



National 4-H History Preservation Program

June, 2012 Newsletter
Volume III Number IV



4-H'ers learn skills in recording and monitoring oral interviews in preparation for 2014 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act.

National 4-H Oral History Project

In the May newsletter we introduced a plan to initiate a National 4-H Oral History Project in 2013 that can be a part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act in 2014. We are actively seeking a small group of volunteers to pilot 4-H Oral History Interviews with current and former 4-H staff, volunteers, and members. We'd like to engage at least five states or communities this summer and fall so that we can be ready to launch the project at the start of 2013. Our goal is 100 (or more) 4-H stories for 100 years of Smith-Lever!

Pilot sites will have an opportunity for training and access to resources to help make the experience a good one for you and the 4-H members we hope will be trained to conduct interviews. Interviews can take place at county and state fairs, as a part of local, county, or state 4-H recognition events, or you might consider conducting interviews during National 4-H Week, October 7-13, 2012.

To volunteer to be a pilot site in 2012, please email us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com. We'll work with interested volunteers to gather the resources necessary to make the pilot effort a success! And visit our website at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>. Click on the '**Hands On**' tab. There you will find additional details about how to start up a youth history interviewing effort in your community.

4-H and Sports

We are happy that the section we announced we were working on in the May newsletter - 4-H and Sports, Recreation and Fitness - is now completed in draft form and is live on the 4-H history website.

We found many exciting stories dealing with all kinds of sports - basketball, softball, bowling leagues, wrestling matches, golf, archery, roller skating, fishing derbies, skiing – and how they were incorporated into 4-H, particularly in order to reach and maintain older members. It's an entire content area that was rather obscure in the history of 4-H but is now documented and we'll share those stories in upcoming Newsletters.

We welcome your comments: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Notice:

If you know someone who would be interested in getting the National 4-H History Preservation Newsletter, it's now very easy to sign up online at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> by simply clicking on 'Home & News' in the left hand menu bar, then clicking on 'Newsletter.' Fill in your information. You're on the mailing list.

'Hands On' Section of the National History Website Features: Historical 4-H Handicrafts

Traditionally 4-H members have been known to produce many forms of unique crafts and handiwork projects displaying the 4-H emblem or telling the 4-H story. These go back to the very beginning of 4-H and take many different forms. They include lace making, tatting, crocheting, embroidery and other needlework, hooked rugs, basketry, pottery, wood carving, leather craft, handmade dolls and folk art to name just a few. Such items all display an affection that the maker had for 4-H or for a particular 4-H experience. And, they are all a part of 4-H history, particularly at the local level where they were produced.



String art is the unique medium used here by Maryland 4-H'er, Diana Kahler to create the official clover.

This summer and fall as you attend county 4-H exhibits or fairs, achievement days etc. pay particular attention to the crafts or handiwork area and you are sure to see these types of items displayed bearing the 4-H emblem. These are part of contemporary 4-H History in the communities or counties where they are

produced. They should be documented and saved for the future.

At the same time you can also suggest to 4-H leaders and members or 4-H Agents to keep their eyes open for these same items from the past as they help to clean out their family attics, garages or office files. If you have a particularly creative piece in your possession or county office, please send us a picture of it with the details. We will put a few of these up on that segment of the "Hands On" section of the website.

What can be done with these items or photographs of them?

1. Make a window display during National 4-H Week or at the annual county or local achievement programs or fairs
2. Ask the local library or museum for a space where 4-H history items can be displayed on a permanent or changing basis
3. Take photographs of them and use them to illustrate articles in "then and now" columns in the local newspaper
4. Print the photos on fabric for quilts or on tee shirts for 4-H historical events or fundraising activities
5. Use them as props or idea stimulators when conducting oral history interviews with former 4-H members, leaders or extension staff members
6. Display them at 4-H activity planning sessions to stimulate some new handicraft projects to be created at 4-H camps or other events
7. Photograph them and print note cards to sell as a club or county fund-raising activity
8. Be creative!

Historical 4-H Quote

"I consider the work of the 4-H Club in building character one of the finest undertakings in all America." - **Albert S. Goss**, Master, National Grange.--April 1948.

New on the 4-H History Website



Delegates to National 4-H Congress in Chicago, after registering for the week's event, set out to explore the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

The National 4-H History Preservation Team is pleased to announce that three new history segments have been added to the section "National 4-H History" on the website. These three pieces are still in draft format, and do not have their photos or links yet; however we urge anyone who is interested in reading the copy to do so and send us any additions or corrections as you may recall them. The three sections are:

- National 4-H Recognition and Awards Programs
- National Presidential Winners
- National 4-H Congress - Chicago

http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_National.asp

In researching these three areas, much of the archival history has been lost, but we "did what we could with what we had."

Send your comments to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

ISO (In Search Of) Urban 4-H Program Information

The National 4-H History Preservation Team is beginning to research and write the history of Urban 4-H Programs. If asked when 4-H started

working in the urban areas, probably most people wouldn't have an answer; some might venture a guess of the 1960s.

The National 4-H Council newsletter, "The Fifth Leaf," in the Spring 1992 issue, reports that the first urban club work was reported in Kent County, Rhode Island in 1906-1910.

Franklin Reck's "The 4-H Story," records Rufus Stanley's work with young boys in Elmira New York and the establishment of his Omega Club as 1901, and going back even earlier to 1886. After the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 establishing the Cooperative Extension Service, the Omega Club became a 4-H Club and Stanley became the first county club agent in Chemung county, in which Elmira is located.



The Bed-Stuy Beautifiers - a group of 4-H'ers in Brooklyn, New York - are shown in this 1988 photo busy caring for flower planters lining the streets of their neighborhood.

From then forward, there have been efforts in a number of cities to replicate the popular 4-H programs of the rural areas, to adapt them to urban needs, and, to start entirely new programs for new audiences. We hope to gather as many of these stories as we can find for this section of the 4-H History Preservation website. Probably

most of our efforts will be from the early days up through the 1980s.

In 1958, the National 4-H Service Committee (later National 4-H Council), secured funding from Coats & Clark Inc., The Sears-Roebuck Foundation and Standard Brands Incorporated as grants to the University of Illinois to begin 4-H work in Chicago. We will cover this national effort, along with another project, funded by the Ford Foundation to the National 4-H Club Foundation in the early 1960s to study urban 4-H. This six month study was conducted by Dr. Emory Brown of Pennsylvania State University and Dr. Patrick Boyle of the University of Wisconsin. We already have a copy of this report, and also the excellent "History of 4-H in Chicago" authored by Sandra Lignell in 1999.

But, we need your urban 4-H history stories from your state or your cities. If you have materials you would like us to consider, please let us know. Also, we are looking for Extension staff and leaders who may have been actively involved in these urban programs; put us in touch with them.

This can become an exciting section of our overall 4-H history. We need stories and photos; we need to hear about results. Write to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

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.

Contemporary 4-H History: “Revolution of Responsibility” Sweeps the Nation

In October of 2011, the Join the Revolution of Responsibility campaign was launched at the NAE4-HA conference in Phoenix, AZ. The campaign is a youth movement for positive change in every community in America. 4-H youth make up a living, breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference right where they live. The Revolution of Responsibility comes to life every day through 4-H'ers who are making real impacts in their communities.



Since its launch we have heard stories of impact from 4-H'ers all over the country tackling issues such as poverty, pollution, obesity and more. Turning ideas into action, 4-H youth are becoming everyday heroes who persevere through challenges to leave lasting, positive influences on their communities. We're showing the Revolution of Responsibility through the lives of real 4-Her's making a tangible impact in their communities and giving voice to the

uncommon dedication and barrier-breaking commitment of the young people who are 4-H. To learn more about this revolution, visit www.4-H.org/about/revolution.

History is the Foundation of the Future

ISO (In Search Of): 4-H Films



Robert Paige inducts child star Natalie Wood as a member of 4-H in "The Green Promise," a Glenn McCarthy production for R-K-O release in which Marguerite Chapman and Walter Brennan co-star.

We are relisting the old 4-H films from the May newsletter because we received no responses. We would like to make these historical records available to all through the National 4-H History Preservation website. What do you have in your office or what can you locate in your state? Remember, we are in need of several of the films

or videos produced and/or distributed nationally relating to 4-H television series. What do you have?

How can you be a part of this process?

1. Check with your Extension Information Office, State Archives, University Archives or whoever may hold the repository for old 4-H films, videos, audiotapes and slide sets.
2. Let us borrow the films, videos and audio tapes to have them digitized and we will return them directly to their source. We also provide you with a digital copy if you would like one.
3. If your archives has a local lab which already does your digitizing, you can have the copy made for us locally and we will pay; however, this needs our approval before hand (we don't want two or more states digitizing the same film).

Here, again, is a listing of the 4-H films we are currently seeking:

- **4-H, Here and There.** 1956. Produced by the Venard Organization, funded by Funk's G Hybrids
- **Bread Baking.** 1984. Funded by Eastman Kodak Company
- **Bridge to the Future.** 1961. Narrated by Chet Huntley. Funded by International Harvester Company
- **Driver in Command.** 1975. About Automotive program. Funded by Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.
- **e.g. India.** 1966. About IFYE. Funded by International Minerals and Chemical Corporation.
- **Get the Message?** Supports 4-H Health program. Funded by Kraft, Inc.
- **Getting Involved.** 1979. Supports Citizenship program. Funded by The Coca-Cola Company.
- **Hope for Tomorrow.** 1953. Filmed at 4-H Club Camp. Funded by Ford Motor

Company.

- **Joe M. Day--4-H'er.** Report-to-the-Nation delegate. Funded by J. I. Case Company.
- **Make and Model Your Own the 4-H Way.** 1953 4-H Dress Revue. Funded by Simplicity Pattern Co. Inc.
- **Safety, Our Number One Crop.** 1947. Featuring National 4-H safety winners. Funded by General Motors.
- **Share the Fun Breakfast.** Films produced several years in the 1950s at National 4-H Congress. Funded by U. S. Rubber Co.
- **The National 4-H Club Congress.** 1956. Funded by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.
- **The Safest Township Anywhere.** 1960. Premiered at National 4-H Safety Congress. Funded by General Motors.

- **Where the Road Turns Right.** 1946. A tribute to local 4-H volunteer leadership. Funded by Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

Also, if you know of a copy of the film (or tape) that has been digitized, this would be even better. If your state repository for old 4-H films and other A/V materials has a catalog listing of what is available, we would welcome this, as well. This is just the beginning of a long list of films the 4-H History Preservation team is seeking. We know there are many more which we are not aware. We look forward to hearing from you a: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

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

Email: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

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

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