



National 4-H History Preservation Program

March, 2012 Newsletter

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What is Happening to 4-H History?



In this time of downsizing offices and getting rid of everything that is not usable today. 4-H History may be slipping through our fingers! This alarming fact is foremost in the minds of the National 4-H History Preservation team as we learn how whole state and county 4-H offices have simply gotten rid of much of the information on how the 4-H program came into being and grew all across the country. That's why one of our new programs is addressing this very situation.

Members of our team are currently building a program that we hope will help 4-H at every level to be preserved and made available to current efforts in: program development, staff development and training and fund raising for current program development and growth. Local Leaders, County, Regional and State Staff will all be able to find resources and exchange ideas on how and where they have saved and used historical 4-H information on <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> and through this newsletter.

If you have a success story on how you or someone you know has or is helping to save or use 4-H History successfully, please let us

know at: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. You may see yourself featured in this newsletter, on the website or at a future conference or webinar!

Stay tuned and watch for information on how you can become a part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

We are Searching For:

National 4-H Calendars

We are interested in actual calendars or high quality photographs of calendars from the National 4-H Calendar Program. These calendars were produced between 1935 and the mid-1990s by Shaw-Barton, Thos. Murphy Co., Brown & Bigelow, and others. They came in several sizes and types ranging from large wall calendars to individual member and leader calendars. Often, they were locally sponsored by banks and feed or farm implement stores.

We would like to digitize the calendars to preserve that important bit of 4-H history. They can be returned to you if you wish. Please e-mail photos or queries to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com



1959 calendar presented to local 4-H members by an Implement company of Mansfield, Ohio.

4-H International: Current Program Builds on History

Worldwide youth development has long been a priority in the US 4-H program dating to the early 1900s. Now, with leadership from National 4-H Council and generous sponsorship from the US private sector, youth programs are poised to expand their role in global economic development.

National 4-H Council recently convened the “First International 4-H Executive Conference” to explore the potential of a global 4-H partnership. Nine country or regional organizations were invited: Canadian 4-H Council, Finnish 4-H Federation, Costa Rica Foundation of National 4-S Clubs, Korea 4-H Association, Republic of China National 4-H Club Association, Rural Youth Europe, Jamaica 4-H Clubs, 4-H Tanzania and 4-H Ghana. Founding partners of this initiative are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Cargill, DuPont, Motorola Foundation and Nike Foundation. Additional sponsorship for the initial Conference came from Novus. This partnership will no doubt revolutionize youth participation in economic development throughout the world.

Four-H became a global youth movement very shortly after its creation in the US, as 4-H-type youth development programs began springing up around the globe; at its peak, about 103 such organizations flourished in 82 countries outside the US on all continents.



An International Farm Youth Exchangee living and working with a farm family in the US in the 1950s.

4-H international exchanges were officially initiated in the US in 1948, with the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE – now International 4-H Youth Exchange), when 17 US delegates visited seven European countries and six Europeans came to the US. Over the next 40 years, other 4-H international programs were developed as a result of those first exchanges.

Later, to strengthen rural youth programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Rural Youth Program was created to cooperate with government institutions and private organizations, to develop effective educational programs and to develop and strengthen private support entities in these countries.

Somewhat based on the IFYE model, the Brazil 4-H Peace Corps program brought the Peace Corps to Brazil. Beginning in 1961, 4-H Peace Corps projects were active in Brazil, El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Malaysia.

To involve younger people enrolled in 4-H, the IFYE Ambassador program (initially called 4-H Member Exchange and then Teen Caravan) was started in the early 1960s.

To serve volunteer and professional 4-H staff – the Professional Rural Youth Leader Exchange (PRYLE) was started in 1962 for both Americans and participants from other countries. International Extension 4-H Travel Seminars provided opportunities for volunteers and professionals to travel to other countries, observe youth programs, talk with leaders and youth, and experience another program and culture firsthand.

In the mid-1960s the International Agricultural Training Program (ATP) was initiated with Japan, which sent 150 young Japanese farmers to the US for a two-year practical training program. ATP continued until 1983 and included trainees from Korea, the Philippines, the Republic of China, Poland and a few other European countries.

The Youth Development Program was developed in 1967 in response to the expressed need in developing countries for longer-term practical assistance. YDP

delegates worked 18 months with in-country staff to strengthen local programs. YDP started in Botswana and spread to nine other countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

Following years of negotiation, an exchange with the Soviet Union was initiated in cooperation with the US Department of State; the Young Agricultural Specialists Exchange Program (YASEP), got under way in 1976. A group of 4-H'ers visited the People's Republic of China in 1982. That same year a delegation from the US Department of Agriculture, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and National 4-H Council visited China to explore areas of cooperation between China and the US 4-H program.

Today, while international exchanges still provide cross-cultural experiences for 4-H'ers, the activity is funded at the state level. The IFYE Foundation of the USA, founded in 1997 and an outgrowth of the IFYE Alumni Association of the USA, contributes significantly.

The States' 4-H International Exchange Programs (S4-HIEP), currently administers the variety of 4-H international experiences that are available. Twenty-three US states and one Canadian province currently participate.

To learn more about the History of 4-H International; watch for the coming section on the 4-H History Preservation Website.

Link your 4-H Website to 4-H History Preservation Site

It's a great way to share your local 4-H preservation activities with the world of 4-H:

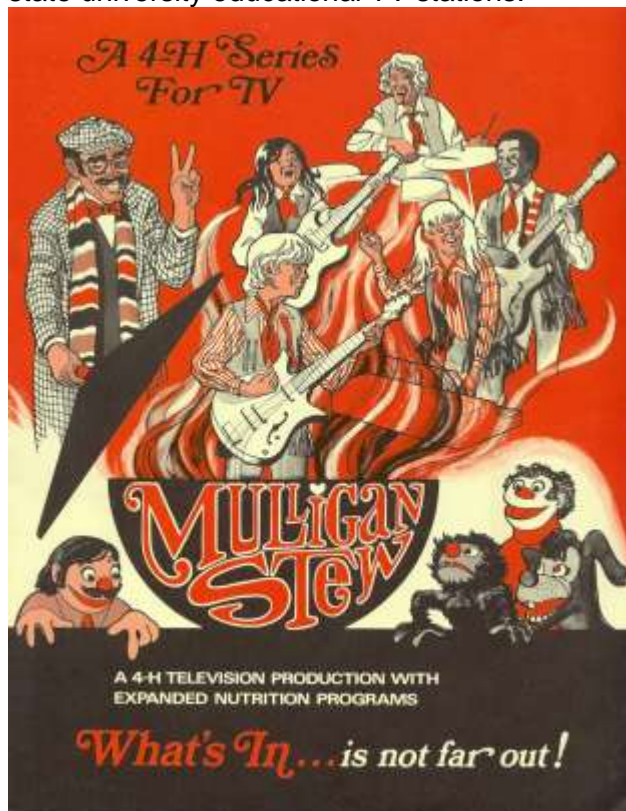
<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

History of 4-H Television Series: Soon on 4-H History Website

There was "Mulligan Stew," "Living in a Nuclear Age," "Blue Sky Below My Feet," "Dog Sense," "Photo Fun Club," "TV Action Series," "TV Science Series" and more.

Four-H television programming began in the 1950s when county and state Extension

Service staff began to provide educational information through local television stations and state university educational TV stations.



Poster used to promote this nutrition education series to schools, clubs and other groups in the early 1970s.

By the mid-1960s, 4-H at the national level decided it was time for 4-H to get serious about exploring the use of television in teaching young people. As a programming model, this perhaps had the potential of being one of the most significant changes from the traditional programming in 4-H to come along in decades. And, opinions as to its appropriateness ran the entire spectrum: from television programming being a wave of the future that 4-H should embrace, to the blunt feeling that 4-H has absolutely no business doing 4-H television. For over a decade, 4-H television series were produced and widely used on both commercial and educational television stations reaching millions of boys and girls as new 4-H members. The members' manual (in comic book format) for "Mulligan Stew" alone sold over seven million copies.

We are fortunate that two of our National 4-H History Preservation Team members were major players in the development and use of 4-H television series in the 1960s and 1970s. Eleanor L. Wilson was National 4-H TV Coordinator, Extension Service, USDA, and

Larry L. Krug was a National 4-H Service Committee staff member, responsible for the printing, marketing, and distribution of the series and support materials nationally.

The history of 4-H television series is the next section to be added to the History website <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>. If you remember these series, take a journey down memory lane with this TV series history. If you are not familiar with the days of 4-H TV, you might find this area (and educational approach) is a fascinating chapter of our history.

The History Team is currently looking for actual film, video or digitized copies of all the national 4-H TV series to put on the website. If you can help, contact us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Stay in Touch with 4-H History Preservation

Sign up for 4-H History Twitter at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

We Need Your Help

4-H has a rich history - an important history. For those who have worked in Extension or had an affiliation with 4-H in some other way over the years, we need your assistance and your recollections. For those just getting started in your 4-H careers, the more you can learn about history, the better you can understand and perform your 4-H responsibilities.



Beginning in 1899 Will Otwell organized a children's crusade for better corn in Illinois. This is the 1908 corn growers' rally, an early forerunner of 4-H.

Unfortunately, much of 4-H's important history has either been lost, destroyed, or is buried in archives difficult to access by the general public. A group of volunteers - mostly retired state and national 4-H extension professionals or retired from National 4-H Council - are striving to reverse this situation. The team is retrieving and researching 4-H archival materials and writing about relevant 4-H history, particularly at the national level. The history website and digitization program is already providing access to hundreds of 4-H books, reports, newsletters, films and oral histories.

A new section on the history website: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> pulls together all of the ways that you can help. Click on "Ways YOU Can Help" on the menu bar on the left side of the home page.

- Read the 'We Need Your Help' one-page flier; print it out to share with friends who may be interested.
- Review the list of contributors. Make a donation. You can designate specific projects in need of funds; and, can also honor a designated friend, colleague or relative who had or has a special interest in 4-H history.
- Check out the section 'Things We Are Looking For' and the 'Help Us Tell a Story' section... your recollections of 4-H camp, 4-H and one-room schools, 4-H fair, international 4-H program, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Sunday, 4-H television series, urban 4-H programs, Native American 4-H activities, war-time 4-H support and much more.
- While our volunteer team and volunteer consultants are busy workers, we need many more people providing their recollections, their expertise, and their contributions to accomplish our goals.
- We hope you will join us. We Need Your Help.

Tell a Friend or colleague...

how to get this newsletter. Just click on: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Newsletter>

4-H History Website... What's New

4-H Audio-Visual Directory

The first 4-H films were produced before the 1920s. A new directory on the website lists all types of audio and video recordings and we are currently in the process of locating and digitizing many of the entries, making them available directly from the website: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> Over 160 entries have already been posted - films, video tapes, radio and television public service spots, television series, audio and video interviews.

Website Visitor Counter

A visitor counter is now displayed at the bottom of every section on the website. The counter is slightly over four months old and already shows that the site has had visitors from all 50 states and over 30 foreign countries... learning more about the history of 4-H.

4-H History Preservation Contributions Program

Those interested in assisting with 4-H history preservation through a tax deductible contribution can now do so directly through the website. The form allows donors to choose specific preservation projects to support as well as designating honorees for the gift. <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Contributions.asp>

To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program; please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to check your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council at:**

National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
c/o Wells Fargo Bank
PO Box 75375
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

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

We are Searching For...

Photos and history of 4-H Heritage Quilts

We are interested in learning about existing 4-H heritage quilts that have been produced for a specific purpose - Quilts which depict the 4-H history of a club, a community, county, state or a multi-generational 4-H family. Have you seen or helped make a quilt similar to the one below? Have you seen other configurations? We have heard that there are at least four distinctive 4-H quilt designs. Please share what you know with us, our readers and visitors to the 4-H History Preservation Website. You can send a photo and your story about the quilt to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.



4-H quilt believed to have been made in Tennessee.

Preserving History, Preserving Culture

Preserving cultural traditions is an excellent way to preserve the history of one's own family, community, and ethnic identity. Four-H clubs in virtually every ethnic community in the US carry out some sort of cultural awareness activity; it's an important part of acknowledging their heritage as well as preserving their unique 4-H history.

The Peer Gynt Norwegian Dancers entertain the Norse Federation, St. Paul Area (MN)

Chapter. Now under the leadership of Susan Stow, the Dancers were organized as part of a 4-H project; hundreds of 4-H'ers have been a part of the group since it was founded years ago. The group is sponsored by Synnøve Nordkap, Sons of Norway Lodge. Not only do they dance for their own enjoyment – and to learn their personal heritage – but they perform in community activities to share their cultural pride.

If your club or community doing something unique to preserve and share your cultural traditions? Contact: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Did You Know...

Sports were part of 4-H as early as the first clubs in some states; yet never became part of 4-H in others. Wrestling matches, bowling leagues, basketball teams were all popular. During the 1940s and 50s many counties had 4-H softball leagues, as a way to recruit and retain teenage members.

Changing 4-H History Leadership Team

We are very sad to announce that one of the charter members of our team, Sue Fisher, lost her fight with cancer late last year. Her enthusiasm and “can do” attitude are sorely missed by our team. A copy of her obituary can be found in the “Ways You Can Help” section of the 4-H History Preservation website.

As responsibilities change and our objectives broaden we have found the need to increase our leadership team. We ask you to join us in a hearty welcome of three former colleagues as new members this year. They are Kendra Wells, Gary Deverman and Mel Thompson.

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team:

Sue Benedetti, Chair; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Larry L. Krug, Coordinator of Teams; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Eleanor L. Wilson; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*
Jim Kahler; *4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA*
Kendra Wells; *University of Maryland 4-H, retired*
Tom Tate; *Extension Service, USDA, retired*
Melvin J. Thompson; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Gary Deverman; *National 4-H Council, retired*
David E. Benedetti; *National 4-H Council, retired*
Rick Moses, Webmaster.



Email: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com
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