-H boys and girls in the arena of the International Live Stock Exposition. The deal was made. Guy Noble composed slogans for signs to be used for the parade, telling about the enrollment overall and that in 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 x 10 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 boys, girls and leaders, were being entertained by Thomas E. Wilson at his packing plant a mile from the Amphitheatre where the Live Stock 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 others 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 they 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 Live Stock 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 paraders and audience standing to sing The Star-Spangled Banner. It happened to be the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the International Live Stock Exposition and President Calvin Coolidge was in the audience. 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 Live Stock Exposition continued the following year and 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 Live Stock 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.

Four Friends Re-Unite for 50th Reunion

(photos) 2 photos, p. 4, Fall 1986 Natl 4-H Council Quarterly (has been digitized)
Captions:

National champions at the Boys and Girls Club Building, left to right, H. Clayton Fox, 19, Imbler, Oregon, and Cora Mae Briggs, 20, Seward, Nebraska, national champions in leadership and winners of the Moses Trophies. Florence E. Erickson, 20, Tracy, Minnesota, and Frederick Reichart, 19, Lafayette, Indiana, national champions in achievement and winners of the President Roosevelt Trophies.

Posted exactly as they were in 1936 are Clayton Fox, Oregon; Cora Mae Briggs, Nebraska; Florence Erickson Ries, Minnesota; Frederick Reichart, Indiana.

Some things never change. National 4-H Congress is synonymous with Chicago in wintertime; the 4-H premier event is education and fun in both an academic and social sense. Has it changed in the last half century? Not really, say the top national winners of 1936.

Clayton Fox, Oregon, and Cora Mae Briggs, Nebraska, won the Moses Trophies in leadership in 1936. Florence Erickson, Minnesota, and Fredrick Reichart, Indiana, won the Roosevelt Trophies in achievement the same year. (The Moses and Roosevelt trophies later became the President's tray awards.) Besides the trophy, each won a scholarship but they say the experience brought them a lot more than that.

At this year's 1986 National Congress they are celebrating 50 years of friendship begun at the 1936 National 4-H Congress. Back then, they were just four young people who didn't know each other; four young people who excelled as leaders and achievers. A full half century since being singled out as national winners they all credit 4-H for their personal success.

"Apart from my parents, 4-H club work was the most influential 'thing' in my life," said Florence Erickson Ries. Each of her four children has been in 4-H, too. Ries says her scholarship made it possible for her to attend the University of Minnesota and she credits her 4-H work with allowing her to meet fellow 4-H'er Adrian Ries, her husband of 43 years until his death in 1982. "I probably benefitted most from the public speaking training I received," says Ries. She credits that training with her successful running of the family insurance firm.

Cora Mae Briggs attributes her 37-year career as Executive Secretary to the Nebraska Pharmaceutical Association directly to her 4-H experience. "I was our 4-H club reporter and I had a county agent who made sure I knew how to write well," she said. The experience interested her enough to take additional writing classes. She credits her writing ability with getting her hired at NPA in 1944.

Frederick Reichart said he used his scholarship money, along with the proceeds from his beef project, to buy a \$90 car, pay the \$36 semester tuition and for books to get started at Purdue University, Indiana's Land-Grant college. Reichart has farmed off and on while serving as a farm appraiser for Tippecanoe County and the State of Indiana. Mrs. Reichart currently is a 4-H volunteer leader and their children are also 4-H alumni. The Reicharts can count three generations of 4-H involvement.

Clayton Fox used his scholarship to attend Oregon State University in 1938. Family illness forced him to delay completion of his studies, though in 1983 Fox was awarded his degree from OSU. Fox continues to farm in eastern Oregon, and has established the Clayton Fox Scholarship Fund to help 4-H'ers in his county attend OSU.

It was the 15th National 4-H Congress where Reichart, Ries, Fox and Briggs became national winners and friends. They look forward to reuniting and addressing the 65th National 4-H Congress and sharing their insights with current 4-H'ers from all over the country.
(from Fall 1986 National 4-H Council Quarterly)

A Gift to CARE

During the 1947 National 4-H Club Congress delegates were divided into discussion groups on Monday morning to talk about issues of the day, with the groups reporting back at a General Assembly on Thursday morning to the complete assembled Congress delegation. This format had worked well now for three years and 1947 was to be no different. The general theme was "Working Together to Build Better Home and World Community."

Near the end of the "give and take" of the reporting panel, something special happened in almost less time than the story can be told.

It started when the 4-H'ers were discussing what they could do to speed the building of a better world community. Robert Bull of Maryland challenged, "Why can't we do something right here and now." Suddenly the boys from Texas, out in the audience, sprang to their feet in unison and started passing their big 10-gallon hats along the rows for contributions. The panel members jumped off the stage to help with the collection. The answer to Bull's question was swift and real. \$662.35 was piled on the front of the stage. As soon as the assembly was over some of the panel members rode away in a police car to a local bank and sent the \$662.35 at once to CARE. A message, penned by the panel while at the bank went with it: "From the Heart H of the 4-H's of America to the hungry urban boys and girls of Europe."

As the discussion panel was gathering up the pile of contributions near the end of the assembly, John Cornah, a boy from England, sprang on stage and going to one of the microphones, speaking for the hard hit youth of Europe, thanked American 4-H'ers for their generosity.

A girl's state 4-H leader, standing in the wings, said "tears rolled down over my cheeks and my eyes blurred so I could hardly see." She went on, "I turned around to ask something of Earline Gandy, a farm paper correspondent. Writers are supposed to be hardened. She couldn't even speak to me. She was all choked up."

The best of moments often seem to be those which aren't even in the script.

The Greatest 4-H Story Ever Told

[Photo: AIC Eugene E. Evers (in Compendium)]

This article, in slightly different versions, was printed in the *National 4-H News* three different times during the 1950s. It is an inspiring story about the trip won to National 4-H Congress. This copy is from the February 1958 issue of the magazine:

The grim experience of AIC Eugene E. Evers, Forest Grove, Ore., 4-H'er in living through 14 months merciless solitary confinement in a Chinese Communist prison, and the means he used to survive portray dramatically a much overlooked aspect of 4-H work that might well be given emphasis in the coming observation of National 4-H Club Week.

Eugene E. Evers won a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in 1949 on eight years of dairy work. He also won a \$300 college scholarship for being named national winner.

In his dairy project he had done a man's work milking 30 cows of which 13 were select Holsteins he was developing from his projects, meanwhile serving as assistant secretary of the Oregon State Holstein Association, and carrying on other activities. With all this he assumed much of the leadership necessary to keep his own 4-H Club going. He viewed life seriously.

Enlisting in the Air Force in 1951, Eugene was sent to the Orient and reported missing in action over North Korea in July, 1952. A friend and club mate, Bill Headrick, who was also a delegate to the National 4-H Club Congress in 1949, reported to 4-H NEWS that Eugene was captured after volunteering for a mission as camera observer on July 4, 1952. He was shot down on the first mission.

Airman Evers became a prisoner 36 hours after his plane went down and was placed in solitary confinement for seven months. He was then transferred to Mudken, China, and again placed in solitary confinement, allowed to leave his 9 x 12 foot cell only twice during the next seven months.

The 14 months Evers was in solitary confinement was not at any time in a prison camp, a fact considered by the military as meted out only to prisoners deserving the most severe treatment. Headrick further reported that when his club mate was asked what he did to occupy his mind during the confinement said: "I relived my trip to the Chicago 4-H Club Congress in 1949, and recalled discussions we had during that trip. Sometimes, in my mind's eye, I got as many as five or six people in on the discussions."

A precious lifetime memory" and other like phrases are used by delegates to the Congress to describe their experience, one which has helped many through tough situations later, but probably no other individual has been sustained by his memories as was, and still is, Airman Evers.

The 4-H News story also contained this profound observation: Perhaps a quality described by Eric Sevareid, CBS news correspondent in "*Harpers Magazine*" when the Korean truce was signed, also helped AIC Evers. Mr. Sevareid wrote that the answer to American heroism lies deep in the heart and tissues of this American life and none among us can unravel all the threads of it. It was to do with their parents, their teachers and their ministers; it has to do with their 4-H Clubs, their scout troops, their neighborhood centers; it has to do with the sense of belonging to a team with the honor of upholding it... But it also has to do with their implicit, unreasoned belief in themselves as individual men upon the earth."

In those last few lines the CBS correspondent plainly refers to the spiritual outlook which a well-rounded 4-H experience yields.

The following relates to the new life Eugene began since he returned to civil life. In this, his physical as well as spiritual outlook and attainments, have been of inestimable value.

At present he is adjusting on a 20-acre farm on the edge of his town. He and his wife, Delores, have three children. Twenty fine ewes are to lamb this spring; a dozen purebred Holstein heifers to freshen in the year.

Eugene is doing cabinet work in a V.A. training program preferable to changing the strain of going to college. Meanwhile he is taking his place in the community as a useful, upright citizen, and looking to the future as a farmer and dairyman.

This account would not be complete without mentioning that Albert J. Evers, father of Eugene, and 10 other sons and three daughters, have completed around 100 years of 4-H participation, and most of it under the guidance of the elder member since 1928, when he started their club.

A Dinner to Remember... Words Never to Forget

This story was published in *National 4-H News* following the 1947 National 4-H Congress, written by Robert Chesnutt, Assistant Extension Editor, Alabama.

The theme of this story about our Alabama delegates could be repeated over and over by others struck with the eagerness of youth to accept new ideas, encouragement, strong leadership.

Our boys and girls hadn't missed a session, not even a word uttered by outstanding speakers. They absorbed the entire program. I know. They talked with me about every meeting.

Then at one of the dinners given by a generous sponsor, their enthusiasm was fired higher and higher. It reached the bubbling-over point.

At this event rumor got around that top-flight athletes would appear on the evening program. Immediately every member of our group wanted autographs. They soon located Charlie Trippi, Chicago Cardinals, and Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox (both later Hall of Famers) at the table across the spacious Stevens Ballroom.

They got the signatures and then said they would be ever-grateful if the stars would pose for a picture with them. True sports that they are, Trippi and Williams laid down their forks and obliged. That was the happiest bunch of boys I ever photographed.

[Photo: cover, Jan 1948 Natl 4-H News (already scanned; in Compendium under "A Dinner to Remember...")]

(caption)

Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox star, pauses from autographing programs at the National 4-H Club Congress to pose with these admiring Alabama delegates. From left, are Johnny Thornton, Calera; Morris and Harold Allred, Lincoln, and Billy Prichett, Marion.

After dinner, the two stars, plus a dozen more in all fields of sports, talked to the Congress folks. None hung more closely to their words than did our Alabama delegates:

"Fair play" ... "Play to win" ... Be a good loser; a gracious winner" ... "Practice, practice, practice" ... "Keep working, keep trying" ... "Study and plan; use your mind as well as your muscles" ... "Practice, and then keep practicing."

Upon receptive, eager ears fell these lines that had followed other inspiring words of a dozen speakers of previous days. They were drunk, deeply drunk, by kids who would hold on to them forever. Those words and those boys and girls became inseparable. Neither could escape from the other.

The ringing challenge would return later down in some Alabama cotton field. It would come again to haunt and inspire a boy who found his beef cattle project heart-breakingly tough.

It would sound again and thrill a wisp of a girl whose eyes were filled with sweat from standing over a red hot stove, canning food for winter. Yes, some words never die. They become as much of the one inspired as he is of himself.

Deeply moved, the boys and girls questioned me: "I've heard the same words before - but this week they really did something to me" ... "Everybody's got a chance to do big things, they said, and I believe it" ... "The only person who can stop you is yourself," said another. "That's what those speeches meant to me" ... "I'll never forget - and I'm going to make more out of myself. I'm going to be a winner."

Those were some of the things the sincerest kids I ever knew told me that night.

Couple of days later 14-year-old Nimrod Garth looked at the International's grand champion steer and unwaveringly volunteered, "I can grow out one just as good. It may take a long, long time, but I am going to do it."

Nimrod, already a State champion, was echoing the spirit he found at the Congress. Perhaps he would have said the same, Congress or no Congress, but I can't think so.

Making the last lap of the journey home by car, I was seated next to Lucille May, from the red hills of remote Randolph county.

She was quiet, weighing something in her bright, energetic mind. Then Lucille turned to Mary Dell McCain, State girls leader. "Someday I am going to be the national achievement winner," she announced quietly. "I've worked hard for nine years to be State best record winner. Now I'm aiming for what I think is the greatest 4-H honor. I'm going to help younger girls with their 4-H work and make myself a winner."

Lucille said it in a matter-of-fact way. But meant every word. Knowing how far down the line she started and how high she's climbed, I say she'll do it, too.

The words and inspired faces remind me over and over that at every crossroad are growing our future wealth.

How well we succeed lies in how well we kindle in our youth the fire that keeps them pushing towards new victories in the smaller accomplishments in life: Sewing a better dress, canning a better jar of food, growing better corn, taking a fuller part in leadership.

Inspiration may come at a National Congress - but just as surely it may come in the smallest 4-H meeting; or at a home visit by the county Extension Agent; or when an older member helps a beginner.

When or where youth is inspired is not important. The fact that they can be as inspired as their leaders have the vision to make them is the secret to better 4-H work - and a better world.

For youth who can gain victories in these smaller things will not rest until they have conquered together the world's bigger problems of hate, mistrust, poverty.

Mary Roebling's Stay Over

The keynote address at the Sunday General Assembly at the 1966 National 4-H Congress - the Official Opening of Congress - was given by Mrs. Mary G. Roebling, Chairman of the Board, Trenton Trust Company, Trenton, New Jersey. The leadership at National 4-H Council, and Extension, felt that a statement needed to be made by having this key lead-off address that year presented by a corporate businesswoman. In the 1960s this was still a pretty "rare breed". Mrs. Roebling seemed to have the credentials. Twice widowed by the age of 31, and a mother, she became the first woman to head a major American bank... at the age of 30; and, was the first woman governor on the New York Stock Exchange. Later on, she was the founder of the Women's Bank N.A. of Denver, the first nationally chartered bank founded by women. In a speech in 1965 she said, "As a woman for years who has competed in the business world, I would be the first to agree that the American woman has almost unbelievable economic power, but American women, like women of all civilized nations, do not use the influence their economic power gives them." Mrs. Roebling spent a good share of her career attempting to correct that situation, at least in the corporate and financial world. Her speech to the 4-H delegates was well received and timely.

Mary Roebling knew a little about 4-H in New Jersey, but nothing really about National 4-H Congress. During the adult tea which followed the Opening Sunday Assembly, she visited with a number of the board members and Extension leaders. She was told about the Firestone Breakfast that was traditionally held on Monday morning with over 2,000 people assembling starting at 6:15 a.m. to attend. She was told about the top tier of the head table that stretched across the entire International Ballroom, every seat being filled with a corporate leader, and how they marched in to the thunderous applause of the young, appreciative delegates.

Mrs. Roebling found it almost incomprehensible that dozens of corporate heads - presidents and chairmen of the boards, many from Fortune 500 companies - would get up at 6:15 on a Monday morning to have breakfast with these teenagers. She had a plane flight scheduled out of O'Hare late that Sunday afternoon. She cancelled it. She said, "I've got to see this Firestone Breakfast with my own eyes. The bank can wait. I'm staying over."

A Place in the Sun - Its First Performance!

When the girls attending the 1948 National 4-H Congress boarded buses to travel up to the famous Edgewater Beach Hotel on Chicago's Lake Shore for the luncheon sponsored by Montgomery Ward they really thought that was a special treat. But the treat was yet to come in a thrill of a lifetime.

There to entertain them was Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, in person. Everyone had heard - or heard of - this master radio showman, but actually to see him lead his 69 musicians was one of the top-flight experiences of the crowded week.

But Mr. Waring had a special purpose for entertaining these Congress delegates. As part of the program was the premiere first performance of a very special new 4-H song written by Fred Waring himself - "A Place in the Sun." The whole of the 4-H world would soon hear this music in days to come, but these privileged girls can always say "we heard its first performance!"

[Photo: Cover of sheet music, A Place in the Sun

[Photo: Jan 1949 4-H News cover (in Compendium under "A Place in the Sun...")

[Caption:

Fred Waring enjoys being surrounded by 4-H delegates trying out his new 4-H Song, "A Place in the Sun." The girls, from left to right: Barbara Long, Maryland; Katy Adkins, Georgia; Margaret Walker, Oregon; Dorothea McCue, Missouri; Verna Owens, Minnesota; and Mae Murray, Oklahoma.

I am Going to Talk About Sex

It was getting fairly late during the 1967 Club Congress week... the Wednesday morning assembly. D. Merrill Davis had led the delegates in singing some songs and then there were presentations of Anniversary and Crested Clover citations to 4-H donors and cooperators. Finally it was time for the major address. A small stool had been placed behind the podium - the speaker was short.

After the introduction, the first thing the speaker said was, "I am going to talk about sex." The delegates yelled and clapped. Some of the older Extension workers may have fainted (unconfirmed).

But, what else could be expected. It was Ann Landers at the height of her popularity. Miss Landers had walked into the Chicago Sun-Times office 12 years earlier and announced that she would like to write an advice column to help people with their problems. She had never written a line for publication or held a job before. Now, the Ann Landers column appeared in nearly 700 United States newspapers and she was receiving more than 30,000 letters a month. That year the United Press International (UPI) poll had listed Miss Landers as one of the 10 most influential women in the world.

So she began, "I am going to talk about Sex," declared Ann Landers, and she did. "Sex is here to stay. Sex has a place of dignity in everlasting love. It is natural and normal and is not just a physical thing. It is spiritual, emotional and just like dynamite."

She went on, "It is more difficult to be a good teenager today than back in the Stone Age when I was a teenager. We had the same drives and frustrations that you have today, but today you have the automobile to take you away from the watchful eyes of society."

Miss Landers admitted to her age, 50 years, and to her marriage of 29 years to the same man.

"If you are really smart and with it, stay away from cigarettes and liquor," directed Miss Landers.

Several tips were given to the 4-H'ers by Miss Landers. For the girls:

1. Steer clear of situations that might be overpowering.
2. Don't turn a guy on; you might not be able to turn him off.
3. Don't issue invitations you can't fulfill.

And for the boys:

1. Keep your mind and body busy with hard physical work, sports and hobbies.
2. Cool it - don't think about one thing all the time.

She added, "Boys, don't marry for looks because looks have been known to change. And girls, don't fall in love with a hair cut; it's been known to depart forever."

Relating to qualities of a lifetime partner, Miss Landers said, "Look for the simple corny things in your date and potential mate. Qualities like kindness, understanding, interest in you, and the ability to talk to you while being natural are very important."

She said, "Getting married is the most important decision you will make in your lifetime. If you do it right, once is enough."

She also told the 4-H'ers that "It still pays to listen to your parents because you will save many lumps."

In conclusion, she said, "Love must take root and grow one day at a time."

"Loving is Living!"

After the speech was over, the leaders nodded approvingly, feeling much better about the beginning... and the teens felt her philosophy and advice made total sense. After all, she was an authority. Just ask Ann Landers!

Paul Harvey News... and 4-H

Paul Harvey News, popular across the country on the American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) Radio for five decades, offered the following commentary on the network on November 25, 1956, during the National 4-H Congress.

This is Chicago.

This is the week of the International Live Stock Exposition.

And the 4-H champions are in town for their National Congress.

It is an annual custom by the Central Church of Chicago to welcome them to Sunday Service... in the Hilton Hotel.

At the invitation of Pastor Kenneth Hildebrand, it's also been an annual custom for Paul Harvey to read the scriptures at this service.

So I was there this morning.

4-H winners from every state and every territory.

And they get better looking every year.
Whoeeee, we're raising a fine crop of young folks on our farms!
Sometimes because the headlines get preoccupied with the weeds we forget to give thanks for the harvest.

We can get rid of most of those weeds, with a good threshing.
But more important, we mustn't let them discourage or dishearten us.

For every young hoodlum hiding a switch-blade knife, I can show you ten ridin' tall on the tractor.
For every young rascal sowing wild oats, I can name ten planting the tame kind.
For every one who makes of himself an enemy of men...
Ten make friends with them... and with the God of the sun and the soil.
As the big live stock show displays the best animals our farms have produced...
So we here display the best young men and women our farms have produced, too.
And I tell you, we're going to be all right.

After this morning's service I stood talking to young Rodney Henderson, Hereford farmer from Jackson, Mississippi.

I'm six feet two, but I had to look up to this towering lad. Both ways.
And he can advise you on whitefaces, but he can talk to you about anything.
It's a fine crop of youngsters our farms are turning out.

One of the things I miss most about the automatic washer and drier in the basement is the way a pillow case used to smell when it had been sun dried.
And talking to these future leaders of the croplands, you recall that sun-washed freshness in the way they talk and the way they look and act and easy way they laugh.

All of us who participate in that annual church service for the 4-H'ers figure it'll inspire them...
And every year it's we who end up getting inspired.

Recent years the farmer has been getting the short end of the stick, you know.
He's had to dig and scratch and plow close to the hedgerows.
Because it wasn't easy, he had to be strong.
He had no choice.
He had to get smart.

Well, sir, every nation and every generation has made the greatest advances when it had to.
And in order to hold our agricultural family together in recent years the farmer has needed strong sons and capable daughters...
Well, he has them.
I spent the morning peeking over a pulpit at the finest cash crop this country has EVER produced.
I mean ever!

So if you read of some misfit young product of our big city prosperity shooting up a tavern for kicks...
It's just because his one gunshot made more noise than two thousand prayers.
But it wasn't really more important. Not really.

[Photo of Paul Harvey from Compendium]

The 50th Anniversary National 4-H Congress

[Photo: p. 103 4-H: An American Idea Wessel book

[Caption:

President Richard M. Nixon standing with some of the Presidential winners on the stage during the National 4-H Congress Assembly.

National 4-H Congress is a Pathway to Greater Dreams

The following article was featured in the December 1955 issue of *National 4-H News*, written by W. A. Sutton, Associate Extension Director, Georgia.

Although much has been written of National 4-H Club Congress, its features and objectives, less has been told of its lasting effects in delegates' home and community life. Knowing many Georgia 4-H folk and having earned national prominence as a former state 4-H leader, Mr. Sutton seemed the logical person to tell the story. He writes as he might speak to those in Chicago at the Congress.

Georgia's 1955 4-H champions dug their topcoats out of moth balls weeks ago, getting ready for this trip. They lined up their high school or college work well in advanced, too. And they'd made arrangements with brother, sister, mother or dad to take care of projects and other chores.

So with "last-minute" preparations made a month ahead of time, they could hardly wait for this trip of a lifetime, this dream come true, this pinnacle of achievement that is National 4-H Club Congress.

But like the thousands who have attended before them, they are finding it, really, only the trip of a lifetime. Not their dream. Not the pinnacle of achievement. Not a final goal.

They are finding it the pathway to greater dreams. An achievement that begets greater feats. The incentive that will help them to become better club members and farmers and homemakers. The inspiration that will enable them to be better leaders and citizens.

If these are the purposes of Club Congress, then it is most successful. 4-H Congress, before you arrive and while you're here, is the best. But after you get home it becomes the means for "making the best better."

Down in the Cracker State we have hundreds of examples that prove Congress IS what it's cracked up to be.

There's Patricia Venable. She was a good club member "from the word go," what with a mother who had been an outstanding 4-H'er and an older sister active in the organization. So in 1951, at the age of 14, Pat was named state health winner, attended Club Congress, and became a national health winner. She had to be good to do that, but when she got home from Chicago she became a REAL 4-H'er.

She helped create interest in organizing a County 4-H Council in her county and was elected president of it. She visited other counties in northern Georgia and helped them form 4-H Councils. And she took the lead in putting out two of the most ambitious National 4-H Week newspaper editions we've ever seen.

Incidentally, Pat's enthusiasm over National Congress influenced her sister Joyce to work a little harder, and in 1953 Joyce served as President of the Georgia 4-H Club Council and attended Congress as a national girls' record winner.

Last year when we searched the state for our four most outstanding club members to attend National 4-H Camp in Washington, we had to choose Pat - for work she had done AFTER attending National Congress. Yes, the Congress makes better 4-H'ers out of already good ones.

And then there is Daniel Marshall. Dan is one of Georgia's Congress delegates this year. He earned his trip for his work in forestry over the past several years. But in a way, his trip was won before he was ever born - by his father.

J. H. Marshall attended Congress before you boys and girls here this year had seen light of day. Today he is an outstanding dairyman. He is a farm leader, too, and one of the most active local 4-H leaders in the state.

Dan is the second Marshall boy to come to Congress. Joe was here a couple years ago as state dairy winner. There are three other fine boys in the family - all 4-H'ers. Don't be surprised to see them here someday. Their dad will do everything he can to see that they make it.

Yes, because National 4-H Congress is what it is, you don't have to worry about what 4-H will be.

In Georgia we have what we call the Master 4-H Club. It's made up of people who have earned trips to National Congress, national Camp, and other out-of-state places. You know who the president of the organization is this year? Mrs. Richard Darden.

Mrs. Darden attended Congress back in the early '30's. She has remained active in 4-H through the years. That she is president of the Masters is evidence that National Congress helps to keep leaders active as leaders.

Mrs. Darden had a son to attend the event, too. He is Richard, Jr., known to his pals as Rip. Rip was here as state forestry winner. After he got home he kept working, went on to win a \$1,600. Forestry scholarship to the University of Georgia. He has his degree now, and is an officer in the Air Force.

Rip is engaged to a home demonstration agent, Betty Bowers. They attended National Congress together, became acquainted through 4-H.

You see, the Congress has all sorts of possibilities.

Most of the 14 Georgians who have participated in the International Farm Youth Exchange program are former National Congress delegates. We think they understand their own country more, are able to see the viewpoints of others better, and make just the type of ambassadors we like - after their experiences here.

Three of our state 4-H Club leaders in Georgia are National Congress veterans. It would take some doing to count the number of county and home demonstration agents we have who have attended the event.

When we get a new specialist on the state Extension staff, especially one who is to work closely with 4-H'ers, we try to arrange for him to attend the Congress as one of the Georgia group. He may not know a lot about 4-H, but the event fills him with enthusiasm for his work and inspires him to learn all he can about the organization.

There is no doubt that National 4-H Congress is an inspiration to those who attend, but more valuable than this and the awards the youngsters receive is the strength it gives to the Extension Service back in the states. We think this great annual event helps us to do a better job across the board in Extension work, not just with 4-H'ers but with adult farmers and homemakers as well.

And there is one other great reason why we like Club Congress. It is making the city limit sign more of a tie, less of a boundary. Our rural boys and girls sometimes are amazed to see how the business leaders of our country actively participate in the Congress. Our youngsters are better for having known these people. And we like to think that our donors get something out of meeting the kids.

National Congress is responsible for at least one State Congress. After seeing the value of such an event on the national level, we started the Georgia 4-H Congress in Atlanta 13 years ago. And Atlanta's city limit sign hasn't meant the same since. Our rural boys and girls and the state's leading business and civic leaders are getting along fine, thank you.,

Because of National Congress, the same thing is true throughout this great, big, wonderful country of ours.

4-H Club Congress Has Meaning for You

Written by Mylo S. Downey, Director, 4-H and Youth Development, Extension Service, USDA, in Washington News and Views in December 1966, this article is perhaps one of the best examples of the importance of National 4-H Club Congress to the local level. It appeared in the December 1966 National 4-H News.

Thanksgiving Day - the last Thursday of November - is a traditional day and should have meaning for all Americans. Likewise, National 4-H Club Congress - which opens traditionally on the weekend following Thanksgiving Day - should have meaning for every 4-H member and leader in the United States. It also has a significant meaning for millions of people who are now numbered as 4-H alumni.

National 4-H Club Congress is often described as one of the most outstanding youth events in the nation, a show-window of 4-H work, and apex of achievement in many 4-H projects. It is a means of giving recognition to some 1,600 boys and girls who have done exceptional 4-H work, who have continuously strived to Make Their Best Better as they climbed the 4-H ladder of success.

Club Congress is always a thrill for the limited number of boys and girls chosen to attend each year. To some, it means the first plane ride, or the first time for living in a large metropolitan hotel, or the first chance to meet fellow 4-H members from across the nation. Although it is recognized as a wonderful experience for the delegates, it would not be worth the effort, however, if the values were confined to the fortunate few who are in Chicago for the week.

Planning Multiplies Effects – With a little organized effort by professional and volunteer 4-H leaders, the annual 4-H Congress in Chicago can affect the program of every 4-H club in the nation. It may seem far removed, but the Congress does have a certain meaning for every one of the more than 2-1/4 million 4-H members and nearly half a million volunteer leaders.

It is estimated that more than 2-1/2 million dollars of private money is contributed to the promotion of 4-H work. Many of the donors of awards in the 4-H program have their closest contact with 4-H at the Congress. They make their evaluation of the program by what they see, read and hear in Chicago.

Support Through Literature – Their contributions are not confined to providing trips to Club Congress or sponsoring a special meal event, but many go far beyond in providing individual or club recognition at the county level. More important, they supply timely, useful educational materials that greatly enrich the content of the 4-H program. Donor support often goes beyond the contributions of the individual company, and finds the donor supporting legislative programs that provide for Extension work of which 4-H is a part.

Press, radio and television stories from Club Congress reach every county in one way or another. They give a national and international dimension to 4-H. They help make every boy and girl more proud to be a 4-H member.

Some clubs develop their own clipping service, assembling as many 4-H Congress stories as possible. Other members are asked to be alert in listening for special 4-H Congress radio and television programs and to report some at their next meeting. The vast news coverage from Club Congress motivates boys and girls to join 4-H and inspires those enrolled to "work a little harder."

It is during the 4-H Congress each year that 10 or 12 members are selected to be "ambassadors of goodwill for 4-H." These young people are known as the "Report to the Nation" team. They report singly at times. At other times they report as teams of two to six members for various assignments. In any given year, Report-to-the-Nation teams appear before chambers of commerce, service clubs, agricultural and community associations, donor organizations, legislative groups, land-grant colleges, officials of various states, and heads of federal government. Besides being selected at Club Congress, the reporters there gain an appreciation for the breadth and scope of the 4-H program which enables these young men and women to truly represent all 4-H'ers of the nation.

There have been 44 National 4-H Congresses prior to this year. No one knows exactly the total number of 4-H'ers who have attended since the Congress was started in the 1920's. A conservative estimate would run somewhere between 36,000 and 40,000 delegates who have made the coveted trip to Chicago.

Former Delegates Are Nearby - It is possible that one or more former Club Congress delegates are now living in most counties of the United States. Many have been or will be recognized as outstanding 4-H alumni. These alumni should not be forgotten in club program planning. They have nostalgic memories of 4-H and the Congress: they would gladly share their 4-H experiences with younger boys and girls. They would enjoy helping 4-H members have equally rewarding experiences.

Many counties use the services of former Congress delegates at achievement programs and occasionally feature former 4-H Congress delegate reunions. It is a splendid way of keeping members of past years actively associated with the 4-H program.

Unfortunately, 4-H Congress is held during school time. The accelerated school programs in many communities make it increasingly difficult for some boys and girls to get excused from classes to attend the Congress. Some school administrators allow absences with certain provisions. This can be a "blessing in disguise."

Report Expands 4-H - We heard of one member from a large high school who was excused, provided she made up the work missed, plus an extensive paper on the Congress with a report before the entire high school assembly. The girl was a good writer and speaker, and made an outstanding report. It increased the knowledge and changed the attitude of the student body and faculty on the values of 4-H. An expanded 4-H program in that community is the result.

Yes, the 4-H Congress has meaning for many beyond the few who are privileged to attend.

Extension and volunteer leaders should consider the Club Congress as a great resource. It should be used to expand and enrich the 4-H programs for the thousands of boys and girls enrolled in 4-H throughout the nation.

THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES

Time of Your Life National 4-H Congress Story Program - 1951

Following the 1951 National 4-H Congress a national contest was offered to delegates to submit stories of their Congress experiences in The Time of Your Life National 4-H Congress Story Program. The top 10 winners received a 17-jewel wrist watch from the Elgin National Watch Company. Winners were: Paul Van Scaten, Derry, New Hampshire; Alice Carol Graves, Bloomington, Indiana; Annette Allen, Lexington, Kentucky; Jean Simons, Forest Hill, Maryland; Jeanette Selk, Chadron, Nebraska; Jeanie Mullins, McDade, Texas; Charles Grimes, Decatur, Ohio; Jaime Rico Lopez, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, Severito Chavez, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Kenneth Anderson, River Falls, Wisconsin.

Acting as judges for the contest were: George S. Foster, Extension Service, USDA; Fern Shipley, Associate State Club Leader, Utah; A. G. Kettunen, State Club Leader, Michigan; Hadley Read, Extension Editor, Illinois; and Irwin B. Johnson, National Committee.

It was felt that boys and girls were not in 4-H long before they heard about National 4-H Club Congress and began to wonder what it is like. From the lips and writings of their fellow members they soon learn that the Congress is an unforgettable experience.

Young people meet others with similar interests from every state, the territories and many foreign countries who are assembled in Chicago. They learn that the 4-H ideal is big, and that it has the respect of leaders in all facets of our country's life. But this is a story which can best be told by members themselves - boys and girls who were delegates to the last Congress, and who described their interests in blue-ribbon style.

The story of Paul Van Scoten, Jr., of Derry, New Hampshire was printed in full in the May, 1952 issue of National 4-H News. Nuggets from the reports of the other nine were excerpted in a feature in the October issue.

Paul Van Scaten, Jr., New Hampshire.

As we sped through one State after another this thought was ever present - what crops do they raise? What is farming like with flat fields, to drive a tractor and not have the worry of accidents on sidehill farming like in our Granite State of New Hampshire?

This trip across a third of our great Nation was like the first time I saw the Atlantic Ocean - I never dreamed it could be so big! My conception of the World was just New England, with Boston the largest city I had visited. Now, I found out that Chicago was the second largest city in the United States and fifth largest in the world.

I learned that travel is broadening and that meeting new people and important executives from distant States is what America really is: the blending of many minds - the blending of great thoughts is what makes America what it is - the greatest Nation of free thought in the Universe.

Chicago was cold and windy with bitter chill coming from Lake Michigan, but our welcome to the 30th National 4-H Club Congress was warm and invigorating, with 1500 4-H delegates who took part in a program that was packed with thrills for the entire week.

The sessions were held in the great Conrad Hilton Hotel at the Exhibition Hall. The theme of the Congress was "Working Together for World Understanding."

Everett Mitchell, commentator on NBC's National Farm and Home Hour, who had just returned from Korea, gave interesting highlights of the Youth Exchange Program.

I noted there are active 4-H organizations in nearly 37 countries, among which are Pakistan, Siam, Korea and Turkey but none in India, one of the most densely populated countries of the world.

Just before leaving on the trip to Chicago, publicity gave my name to the public as a winner in 4-H Club work. Seeing this of my successful activities, a strange man called at my home to interview me. He was Dr. Eddy Aslavathom of Madras, India, who is Professor of Missions and Christian International Relations, Boston University, formerly professor of Madras University, India.

At present he is interested in compiling information on Agriculture to take back to India and his people for a better way of life. He is tabulating information on large scale farming, as well as small backyard methods. He was interested in my 4-H Poultry Project.

Dr. Assiavathom gave much praise to 4-H work in America and he desires to form 4-H Extension and give its projects to the youth of India. "It is through work, education, agriculture and home economics that the boys and girls of India may take their rightful place in the sun," he said.

I only wish that I might have a part in helping him start 4-H Club work for the boys and girls of India. I wish my education was completed, so that I might go to India and form a 4-H project at once. "It is needed so much," he said.

We had a chance to visit the radio studios and television shows, the Museum of Science and Industry, Art Institute and the Museum of Natural History. We visited the International Livestock Exposition held at the International Amphitheatre. It was like our own Eastern States Exposition - only on a much grander scale.

I never saw so many horses as I saw in Chicago! I never saw so many beautiful beef cattle and hogs! Never tasted such food or ever sat at table with such abundance of good eating! If one could only eat steak - like one can savor its memory - I still would be eating steak this minute!

The supreme spot to me at the 30th National 4-H Club Congress was the dinner that General Motors gave in honor of the national winners in 1951 on the National Farm and Home Safety Program, of which I was the State winner. We were presented at a dinner at the Crystal Room in the Palmer House.

The dinner consisted of special broiled filet mignon! (In other words - a 3-inch Yankee Steak - super! (in any State or language.)

This party was a gala affair. Mr. Paul Garrett, vice-president of General Motors, gave interesting remarks. He gave us a vital truth, which my Grandfather has been telling me for years - "Youth must make its own way in this world - the world does not owe you a living - neither does the government!"

Mr. Hufstader, also a vice-president of General Motors, related in his speech - "We have great faith in youth for the future." As a youth of 4-H Club work I must keep that faith and do my best. After such a wonderful trip, it is a challenge and I know that none of those who were privileged to attend as delegates will ever lose that inspiration to meet that challenge.

The friendships that I made in Chicago with other 4-H'ers from across the broad States of America and the things that I saw and learned there will live in memory down through the years.

I can truly say that being a State winner and a delegate to the 30th National 4-H Club Congress was the greatest achievement of my life."

The stories of other winners in the contest are highlighted here:

The week of fun expected at the 1951 Congress by Charles W. Grimes of Decatur, Ohio, was only one half of it. He learned that "people are looking to us 4-H'ers as a guiding light for the future, and it is up to me to accept that challenge."

Charles came to value group discussions, and discovered that "ideas and opinions of others are worth a great deal if I am going to do my part in solving this problem of 'Working Together for World Understanding.'

"I feel that Club Congress will play an important part in my becoming a better junior leader. Truly, the Congress will help me carry my responsibility for the 1952 4-H motto: Serving as Loyal Citizens through 4-H."

The fast train, the Pullman, Mississippi River, large cities, Chicago itself, Lake Michigan, Chicago University - all were revelations to Severito Chavez, an "average country boy" near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For all of this he was most grateful, and after reviewing the events of the Congress he writes: "You have given me the opportunity to have a better viewpoint and greater understanding of mankind. You have opened a door of ambition and created in me a desire to become more successful and more broad-minded. You have given me all the incentive I lacked heretofore."

His trip had even changed his status at the university he was attending. Students and instructors were eager to hear of his trip. Newspaper clippings with his name were displayed in the administration room.

The superior qualities of the young folks he met at the Congress were a real inspiration to Kenneth Anderson of River Falls, Wisconsin. He hoped he would be able to come up to the expectations of the persons and organizations who had made his trip possible, for he felt they must have faith in 4-H'ers.

"I can still see Dr. Henry Bennett of Oklahoma A & M as he urged us, 'For every dollar for war, a dollar for peace; for every effort for war, an effort for peace; and for every sacrifice for war, a sacrifice for peace.'

"I will never forget the love that shone from Mrs. Raymond Sayre's eyes when she admonished us to be 'friendly to everybody, everywhere.' And to 'hold tight to the ideal that brotherhood can be achieved.'

"I hope to help others realize what a privilege it is to belong to 4-H. If we ever have world understanding we must start where we are, with the things we have," Anderson wrote.

The first thing that Jamie Rico Lopez of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, did when he heard he had won a trip to the Congress was to go out and pat his "faithful" hogs, for it was on that project he won the trip.

At the Congress he learned much about human relationships. "I met boys and girls I had never seen before, from lands strange to me, and I made them friends instantly. Maybe this amiable attitude is a privilege of youth, but I think it is also a privilege of democracy.

"It made me think that everything in the world is not lost when people talk about conflicting ideas and aggression and war. It filled me with awe to see the power of all the 4-H boys and girls and the ease with which problems were solved in a democratic way.

"It made me think, too, that more 4-H clubs are needed all over the world to spread our 4-H philosophy of a better, happier and more productive life. Each 4-H Club must be a bastion of democracy, a defense of honesty and liberty."

It seemed most fitting to Jean Simons of Forest Hill, Maryland, that the first official gathering of the Congress should be a church service. She writes: "It was a thrill to know that I was one of 1,600 delegates from different churches everywhere worshipping and praying together to one God. I believe every person present will long remember that first salute to the American flag. Try to picture the flag, illuminated by a single spotlight in a darkened room, floating in a breeze created by a fan and 1,600 voices raised in the pledge followed by singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

The trip, she observes, "has started me singing Dreaming, The Plowing Song and A Place in the Sun with a new meaning, and has strengthened my convictions that a farm is the only place for red-blooded American children.

"May National 4-H Club Congress be as great an inspiration to future winners as it was to me!"

Etched deeply in the mind of Annette Aleen of Lexington, Kentucky, were many things during her week at the Congress. She mentions seeing broad level fields of Indiana and Illinois - Chicago skyscrapers - Lake Michigan - The Hilton Hotel lobby teeming with boys and girls - the mellow drawl of the Southerners - the cream of the entertainment world - talks on world peace and understanding - Sunday morning worship - the International Live Stock Exposition - the gigantic club members' annual banquet.

"My head was fairly popping with ideas at the end for carrying forward the challenge we were given," she wrote, in closing her story.

To an Indiana girl, Alice Carol Graves of Bloomington, the Congress trip, which eight years of club work brought, meant more than a good time - it meant a responsibility.

"We became aware that achieving a world understanding is foremost in the minds of peace-loving people everywhere. We delegates at the Congress were challenged to learn the basic principles and to activate our communities to work for that understanding."

One of Alice's most poignant memories was of the underfed Korean boys and girls in Everett Mitchell's pictures, of seeing them smile while they worked diligently with crude implements. It made her ashamed of how we complain.

Contrasted to the sad thoughts on the troubles of humanity, Alice enjoyed many pleasant ones, among them hearing the Purdue University Glee Club and the all-girl orchestra.

Three facts the Congress drove home to Jeanette Selk of Chadron, Nebraska:

1. 4-H is now a world movement. 2. Every person is first a human being who needs desperately to be internationally accepted. We think and laugh and work and fall in love. Our hearts all pump red blood, and we long to know each other better. 3. 4-H is America's greatest youth organization - more than two million boys and girls sewing, planting, cooking and raising cattle can't be wrong.

Her faith in 4-H was strengthened when she saw how much stock big men of America put in it. She was elated at Sunday service in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel to see that boys and girls believed in prayer, as well as 4-H and America. Her pride reached a peak when questioned on 4-H in a radio broadcast.

It was also a week of singing, laughing, eating, learning, talking and listening, she concluded.

Parading around the Huge Arena of the International Live Stock Exposition and engaging in all the many great experiences of the Congress, made even a Texas girl delegate wonder whether she had it coming. But she - Jeanie Mullins of McDade - learned that the world expects much of youth, especially 4-H boys and girls.

She and other delegates were to learn to know young folks from other lands and discover they felt the same on essential things. She learned it from Maya of Finland and others. No longer were they "foreigners." Their hopes and aspirations were the same.

She heard a telegram read from the President of the United States and a wire recording message from General Matthew Ridgeway in Korea. She made four radio recordings to spread the 4-H story, and a surge of emotion filled her when the huge throng of club folks gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

These are but a few of her reactions. Nothing could ever have done for her what the Congress did, she states. It has fired her with new ambitions.

And from this coming Congress, new hopes and new ambitions will be inspired for hundreds more of the young folks who are the pride of the land - the 4-H boys and girls.

Time of Your Life National 4-H Congress Story Program - 1952

"A dream beyond reality - and yet there I was!" Thus wrote Ruth Arakaki of Hawaii as she described her thrilling trip to the 1952 National 4-H Club Congress. Her story was one of the top 10 chosen among the 78 submitted by delegates in The Time of Your Life Program. Each winner received a 17-jewel wrist watch from the sponsor, the Elgin National Watch Company.

Again for 1952, one boy and one girl Congress delegate from each state, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico could enter a report on The Time of My Life - impressions, inspirations, and human interest items as they are experienced at the Club Congress.

Hawaiian Ruth was deeply impressed by the display of friendliness and the interest of mainland delegates in problems of the Islands, including Hawaiian statehood. In turn, she heard about farm life in the different states and the modifications necessary with the changing seasons. She marveled at the tremendous amount of preparation required to make the dream of 1,200 4-H'ers come true, and an appreciation to sponsoring industrial firms and leaders she said "I can only promise that my experience and their goodness will not have been in vain, for in five days I gained knowledge and experience I would have taken a lifetime to discover, or perhaps never have known at all."

One week of Heaven on earth is what the Congress meant to Doris Burnett of West Monroe, Louisiana, who for seven years had worked and dreamed that some day she'd be a delegate.

The hugeness of things in Chicago made her gasp, especially the Conrad Hilton Hotel and the grand ballroom with its chandeliers. "After eating several meals there, however," she said, "I began to feel at home. Yet I still wondered if all this splendor wasn't just a dream."

One great moment came when Doris stood at her table in the ballroom and with over a thousand others saluted "Old Glory" there in the spotlight. On that occasion too she received the \$300 scholarship, awarded in the national 4-H

garden program - and for this she had prayed so that she might attend college. Again quoting: "Perhaps when I start to work I'll be able to help other boys and girls win this wonderful trip."

Here is Doris' summing up: "I was awed by the hugeness and oneness of 4-H. In no other organization are the hands of love, hope and understanding more closely interwoven, than those in the brotherhood of 4-H."

When the New Jersey delegates boarded the streamliner for Chicago, Heather Hall felt with others that they had reached the culmination of all there is to 4-H success, but, she concluded: "How wrong we were! We had merely taken the second step over the threshold opening onto new horizons." (This New Jersey delegate lives in Port Jervis, New York.) Heather found that 4-H had burst from its local and state bounds, and now lighted the way to far corners of the country and the world. It thrilled her to talk with youth from Bolivia, Ireland, France and other countries. They ceased to be text book characters and became boys and girls struggling and laughing over language mistakes.

This 4-H'er was deeply concerned over reports from International Farm Youth Exchange delegates on impressions left in foreign minds by Hollywood movies. It was her privilege to preside over "The Spirit of IFYE" general assembly.

In appreciation for all her wonderful Congress experiences Heather said: "There is a tremendous pride in being sent to Club Congress. You just can't help but stop and think how many people helped you get there and are rejoicing in your good luck."

"My most unforgettable experience" was the way Nancy Ann Fore, Estancia, New Mexico, described her thrilling week at Club Congress. Called out of class to receive the great news of her winning the trip, she said "My mind whirled and twirled in one big thrill. That night I saw my mother's face aglow with happiness and I knew that that one moment would live forever."

Leaving the snow-peaked mountains, and crossing the level plains she noted the mammoth farms with their beautiful white houses and huge red barns. They were a contrast to New Mexico's patch-like farms, but after meeting the friendly boys and girls from all parts of the nation, she decided the size of their farms did not matter.

Nancy Ann's awe inspiring week began with the Firestone breakfast when, as she expressed it, "my whole being tingled with pride to know that I belonged to this great organization, unlimited in its scope for the development of character and leadership."

To be chosen to appear on television was beyond the girl's most precious dream and she'll always have a vivid picture of that glorious hour.

Other thrills were, the banquets, food, music, and souvenirs. The Grand Ballroom with its chandeliers as the different colored lights were turned on it, reminded Nancy Ann of the glimmering jewels Marco Polo brought back from China.

Thrills didn't cease when this enthusiastic 4-H'er reached home, for as she told of her wonderful time, several girls and boys rejoined her 4-H Club.

In memory, for Urla J. Lloyd, Sandy, Utah, these words stand out forcefully: "This is Your America Tomorrow!" She heard them repeated often through Club Congress and they rang through her mind on the last evening as her eyes caught sight of the crisp red, white and blue of the American flag. "I saw inspiration in that flag," she said. "To me it represented America forever. We 4-H'ers represented America tomorrow, and those who stood before me as leaders represented America today."

Quoting the girl's story: "We, a representative number of the proud possessors of American heritage, gathered here in freedom to enjoy living, loving, laughing and learning together without fear."

Certain personalities remain in Urla's memory. There was "Mr. 4-H himself," and that was her way of honoring Guy L. Noble. Miss Gertrude Warren was a symbol of happiness, while two nationally known commentators, Clifton Utley and Everett Mitchell, represented freedom of press and radio.

Figuratively if not literally Johnny Duvall of Guntown, Mississippi, felt he had been picked up out of the cotton patch and set down in the midst of fabulous entertainment. He says the sponsors of his trip cannot begin to realize the joy they gave him.

We quote some of the youth's own words: "Getting to attend the Congress highlighted everything I had hoped to accomplish in 4-H work.... My heart is filled with thoughts of gratitude and thankfulness for a country so great as ours

where we might be joined together in fellowship; where we might learn to understand one another more thoroughly; and where we might become a greater nation through our experiences and relations at 4-H Club Congress."

Johnny thinks that if all 4-H youth and other worthwhile youth groups could attend such meetings and be a part of them, war would cease to be.

About sharing his experiences with others, he wrote: "I have worn out my family with all the details and extras from the time I left home until my return. I have been telling my classmates what Club Congress is, and have talked to club meetings and individuals...."

"My personality has broadened and I have come to realize that 'big people' were once young and inexperienced like me, and that by continual growth they have made progress.

"One human interest instance I recall vividly, was during a talk with a boy from Pakistan. We were getting to know each other better by the question and answer method. After discussing my family, I asked about his." He smiled sadly and shook his head. "I thought a lot about him."

In closing, Johnny said: "as I grow older, I'll strive to be worthy of my rightful place as a citizen in this great country of ours."

They are tops in 4-H achievements, everyone realizes on receiving the surprising news of winning a Club Congress trip. And that is the way Philip N. Ledoux of Claremont, New Hampshire put it. "A childhood dream come true," it seemed to him.

When Philip sat in assembly for the first time with other delegates, a strange feeling seized him - at last he knew the full meaning of the four H's. He had heard and talked about them but here they were in a supreme performance.

Congress is like a gem, according to this youth. There is the warmth of Thomas E. Wilson, gathered, reflected and magnified through the respect and admiration of everyone toward him; the radiance of a sponsor's handshake; and a reflection of ourselves in someone else's words, urging us to take initiative.

Like all other delegates, the New Hampshire 4-H'er came to realize the task that lies ahead for those working toward international harmony for the International Farm Youth Exchanges gave a clear picture of the situation. He thought that anyone listening to the IFYE panel discussions would learn an unforgettable lesson in world understanding.

Sort of reminds me of a blind date, thought Robert Iglehart, Garrison, North Dakota, as he traveled toward Minot where he was to meet other delegates. Would he like them? His satisfaction was great, and much greater when at Fargo he met more delegates and the chaperone.

On arriving in Chicago, he could hardly believe his eyes. He closed them and said a silent prayer. "I believe the fellow members did too," he said. "It seemed like I almost heard them. Everything was so wonderful."

How those delegates and their chaperones could all be served at the same time at every dinner and luncheon seemed almost unbelievable to Robert. He found the food delicious and wrote: "I have read about millionaires eating fancy food and the best of everything, but never once dreamed that it would happen to me. Floor shows, orchestras and other entertainments were of the very best."

At home after the great journey, Robert received a photo from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, taken of his table at that sponsor's breakfast for all delegates. His mother noted all the Conrad Hilton hotel appointments - tablecloths, dishes, chairs, deep pile rugs and the happy faces of her son and seven table mates.

"I didn't think I'd ever cry for joy, said young Iglehart, "but when my parents drove forty miles to meet me on my return, my little Sis jumped into my arms, and when my folks asked if I'd had a good time, there were tears in my eyes. And next morning when the dog licked my hand with joy, again the tears came.

Seven years ago, when he first joined 4-H, Jimmy Ligon of Easley, South Carolina, heard of Club Congress in Chicago, but it seemed a distant thing.

He enrolled in a dairy project, kept records, won county and state honors, and then came his greatest thrill: on his dairy achievement record he won a trip to the Congress.

He thought the Sunday morning church service was the most inspirational event of the week. "I will never forget the voices of clubsters from every state and from 29 countries, joined in salute to the Christian flag and in prayer to one God. I believe the most beautiful sight I've ever witnessed was the American flag spotlighted in a darkened room and waving in the breeze from a fan while outstanding club members from every corner of this great land saluted it with `The Star Spangled Banner.'"

The boy's story tells of the recognition banquets which began Monday morning and continued for almost every meal, and every one of them, fit for a king. "It made me realize," so he said, "that the big men of business must really have great respect for 4-H to put so much money into food and entertainment for us."

Group discussions left a desire with Jimmy to learn more about his country's government, and hearing the experiences of the IFYE delegates in other countries made him feel more hopeful for world peace. He learned too that 4-H is reaching other countries.

To a Wisconsin boy, David L. Nelson of Shiocton, Club Congress was the most wonderful week of his life. Highlight was the evening spent at the International Amphitheater where the 4-H'ers saw the great horse show, took in the truly fine livestock exhibits, and marched in their famous annual parade. But for David there was a special event, told in his own words:

"It was here in the huge arena that I delivered my 4-H response to the great National 4-H Club Congress. I will never forget the thrill of the occasion as long as I live. It meant so very much to me that I cannot express it in words. This was one time when the experience I had had in demonstrating and speaking to audiences back home during my seven 4-H years gave me the confidence which the occasion required."

Young Nelson paid high tribute to all the state and county leaders who had helped him along the way, and to the radio announcer who arranged the recording of the Amphitheatre talk. But most of all he appreciated the backing of his local leaders who were also - his parents!

"It is only through their splendid cooperation," he said, "that it has been possible for me to participate in 4-H. They are a part of me and I am very grateful. There are no words that could possibly convey to them the thanks I give for their everlasting help and inspiration."

The youth intends never to leave 4-H but to become a leader, trying to help other boys and girls to get the full value and meaning of club work.

Time of Your Life National 4-H Congress Story Program - 1953

When grandchildren some 50 years hence ask about her youth, Ruthie Dobson of Arkansas will regale them with graphic word pictures of her trip to the 1953 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. "I know I'll never forget any part of it, my first real trip."

Ruthie's human interest story was one of the top 10 chosen from among those submitted by Congress delegates in "The Time of Your Life" program. Two delegates per state could submit their stories for competition. Each winner received a 17-jewel wrist watch from the sponsor, the Elgin National Watch Company.

"How can anyone describe their first train trip?" Ruthie asked. She and other Arkansas travelers had climbed aboard at 3 p.m. on Saturday, and when she wakened at daylight next morning, she was glad to see it snowing, for every Southern boy and girl loves snow.

Everything was a "high spot" for this girl. There was the Thos. E. Wilson dinner and meeting Mr. Wilson in person - "the type of man you read about in fairy tales"; and hearing Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson - "who made us feel prouder than ever that we were farm youth."

At the Edgewater Beach Hotel she saw and heard Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, and the planned tours showed Chicago's greatness as well as her slums.

She wrote: "I felt so proud and yet so humble when I realized that of the two million 4-H members, I was representing 1,700 boys and girls... I must not by word or deed behave in any way that would not be a credit to our creed."

For Hawaiian Jean Fujimura her "fondest dreams came true" when she found herself a delegate to the Congress. In her own words:

"I have relived it a thousand times by recapturing precious moments spent in making new friends, stretching my neck to see the tops of skyscrapers, being honored at banquets and exchanging ideas with youth from all parts of the world.

"The greatest thrill was in meeting so many 4-H'ers.... We never needed a formal introduction, using instead that age-old method of friend-making - passing out smiles."

Jean told of the rare opportunity of dining with representatives from France, Formosa, Iran, Brazil, Syria and the Philippines. The great 4-H parade at the International Live Stock Exposition was a memorable event - "Holding Hawaii's flag and marching with fellow 4-H'ers gave me a feeling of great pride and I'm sure that those who witnessed the parade had lumps in their throats as we marched by, singing "The Ploughing Song."

The "deepest dent" in this girl's mind was made by the realization of the extensiveness of the 4-H program itself. She concluded that her 4,000 mile trip was not only a fulfillment of dreams but a high source of inspiration. "I hope to live up to all that is expected of a Club Congress delegate by encouraging and guiding younger 4-H'ers and by setting a fine 4-H example."

For Sylvia Halpin of Louisiana the "wonderful dream is over but the memories will last a lifetime."

Quoting further: "It was sheer magic that a city as large as Chicago, which plays host to all the biggest names in this country and abroad, would open its heart and radiate hospitality to boys and girls from every nook and corner of the nation and make them feel like visiting royalty."

The 4-H girl paid high tribute to the generosity of sponsors who contributed so lavishly for the best in entertainment. At breakfasts, luncheons and banquets she was impressed by the fact that each was opened with prayer.

Another inspiring moment was described: "A soul stirring spectacle was the spotlight on the American flag flying over 1,500 boys and girls singing 'America.' This was during church service for all denominations and made everyone conscious of the deep spiritual aspect of world understanding."

The WLS barn dance was lots of fun and Sylvia's group met "Homer and Jethro" personally. When she heard Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians render "Where in the World but in America" she thought, well, where in the world but in America could she, a girl from a remote section of Louisiana, have the privilege of meeting with outstanding boys and girls from all over the nation!

Like Emerson, Sylvia believes there is a divine spark of greatness in all of us waiting to be kindled, and that Club Congress is one of the ways to kindle it.

"Chicago, City of wonder and magic, provided a week of unending excitement and inspiration for me, an ordinary Montana girl." Thus Barbara Eastlick expressed herself in appreciation of the privilege of attending Club Congress.

To quote her: "In the nation's second largest city I saw many of the world's finest buildings and sights, and heard some of America's great men. My first view of Chicago was breath-taking. Although I had seen pictures of the famous skyline, I never dreamed that buildings could almost truthfully scrape the sky. The immensity of the city is hard to believe."

The Congress theme was "Working Together for World Understanding," and Barbara felt this was appropriate indeed for she contacted people from the earth's five continents. "A friendly bond developed around us as we grew to know each other," is the way she put it.

The girl felt it was a great privilege to hear such famous people as Thos. E. Wilson and Secretary Ezra T. Benson, and she remembered Dr. Hildebrand of the Chicago Central Church telling delegates to "work as though we could not pray, and pray as though we could not work."

The Congress helped Barbara, as it did Jean, to realize how big and how united 4-H is. In her own words, "singing, talking and praying with and for them (the two million members) left a thrill never to be forgotten."

"I have a memory that will live forever!" wrote Nebraska's Sondra Hill. "It is my 4-H Club Congress trip - a 'mountain top' experience and one continuous thrill from start to finish."

Herte is her memory of one event, a memory she shared with Ruthie Dobson: "Our first assembling with other 4-H'ers was on Sunday morning when we had that inspirational Church service. There with the Flag of red, white and blue, and our great Christian flag, we pledged our allegiance. This gave me a feeling of exultation."

It was in this same luxurious ballroom of the Hilton that many of the events of the festive five days were staged.

This Nebraskan enjoyed to the fullest the sight of Lake Michigan's blue waters and her visit to the Museum of Science and Industry, and with other girls she meandered through aisles and aisles of Marshall Fields' lovely merchandise.

Sondra was delighted to speak on 4-H before the Kiwanis Club of Hyde Park in Chicago. It was an appreciative group and the men told her that one of the highlights of the whole year was 4-H Club Congress time. "This was a highlight for me, too," she concluded.

Kenneth Roach of Iowa reminded us that in every person's life there are experiences, happy or sad, that become fixed in our thoughts forever.

"The week ending Dec. 4, 1953, was processed into my memory when inspiration, enjoyment, understanding, sympathy, education and peace all combined to form the National 4-H Club Congress...

"I was impressed by the friendliness extended to us, not only by fellow 4-H'ers but by donor representatives, directors and employees of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, leaders, world figures and most inspiring of all, by the citizens of Chicago. It gave one the feeling of being wanted - needed now and in the years to come."

One highlight for Kenneth was the Chicago Sunday Evening Club service where delegates from every state, outlying possessions and foreign organizations met in one hall to sing together and listen to a great speaker.

Speaking appreciative of the donors and directors of 4-H, the youth said: "One can only hope that some day we can share in their broad-minded and unprejudiced ideals."

At the Wilson dinner, Carl Erskine of the Brooklyn Dodgers set an "idealistic goal" before this Iowan by telling how there had come a day when, in his own mind, he pictured himself as the best in the field. With this thought his energy was unending, his muscles tireless and soon he reached the top. Kenneth's conclusion was: "And some day, whatever my occupation may be, with the grace of God, I will be at the top."

When Waterman Anderson of South Carolina started club work six years ago he decided to earn a trip to Club Congress and, on reaching his goal, here are a few of his impressions:

"The hugeness of things in Chicago made me gasp, especially the hotel and its Grand Ballroom with its magnificent chandeliers....

"I met friendly boys and girls from every part of the nation and from other countries and learned of their ways of life. I had the opportunity of being a guest of many large firms and of seeing what a great interest they take in us as 4-H'ers... In those five days I gained knowledge and experience that might have taken a lifetime to discover. I hope to pass some of it on to others."

Waterman has no words to express his appreciation for all those who cooperated to make his club work possible. To supplement his happy memories, on Christmas Eve he received a photo taken at the Sears-Roebuck breakfast, and the Elgin National Watch Company also sent a picture of the farewell banquet. He said "Mother marveled at the chandeliers, the beautiful drapes and the happy faces of my table mates and myself. These pictures will be treasured."

Don McGinty, a Texan, found that the Conrad Hilton Hotel was truly "the largest and friendliest hotel in the world" where he was treated as an honored guest.

The presence of international delegates made the most lasting impression, and Don put forth a conscious effort to meet personally as many as possible and to converse, even across language barriers, about their homelands.

"I feel that those who planned our entertainment," he observed, "paid us a high compliment when they arranged for a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra... It was evident that all appreciated the artistry of this magnificent ensemble. We felt a warm glow of satisfaction that two 4-H'ers should appear there as guest artists."

Don noted with genuine human satisfaction that the Secretary of Agriculture as well as presidents of great industrial institutions considered Congress delegates worthy of their attention.

Back in Texas, he is being called upon to speak to many groups, and he thinks it a high privilege to report on his exciting experiences, for, as he said, "we never reach the peak of pleasure in any experience until we have shared it with others."

His concluding thought: "Through the contacts I have made I have a new consciousness of world friendship and understanding. No longer are people from other continents strangers whom I cannot trust."

"I must be years older than I was before the trip," noted Lee Swan of Wisconsin. This was because of all the new experiences he had added to his storehouse of memories: His first train trip, first meal in a diner, and his first sight of Chicago - "that city of lights and glitter!" And the great hotel! He said "I think I tried every gadget and made use of every available room service. I even sent socks to the laundry although I had ten pairs with me."

"I was thrilled beyond words at the Cinerama showing, at the International Live Stock show and the evening of dancing at the world famed Trianon ballroom."

The youth described the thrill for all Wisconsin delegates when their own Kenyon Giese was named National Achievement winner and was awarded the silver trophy from the President of the United States. "*Believe me,*" he said, "*we wore our red scarves with a new air of dignity and pride.*"

Chicago for Don Wedmore of South Dakota recalled Carl Sandburg's vivid words - "Hog butcher for the World, Tool maker, stacker of wheat," and so on, for the young visitor, as he traveled through the streets, seeing through the poet's eyes.

But there was more than that within the Club Congress itself where, as he said, "*we were gathered as a group of ideas, traditions and patterns molded from many ways of life into one body of happy healthy young men and women.*"

The youth appreciated the great privilege of meeting and talking with executives of great industries whose generosity had made a great convention even more wonderful. These experiences plus his visit to the International Live Stock Exposition made him realize that Chicago is truly where agriculture and industry meet.

"*Much like a dream was this trip,*" he concluded, "*hard to comprehend and having qualities wonderful beyond comparison. Words can only partially describe the Club Congress. Possibly the poet could write a poem about it, or the song writer write a song, but I believe a simple revealing phrase is adequate - we were enjoying THE TIME OF OUR LIVES.*"

Time of Their Lives - National 4-H Congress Story Winners.-

For several more years, at least up through the end of the 1950s, there were similar features to the ones above that appeared annually in the December issue of National 4-H News. These issues have been digitized so the stories are available in the print media archive on the 4-H history website.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS HIGH POINTS AND MEMORIES

There are so many wonderful stories about National 4-H Congress in Chicago for those who have had any connection with it, whatsoever... delegates, chaperones, state and county Extension staff, staffs and board members of National 4-H Council and its predecessor organizations, corporate executives and donor representatives, members of the media, speakers, entertainers, and many more. If you have a story to tell, a memory to share, particularly something unique to your experience with Congress, we are offering an opportunity for you to share it. Send it to: Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com 200 words or less. Be sure to include your name, state and the year, or years, of Congress about which you are writing. We welcome your stories to add to the Congress in Chicago history.

CONCLUSION

In 1951, at the time of the 30th anniversary of National 4-H Congress, the following observation was made:

"It takes the work of hundreds of thousands of individuals to make a successful National 4-H Club Congress. Many, many boys and girls have to work and achieve under guidance of leaders, parents and Extension agents. They must write and deliver records to their counties, then to the State and finally, nationally.

"Judging committees work on each level, scrupulously checking each record to be sure the educational objectives of each program are realized. Donors help by their financial support and personal interest, programs are arranged and checked. State leaders handle a small fortune in trip funds--and there are the immense tasks of transporting the group, and housing and feeding delegates.

"The camaraderie which exists between Extension, the donors and the National Committee has brought the National 4-H Club Congress over difficult and tortuous paths. All have one goal--the making of better citizens in the broad sense of the term through the 4-H program.

"Club members, parents, local leaders, county, State and national Extension personnel, donors and National Committee representatives all have worked together to bring us to the present--the 30th Anniversary National 4-H Club Congress."

While this could have been written in most any year, it pretty much puts in perspective the broadness which traditionally made National 4-H Congress more than "just another event."

Over the years some had criticized National 4-H Congress in Chicago as simply being an entertainment event for participants. A history of 4-H Congress can readily prove "guilty as charged." Yes, National 4-H Congress was most definitely an entire week of entertainment... impressive entertainment.

But it had at least four other equally large components:

It was a major recognition event... delegates had to work hard to justify their trips to Congress and were well deserving of the recognition they received.

Congress had a strong educational component through the speakers, assemblies, discussion groups, tours and other planned programs each year.

4-H Congress was a "lightning rod" for media visibility, bringing more positive exposure to 4-H year after year... for 75 years, than any other single program or event.

And, finally, 4-H Congress was the ultimate example of positive public-private partnership between business and government and exposed the delegates to first hand experience of listening to, and talking to, top executives of dozens of corporations and their representatives. Annually, corporate executives got "caught up" in the mystique of 4-H Congress and the delegates. In addition to their formal banquets, most donor companies had continuous discussions with their winners throughout the week. It is unknown how many Congress delegates formulated their career goals that week of Congress, but the number would be impressive. It is no small feat that the average tenure of the national awards donors was 19 years... and, for many, the 4-H awards program was their highest value corporate contribution for the entire company.

National 4-H Congress in Chicago was a blend of all of these things. And, as was stated in the beginning. "*a delegate never forgets his experience at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago.*"

Principal Author - Larry L. Krug, National 4-H History Preservation Program leadership team member, and former Director of Communications, National 4-H Council, one of the coordinators of the National 4-H Congress-Chicago Press-Radio-TV operation, attending 28 consecutive Congresses.

Note: The National 4-H History Preservation team has attempted to make the history of the National 4-H Congress in Chicago as thorough as possible. Unfortunately, many of the records have been lost or destroyed, including most of the Congress Official Programs and Souvenir Booklets, committee reports and media coverage, including photographs and Congress-produced films. We will attempt to locate copies and restore files of as much of this material as possible.

DRAFT