



National 4-H History Preservation Program

March, 2013 Newsletter
Volume V Issue III



This 1980 cover of National 4-H News features a live demonstration at a County 4-H Fair which brought bursts of applause from spectators signaling the thrill as rocket after rocket successfully lifted off the three launch pads. The members demonstrated their skill at assembling and launching a working rocket for curious onlookers, parents and friends.

Astronauts, Space and 4-H

A new history segment has just been posted in the National 4-H History section of our history website entitled "Astronauts, Space and 4-H."

The 4-H involvement with space can be traced from Amelia Earhart and Admiral Richard Byrd through Neil Armstrong and James Lovell, Ellison Onizuka and the Challenger disaster, a 4-H space television series with NASA – "Blue Sky Below My Feet" – to National Space Camp, the National 4-H Engineering Challenge events and 4-H National Youth Science Day; space,

indeed, is an important part of both 4-H history and 4-H today. Be sure to visit this new section at:

<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/Space/>

Comments are very welcome and appreciated at: Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

80 Years Ago 4-H Helped Inaugurate Mother-in-Law Day in the US

It was March 5, 1934, in Amarillo, Texas: the first observation of Mother-in-Law Day. Even the First Lady (and a Mother-in-Law herself), Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, traveled down to Amarillo for the occasion.

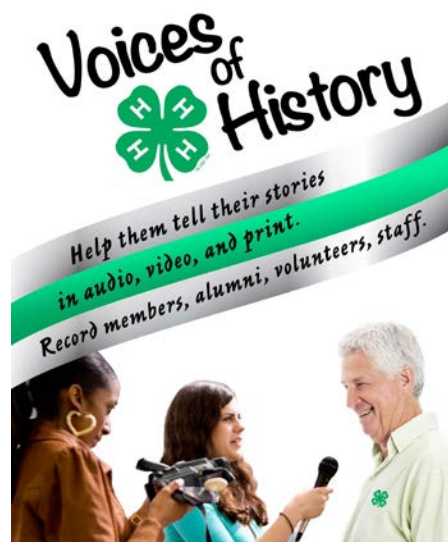


First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt and program participants at the first observation of Mother-In-Law Day in 1934.

Mrs. Roosevelt displayed a marked interest in rural life, the welfare of rural women and the improvement of rural homes. On the occasion, she said "I do not know very much about your specific problems, but I imagine they are not very different from those of the rural women in my home state. I have been closely associated with the rural women of New York State for 32 years. For the past 11 years I have accepted a part on their short course program; to me there isn't any more important work in the world than home demonstration work."

Mrs. Roosevelt was amazed at the thousands who thronged Amarillo for the occasion – estimated at 200,000 – and wondered where they all hailed from. She enjoyed the huge parade titled “Home Demonstration and Girls’ 4-H Club Work on Parade.” Collingsworth County 4-H club girls displayed how eggs of good grade produce baby chicks sufficient to supply the family table with poultry products. Gray County 4-H girls modeled slips to show that they had completed their first wardrobe demonstration goal. Anna Reno, state 4-H tomato canning champion from Hutchinson County, showed the audience quality canned tomatoes and tomato products. Moore County 4-H club girls modeled attractive aprons. Wheeler County was represented by the Magic City 4-H club girls who showed exactly how to conduct a business meeting.

In later years, Mother-in-Law Day has moved to the fourth Sunday of October and is scheduled to be observed on October 26, 2014, this fall.



States Plan New Media to Pass 4-H Treasures to Future Generations

2014 is the Centennial of passage of the Smith-Lever Act, funding Cooperative Extension Service – and thereby 4-H – nationally. The “Voices of 4-H History” program to collect audio, video and film remembrances of 4-H was begun to commemorate this important

milestone. What started with just a few pilot states has spread rapid-fire across the country as more and more communities strive to record their treasured memories. Here’s the latest news from some of the participating states. Many filmed recollections are aimed for FilmFest 4-H 2014 in St. Louis in August.

“Voices of 4-H History” teams in HI are connecting with local Public Television to learn more about filming, editing and piecing the videos together according to Joan Chong. “It is a great partnership,” she says.

Jenny Cocanougher, Woodford County, KY, 4-H reports, “we have the first draft of our 4-H memories video ready.”

“Our club members will be making a video for the Voices project again this year”, said Sheila Chairvolotti, Champlain Shamrocks 4-H club, Grand Isle, VT. (Editor’s note: you can see their second place entry in FilmFest 4-H 2013 at:<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/events/filmfest/index.htm>.)

“We are generating interest among the 4-H advisers, to see how many would like to be interviewed, and going from there,” reports 4-H agent Brittany Pangburn in Athens County, OH.

The MD Voices Youth Team reports that two counties have challenged their clubs for March participation. The eight interested clubs in Prince Georges County have been challenged to submit 15-20 minute video project drafts by the end of March. Montgomery County leaders conducted training for potential partners in February. Both counties have asked for submissions of drafts for an April review. Selected submitted media will be edited together in time for June submission to the national FilmFest 4-H 2014.

In late February, 4-H staff from CT, ME, NH, VT, MD and WV huddled by conference call to explore options for moving a “Voices of 4-H History” effort forward in their states. Another Conference Call took place on March 17. Check <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices> for an update on that call.

We ask all readers to encourage current and potential “Voices of 4-H History” partners to participate in future Voices conference calls planned for May, June, and July, 2014.



Dr. E.W. (Ed) Aiton, former Director of 4-H at USDA .

4-H in the Movies

The following is from the July, 1960, monthly column, “Washington News and Views,” by the federal Extension 4-H staff, which appeared in National 4-H News. This particular column was written by Dr. E. W. Aiton, Director, 4-H and Young Men and Women Programs (YMW).

“4-H pops up in the most interesting places! Now it’s in the big time motion picture business. I’m writing this article from Hollywood, California. Tomorrow morning we give a final review and approval to a feature-length movie that’s all about a 4-H community in Katy, Texas. The title is ‘Tomboy and the Champ.’ You’ll see it soon in your neighborhood theatre.

The part of the ‘Tomboy’ is a very nice but determined little orphan girl. You’ll shed a tear or two because polio nearly spoils her 4-H hopes and dreams. But her foster parents, the local club members and an understanding rural pastor help her over the rough places. We hope you like it.

We always get a tremendous thrill out of working with folks who see in 4-H a chance to tell a wholesome story about the good things that happen in America. This motion picture is another example.

While flying here to filmland this afternoon I was reminded of an almost forgotten contribution of 4-H to the Stars. Once long ago our small town family doctor telephoned and said ‘Ed, we have a mighty sick little baby here. It’s Judy Gumm. We can’t find any food that agrees with her. Will you take real special care of some low-butterfat milk and bring it in fresh twice a day. Strain it and cool it carefully and...’

So ‘Toots’ – my Holstein 4-H heifer – became an experimental foster mother for about six months. The whole town was mighty pleased that tiny Judy began to feel better right away. At three, she started singing with her father on the stage at the local theatre, between the first and second shows. And later, (you’ve already guessed it) she changed her name to Judy Garland, whom you know as the film and TV icon.

I hope that every 4-H boy or girl can experience a similar thrill by making someone happy or healthy, producing something, being somebody or doing something useful and worthwhile. That’s why we use the term 4-H WORK. It implies service and usefulness. Also, that’s why 4-H should be kept flexible – so that local leaders, parents and 4-H members can shape and fit it to local needs and problems. How fortunate that our 4-H ‘project outline and requirements’ for the heifer program was flexible enough to market the milk from ‘Toots’ in a very unusual way for six months. That’s the way it must always be in 4-H, so we can always say ‘When ‘A Star Is Born’ – 4-H helped to raise it to the sky.”

Tell a Friend or Colleague how to get this newsletter: Click on:
<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Newsletter>
to sign up.

Historical 4-H Trivia

From 93 Years Ago – The Strongest Club?

As reported in the June 1921 edition of “Farm Boys’ and Girls’ Leader:” At a recent meeting in the west, attended by George E. Farrell, in charge of Boys’ and Girls’ Club Work, north and west, for the federal office, the question as to which state had the strongest club was raised. Mr. Farrell said MA claimed to have the strongest club – its Onion Club. CA immediately challenged the MA claim by having a Garlic Club, but CO came in on the finish with the Skunk Club. “We won’t argue with Colorado for a minute!” Mr. Farrell said.

Can You Help Us Identify?

This picture is the only photo existing of the joint staffs of the National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Foundation during their merger as National 4-H Council. It was taken at the National 4-H Center (which was being remodeled) in 1976, 48 years ago, a year

before merger. Can you help us identify the “blanks” in the photo?

L. to R. Seated: Louise Kilpatrick, Margo Tyler, Harold Sweet, Mollie Hardin, Gary Deverman, Mary Bedford, Melvin Thompson, Nancy Aiken Varian, Gwen El Sawi, Lois Howard.

L. to R. Standing: , James Veeder, Francis Pressly, Bonnie (Beck) Sarkett, Jack Seibert, Kathleen Flom, John Pederson, , Larry Hancock, Charles Freeman, Larry Krug, James Harden, Wayne Bath, Les Nichols, Joseph McAuliffe, _____, Marsha Midgley, Grant Shrum, _____, Kenneth Anderson, Pat Brown, Ray Crabbs, Diana Williams, Don Henderson.

If you can identify any of the “unknowns” please send their names and who they were standing beside to: Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com

Please note: Not all current staff at the time are shown in this photo.



Can You Help Us Find these Films?

We are seeking copies of the following 4-H films to make digitized copies to be shared through the National 4-H History Preservation website.

- **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 and funded by International Harvester Company
- **Driver in Command**, 1975. About the 4-H 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
- **Getting Involved**, 1979. Supports 4-H Citizenship programs and funded by The Coca-Cola Company
- **Hope for Tomorrow**, 1953. Filmed at 4-H Club Camp and funded by Ford Motor Company
- **Joe M. Day – 4-H'er**. About a Report-to-the-Nation delegate and 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 and 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.

We can return the films (or tapes) once they have been digitized. Or, you may know where there already is a digitized copy. This is just the beginning of a long list of films the 4-H History Preservation team is seeking. Please write to: Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com.

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

If you manage a website related to 4-H, we would greatly appreciate a link on your site pointing to:

4-HHistoryPreservation.com Click on:

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

to pull down a variety of buttons or banners.

4-H History Donations Can Honor Family Members, Friends, Colleagues

All of the many activities and initiatives of the National 4-H History Preservation Program are run solely by volunteers and private funding. Whether it's the "Voices of 4-H History" films to commemorate the Smith-Lever Centennial, or restoration of Calendar and Poster art work, or the digitization of important historic documents, films and audiotapes we rely on individual contributions from those of you who respect and value the preservation of the 4-H tradition.

You may contribute to the National 4-H History Preservation Program in many ways. You might want to contribute directly, or to honor the memory of a friend or colleague.

Many of your colleagues and friends are significant contributors to 4-H History. You might want to memorialize a particular one or several with a gift to the National 4-H History Preservation Program.

Among your colleagues whom you might want to memorialize (and who have memorial funds established): Richard Angus, Elsie Carper, Sue Fisher, Margaret Emerson, Bea Cleveland,

Kenneth and Winifred Anderson, Ralph Kirch, Kathleen Flom, Robert Lindstrom, Nola Smith, Neva Wing, Margo Tyler, Norman and Dorothy Mindrum, Mary Wengryn, and Donald Johnson. If you wish to honor or memorialize someone, please let us know the name of the honoree so we may appropriately recognize your gift.

Please see our contributions area:
<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Contributions/Contributions.asp> or you may send a check as noted in box:

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 Program** on the memo line of your check.

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