



National 4-H History Preservation Program

November, 2010 Newsletter

Where Did the National 4-H History Preservation Movement Begin?

People have asked how the volunteer initiative of a National History Preservation Program began. It started with Kathleen Flom, and others who wanted to assure that people remembered the humble beginnings and important steps of the 4-H movement and those of the National 4-H Center.

Kathleen, a Minnesota 4-H member and staff person, is well known for her work with 4-H International Programs, her role in opening the National 4-H Center in 1959, and making it a special place dedicated to 4-H youth development. During her time as Assistant Center and Operations Manager, Kathleen greeted many visitors and enjoyed sharing stories of 4-H history.

The room dedicated to her, just off the JCPenney Hall reception area, was in need of sprucing up in 2004. Sue Fisher, newly appointed Resource Development staff member, was tasked with raising \$3,000-\$4,000 to do the job. She recruited Kathleen's former colleagues and friends Eleanor L. Wilson, Gwen El Sawi, and Sue Benedetti to help with the project; all recruits said that a room

honoring Kathleen needed to carry on her legacy of 4-H history education. Having raised more than \$60,000, the volunteers helped re-dedicate the room with a permanent mural of 4-H history and restored artifacts. (below)

While planning and producing the historical exhibit, the implementation team realized that many 4-H artifacts were difficult to find or were fast deteriorating from light and heat damage. We were fortunate to be in the Washington DC area to use the extensive collections of 4-H materials at National Agriculture Library, National Archives and Library of Congress. However, it also became clear that anyone anywhere else in the country or world would need to travel to DC to access the materials. With the vision that 4-H History should be accessible to everyone, we recruited a larger team of former and current national 4-H staff members to begin this task. The new National 4-H History team is listed at the end of the newsletter.

We have also determined that many more people are needed to keep up with the process, and have asked several others for assistance in specific areas. These 4-H History Volunteer Consultants include Harlan Copeland, Grant Shrum, Francis Pressley, Jan Scholl, Larry Quinn, Mary Kaye Merwin, John Allen, Rob Buckley, Melvin Thompson, V. Joseph McAuliffe, and Tyler Archer.



This five by twenty-five foot mural depicting over 100 years of 4-H History is in Kathleen's Corner at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

Digitization of 4-H History

Materials

NATIONAL 4-H HISTORY DIGITIZATION PROGRAM

While efforts continue to document 4-H history materials available at the national level, much of this information is in repositories not accessible to the general public without making a physical visit. The National 4-H History Preservation team feels it is important to make this material accessible to the general public via the Internet. Therefore, earlier this year we started a major digitization program, scanning books and other references and placed them on our website, <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>. Over 650 items have now been digitized. Most of these are national 4-H materials relating to the National 4-H Council and its two predecessor organizations, including newsletters, annual reports, issues of National 4-H News and Supply Service catalogs. The two major 4-H history books - The 4-H Story by Franklin Reck, and 4-H: An American Idea by Thomas and Marilyn Wessel - have also been digitized, plus other miscellaneous manuals and publications.

Our team feels strongly that the digitization process needs to be a coordinated effort with the states. If you have 4-H history documents that have already been digitized and are accessible to the public - efforts that can be incorporated into our national digitization program and included in <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> we would appreciate hearing about them. Obviously, there is no need to duplicate effort in digitizing something which has already been done., key state 4-H history documents that you are interested in getting digitized, we would be happy to work with you in this regard. Contact us at: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

4-H Quote

"I was down to the Los Angeles Livestock Show, and 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." – **Will Rogers, 1934**



Delegates to the 1931 National 4-H Camp were introduced to one of the first televisions in the country.

When Does Something Become "History"?

The National 4-H History Preservation team was recently asked to create a "Contemporary 4-H History" exhibit at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. This new exhibit was showcased at the National 4-H Hall of Fame and National 4-H Heritage Club event on October 8, 2010 at the Center. So we don't forget to conserve recent history, this exhibit will focus on national events, programs and happenings over the past 10 years. The new exhibit is housed in a showcase in the hallway of J. C. Penney Hall between the J. C. Penney Room and the Ken Anderson Gallery. Think about creating a similar exhibit in your community, county or state as a way to keep 4-H History current as well as saving the important elements for the future.

Make a 4-H Heritage Quilt

We plan to have a section on the, <http://4-HCollecting.org> website relating to 4-H Heritage Quilts. If you have already made a 4-H Heritage Quilt, we'd like to share your suggestions on planning and creating such a quilt. It can be a generic 4-H history quilt, a quilt relating to the 4-H heritage in your state, your county or your club. If your family has had active 4-H members or leaders for several generations; how about a family heritage 4-H quilt?

What we are seeking are the procedures, the thought process, types of materials, assemblage, the do's and don'ts of how to create a personal 4-H heritage quilt "masterpiece". Of course we'd also like you to

share photos and any other hints that could help others create their 4-H Heritage Quilts.

Any assistance, suggestions or references would be appreciated. Send to: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program, please mail a check payable to *National 4-H Council* to:

National 4-H Council
c/o Wachovia Bank
P.O. Box 75375
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

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

4-H History Idea Award

Mississippi

Susan Holder, Mississippi Youth Development:

In 2007, Mississippi opened the doors on the Mississippi 4-H Learning Center and Pete Frierson 4-H Museum located on the grounds of the MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum complex in Jackson, MS. "Working on this project in conjunction with Mississippi State University Library and the Consortium for the History of Agriculture and Rural Mississippi (CHARM) program, we have accumulated artifacts and documents that are part of the collection of the library and rotational exhibits at the museum."

Michigan

Betsy Knox, Program Leader, Youth Development, Michigan State University Extension:

"Interested staff and volunteers have been actively seeking, collecting, documenting and preserving our state's 4-H history since 2001. We have developed:

- [A 4-H History Project Collection Manual & Oral History Interviewing Guide for 4-H Youth, Leaders & Staff \(4-H1598\)](#);
- A state 4-H History exhibit which ran for a year in the Michigan State University Museum. A smaller version is now permanently installed at the state 4-H training center;
- A video (now DVD) and transcript of six past and one current State 4-H

Leaders in a panel discussion about Michigan 4-H History;

- Audio interviews with all nine past State 4-H Leaders (1956 to 2010);
- Michigan 4-H History permanent collection at the Michigan State University Museum, consisting of objects, photographs, audio interviews, papers and other materials;
- Additional materials (reports, correspondence, etc. generated by 4-H staff members) are stored at the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections; and
- A brief Michigan 4-H History on our 4-H website at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/history/4hstory/index.html>.

The goals of the Michigan 4-H History Project <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/history/4hstory/index.html> are to:

- develop an historical collection of 4-H memorabilia that documents the Michigan 4-H experience;
- tell a collective story of 4-H in Michigan;
- involve many people in the documentation process -- current and former 4-Hers, 4-H volunteers, and 4-H staff, and others in the community;
- document 4-H history from a personal perspective, as told in oral history interviews;
- collect and preserve Michigan's 4-H history; and
- present the Michigan 4-H story in an exhibit during the Centennial and beyond."

We are searching for...

"Mulligan Stew" video series copies to digitize. Jan Scholl (PA) has found six complete copies of the Mulligan Stew 4-H nutrition series from the 1970s; these copies are in archives which will not allow them out for digitization. Please let us know if you know where we might find other copies to digitize.

Identify this 4-H Photo:

We have found many photos of creative 4-H projects and activities as we sift through files, books and magazines. We'd like to share some of these photos with you through the newsletter. To make the whole activity more entertaining for all of us, we're asking you to try to identify some of them.

What is the name of the performance pictured below? What state do these young women represent? What are the costumes made from? What is their jewelry made from?



(You will be recognized on the 4-H History Preservation website and in the next issue of this newsletter for correct answers to any of the above questions.) Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Send your entries to:

info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

Tell Us What You're Doing in 4-H History Preservation

Tell us:

1. What is happening or what you are doing in your club, your community, your county or your state to preserve 4-H History; and/or
2. What would you like the National 4-H History Preservation Program to do?

Mail to:

Carolyn Fernandez
National 4-H Council
7100 Connecticut Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4999
or

Email: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

Historical 4-H Trivia

4-H Pigs Visit South Pole

A herd of 4-H club pigs are now dining aboard one of Commander Byrd's South Pole expedition vessels. The herd consists of six gilts and one boar which are kept aboard the ship for breeding purposes in order to supply the pork needed for the expedition party during their stay in the South Pole region. The 4-H club boys who sold the hogs to the Byrd purchasing agent are Prior and David Gimbert of Princess Ann County, Virginia. (**National Boys and Girls Club News, January 1929**)

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

Sue Benedetti, Chair; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*

Larry Krug; *National 4-H Council, retired*

Eleanor L. Wilson; *4-H National Headquarters, USDA, retired*

Jim Kahler; *4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA*

Tom Tate; *USDA Extension Service, retired*

Sue Fisher; *National 4-H Council*

Dave Benedetti; *National 4-H Council, retired*

Rick Moses, Webmaster.

Email: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

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

Tweet: @4H_History