



National 4-H History Preservation Program

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1963 Report to the Nation Team has its 50 year Reunion in DC



President Kennedy looks at the 1963 Annual 4-H Report as the team looks on. L to R: Alice Todd, Tony Mellor, Veronica Vamosy, Faye Craig, Larry Pressler and Don Weeks.

The “4-H Report to the Nation” program was a major – and highly successful – public relations initiative by 4-H to present the very best of the program to Presidents, members of Congress, officials of government agencies, current and potential donors, radio and TV personalities, non-profit cooperators and university partners. For at least three decades, it brought the most highly acclaimed 4-H members from across the nation, molded them into a sales force for 4-H, and presented them proudly to the American public in personal visits and media appearances. Well, if you know 4-H achievers, molding them into a sales force was not really a difficult task; nothing sells 4-H like a committed 4-H member. And these were the “cream of the crop” as the old cliché goes.

Report to the Nation started in 1950 and continued through the 1970s at least, maybe longer. We would like to hear from anyone with reliable information on when the program ended and why (contact <http://info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com>). National 4-H Club Congress was the site of selection of the Report to the Nation delegates, usually six outstanding members from across the US. For one year, these selected achievers traveled the country to explain the program and garner support for 4-H.

At the 1962 National 4-H Club Congress, 12 national Achievement winners, 12 national Leadership winners, and two national Citizenship winners were interviewed to be the 1963 Report to the Nation team. From this already-distinguished group, six were selected:

- Alice Todd (now Carter), Alabama, winner in Leadership;
- Veronica Vamosy (now Hughes), New York;
- Faye Craig (now Shirley), Mississippi, winner in Achievement;
- Tony Mellor, Arizona;
- Larry Pressler, South Dakota, winner in Citizenship; and
- Don Weeks, Indiana.

In 1963, this group traveled together for 10 days during National 4-H Week to tell the 4-H story in Washington, DC, New York City, and Los Angeles. By all their accounts, the highlight was meeting with President John F. Kennedy in the White House. “He spent 45 minutes with us,” remarked Larry Pressler who, as a former US Representative and Senator, knows how difficult it is to get “Presidential time.” “He asked me what I fed my chickens,” exclaimed Faye Shirley, “which completely threw me!” “Since I was from Arizona he told me that he and Bobby had worked on a Dude Ranch there” remembered Tony Mellor. “President Kennedy was reaching out to the rural communities, to the agricultural population,” said Pressler; “and was truly interested in what we were doing.”



History Team members guess “who’s who” as they look at one of the photos taken of the 1963 4-H Report being given to President Kennedy. L to R: Sue Benedetti, Dave Benedetti, with Tony Mellor, Veronica Hughes, Faye Shirley, Larry Pressler and Don Weeks next to Eleanor Wilson.

Besides Kennedy, the group met with US Representatives and Senators, the Post-Master General, USDA officials, business leaders in New York, and went to LA to be on the Art Linkletter show. Linkletter later became a member of the National 4-H Advisory Council, the group of distinguished corporate and public figures who raised money to expand and enhance the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD.

So what are the 1963 4-H Reporters doing now?

Veronica Vamosy Hughes is a retired math teacher who is now a substitute teacher and judges 4-H clothing every year at the New York State Fair.

Faye Craig Shirley is a retired high school Social Studies teacher and counselor, a former Job Development Counselor for the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, is a Master Gardner volunteer and owns the Thrill of the Hunt Antiques store in Raleigh, NC.

Alice Todd Carter was the Librarian at the Montgomery (AL) Museum of Fine Arts. She retired once but they called her back to work part time. She's told them that her last day is May 31.

Tony Mellor, also semi-retired, is Director of Tiger Promotions, a promotional products design production and distribution company.

Dr. Don Weeks is Maxcy Professor of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; he is nationally recognized for his pioneering work in plant biochemistry and biotechnology, including a new initiative in emerging biofuels technology.

Larry Pressler, a former Foreign Service Officer, former US Representative and US Senator, heads the Pressler Group Law Firm; he recently received the National American Legion Statesman Award and is currently a finalist for additional Fulbright Professor Grant in 2014.

While in DC for the reunion, the group stayed at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center; they were hosted in the Senate Dining Room by Harriet Pressler, Larry's wife, visited the Senate Gallery and were videotaped by the National 4-H History Preservation team. Alice joined the group by Skype and conference call as she was unable to come to Washington. The best part? Seeing each other again, relaxing and catching up. "It's as if 50 years had not transpired," marveled Faye.

"Voices of 4-H History" Project Picks up Steam for Centennial of Extension

Many successes, techniques and strategies have been shared among Voices of 4-H History pilot states at the April conference call and May Webinar.



Getting acquainted with the equipment is a giant step in the start-up phase of the project.

4-H'ers in **KY** are experimenting with iPhones for filming; they will edit videos with Movie Maker software. Several suggested Adobe Premiere. Others mentioned Elements as a popular video editing software. Make sure you save your work frequently if using Move Maker. Another option for editing is Seris Movie plus 5.

Paul Hill (**UT**) said, I'm an iMovie guy. Here's what I did for National 4-H Conference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFaX5yFJ3Jo>. This example could be posted as contemporary 4-H History.

MI has been working with Tech Wizards. iPhone tripod attachments are available which would be helpful. Michigan contacts with interviewees have been made and interviews will start in the next couple of months. One youth may become the producer/director and hopefully will submit for FilmFest 4-H.

Dean Aakre (**ND**) shared that they will have a state fair film festival and have added "Voices of 4-H History" category to that event.

In **MD**, Pat Murphy is actively trying to recruit youth to come on board. Knowing that states are using cell phone cameras will help increase interest. She turned the (nationally produced) 4-H Voices banner into a bookmark to distribute at community 4-H promotional events.

Virginia Gobeli **(RI)** has a written history of Rhode Island 4-H that can be a basis for this project. Virginia may be able to work with a work study student at the University to get the project going in Rhode Island.

Margaret **(WV)** conducted interviews with several individuals and now has an appointment to learn how to edit the videos. WV sees this as something they can expand with funding into a larger project.

Steven Worker **(CA)** gave an overview: with funds from Best Buy (Community Grant that can be applied for through the store), they were able to provide six four-hour training workshops statewide for youth to create “Revolution of Responsibility” and “Voices of 4-H History” videos. The California 4-H film festival is May 25.



Training workshops in various parts of California got their program off to a good start.

Linda Horn **(CT)** shared that staff has been meeting twice a month with their youth Tech Team. They are interviewing people using flip cameras and Canon Digital recorder, and using iMovie to edit.

Jenny Cocanougher **(KY)** has been experimenting with conducting interviews as a group with youth taking turns asking questions of two 4-H alums. “We think we could have set up multiple interview sessions, rather than all at once.”

SC also uses flip phone cameras. They have connected with the state 4-H Teen Council to help expand the project statewide. (see the article in this Newsletter to learn about a publicity technique).

Bradd Anderson **(MO)**: “We put our program up on the FilmFest Facebook page, and it received almost 500 views. It was also shared

by users from five different states.” Be sure to use your states’ social media to promote your program.

Possible Strategies on interviewing

Bradd Anderson (MO 4-H): “I would suggest starting with some easy questions, then gradually moving towards the more thought-provoking ones. Establish rapport, then get to the ‘meat’ that you’ll actually use once there’s a comfort level established.”

Questions as ice breakers and interviews were suggested by many. Questions such as:

- What made you join 4-H?
- What was your favorite project?
- Name two important things you learned in 4-H.
- How did 4-H affect your life?
- What did your 4-H club(s) do?
- What were your 4-H meetings like?

Ellen Mayes **(SC)** is trying to reach people throughout the state. For an icebreaker they share food that the youth have made. Suggest interviews be conducted for about 20 minutes.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

It has become very successful to include people from different generations, geographic locations, and those with different types of experiences. Kids are learning about how things in 4-H have changed.



Connecticut 4-H’ers practice their interview and video skills on each other before they attempt the real thing.

CT mentioned several challenges: learning to use a tri-pod! Good idea to practice "mock interviews" with each other before actual interviews.

Jenny Cocanougher (KY) shared questions their youth are using to start the interviews. They've been experimenting with conducting interviews as a group with youth taking turns asking questions of two 4-H alums. "We are learning that more time is needed than we anticipated. We think we could have set up multiple interview sessions, rather than all at once."

Some suggested at least one and a half hours to allow time for youth and interviewees to warm up to each other and for capturing all the stories to create an easier flow of information.

The "Voices of 4-H History" Start Up Kit

Based on many request and ideas coming from pilot states the team is putting together a "Start up" kit. It will serve as an online table of contents pointing to Voices of 4-H History tools that will be available for state and local history teams to download and print out for their use. The Voices of 4-H History "Start up kit" will include such things as:

- a banner or poster for use at events to attract and recruit interest in your project;
- a Tip Sheet for getting youth interested;
- an example video of interview with former 4-H'er that demonstrates the power of editing in old photographs to video presentations;
- a list of potential questions for use by youth in interviewing 4-H Alumni;
- editing software proven useful in editing interview audio and video; and
- other inclusions that you might suggest.

The next Voices of 4-H History conference call is scheduled for Monday, June 17 at 3:00 p.m. EDST. Please mark your calendar and RSVP your intentions to participate in this call by email to: Tateace@aol.com. In the meantime, visit the 4-H History website at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices>.

It's now very easy to sign up for this newsletter on: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> by clicking on Home & News in the left hand menu bar, then on Newsletter; you can sign up online.

History of National 4-H Competitive Events



HOT SHOTS take aim and shoot at the first National Photography Institute held at the National 4-H Center.

National 4-H competitive events – no matter whether they are contests, or recognition events where attendance was competitive – have been a major part of 4-H history for nearly a century. Many of these events played an important role in keeping 4-H'ers involved in the program, having a personal goal of attending a particular event.



Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up

In thinking about traditional national 4-H events, the National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Camp on the D.C. Mall and Citizenship Washington Focus may be the major ones which come to mind. But there have been a score of other 4-H youth participation events which have been a successful part of the 4-H program, many still being offered today. The National 4-H History Preservation leadership team is attempting to research and write the history of all of these events, many which currently have little documented history available to us. Some of these include:

- National 4-H Dairy Conference
- National 4-H Engineering Events
- Automotive Care & Safety Contest
- National 4-H Forestry Invitational
- National 4-H Horse Round-Up
- National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- National 4-H Meat Judging Contest
- Western National Round-Up
- Space Camp
- National 4-H Poultry Judging and Egg Contest

- National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational
- National Wildlife Habitat Education Program
- National 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium
- Hot Shots - National Photography Institute
- National Youth Safety Congress
- 4-H National Youth Science Day
- National 4-H Dress Review

For many of these specialty 4-H program events, we have begun drafting the histories. Visit this section of the 4-H history website: http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_National.asp



Delegates to the 1972 National 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium pose as a group on the trading floor of the Chicago Board of Trade

We are sadly lacking the historical documentation of the most current 15-20 years of ongoing events in particular. If you attended any of these events or were involved in helping to plan or conduct them, we would welcome your input. If you have printed event programs or A/V materials, we would like to borrow them for digitization for the website. Larry Krug is spearheading this effort for our team. Write him at: info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com or call 301.926.8663.

4-H Youth Recruit Alumni to Add their Voices to 4-H History in South Carolina

4-H Historical Club of York County, SC, recruited former 4-H members to participate in the Voices of 4-H History project during the 50 year old local 10-Day "Come See Me Festival" in Rock Hill, South Carolina April 11-20, 2013. The 4-H club was representing the 80s in the parade.

The club leaders used the photo file shared by the 4-H History Preservation team of the newly developed "Voices of History" pull-up banner to produce their own three-foot banners through a local printer. Bradley Garland (above right) built the braces for the banners so that they can be used in various ways all year. These became part of their

"float" in the opening parade at the festival and were also used at other events during the week.

Youth leader, William McDaniel III, (State 4-H Teen Council President and founder of the 4-H Historical Club) said that the parade generated much interest in the oral history project in the 15,000 plus townspeople who attended the parade and events featured on local television. William remarked, "Folks are eager to recall their wonderful experiences in 4-H."



Rock Hill South Carolina 4-H'ers Bradley Garland, William Alexander McDaniel III, Jordan Bolinger, (Club President) and Tabitha Bolinger, represented their club in a local parade as a way you recruit 4-H alumni for interviews.

The 4-H Historical Club plans to interview and record memories of 4-H alumni during the spring and summer of 2013. McDaniel said, "We plan to interview people in York County and all over South Carolina." They also hope to edit in old photographs to go along with the audio/video recollections of the former 4-H'ers.

Adult leaders of the History Club, Kelly McDaniel and Ellen Mayes, told National 4-H Team members that they are working toward submitting the youth produced films at the 2013 4-H Film Fest in Branson, Missouri, in August.

Another Gift to Restore 4-H Calendar Art!

The 4-H History team has received the second gift to assist in the restoration of one of the 34 pieces of original National 4-H Calendar art owned by the National 4-H Council. This painting is being sponsored by a LeAnn Blum, 4-H Alumna who also was an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate and served as the IFYE Fellow at the National 4-H Foundation.

The calendar art that she chose to support was originally commissioned by the Shaw-Barton Calendar Company of Coshocton, Ohio. "Learn by

Doing” is the title of this painting by Harold Anderson. It is a scene with which any 4-H'er from the 1950s could surely identify.



This 1955 National 4-H Calendar hung in many banks, feed stores and tractor dealerships as well as 4-H homes

As with all of the calendar art we are looking for information that anyone has about who might have posed for this particular painting. This family probably was involved in 4-H somewhere in the Mid-West in the early 1950s. Please contact us at info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

To learn more about how you might sponsor the restoration or preservation of one of these great pieces of American Heritage; you can contact the National 4-H History Preservation team at the same address above.

To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program;

please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to see your options, or mail a check payable to

National 4-H Council at: National 4-H History Preservation Program
National 4-H Council
PO Box 37560
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation** on memo line..

Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

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