



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

September, 2013 Newsletter  
Volume IV Issue VIII



The statue of "the American Farm Girl" as she looks today at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD.

## Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Danforth Court's Girl Statue

Stroll out of J. C. Penney Hall from the Farley Lobby (named after George L. Farley, MA State 4-H Club Leader, 1916-1941, and across from the Kenneth Anderson Gallery, recognizing the former Associate Director, National 4-H Council), step down a few steps and you're in Danforth Court. Danforth Court was a gift to the National 4-H Center by the Danforth Foundation in honor of William D. Danforth, founder of the Ralston-Purina Company and the Danforth Foundation.

William D. Danforth had a great interest in young people and wrote the book "I Dare You" to challenge and inspire them. The Danforth Foundation was one of the first two private sector donors to help finance the original remodeling of the buildings which became the National 4-H Center. The other was the Ford Foundation. They both gave because of their respect for the amount of money already given by 4-H members, leaders and staff around the

country through the "Share and Care" program to build "a national home for 4-H."

In 1959, Ralston-Purina commissioned sculptor Carl Mose to execute the statue of a boy to be symbolic of American Rural Youth for the grounds of the Ralston-Purina Experimental Farm at Gray Summit, MO.

Donald Danforth, then president of Ralston-Purina, gave a bronze copy of that statue entitled "The American Farm Boy" to the National 4-H Club Foundation. It was placed in the space between the middle and north wings of the original main building as they were being remodeled to open as the National 4-H Center. Danforth Court was dedicated the same day that the 4-H Center was officially opened by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and two 4-H'ers, Anita Hollmer Hodson (NY) and Larry Dilda (NC).

Later, Donald Danforth commissioned Carl Mose to execute a new bronze statue of "The American Farm Girl" to be placed at the National 4-H Center. Dr. Margaret Browne, then Director, Division of Home Economics, Federal Extension Service, USDA, dedicated the statue at the 1963 National 4-H Conference. "Through the years," she said, "this will challenge young people to stand tall, smile tall, think tall and live tall. I think it's especially fitting that this figure of a girl joins the figure of the boy in this beautiful garden – symbolic of the equal opportunity that young people enjoy in our wonderful nation. Today, both girls and fellows can have [as] their goal a career in science, in education, in art, in government."

Each statue base displays the distinctive Ralston-Purina checkerboard design as well as quotes from William D. Danforth's book "I Dare You."

The statues became emblematic of Purina's concept of youth achievement. "Thinking Tall" which meant "stretching your thinking above the kind you do when you just want to get by."

"It brings you several rewards," a Purina ad in National 4-H News at the time said; "it spurs you to do a bigger job. And when the job is done, you have the reward of satisfaction within yourself for having done it." With this in mind, Ralston-Purina established new awards for "Tall Thinking Youth" who were given miniature replica statues of the famous Youth Statues at Gray Summit, MO, and the National 4-H Center in Washington, DC.

A publication of the National 4-H Center from the early 1960s indicates that these two statues are pictured in a Smithsonian publication on the "Statues of Washington." (We don't know if this book has been updated and whether the statues are still part of such a publication.)

### The Original Dedication Quote

"We hope Danforth Court will become a significant place in this beautiful establishment. We hope it will challenge and inspire and dare those who visit here to set high goals of living and to achieve those goals. A better America will depend almost entirely upon a better and more dedicated American youth leadership.

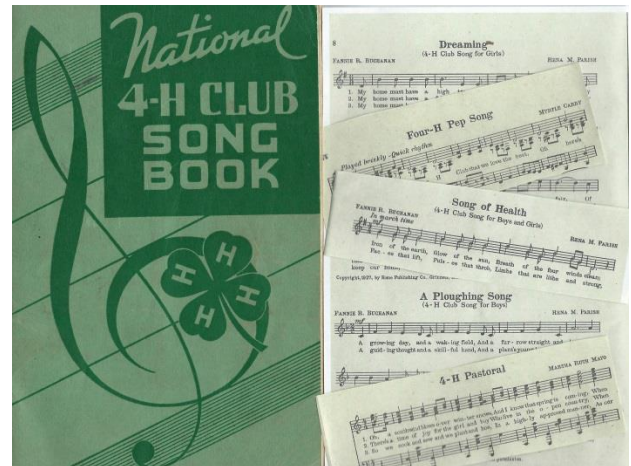
**Donald Danforth**, *President of the Danforth Foundation at the first dedication of Danforth Court, National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland. June 16, 1959.*

### 4-H Songs: A Part of Our History

Singing and 4-H songs have existed throughout 4-H's history. The first official National 4-H Song Book was published in 1929.

Fannie Buchanan, the first Iowa State Music Extension Specialist (1925-1927), is probably the best known writer of 4-H songs. She wrote both "A Ploughing Song" (4-H song for boys) and "Dreaming" (4-H song for girls) in 1927,

premiering them at the 1927 National 4-H Camp in Washington, DC. These were followed by "A Song for Health" (for 4-H clubs) in 1929, the "4-H Friendship Song" in 1932, and the "4-H Field Song" in 1933. Another favorite 4-H song of significance is "A Place in the Sun," written in 1948 by the famous orchestra leader Fred Waring and Jack Dolph, and dedicated to 4-H Clubs across the country.



1938 4-H Songbook featured many different 4-H songs.

A number of songs dedicated to club work and club projects like pigs, canning, gardening, bread and poultry are offered in the July and August 1919 issues of Farm Boys' and Girls' Leader and Club Achievements. The "Pig Club Song" begins, "Good mornin' Mr. Pig Club Pig, Mr. Pig and Miss Piggy mine, Good mornin' Mr. Hog so fat, you're surely looking fine!"

The July-August 1938 National 4-H Club News heralded the brand new "National 4-H Club Song Book." There is also an article about the "National 4-H Music Hour" that was broadcast on the first Saturday of each month at 12:30 PM ET on NBC stations. The theme for 1938 was, "A Musical Journey Around the World." Music was performed by the United States Marine Corps Band. July 1938 programs featured music from Asia and the Pacific Islands.

### Hands-on History – 4-H Songs

What are some favorite 4-H songs of your 4-H club members? Take turns teaching them to the rest of the club during club meetings. See if you

can find any information about the history of the different 4-H songs. Listen to and watch a 4-H song written by a 4-H alum to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of 4-H in NC at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Music/> and scroll down to “We Are 4-H”. Try writing your own club 4-H song. What would you sing about in your 4-H song?

Go to [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/emedial/eBooks/National4-H\\_Song\\_Book.pdf](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/emedial/eBooks/National4-H_Song_Book.pdf) to sing and play the 4-H songs from the 4-H songbook.



Top 4-H'ers Report to the Nation—See Page 10

Report to the Nation Team meets President Truman in 1951 and the story makes the cover of National 4-H News.

### **4-H Report to the Nation Team History - We Need Your Help**

For over four decades the National 4-H Report to the Nation Program was a premier high visibility program. Initiated in 1950, each year the program offered a team of young people an opportunity to represent their fellow 4-H'ers in telling the 4-H story. They met with corporate executives, with governors, congressmen and with Presidents of the United States. They were

on network television in New York City and “did Hollywood” in CA.

The National 4-H History Preservation Team is attempting to write the history of this exciting, influential program and to recognize those outstanding young leaders who participated. Unfortunately, many of the national records are gone. For some years we don't even have the names of the team members who participated. However, we know there are people across the country who will remember, and some who may themselves have even been on one of these “awareness building teams” which did so much to promote the solid value of 4-H to corporate, government, media and other public audiences.

Please let us hear from you. A draft of what information we have been able to glean from old newsletters and other sources appears on the 4-H history website at:

[http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/Report\\_to\\_the\\_Nation/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/Report_to_the_Nation/).

Please read this over. If you can help us locate some of the Report to the Nation team members - either those listed, or others who are not yet (but should be) on the list - we would appreciate it. We want to get their stories. Not only do we want to complete the listing of the annual teams, but we want to know what each team did, as their schedules and appearances varied greatly from one year to the next.

Earlier this Spring, members of the 1963 Report to the Nation team returned to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A digital video made of their recollections can be found in the digital video segment of the Film and Audio Archives on the website at: [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Media\\_AV.asp/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Media_AV.asp/). We would like to see Reporters from other years consider a possible reunion, as well.

Please contact the History team at: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com) if you participated in one of the reporting teams, or know of others who did. Thanks.

View past editions of this newsletter at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Newsletter>.

## Connecting to a Broader Network of 4-H History

We know there are countless websites documenting 4-H History in counties, states, university archives and national institutions. A worthy goal is to link as many as possible of these informative websites in order to create the most comprehensive source of historical 4-H information. This would greatly facilitate any research into 4-H History that may be undertaken for academic, documentary or social purposes.

If you manage a website related to 4-H, or just have an interest in 4-H, we would greatly appreciate a link on your site pointing to our website, <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>. We hope every state and county 4-H Extension office, 4-H Foundation, Land Grant University, 4-H Archives or 4-H Association would consider placing a link on your website to the National 4-H History Preservation website.

A few images have been prepared to help you do this and more will be added over time. Go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> and place your cursor on the Home and News button on the left-hand sidebar and then click on the word "Connect." To add one of these banners to your site, simply copy the code shown for the desired banner, and paste it into the code on your site. If you have any problems, please let us know at [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com).

We appreciate your interest and support for 4-H History and we hope our site will prove a helpful and interesting addition for your site's visitors.

### Going to Galaxy IV in Pittsburgh?

Learn how you can involve communities in celebrating the Smith-Lever Act Centennial. **Booth #814** is the National 4-H History Preservation Program exhibit. From 8-12 on Thursday, Poster session 3 at space **L-10** features "Voices of Extension History" and space **R-18** features "Voices of 4-H History."



"Voices" banner and educational materials have recently been used to help spread the word about the program at Citizenship Washington Focus (above), Maryland State Fair and Prince Georges County, MD, Fair this summer. See it next at Galaxy IV.

## "Voices of 4-H History" Continues to Grow, Nationally and Internationally

"Voices of 4-H History" was introduced to MD Adult and Teen 4-H Volunteer Forum with the help of History Team members Kendra Wells and Tom Tate, who presented "Youth Making History," or the idea that history is what we see in film. So, those that make the films, have a lot to say about what history gets documented. They used the still photos with no sound to show the power of the old images and just text (the silent screen model).

The History Team members circulated from table to table during lunch. Following lunch, the teens that were most interested, came to the exhibit table to watch the youth-produced video from Utah, which was the first place winner in this year's 4-H FilmFest in Branson, MO. The meeting resulted in MD teens from seven counties wanting to further pursue the "Voices of 4-H History."

These young people are now talking about using the 1'x3' "Voices of 4-H History" banner and the accompanying 'rack cards' at shopping malls and at county and state fairs to recruit current and former 4-H'ers to be interviewed. They also went through the pile of old black and white photos unearthed from the National

Archives and University of MD Library. They see the power of editing old photos in with the voices of 4-H alumni that they will interview.



### Other Happenings in the “Voices of 4-H” Project

WV is close to completing the editing of their first video with former 4-H members and it will soon be ready for release.

Joan Chong in HI writes: “Mahalo for the information. We're getting started; I'm working on bringing teams in from the different islands for a training soon.”

And from Alyssa Fourneaux, communications assistant at the Quebec 4-H office in Canada: “I stumbled upon a recent project you implemented: ‘Voices of 4-H History.’ I was

reading about it with great interest because as you may know 4-H is celebrating 100 years in Canada. I am trying to start a similar project, encouraging 4-H'ers to interview alumni and members about their own 4-H experiences. I thought using audio and video as a medium would be more fun and dynamic for the kids.”

**To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program;** please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to see your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council** to:

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 National 4-H History Preservation Team:

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

Email: [info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com)

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

Tweet: @4H\_History

