

VIII. The 4-H Story in Montana

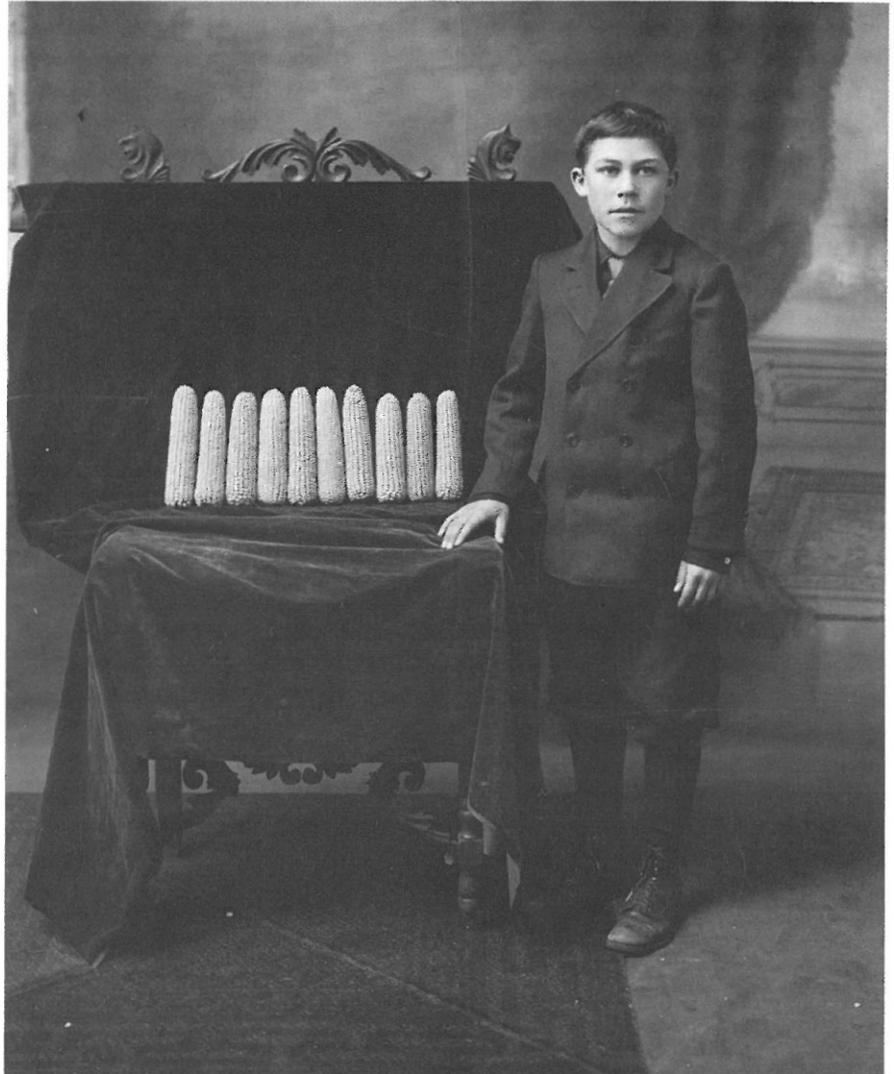
Evidence that the earliest planning for a more abundant rural life in Montana included concern for its youth is contained in the first printed report of the Montana Farmers' Institutes in 1902. This included an address given to a session of the institute by Professor W. F. Brewer of Montana State titled "Some Suggestions about Boys." Recalling the phrase, "A boy's will is the wind's will," Professor Brewer hazarded that the decade from 11 until 21 was the most impressionable in a person's life. He urged that the family and the community surround its youth with a multiplicity of interests and activities associated with real life situations from which they could make choices. He suggested participation in vocational activities, encouragement in starting hobby collections, provisions for sports and social life within similar age groups, and a flexibility in which the "boy's will" could gyrate but remain within constructive limits. The following year Professor M. J. Elrod of the University of Montana considered the problem of "How to Keep the Boys on the Farm." His recommendation was "to give him something which is his own and let him use his brains in making it a success."

The youth movement was progressing rapidly by 1902, and Montana was abreast of the times. Thomas and Marilyn Wessel of Montana State University, in their recent and excellent *4-H, An American Idea, 1900-1980*, recount how the idea grew from similar concerns in many places. In 1896 Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University began to use New York Extension funds to prepare study materials and make them available to schools and clubs in rural communities to encourage greater awareness of agricultural problems and possibilities. In 1902 Albert B. Graham, superintendent of schools in Springfield township, Ohio, began forming Agricultural Experiment clubs for both boys and girls. In cooperation with the Experiment Station at Ohio State University, corn, garden, flower and other clubs were organized statewide enlisting several thousand youth. In 1905 Graham was asked to become the first superintendent of the state Extension type program.

At the same time in Illinois another county superintendent of schools, O.J. Kerns working with the Illinois Experiment Station, also developed youth corn and other clubs. The president of the Macoupin County Farmers' institute, Will B Otwell observed in 1898 that working together in a group

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The winning 10 ears of corn at Montana's first com show; exhibited by J.D. O'Donnell, Jr., Billings, Mont., 1910.

was one important factor in working with youth. He also added another feature which has remained a part of 4-H activities, that of recognition for superior work; an award or a prize, if even a small one. This idea spread like wildfire, and by 1904 as many as 50,000 youth were in friendly competition in corn clubs. An enormous pyramid of corn built at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition by the youth of Illinois received national attention. In Iowa two other educators, Jessie Field and O. H. Benson, received strong support from Henry C. Wallace and his *Wallace's Fanner*.

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Montana Corn Clubs

Fred S. Cooley became superintendent of the Montana Farmers' Institute in 1907. He had a genuine concern for youth but lacking the finances and facilities for organizing and directing clubs, he attempted to initiate youth activity by securing a number of stimulating speakers to appear before high school assemblies to inform and interest the students in new developments in agriculture.

By 1910 a movement arose in some of Montana's eastern counties under the Farmers' Institute management to organize corn clubs. These received a powerful stimulus from a gift of \$1,000 prize money from James J. Hill of the Great Northern Railway. The work of the corn clubs, "industrial con-tests" they were called, was displayed in a large exhibit in Billings in November. The effort was judged to be remarkably successful. Many of the farmers in eastern Montana had come from the Midwest and they had been unsuccessful in their continuing attempts to raise corn. They were as interested as their children in the experiments taking place.

The original directions in the corn contest called merely for a selection of the best 10 ears. When M. L. Wilson went into eastern Montana in 1912 as an agricultural supervisor, he instituted what Charles E. Potter called, "the first club project drafted by a Montana county agent." In his "Twenty Years of 4-H Club Work in Montana, 1914-1934," Potter quotes Wilson's simple rules:

Plant a plot of 9 feet x 12 feet hills, dropping at least six kernels into each hill. After the corn is four inches above the ground thin to a perfect stand of three stocks per hill, and hoe frequently during the summer.

Each boy or girl was charged 10 cents for enough Northwestern Dent to plant the prescribed plot. Early enthusiasm brought 280 children into the contest but before fall the contest had simmered down to about 60. However, the entire project demonstrating new seed and more intensive care helped to establish corn, within climatic limitations, as an important auxiliary crop.

Dr. Hartman, Youth Specialist

The corn clubs really launched the organization of farm youth clubs, but pig, calf, canning, sewing and garden clubs followed closely. Another important segment of the youth movement had its origin in 1911. In that year, Dr. W. J. Hartman was employed as the first livestock specialist for the state. Since livestock was judged to be of special interest to youth clubs, Hartman was asked to give them particular attention. In the same year the new State Fair Association announced plans to "conduct short courses in stock judging and household arts at the State Fair." The fair was held in Helena and Hartman was asked to help in the preparation of the exhibits

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since one boy and one girl from each county was to be sent to the State Fair, the selection being based upon some industrial achievement.

The beginnings of wide public and private cooperation in the youth enterprises took place at the State Fair under the direction of Cooley and Hartman of the Farmers' Institutes, the State Department of Public Instruction, and I. D. O'Donnell of Billings for the Fair Board. The railroads willingly agreed to furnish transportation, and the Fair Board provided camping facilities and food for the youthful participants during the fair. By 1914 a short report was required, and the fair requirements for winning exhibits were listed as: perfect exhibit specimens, maximum yield, greatest profit, and the best account of the work.

Organization Under the Smith-Lever Act, 1914

Since boys' and girls' clubs were widely organized in almost all states by

1914, they were included in the Extension program under the Smith-Lever Act. Miss Augusts Evans from Illinois was chosen to direct the Montana clubs. She organized with whirlwind speed and by mid-1915 club enrollment was 2,939. Clubs participated in the State Fair in Helena, at the Western Montana Fair in Missoula, and in a new and important annual Corn Fair in Miles City. The first regional 4-H Club Fair was held in Wibaux in November 1915.

Miss Evans resigned July 1, 1916. Her abundant energy had enabled her to stimulate wide interest, but reports for her period of service are highly incomplete. Forty-eight leaders reported active work being done. Four of these were county agents, four were county superintendents of schools, 14 were teachers, and 26 were housewives and farmers.

M. J. Abbey and Charles E. Potter

In August 1916, M. J. Abbey from West Virginia became state club leader. In March 1917 Miss Mina Ogilvie, who had been an assistant specialist in home economics, became his assistant. And on April 1, 1917, Charles E. Potter also became an assistant and started a long and successful career. Director F. S. Cooley in his *History of the Montana Extension Service*, says of Abbey:

Abbey brought to this field a very conspicuous quality of personal leadership and boundless energy and enthusiasm. His was about the best advertised work in the state. The numbers of children enrolled in the clubs were very large and the enthusiasm was very marked.

Abbey reported that the best work was being done where county agents could give direction to strong local leaders. This addition to their other work—especially as the war broke out—was not really possible, however, and by mid-1917 some 25 county club leaders had been recruited locally;

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they in turn secured community leaders.

Early state leaders hoped that at least a county 4-H staff could be paid. A beginning was made with the employment of Harry N. Kauffman in Flathead County in 1917. He had begun working with the clubs while on the staff of the Flathead County High School. He found himself in the lowest-paid bracket on the Extension field staff, and soon accepted a position in Wisconsin. A short time later he returned to the high school in Kalispell and resumed his 4-H work. His success was outstanding, and his first Junior Fair easily surpassed the well established and highly rated adult Flathead County Fair.

Mrs. Mary Davey of Deer Lodge was paid for three months' service in



Charles E. Potter (right), state 4-H leader, visiting with a 4-H Com Club member and his leader.

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1916 by the Deer Lodge Commercial Club, and in 1921 Mrs. May Thomas in Fergus County, and Martha L. Eder in Big Horn County were also paid for short periods of club service. In the meantime, a certain amount of prestige appeared to develop around local leaders and they were easier to secure, although they were never in ample supply and the turnover was always high.

M. J. Abbey had been brought to the state primarily to direct the College academic program in agricultural education, and as this work increased, Abbey resigned from his club duties on January 1, 1920. His assistant, Charles E. Potter, then became state leader, remaining until March 31, 1935. Cooley commented again:

Since taking up boys and girls club work, Mr. Potter has given it the best of his energy, pleasing personality, and analytical mind. Club work has been reduced to a science and the best system has been applied.

The 4-H Emblem and Pledge

The ceremonial features of the 4-H Clubs developed over several years. The three-leaf clover as an emblem was proposed for use as early as 1906. It was suggested by O. H. Benson of Wright County, Iowa, representing the "trinity of powers in education, the equal training of head, heart and hand." In 1911 a small conference of youth leaders in Washington, D. C., approved the fourth leaf, suggested for "health" by O. B. Martin of South Carolina, and the imprint of an "H" on each leaf was agreed upon.

In 1913 Martin further proposed that a "4" be placed before the "H," and the insignia "4-H" was created. Little attention was given to emblems and ceremony during the war years, but in the revival of youth work in the following years this type of emphasis was useful. Directing youth work in the USDA in the early 1920s were the original O. H. Benson and an innovative associate, Gertrude Warren. At least in part through their efforts, by 1924 the 4-H emblem had been adopted nationwide.

A creed and a pledge was also developed over a number of years but not until 1927, in the first National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C., were they adopted. The 4-H Club Creed is inclusive:

I believe in Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club work for the opportunity it gives me to become a useful citizen.
I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me
to THINK, PLAN and REASON.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will
give me to be KIND, SYMPATHETIC and TRUE.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be HELPFUL, SKILLFUL and
USEFUL.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to ENJOY LIFE, RESIST
DISEASE and WORK EFFI-
CIENTLY.

I believe in my Country, my State, my Community, and in my

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responsibility for their development.

In all of these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

This rather comprehensive Creed has been concisely summarized in the Pledge:

I pledge my head to clearer thinking; My heart to greater loyalty;

My hands to larger service; My health to better living

For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

The final expression "and my world," has been added in recent years as the 4-H idea has expanded to more than 80 countries and the International Farm Youth Exchange Program has become a major 4-H activity.

World War I and Postwar

The 4-H organization, indeed the entire Extension operation, found both frustration and high achievement during World War I, which followed so quickly upon its establishment. The leadership problem continued since there were insufficient funds to employ county leaders for youth, but considerable assistance came from the increased number of county agents who were employed under the "emergency" war measures of the federal government.

Fortunately, the federal Smith-Hughes Vocational program came into the schools in 1917, with its Future Homemakers of America in Home Economics for girls, and the Future Farmers of America in Agriculture for boys. School personnel had been called upon extensively to assist with 4-H Extension work since 1914, and they were even more widely used during the war. County agents also found that they were often able to reach parents more quickly on new and hurry-up projects when they started with the youth in the homes. The war demand for increased agricultural production coupled with greatly increased prices and a strong patriotic appeal was irresistible. The members and leaders of the 4-H Clubs and the vocational clubs found themselves in the middle of an important and satisfying effort to promote agricultural production and food preservation, and of nation-wide drives to collect scrap iron, paper, and fats. By 1918 the enrollment in

4-H had shot up to 11,703 members in Montana.

In 1919 club enrollment dropped sharply to 5,251, only in part due to postwar relaxation. A supplement to the annual report of boys' and girls' club work for the year ending December 1, 1919, summarized conditions:

The drought of the past year handicapped club work considerably. With only a 40 percent crop production throughout the state it is easily seen what the club members were encountering in carrying through projects. Much seed that was planted never came through the ground and the shortage of feed stuffs seriously influenced the returns on livestock production.

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The flu epidemic cut heavily on the bread and garment club work as the schools were closed down. Upon opening, the school work was so heavy in order to make up what was lost that many members had to give up the work. The number of working days was also cut short on account of this epidemic and many who had partially finished were unable to complete in-time for county contests.

In spite of these conditions, the splendid spirit with which the youngsters accepted the inevitable is cause for much enthusiasm on the part of those connected with the work. "Give me a favorable year and I'll show what I can do," is the opinion of the club members of Montana.

A club encampment was held at the Montana State Fair and the Midland Empire Fair with an enrollment of over 200 boys and girls who were county winners in their various projects. The railroad fare of the winners was paid by the county, while the Fair Association provided lodging, meals and entertainment. The club exhibits at these two fairs were remarkable considering the dry year. In 27 out of 52 counties, county club fairs were held at which splendid prizes were awarded.

In 1919 there were two full-time and 15 part-time paid club leaders who were salaried under the federal government "emergency" plan, plus 250 volunteer community leaders. Nevertheless, 80 percent of the clubs were supervised by school personnel. This was not a satisfactory arrangement since many of the teachers did not remain in the community during the summer season when 4-H projects were most active. The county agents retained their enthusiasm for the clubs, leaders were recruited from farms and homes, and by 1926 only about 8 percent of the local leaders came from the teaching profession. State Club Leader Charles Potter summarized the trend:

The adoption of the policy that club work was extension work not school work, the selection of members out of school as well as in school, emphasis upon the voluntary membership in the 4-H Clubs, the selection of the slogan "every club with a local leader," and the emphasis placed upon the definite organization of a club group with a restricted number of projects whose requirements conformed to the four principles of project selection, together with the idea of using the Extension specialist as the consultant in 4-H Club subject matter, and the correlation of the club project with that of the specialist's program, were some of the adjustments which characterized the "after the war" period.

The rapid rise of the Farm Bureau and the deep interest of its members in all of Extension work proved to be a rich resource area for 4-H assistance. When the bureau took on political overtones, Extension ceased to use its facilities.

State leaders worked on the job of standardizing objectives and at the end of a decade, Charles Potter said:

Leadership, cooperative endeavor, cultural, social and recreational opportunities, as well as community service, character building, and citizenship training, were now commonly spoken of as objectives in 4-H work.

New procedures emerged steadily, and shortly as a result, a new set of standards were designed in the form of a score card.

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This provided for a program of work for local clubs, including well-planned club meetings, tours, exhibits, parents' meetings, health programs, achievement days, demonstrations and judging, picnics, publicity, well-kept records by secretary and club members, high percentage completion of club work, community service projects, and well-trained local leaders.

By 1923 a total of 2,720 members were enrolled in 264 clubs in 33 counties and 310 communities representing 1,500 homes. Eight camps were held in that year with an attendance of 431.

The completion of projects was less than 50 percent at the close of the war. A goal of 85 percent completion was projected at that time, and finally reached in 1926. Demonstration projects and judging contests proved to be effective methods, and county tours and interclub demonstrations were

popular as well as excellent educational devices.

Camps and Fairs

During the first half of the century when travel was more restricted, the Extension camps were particularly attractive to adults and youth alike. The first 4-H camp was held in Blaine County in 1918, and the second camp in

1919 registered 81 boys for a four-day experience. Prairie County also had a camp in 1919 for 30 boys. By 1936 an increase to 16 camps enrolled 878 campers; in 1937 attendance was 1,434 representing 22 counties in 15 camps. Separate camps were originally held for boys and girls; then they were brought together in the same camp and program, and gradually the number of girls considerably exceeded that of the boys. By 1952 the number of camps had increased to 52, with 2,778 campers from 34 counties. In addition to a strong recreational program of a type which could be taken back to the home clubs, a stimulating educational exposure was obtained by using leaders from Washington, D.C., from the State College, from state and county government, and representatives from agricultural organizations.

Camp facilities were usually leased from a local organization, but the Extension Service assumed considerable responsibility for the Pines Youth Camp some 35 miles south of Glasgow on the shores of the Fort Peck Reservoir. It was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a part of the Reservoir's accommodations, and the Extension Service operated it under lease through 1961. The Glasgow Kiwanis Club, the Elks Lodge and other agencies made desirable additions to it from time to time. Some 500 campers came each summer in the early years.

Picnics on a community or county basis were widely held during the summer months. These provided the opportunity for preliminary exhibits, a first round on competitive judging, and other contests related to project work, but the affairs were largely social and recreational. These were often combined with tours of inspection and demonstration of project work in the community or in the county

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The "show window" of the several methods used by 4-H Clubs for the display of their work was Achievement Day, which became a community event. These special days of displays, demonstrations, contest and awards, which still continue under various names, were often the trial run in preparation for the autumn fairs. A few such days were held in 1920 and proved to be highly successful. Mignon Quaw recreation specialist, then prepared an outline of suggestions for a standard program and 28 Achievement Days were held in 1921, attracting 2,648 people. The community was usually the base for these occasions, although Big Horn County held a first countywide observance in 1922. Improved transportation following World War II made county cooperation more feasible and the single day display replaced many county fairs. The peak in the number of community Achievement Days appears to have been in 1936 when 404 were reported in 39 counties, attended by 18,756 persons. In the early 1960s over 50 counties were hosting these special days, although the countywide base greatly reduced the number to 87 in 1962, for example.

Youth participation became an inherent part of the Montana fairs following their spectacular contribution to the Billings Corn Show in 1910. This was followed by similar success in Miles City in 1911, and in the many county fairs which sprang up, 43 by 1939.

The official State Fair was held in Helena beginning in 1903. Its board gave a great deal of attention to incorporating the youth exhibits into the program. The Northern Montana Fair in Great Falls soon found favor, particularly after a special 4-H exhibit and demonstration building was constructed in 1928. This came to be considered the official 4-H fair following

1931. The Midland Fair at Billings also constructed a 4-H building in 1928, the largest on the grounds at the time. The Central Montana Fair Association in Lewistown also cooperated to the extent of building attractive dormitory facilities for a 4-H camp. The Western Montana Fair at Missoula and the Southeastern Montana Fair at Miles City as well attracted wide regional support from 4-H exhibitors. The Winter Fair in Bozeman, which began in

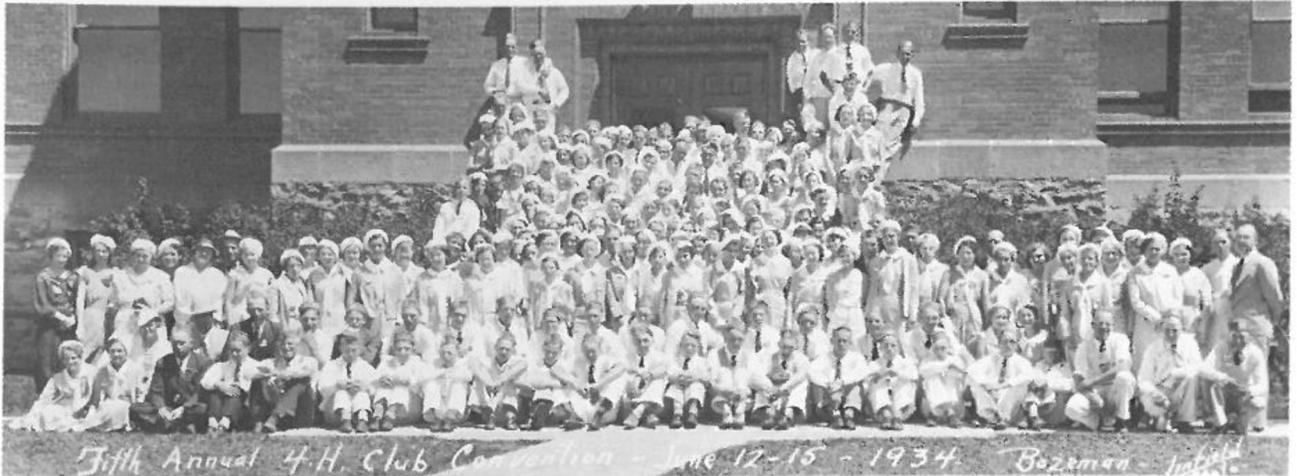
1946, has attracted outstanding exhibits and judging events from 4-H members.

The State and National 4-H Congress

The annual Montana 4-H Congress became the outstanding testing ground for competition in skills and leadership qualities. This was held on the Montana State College campus and began as the annual state convention in 1930 on a relatively small scale. Each county with a 4-H program could send two members and two leaders, with additional representatives in proportion to club membership. The first convention hosted 103 members and 43 leaders representing 31 counties. A strong leader training program was a continuing feature of the convention. Special dress was en-

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fifth annual 4-H Club Convention, 1934.

couraged, stressing green and white. The three major railroads of the state made transportation available at greatly reduced rates, and often local clubs and agencies helped finance other costs. Montana State made its then limited facilities for food and for lodging—a mattress on the gym floor as sleeping quarters for the boys—available at low cost, and nearly the entire faculty joined in providing an exceptional educational experience for the club members.

The annual conventions were not held during the World War II years, 1943-45, but opened again in 1946 taking the name of the Montana 4-H Club Congress. The proportion of leaders was smaller and the number of members was increased. A total of 278 members and 65 leaders from 39 counties attended in 1946. The annual attendance has been approximately 600-700 since the mid-1950s, with representatives from every county. An important educational program keyed to current youth interests is carried out. This includes extensive demonstration contests by individuals and teams, and judging in which both boys and girls participate. Dramatics and public speaking are also often emphasized. An elaborate dress revue contest has been a feature for the girls for many years, and more recently a few young men have intermittently displayed men's clothing as well.

The National 4-H Congress held annually in Chicago, beginning in 1922, has been without doubt the outstanding event of the year. Some 30 Montana delegates have been carefully selected each year. Montana representatives have measured up well. In 1949, for instance, eight were winners of national contests. During the years 1970-1976 Montana had 26 sectional and national winners. Included were two who received the silver tray awarded by the President of the United States. Warren Neyenhuis of Valier received the tray in 1968 for his outstanding work in junior leadership, and Theresa Whalen of Great Falls received it for all around achievement in

1969. The Milwaukee Railroad gave a great deal of encouragement to the Chicago Congress by providing special financial help for delegates and their advisors from the 13 counties through which the railroad operated. Beginning in 1925 Montgomery Ward provided one or more travel scholarships for a number of years.

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4-H members giving demonstrations at an annual Montana 4-H Congress in Bozeman at Montana State University.

An important assisting agency is the privately organized National 4-H Service Committee, formed in the autumn of 1921 in Chicago. This is made up of nationally prominent business leaders and heads of farm organizations who had been assisting with a national 4-H tour to the International Livestock Exposition since 1919. The committee led in organizing the congress in 1922; it perfected a permanent staff and a steadily expanding program which, in its 50th anniversary year of 1971, had an annual budget of \$2,279,383. Its major activity has been to promote the congress which brings some 1,600 4-H youth together each year to compete in the projects which the committee has arranged in cooperation with the national 4-H organization. Scholarships awarded in 1971 had a value of \$180,000 and the total amount over the 50 years has exceeded three million dollars.

The assistant director of the committee in the 1950s was Tyrus "Ty" W. Thompson, Montana 4-H leader, 1946-1949. He initiated a number of committee services. The committee prepared numerous publications which promoted 4-H and supported the *National 4-H News*, which was the national 4-H publication. A series of television programs attracted wide attention such as "Living in a Nuclear Age," and one oriented toward nutrition, "Mulligan's Stew." The committee has developed numerous projects, prepared guide materials, and secured sponsors for project awards. It has also assisted in publicity and morale by merchandizing a wide array of materials such as award certificates, emblems, insignia, posters, banners, caps, shirts and other articles of educational and ceremonial use.

The National 4-H Club Camp which opened in Washington, D.C., in

1927, has also been a major attraction, particularly so since it provides an opportunity to see the Capitol city under favorable circumstances. Four delegates are usually chosen from Montana. An additional national event is National 4-H week, which has been a cementing event since it is observed simultaneously by every club in the country.

That 4-H provides more opportunities for travel and national participation than any other youth organization in the nation becomes evident by listing merely the journeys of one year-1957. The Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland drew four Montana delegates, as did the National Dairy Show in Columbus, Ohio. Twelve delegates traveled to the National Western 4-H Club Roundup in Denver, and four members from potato growing clubs attended the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association meeting in Springfield, Ill.; and a new Grain Marketing Tour drew three delegates to visit elevators and marketing facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul at the invitation of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. A new note came with the National Junior Fact Finding Conference of the American Institute of Poultry Industries formed in 1953 in Kansas City through the efforts of Montana's poultry specialist, Harriette Cushman. Two delegates attended this meeting. Another three attended the Central States Regional Tractor Operators' Contest in Hutchinson, Kan.; 30 journeyed to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago; four went to the National 4-H Camp in Washington, D.C., and two 4-H and two FFA members attended the American Institute of Cooperation Conference at Fort Collins, Colo., sponsored by the State Department of Vocational Education.

An additional excursion was the annual journey each year of four



A county delegation to a Montana 4-H Club Congress in Bozeman at Montana State University.

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delegates to the Junior Club Week observance in Vermilion, Alberta, to join with Canadian youth. In turn, four or more young persons from Alberta at- tended the Montana 4-H Congress each year.

Another conference in this period was distinctive. In 1940 William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston-Purina Company, set up the American Youth Foundation Leadership Training Conference. One young man from

agriculture and one young woman from home economics were chosen from each land grant college to attend the annual conference. They spent a week in St. Louis, where the women were taken through food service facilities, restaurants, tea rooms and food laboratories. The men were taken through the operations of the Ralston-Purina animal food factory, cereal mills and associated facilities. They were all then taken to Camp Miniwanca near Shelby, Mich., where they participated in an extraordinary program in leadership training. This was not directly 4-H related, but almost all of the participants had come through the 4-H program.

IFYE, The World View

The International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE), which took the former 4-H member into the world situation, began in 1947. Montana entered the program in 1948. By 1973, with from one to three members going each year, 66 Montana youth had gone to 38 countries, and 131 youth from 50 other countries had come to Montana. This movement grew out of evidence at the end of World War II of the lack of understanding our people had of other nations. The program sends young men and women to live for three months or more in a farm home abroad, participating intimately in the work and social life of a rural community. A statement of policy for the IFYE maintained that "its most important contribution is the development of an informed youth leadership." Many individuals and organizations over the state contributed to the costs of sponsoring the young people in the early period. Since 1970 this program has been financed in the state largely by the Montana 4-H Foundation. The educational value of the returning ex- changees was high, as the young people visited 4-H Clubs and community gatherings to present their reports, usually generously illustrated with slides of exciting and rewarding experiences in international living. In

1951, for example, Claire Vangelisti and Earl Peace made over 300 presen- tations, reaching an audience equal to about one-twentieth of the popula- tion of the state.

Awards and Support

The 4-H enterprise probably has been endowed with as many rewards as all of the other youth organizations of the nation put together. Parents have been proud of their children's accomplishments and have made livestock, plots of land, working materials and opportunities for information and

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travel available in great quantity and variety. The undergirding support which has come from the communities is difficult to report with fairness. The Farm Bureau, the Farmers' Union, chambers of commerce, and women's clubs have all given substantial encouragement. Widespread civic club support is well illustrated by the Helena Kiwanis Club, to use only one example, which has for over 40 years made the 4-H Achievement Day its major annual project and the day has become a notable event for the entire community.

The local banks have contributed generous assistance to the clubs and also entered into business arrangements with the young farmers to finance their enterprises under the most favorable terms. The railroads have made extensive travel possible through low cost group rates, and also have provided generous awards. State and national business corporations have made noteworthy contributions. The listing in the 1968 annual report is representative of annual contributions:

Contributors	Amount
The Railroads: N.P., G.N., U.P., Milwaukee and Burlington	\$5,650 Total
..... Montana Power Company	2,000
..... Sears Roebuck Educational Foundation	5,900
..... Federal Cartridge	950
..... Montana Association of Mutual Insurance	
Companies	550
Danforth Foundation and Ralston-Purina	
Company	Scholarships
..... Minneapolis Grain Exchange	150
..... Peavey Company	900
..... Standard Oil Foundation	100
..... Montana Dairy Association	100
..... Montana Quarter Horse Association of America	250
..... Montana State University	1,200
..... Cram-Heywood Foundation, nine awards for work with sheep	900
..... Sperry-Hutchinson Scholarships	300
..... Union Pacific Scholarships, three at \$200 each ..	600
..... National 4-H Scholarships	2,700
Club Awards	
Montana Power awards to 10 club electric projects	\$250 each
.....	
..... Eli Lilly awards in health-10 clubs	
..... General Motors awards in safety-10 clubs	
County Awards	
3,738 awards (including 64 certificates in 55 counties participating in 31 National 4-H award programs)	

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As the program has changed, from time to time, other assistance has been provided from the 12 Farm Credit Association districts, the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts, the Montana Medical Association, sugar beet companies, livestock sales companies and many others.

The several national foundations have made generous contributions to the states. The National 4-H Foundation has assisted with the annual National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C., with the IFYE youth, and with programs which studied human relations, citizenship and character education. The National 4-H Service Committee in Chicago has assisted with the National 4-H Congress in Chicago and provided a large number of project awards, of which Montana delegates obtained as many as 27 in one year. A list of the accomplishments of the Montana youth in state or national competition has not yet been compiled. Just a few examples taken at random from the annual reports illustrate the success which

has been attained. In 1936, for instance, Daphne DeBruin of Chouteau County was awarded the distinction of having the best record of any girl in the nation in a Social Progress contest sponsored by the National Broadcasting Company and the Victor Radio Corporation. She was awarded a trip to Chicago and New York City and given a \$500 scholarship. In 1937, at the National Dairy Show in San Francisco, Sam Lenz and Garth Blackburn of Cascade County teamed up in a demonstration on

"Producing Clean Milk for the Baby," to win first place in the western states and fourth in the nation.

Montana 4-H competitors presented the Grand Champion Fat Steer in the Junior Shows in Spokane, Wash., Salt Lake City, and Ogden, Utah, and a Montana judging team at the National Dairy Show in

Columbus, Ohio, won first in the 11

western states and fourth in the nation.

In 1939 Clova Staehnke and Ruth Martin from a Yellowstone County 4-H Club won first in the United States at the National Dairy Show in San Francisco with a demonstration on "A Quart of Milk a Day." Also, in 1939, at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Helen Monforton from Gallatin County won second in her class in beef, and with her sisters, Marie and Margaret, won first in the nation in the county group of three calves from any county; Harold Sitzman of Stillwater County won fourth place with an exhibit of lambs. The same year, two girls from Valley County won the highest award, that of "Superior," on their demonstrations at the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland for "The Construction and Use of Egg Graders," and another team from Chouteau County won the next highest rating, "Excellent," for their "Stream-line Chicken." Other achievements are reported elsewhere in context.

Financial Returns

The work in 4-H Clubs was conceived as being educational, character building and of service to the community, but it was also intended to be

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financially rewarding and considerable attention was given to this aspect. An important part of the training received in 4-H projects was the keeping of records. Since the major projects reflected real life situations, these were not all profitable, of course. When the market started downward, and particularly in periods of drought and depression, the 4-H projects were in the same kind of difficulty which afflicted all of rural Montana. Fortunately, in many instances the intensive care which the 4-H member was prepared to give his project made it more successful than the larger operation on the same farm, and pointed toward some solutions in periods of stress, such as methods of culture, breed, variety, timing and other ingredients of the agricultural process which might be investigated on a larger scale. The annual reports were replete with financial detail. A couple of examples may serve to reflect the trend.

A summary of profits in the 1923 annual reports of the state leader notes that there were 264 clubs with a total of 2,720 members. The property of the club members had a value of \$53,727.43, the costs of which were

\$22,012.90, leaving a profit of \$31,714.53, or an average of \$11.65 per member. In 1950 there were 766 clubs with 10,221 members enrolled. The holdings of various types were valued at \$987,277.13. Expenses had been

\$502,874.42, leaving a net profit of \$484,402.71, or a profit of \$47.30 per member. Naturally, profits varied widely among projects; those generally

regarded as most profitable included beef which made an average net return in this particular year of \$129.75 per member reporting; potatoes averaged \$105.81; small grains, \$369.22; and sugar beets \$344.07 per project.

At this time agricultural production of various sorts comprised the great majority of 4-H projects, and evaluation could be made in monetary terms to a large degree. Beginning in the 1950s, many other types of projects were

adopted which are mentioned in "Objectives of 4-H Club Work" and most of which cannot be assessed in dollars and cents.

Length and Nature of Membership

Considering the practical and attractive nature of the 4-H program, state leaders were deeply disappointed in the early years when nearly 50 percent of those completing one year failed to re-enroll. This continued to be the national pattern, but Montana soon climbed above this average and by 1967 it held eighth place in the nation with a re-enrollment of over 70 percent. Local leaders also changed with discouraging frequency; two years of service was an average for a period of years.

This seeming lack of commitment led in part to a violent attack upon the entire 4-H program by a journalist, Ira Dietrich, in 1967. The book-length tirade was titled *Poor Damn Janeth*. Dietrich maintained that manifestly the projects in 4-H were not geared to the interests of the members, and that, in

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particular, the program did not expand with the age of the member since the average dropout age was 13. He went on to assert that those who did remain in 4-H did so largely because of pressure from parents. He insisted that the projects were geared more "to win" than to learn, and that both leaders and members were under intense pressure from parents and sponsoring organizations to win. In order to win, dishonest methods were used in preparing exhibits, animals were drugged and judges were bribed. 4-H leaders felt that the accusations were highly exaggerated, and even dishonest, since the book was written in a florid "expose" style and almost no evidence supported the sweeping statements. However, the book did raise, in a colorful context, enough of the well-known perplexities to cause a hard rethinking of many aspects of the 4-H methods of operation.

Concern for the high dropout rate led to a statewide study in 1931. Taking a positive approach, only a few simple questions were asked regarding why the member belonged to 4-H. Twenty-two percent were attracted to the general educational program, and 22 percent gave social contacts as their first reason for continued membership. Vocational motivation attracted 16 percent, and 10 percent admitted that they cherished the awards which were offered. The other 30 percent had other specific reasons.

In 1949 William G. Stucky made a study confined to Rosebud County which was incorporated in a "Western States Study." In this inquiry an encouraging 67 percent re-enrollment was found which compared with 50 percent nationally. The survey of the 25 clubs with 50 leaders and 280 members was interpreted through positive factors. Reasons for a favorable re-enrollment included good leaders who, as well as the county agent, remained in the background, leaving the conduct of affairs in the hands of the members who planned good programs, well managed business meetings and a variety of projects. The feeling that 4-H is more than a project, a progression in projects suitable to the age of the members, and a situation where the community gives approval to the organization, were additional features in the Rosebud County study.

Another study, made in 1955 in cooperation with the national office, took the negative approach. Here reasons given for dropout were early discouragement with projects which were too ambitious and slow in maturing, fear of failure, lack of parental support, distance from meetings, failure of the projects to appear relevant, and competition of school work and other activities with 4-H work.

Montana leaders felt that part of their success in securing a higher than average re-enrollment came from an early insistence upon completion of projects. During the first 10 years of club work, the rate of completion was only 53.7 percent. A goal of 85 percent was established in 1924 and was attained in 1926. In 1929 the Montana completion rate was 88 percent, the highest in the nation, and it has continued at a high level.

"What is 4-H experience worth?" was the quest of Weber H. Peterson, son of Carl Peterson, Montana's second county agent, as he researched a master's thesis at Montana State College on "The 4-H Student in College

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Activities." He used student records for 1937-1938 and summarized the study in *Rural Sociology*, Vol. 3, No. 3, September 1938. Grade averages of

4-H and non-4-H students were almost identical. In participation and leadership he found that 4-H members averaged 59 percent above average. Only in journalistic and student senate participation were they less active.

He found them more active in athletics by 24 percent; in church-related activities, 34 percent; in debate, dramatics and music, 36 percent; in honorary societies, 18 percent; in judging teams, rather naturally, 64 percent; and in fraternity activities, 70 percent. A significant figure was that in 1937-1938 some 82 percent of the 4-H members returned to college in comparison with 72 percent without 4-H experience.

Girls vs. Boys

4-H leaders have continuously been concerned by the larger number of girls than boys in the organization membership. This is probably a natural situation rising out of the greater mobility of boys, and as the older boys engaged in active farm work their time was less flexible. Some of the larger number of girl members came from home economics, where clothing and foods projects had high enrollments. However, in mixed activities girls often showed up in numbers, and in prize-winning positions in beef and sheep judging, fat stock and corn shows. In the early years the numbers were somewhat comparable; in 1924 boys numbered 1,500, girls 1,882. In eight camps held that year there were 201 boys and 244 girls; by 1928 the imbalance in six camps had changed to 64 boys and 203 girls, and by 1936 this had changed again to 140 boys and 594 girls. In 1936 the number of girls in the entire enrollment was about twice that of boys-4,839 to 2,137-and in 1964 this remained about the same-8,840 to 4,874.

Older Youth Programs

Together with every other state in the nation, Montana attempted to find ways to keep older youth in 4-H activities. In 1934 a new group was formed along the lines of the national pattern, "The Montana 4-H Builders," comprised of 4-H members 16 years of age or older. A club of Builders usually drew its members from a number of regular clubs, the members maintained contact with their former leaders for aid with their projects, and they usually attended their old club, giving assistance and developing a movement which led into the Junior Leader program. One Builder's Club per county was recommended. These members were particularly useful in assisting with the community Achievement Days and with the county fair. An active social and recreational program was included in their activities. The Builders grew slowly.

By 1938 five counties had active organizations.

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The Lewis and Clark County Club was the first, forming as an older club in February 1932; then as 4-H Builders in October 1933, and in turn sparking the state movement in 1934. By 1947 Builders Clubs were active in 19 counties. In that year three summer camps were held for these older members just before the regular 4-H camps. By 1952, 20 counties had Builders Clubs, with a total of 716 members. Instead of camps in that year, regional one-day "jamborees" were held. The Missoula jamboree attracted 85 members.

An idea which appealed to older members was that of conservation projects, and a summer camp centering on this project developed in 1947. Attendance was based upon winning in project and scholarship competition in each county. The first camp of 42 boys and girls from 20 counties was held at Camp Maiden. Charles L. Horn, president of the Federal Cartridge Corporation in Minneapolis, gave encouragement and funds, as did the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Agents reported that some

1,053 members carried on projects in competition for this first camp.

The location of the summer sessions changed from year to year and included, in addition to Camp Maiden near Lewistown, Beaver Creek Camp near Havre, the Little Bitterroot Youth Camp in Flathead County, the Lions' Camp near Red Lodge, the Bow and Arrow Ranch in Park County, and the Pines Youth Camp on Fort Peck Lake. By 1957 some 143 persons attended the camp, including representatives from Canada. Over a 10-year

period, the subject matter emphasis shifted, covering such subjects as crops, livestock, grasses, soil, water, fire control, birds, fish, game and trees. Watershed problems had been considered at every one of the 11 camps which had been held up to that time; wildlife at 10; range management at six; timber management at seven; human conservation at five; insects at three; and weeds at two. The 1968 camp attracted 96 members from

40 counties to the Little Bitterroot Lake Camp. In 1971 the 25th annual camp was held at Camp Kiwanis near Havre.

The special attention which was given to the Builders produced encouraging results, and an additional refinement was made with the older members by designating "junior leaders" among the early teenagers, and "teen leaders" for those in the upper teens. Special training sessions were planned to develop the techniques of each group. By 1964 junior leaders numbered 2,201, almost enough to assist on a one-to-one basis the 2,966 adult local volunteer leaders. There were fewer teen leaders, and they often assisted the younger members on special projects. Camps for these groups also provided one of the best situations in which to recruit and train these young leaders, and by 1968 there were four camps attracting 400 campers.

4-H Alumni and Mu Beta Beta

As the State Congress met at Montana State College beginning in 1930, the desirability of having an organization of former 4-H members among

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the
college
students
became
apparent.
A 4-H
Alumni
Association
had, in

fact, been formed in 1929, and found one of its first enterprises to be that of assisting with the convention in 1930. Even though the 4-H meeting was held when the College was not in session, the students returned to the campus and gave full assistance to the arrangements and operation. They provided the best possible contacts in recruiting 4-H members for college enrollment. In 1948 a chapter of Mu Beta Beta, a 4-H college honorary, was formed, which added stability and usefulness to the 4-H alumni organization. However, Mu Beta Beta has been inactive in recent years.

Leadership in the State Office

Direction to the state 4-H movement has been given by a very small staff in the state office; a leader, an assistant leader, and one or two secretaries. This has been made possible by the upward movement of older 4-H members into adult leadership positions. Fortunately, the directors of the Extension Service have been sympathetic to the program. Fortunately also, the agents, from whom much of the direction must come, discovered early, as has been frequently mentioned, that the 4-H Club was often the best place to publicize a new idea. The specialists also worked with the agents and with the club leaders directly in preparing projects, setting standards and judging performance.

The leadership in the state 4-H office has been of a superior nature. In the early years relatively short periods of service were compensated for by Charles E. Potter who was 4-H leader for 15 years, 1920-1935. In his "Twenty Years of 4-H Club Work in Montana," Potter commented upon the continuing need for organizational refinements and noted that the uniform method of writing programs, projects and progress reports adopted in 1927 had been a significant step. He watched the development of the numerous New Deal programs with apprehension, but was firm in his judgment that the 4-H personnel could become "social engineers" as readily as any other segment of the Extension Service.

R. E. "Scotty" Cameron, 1935-1946, through his genial personality and strong sense of showmanship, dramatized the movement and held it together in a remarkable way during the difficult period of the war. Tyrus W. "Ty" Thompson combined youth, an attractive personality, and an enthusiastic dedication to rebuild the clubs rapidly after the war. Following his short three-year period, 1946-1949, he later gave encouragement from his position in the national office.

Paul J. Moore, 1949-1966, has served the longest period to date (1974) as 4-H leader. His systematic planning and good judgment made his regime one of steady progress and close cooperation from his staff. Clifford W. "Brick" Vaughn was equally successful in promoting a strong cooperative effort and a steadily growing organization in a period of changing structure.

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Vaughn came from a county agent position in 1956 to become associate state leader, and succeeded Moore. In the reorganization of the Extension Service, July 1, 1967, Mrs. Vivienne B. Kintz became coordinator of the new Division of Human Resource Development, while Vaughn continued to direct 4-H work as state 4-H specialist. Upon his retirement in 1973 the work continued in experienced hands as James F. Sargent, former assistant, became state 4-H specialist, and Harold Strobel, with wide experience over the state, became assistant. By this time Dr. E. Dean Vaughn, who had earned all of his degrees at Montana State, was national director.

Of the many capable women who were assistant and associate leaders, Miss Geraldine Fenn has, without doubt, made the most significant contribution. She organized well, planned imaginatively, and possessed physical stamina which allowed her to travel extensively over the state. In addition to regular procedures, she carried on a good deal of the tradition of Mignon Quaw in an emphasis upon music and recreation for the entire Extension program, state and national. Possessing a strong dramatic sense she provided leadership in ceremonial programs, illustrated by her presentation of a suggested form for a Rural Life Sunday service at the National Congress in 1947.

Her greatest impact upon national trends no doubt came from her pioneering work with individual 4-H members on self-determined projects, which crested in 1964. Together with agricultural production and consumption projects, her dedication to youth interests also included social, cultural and world relationships. Such projects had been surfacing for some time and usually caught local leaders unprepared and with insufficient time to guide them. Miss Fenn's encouragement greatly assisted the movement which will be discussed shortly. She also gave strong leadership to IFYE, to the Annual Encampment of Citizenship, which some Montana farm groups co-sponsored, and to cooperation with the Peace Corps. She had coordinated the preparation of the Montana delegation to the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1950, and she was asked to do this again for the conference held in 1970. She was available in 1970 because she was drawn, soon after retirement, into a new statewide program directed by the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth. She had come to the position of assistant leader in 1946, continuing until 1967, giving her a longer period of service than any other member of the state staff.

The County 4-H Club Council

Given the limited state and county professional staff, and the many community leaders, a need arose to share information, to establish more uniformity in programs and standards, and to provide training for new leaders. The first county leaders association was formed in Cascade County in 1926, and the practice spread rapidly. In 1930 a refinement produced the County

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4-H Councils, and a constitution was formulated. Montana was one of the first states to adopt the council idea. Since the activities, interests and need for support encompassed the entire community, some councils attempted to include not only the 4-H organization, but representatives from a wide variety of groups such as the farm organizations, service clubs, school boards, fair boards, bankers and other businessmen. The council meetings made arrangements in detail for fairs, achievement days, tours, demonstrations, picnics, dress revues, camp awards, and trips to conferences and conventions. Here aid was also enlisted for crash projects such as rodent, grasshopper and weed control. Finances, transportation facilities and other ever present needs, as well as general promotion, lay within the province of the Council.

Montana 4-H Leaders' Association

The perennial problem of securing and retaining leaders for the 4-H Clubs became crucial again following World War II, leading to the organization of a State Leaders' Association devoted to improving the situation. An advisory committee was formed in 1946 consisting of representative county leaders and several specialists whose fields were popular with

4-H members. This committee assisted in organizing active leaders in each county, and establishing four districts, each with its organization. In 1947 a State Executive Committee was formed consisting of the state president, state secretary-treasurer, and a president and vice president from each of the districts. This committee met four times each year to review county and state programs. The districts were increased to eight in 1948.

Leaders in the state office and those in long-time service over the state hoped that through this association of leaders in each county, new people could be recruited and encouraged to continue for a considerable period of time. Two years was a typical length of time of service, which made recruitment and training a continuous and time consuming task. To further encourage and recognize longer service, a ceremonial touch came into being in 1944. A "Clover" award was assigned distinctive designations at five-year periods of service: silver at five years; gold at 10 years; pearl at 15 years; diamond at 20; emerald at 25; ruby at 30; and sapphire at 35 years. Records were assembled and maintained, and the recognition given encouraged many leaders to continue their work. A considerable number have received the diamond award for 20 years of service, but very few have reached the 35-year mark. A search in 1972 reaching back only to 1967 revealed only four in the latter category. Mrs. Audrey DuPay of Great Falls, who was active in forming the Leaders' Association in 1947, received her award in 1967. Ramon Nile of Forsyth and James Nile of Hysham received similar awards in 1971. The record length of service at that time appeared to be held by Mrs. Martin Schultz of Dutton. With 40 years of continuous



Mrs. Martin Schultz of Dutton, Mont., with the silver tray awarded her for 40 years of continuous service as a 4-H leader, 1972.

service in 1972, she was given a silver tray in a public ceremony, since a formal award had not been designated beyond 35 years.

National Alumni Awards

The National 4-H office has worked with private donors to give suitable recognition for outstanding service by 4-H alumni at the annual National

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Congress in Chicago. Montana has been recognized on two occasions for this award. In 1955 former Extension Director Robert B. Tootell, then Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, was given this award; and in

1962, Montana State College President Roland R. Renne was similarly honored.

Rural Life Sunday

During the war period the idea developed for 4-H members in a community to come together in a Sunday worship service. By 1946, at the close of the war, this idea was meeting with wide approval and 103 such services were reported in Montana in 1947. These were held in 38 counties with

4,175 members, leaders and friends attending. The movement received additional impetus in 1947 when Montana Assistant 4-H Leader Miss Geraldine Fenn prepared an effective 4-H Rural Life Sunday service, and using the entire Montana delegation, presented it before the National 4-H

Congress in Chicago. One comment concerning the steadily growing function was that "It is the feeling that no event stimulates as much local initiative and feeling of worth with so little promotion." By 1962 Rural Life Sunday Services numbered 308 in 41 counties with 7,655 in attendance. The disappearance of many rural churches and greater intermingling of town and country people resulted in fewer services and the name was changed to Rural Church Sunday.

Work with Indians

The 4-H programs were taken to the Indian reservations at an early date, where they met with a cordial reception. An "Indianized 4-H program" was developed, which will be discussed later. In the early period the records from the Crow Reservation are quite complete and show that two Crow girls were included in a girls' team which went from Montana to the Interstate Fair in Sioux City as early as 1923. By 1926 a substantial number of Crow girls were enrolled in an extensive sewing club program in Big Horn County, both on and off the reservation. There was interest among both boys and girls on the Crow and Cheyenne reservations in garden and potato clubs, but drought conditions brought severe discouragement. In 1932 some 14 garden clubs were operating on six reservations with 122 members cultivating 29 acres. By 1938 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the 4-H organizations were working closely together and the clubs were reported as follows:

Blackfeet 3 11 12 23 Records incomplete
Crow 13 42 94 136 116

Reservations	Number of Clubs	Enrolled Boys-Girls	Total Enrolled	Total Completed	199
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Flathead	5	18	30	48	38
Fort Belknap	3	6	21	27	22
Fort Peck	— Agr.	6	57	10	67
-H.Ec.				9	83
Rocky Boy's	4	5	30	35	29
Cheyenne	4	29	33	62	58
					83
					51

Where the supervision was comparable, the percentage of Indian youth completing projects was close to that of other clubs in the state.

Calf clubs were without doubt the most popular of all projects among the Indian boys, although they encountered great difficulties in obtaining calves with promise. In 1939 the Crow Calf Club was outstanding, but the agent reported certain problems encountered by the leaders in this accomplishment: Just how they induced the young Crows to start the baby beef club three years ago is not revealed. During the first two years it appeared difficult to get across the idea that club steers thrived better on plenty of grass rather than feeding them as cow ponies, and giving them daily exercise in bull dogging and roping.

Somehow the interest of the boys was maintained and the patience of their leaders held out, and this year seven members of the Crow 4-H Beef Club produced 27 head of fat steers, many of them well finished and trained for the ring.

Mr. Runyan reports that this carload was shipped direct to market and sold for \$2,400, of which \$300 was net profit to the boys.

In 1940 over 600 club members on the seven reservations represented a 20 percent increase in membership. Ninety percent completed their projects, which was three percent above that of non-Indian clubs. The value of their project properties was estimated at \$6,044.79. The breakdown in membership in the various projects was as follows:

Projects	Number of Clubs	Enrolled		Total Enrolled
		Boys	Girls	
Food Preservation	2		17	17
Food Preparation	11	14	93	107
Room Improvement	2		15	15
Handicraft	9	88	24	112
Potato	3	18	5	23
Garden	7	50	1	51
Beef	9	61	1	62
Dairy	1		1	1
Swine			5	5
Poultry	1		2	2
Totals		70	251	364
				620

In 1943 a Blackfoot girl won membership in the annual delegation to the Chicago National 4-H Congress, and in 1944 a Blackfeet boy won. In 1946 six Indian youth attended the National 4-H Citizenship short course in Washington, D.C., another youth went to the Encampment for Citizenship in New York City, six participated in the Black Hills recreation Laboratory,

and 176 attended six recreation workshops held in the state. In the past decade, national and state programs for minority groups have been greatly enlarged and work with Indians and Indian youth has increased rapidly since that time.

The 4-H Project

Without doubt, the heart of the early 4-H program lay in the project which the boy or girl undertook. 4-H leaders took special care, however, to emphasize that the organization was more than the project. Lest some members not participate in the other activities, the project was designed to provide the broadest learning experience possible. The choice of project must be made, the physical properties assembled, the plans perfected and patiently carried to completion, and then the profits or losses of a tangible or intangible nature assessed. Usually the young person worked largely alone in full charge of the project, but with the full cooperation of parents, club leaders, and youth engaged in the same type of project in the same club. The project furnished a real-life situation and gave the member a practical insight into the business aspects of agricultural life. It was education at its best and indeed the nucleus of one of the greatest educational programs the world has seen.



An Indian 4-H girl in Indian costume.

The questions of standards for 4-H projects in relation to the club member arose very early. One of the first listings of criteria was essentially as follows: The project should be productive and profitable; should be suited to the capability of the member; should extend over several months; should permit ownership; should offer worthwhile training, and be of a magnitude which would interest capable youngsters.

The early project subjects were relatively few in number. Corn, beef, gardens, potatoes and swine were highly practical subjects for the boys; clothing, foods and home furnishings attracted the girls. Departure from the standard pattern was discouraged and only four members were listed in a miscellaneous category among a total of 3,889 members in 1927. In that year the listing and number of projects included the following:

Beans		2 Food Preservation	99
Beets	55	Gardens	198
Beef	16	Home Furnishings	57
Clothing	1,341	Poultry	167
Corn	210	Potatoes	316
Dairy	86	Sheep	91
Food Preparation	85	Swine	162



A 4-H member gets some help with his tractor project.

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Additional projects were incorporated with increasing frequency as new trends in technology appeared, and when leadership was available. In 1929 in 12 counties, 21 farm economics clubs were formed to stress keeping accounts on the farm enterprise. In 1940 clubs began to form to study the use of electricity on the farm unit. Continuous work was being carried on with the improvement of grains, and the challenge of experimenting with the new varieties often resulted in the older members setting up wheat clubs, oats clubs and small grains clubs. By 1958 tractor schools and tractor study and demonstration projects had become highly popular. In that year six training conferences were held over the state involving 76 leaders in all, 19 of whom were junior leaders. The establishment of a Western Regional 4-H Tractor Operators' Contest, often held in Hutchinson, Kan., and the many prizes offered by oil and machinery companies, kept this type of training going in high gear.

Almost all of the projects have had a permanent influence upon production in Montana. The corn clubs were the first to bring the young people into cooperative work in 1910. These experiments on the small 4-H plots pointed the way toward the possible proper use of corn under Montana conditions without the larger losses which could certainly have been encountered. Potatoes were another case in point. Good seed was essential and trials on varied soils and different locations were made-to-order for 4-H projects. The 1930 annual Leader's Report noted that "the only certified seed in a community would be produced by a 4-H project." In the same year the report stated, "The bulk of seed corn produced comes from 4-H plots." Many such situations were no doubt in Director Tootell's mind when in a memorandum to all Montana Extension workers on March 28, 1952, he observed, "4-H Club work probably is the most effective *method* of doing *adult education* work."

Baby Beef and Fat Stock

Probably the most attractive project has been one called "beef," "calf," "baby beef," "heifer," and then "fat stock," but had to do with the raising of a calf. The 4-H Baby Beef project got under way in 1920 with an enrollment of only 44. The boys received a severe jolt when Eula and Hazel Thompson from Gallatin County ran away with both first and second place at the Montana State Fair with their twin Hereford heifers. By 1949 there were 1,452 project members with 1,569 animals valued at \$246,584.98.

An important new dimension was added to the calf projects with the rise of the Montana Junior Fat Stock Show which was first held in November 1938 in Billings. Although lambs and hogs were shown and sold in larger numbers than calves, the emphasis and greater value lay with beef. The November date, which became traditional, provided a desirable time span from the earlier fairs for additional maturity for the animals and showing

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finesse on the part of both animal and owner. The Billings Chamber of Commerce gave strong support, and Keith Sime, Yellowstone county agent, developed the organization. The show was open to both 4-H and Future Farmers. The Danish system of judging whereby groups of animals were placed according to market grade was used for the first time in the state, and this was one of the earlier uses of that system in the nation.

At this 1938 show, 253 members from Montana and Wyoming exhibited and sold 161 head of beef, 347 lambs and 51 hogs. Three of the best calves were taken for exhibition to the Chicago National 4-H Congress. With these, in competition with 350 fat steers from over the nation, Marie Monforton of Gallatin Gateway and Arthur Jacobson of Clyde Park won first places, and Helen Monforton of Gallatin Gateway won 12th place. By the third annual show in 1940, the entries totaled 807 head of stock shown by 318 members. In 1947 a feeder calf sale was also held in connection with the fat stock sale, which added to its popularity and usefulness. The fat stock show was attacked as being artificial since fat stock had not been in the Montana tradition. However, the project gave the 4-H member a familiarity with all of the processes of stock raising and of marketing as well. The success of the Billings show led to the setting up of equally productive shows and sales in Missoula, Butte and Great Falls, and later at the annual Winter Fair in Bozeman.

Clothing Projects

The major project among the girls has been that of clothing. In fact, many clubs registered more students in this project in some years than in all other projects combined. In 1921, the first major year of organization, there were

64 clothing projects in as many clubs, with 865 girls enrolled. Leaders were always somewhat difficult to obtain. Mothers often felt they lacked the

background and skills to provide leadership in this area, yet they participated in food projects with complete confidence. Fortunately, the teachers in the Smith-Hughes vocational homemaking courses, installed in the high schools in 1917, strongly supported the clothing project.

The project has stressed the study of cloth, colors, styles, prices and good taste. In 1928, for instance, the project was divided into three phases—the

spring, summer and fall outfits. In that year 1,689 girls were enrolled from

179 clubs and 1,414 completed their projects. Many mothers remarked that

the results were almost as beneficial for them as for the girls, since the projects also brought them into contact with the possibilities of better and more economical clothing. By 1949 there were 44 counties participating with 430 clothing projects and 3,332 members. The articles of clothing produced were valued at \$41,116.29.

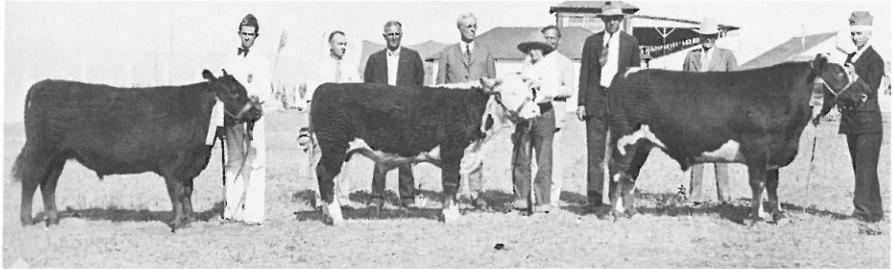
The demonstration of the clothing project has provided the touch of color and drama so essential in rounding out the achievement days, fairs and conventions. The Dress Revue has served as the major social event of these oc-

The Billings Chamber of
 Yellowstone county agent,
 both in both 4-H and Future
 groups of animals were
 to the first time in the state
 women in the nation.
 and Wyoming exhibited
 Three of the best of the
 4-H Congress. With
 Marie Mon-
 of Clyde Park won first
 with 12th place. By the
 of stock shown by
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 of equally pro-
 and later at the

casions and the impact upon the entire community in upgrading an awareness of new styles, colors, fabrics and costs has been massive and enduring. Since the judging at the revues soon came to include the poise of the girl as well as the fine points of dress, the girls and their entire families soon became more aware of certain social graces than their city cousins who for centuries were supposed to be particularly adept at these things. In more recent years a few young men have joined the young women in modeling varied types of men's clothing.



(left) 4-H member displaying a collection from her entomology project. (right) 4-H leader with some of the girls in her 4-H sewing class.



4-H members exhibiting the three top 4-H steers at the state fair in Helena, Mont., in 1928. The three steers brought \$11,355 at auction, top price on record for three top steers at any show in the United States.

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The girls made equally great impressions upon farm home living with home furnishing projects, or "My Own Room" projects. Often the mother had been in a home demonstration club herself where similar subjects had been under study. In any event, not only the homes of the members, but many other homes in the community were strongly influenced by these projects. The food production and preservation projects have been popular, and during periods of drought, depression and war proved to be an invaluable feature of the national rural structure.

Self-Determined Projects

Although the numbers of projects expanded greatly, they remained for many years closely related to the immediate agricultural production problems; a "corn, hogs and manure" approach, is one interpretation. This pattern was, of course, much easier to administer in the earlier period of limited numbers of leaders and rapid growth, but slower travel and communication. Many states tried to maintain a standard of no fewer than five members working on similar projects in a club. This was difficult to maintain in the small Montana clubs, and an individual member often chose his own project within certain guidelines and usually still related rather closely to agriculture. Booth Holker notes in the 1938 annual report, projects such as that of the three Whitmer brothers of Bloomfield who built a small dam which provided irrigation for some 20 crucial acres, and of others who experimented with contour ditches. County Agent N. A. Jacobson developed

4-H work in Powder River County in the mid-1930s and worked with individuals on subjects of their choice in range problems, such as types of grasses and carrying capacity. In 1954 he outlined a 4-H horse project, which could be developed in a number of ways.

Gradually the range of subjects broadened and more freedom was given for individual or "self-determined" choice. The 4-H leaders discovered in 1964, with some astonishment, that 273 members were working singly on subjects of personal interest. In 1965 this number increased to 496. Miss Geraldine Fenn encouraged this movement, which was then little practiced in other states but has now been widely adopted. She traveled throughout the state conferring with local leaders who often felt quite inadequate in helping develop some of the new ideas.

A clear break was made, in many instances, with the older patterns which were tied to practical aspects of rural living. A number of projects in international understanding came out of IFYE contacts and visiting speakers from other countries at 4-H camps; "Understanding the Problems of the Congo" and "Contributions of Greece" are examples. Appreciation of art, music and poetry provided other subjects, but most were still related to agriculture. Patricia Heimbichner of Billings, who won a trip to the State Congress in 1966 on a dairy project, conducted an unusual study on "The Pecking Order of Dairy Cattle," which attracted the attention of the dairy

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association. A detailed study of "The Leaf-cutter Bee," by Peggy Christie of Townsend, was used by the state entomologist in his work. One of the most publicized projects was that by 14-year-old Jon Swenson of Shepherd. His "Study of the Black-Billed Magpie," won him trips to the 1966 Montana 4-H Congress and the 1967 National Roundup in Denver. The National Geographic Society then asked him to write up and illustrate his study for the *National Geographic School Bulletin*.

By 1966 "self-determined" projects were in 12th place in a list of 31 subject groupings. Reports to the 1968 State Congress noted such subjects as health, smoking, safety, careers, veterinary science, small engines, consumer education, fire protection and leisure time. Associated with individual interests, plans were also made for 4-H citizenship workshops which were held in Helena during January-February 1969, when the State Legislative Assembly was in session, and these continued to be popular during legislative sessions.

An Urban 4-H Program

Mention has been made of closing the gap between country and city dwellers, and the increased involvement of the Extension Service with people who lived much of the year in cities above 2,500 in population. On anational basis, considerable experimentation was carried on with youth groups in cities using 4-H organizational methods. When a study in 1969 showed extensive malnutrition among low income families, an Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program was established. It was broadened in the summer of 1970 when, to meet a need which school lunches had provided during the school year, a 4-H type organization was developed to upgrade the quality of food available for the children in these low income families. By June 1973, 31 paraprofessionals were working with youth in seven counties: Missoula, Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Silver Bow, Yellowstone, Hill and Fergus, and on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. Some 6,551 youth in low income families were included in the program.

In 1973 funds were allocated for research programs in rather traditional type 4-H programs to determine modifications for city youth. Organizational work began in Great Falls and Billings. "The objective is to seek out low income youth, counsel with them, and provide them with a satisfying educational experience," said Mrs. Vivienne B. Kintz, coordinator for Human Resources Development at the time. She explained further, "We are preparing to offer classes in various 4-H projects, rap sessions on identified concerns, and recreational and educational events."

At the same time a nationally based Community Resources Development program was begun in several western counties centering around Missoula, and others in the east with Glendive as the center. The purpose here was to involve young people in community development. This movement worked through schools, 4-H Clubs, other youth groups and community develop-

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ment organizations. Mrs. Kintz explained, "This is being done with the idea that youth can serve and learn about their communities now and be prepared to fill leadership roles in various aspects of community development as adults."

These programs attracted several hundred young people at once, and under the direction of professional and paraprofessional advisors a distinctly new youth program was initiated in the autumn of 1973.

The Montana 4-H Foundation

The idea of a Montana 4-H Foundation came from the need and the dreams of the leaders for substantial funds which could be used at their discretion for encouraging or rewarding achievement, for initiating promising projects and for experimenting with long-time plans. Many gifts of individuals and organizations to the 4-H program have been previously listed, and in 1967-1968 \$45,000 was generously contributed for use that year. Almost all of these funds were designated for a particular use, largely for awards and travel funds.

Still in need of funds which could be used more flexibly, Director Torlief

Aasheim secured the support of his associates in the state Extension offices and key leaders over the state in incorporating the Montana 4-H Foundation on June 10, 1969. Its purposes as stated in the Articles of Incorporation:

...are to aid and promote, by financial assistance and otherwise, all types of 4-H programs and other Extension youth programs. The objects and purposes shall also include provision for scholarship aid to qualified 4-H members attending accredited educational institutions.

With so many constructive programs in place, 4-H has continued to increase in numbers and influence. It has broadened its reach and has crossed lines freely with other organizations such as Future Farmers, Future Homemakers, and segments of the Scouting movement. The merging of lines between town and country and urban inclusion in a Division of Human Resources point toward the purpose of improving the quality of living among all people. Probably the most striking trend of 4-H in recent years has been its growth in urban areas.

During the entire span of 4-H Club activity centering largely in a distinctly rural America, there has been a continuing buoyant spirit in what has been widely recognized as the greatest voluntary educational and social

youth program the world has ever known. The cooperative activities, carried out with considerable open philosophical discussion, made it easy for the youth to absorb what M. L. Wilson characterized as "a deeper appreciation of the spiritual values of living in the open country." The remarkable unity among the leaders also made it easy for them to heed Wilson's admonition that they be diligent in developing "the best crop the nation can grow, rural boys and girls with character, with self-confidence, with

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physical and intellectual strength, and with the courage and determination to insure that the democratic way of life is to survive."

In a discussion with former Director Robert Tootell in the summer of 1971, in response to a question as to what he felt was the most important contribution of the Montana Extension Service, he replied without hesitation, "The work in 4-H."

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THE EXTENSION BUILDING

The building which has housed the state staff of the Extension Service since 1923 was the first major structure to be erected on the Montana State College campus. The first president, Augustus M. Ryon, spent considerable time during 1893-1894 designing and supervising the construction of what was described as "a very fine brick veneered building." Federal Experiment Station funds were used for the construction costs of about \$4,000.

James M. Hamilton, a member of the State Board of Education and later president of the college, reported to the board, "It is difficult to see how a building of its dimensions and construction can be erected for the money. It is well built, well arranged, and is adequate for the purpose for which it is intended."

Limited space in campus buildings for many years resulted in the Extension building being used for various purposes. Upon completion, the basement was used for engineering shops, the first floor contained staff offices, the director and his family lived on the second floor, and the third floor was occupied by the Veterinary Department.

A greenhouse was built in 1903, adjoining the building to the east and south. This was enlarged in 1911 and continued to be used until late in the 1930s. Several science departments used rooms in the structure and in 1907 the agricultural work of both the College and Experiment Station was carried on in the basement and the first floor. In 1907, however, the Biology Department occupied much of the building, remaining there until 1923. Numerous room changes were made during that time.

In 1923 the Extension Service took over the entire building and again internal changes were made. In 1965, a 24-by-42 annex was added to the east, and in 1967, a sturdy, roofed concrete entrance replaced the former worn, narrow, wooden steps.

The annex enlarged the basement, making room for an expanded multilith and publications operation. A program of renovation took place on the other floors involving improved lighting, painting, carpeting and storage cabinets which changed the character of the building into pleasant, although still crowded, quarters for the director and many of his state staff. For 60 years the building has been the nerve center for the Montana Extension Service.

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The Extension building. Constructed in 1894.