



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

## January 2011 Newsletter

Volume II Issue I

### 2010 National 4-H History Preservation

The History Team is happy to report progress toward our goals built on a threefold approach:

1. Identifying sources of National 4-H History Documents and Artifacts by;

- Visiting the National Agriculture Library and Archives, and the University of Maryland Archives to learn what 4-H materials are available there as well as the archival processes being used and possible collaboration with future archiving;
- Becoming familiar with online 4-H materials at National Archives and Library of Congress while planning to make fact finding trips to those institutions early in 2011; and
- Sorting and developing lists of existing photographs and printed documents at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center and 4-H National Headquarters, NIFA, USDA.

2. Documenting and preserving the items; by

- Digitizing 385 magazines; 15 books and catalogs, 156 newsletters, 46 annual reports, 43 other 4-H publications.

3. Making them accessible to interested audiences by;

- Establishing and developing a National 4-H History Preservation Website <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> where the digitized materials are available; and
- Developing a 4-H Collecting website <http://4-HCollecting.com> where you can learn how to form your own 4-H collecting club as well as to buy, sell or trade 4-H memorabilia; and Creating a new exhibit at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center to showcase

- Contemporary 4-H History highlights. This space will be updated quarterly and display programs and activities from the past ten years.



History Preservation Team members pause in front of their display at the 4-H Heritage Day event in October. Left to right: Dave Benedetti, Sue Fisher, Larry Krug, Sue Benedetti, Jim Kahler, Eleanor L. Wilson. Tom Tate and Rick Moses were unable to attend the event.

Other activities that we've been involved in to help support, collect information and spread the word about this work are:

- April: Luncheon and 4-H Preservation Exhibit, Center History Tour and discussion with the Extension Service USDA retirees and current staff;
- September: Informal visits with Epsilon Sigma Phi Members attending the 2010 National Conference in Jackson Hole;
- October: Hall of Fame and Heritage Day History Team Presentation and Workshop; History Preservation Exhibit; Collecting Club exhibit; 4-H Center History Tours;
- Produced a half hour videotape interview with Grant Shrum, former Director of the National 4-H Foundation and National 4-H Council highlighting over 30 years of private sector support to 4-H. The video will appear

on the website as well as be used in staff orientations and historical events;

- NAE4-HA National Conference: History Preservation exhibit and informal visits with attendees from across the country;
- December: History Preservation Exhibit; Collecting Club mini exhibit and informal visits with Washington area IFYE Alumni at their Holiday gathering; and
- USDA Extension holiday luncheon; informal visits and mini exhibits.



Items from the collections of National 4-H Council and 4-H History Team members displayed at the 4-H Heritage Day event to introduce <http://4-HCollecting.com> and encourage establishment of local 4-H exhibits and museums.

#### 4-H History Preservation Newsletter Publication for 2011

The Newsletter will be published every six-weeks. The date may vary by 1-2 days in months where there are conflicts with other major activities. We encourage submissions or suggestions for items in the newsletter from all of our readers.

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
January 6	---
February 16	February 2
March 30	March 16
May 11	April 27
June 22	June 8
August 3	July 20
September 14	August 31
October 26	October 12
December 14	November 30

#### 4-H History Preservation Website Update

<http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

Our history website went live in March of 2010 and continues to grow. The 4-H History Books and References section now has over 500 entries and we are in the process of getting many of these digitized for ready access by our site visitors. The two major history books on 4-H - by Franklin Reck and by Tom and Marilyn Wessel - are now available in digital format, as well as various manuals, newsletters, annual reports and magazines.

Under National 4-H History, nearly 100 sections have been identified and over half of these are either completed or in the process of being researched and written. Some of these history sections are extensive with over 100 pages, and hopefully will become a major history resource to the 4-H community. The history of the National 4-H Supply Service is our latest section to go live. Some of the other sections that are currently being worked on include sections on the history of the National 4-H Awards Programs, International 4-H Programs, National 4-H Fund Raising, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Service Committee, National 4-H Television Series and the National 4-H Calendar Program. We have a growing list of 4-H history volunteer consultants who are helping us document the history. We welcome your assistance if there are history sections in which you may have a special interest or were a participant!

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

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

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

### Identify this 4-H Photo

Who are the people in the photograph? What is their connection to 4-H? What are they holding? What states do they represent?



### 4-H Makes Contemporary History

Four-H History isn't always old. Sometimes a current event is history-in-the-making; sometimes the significance is a link between past events and a new situation which highlights the importance of tracking 4-H History.

**4-H International:** The Washington Post recently reported that Mary Kerstetter, a USDA employee stationed in Baghdad, started 4-H clubs in Iraq, the latest country – as far as we know – where 4-H has been introduced. Definitely history-in-the-making! As of

November 2010, there were four clubs with 124 members. “[The kids] are very quiet and shy when you start with them” Kerstetter says; “and then they become more confident. They’re learning responsibility; they’re learning leadership.” Yousif Mahamed Nea’amh, 13, was elected News Reporter for one of the clubs. “The first thing I learned from the 4-H club is how to work as a team” he said. They voted to name their club “Al Amal” which means “hope” in Arabic.

**4-H Alumna:** The Commonwealth of Virginia’s first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court sworn in on February 1, 2010, Cynthia Kinser, was a 4-H member in Lee County, VA. “Her most influential activity,” reports the Richmond Times-Dispatch, “might have been her involvement in the 4-H youth organization. She raised steers and researched nutrition, but also developed leadership and speaking skills.” As a high school senior, her first airplane ride was to National 4-H Congress in Chicago. “The 4-H motto – ‘To make the best better’ – serves as a mantra for her approach to life” says the Times Dispatch. She still farms in Lee County.

**A Model 4-H'er:** Norman Rockwell painted his iconic “The County Agent” for a July 24, 1948 Saturday Evening Post cover, and in 2010 Jama Fuller, the model for the 14 year old 4-H girl in the painting, recalled the experience in an interview with Portland, Indiana’s The Commercial Review. Jama, now 73, a resident of Redkey, IN, and her sister, Sharon Smith (also a former 4-H'er) are the only two surviving models portrayed in the painting. Jama’s brother, Larry Steed, is in the painting, as is County Agent Herald Rippey and hired hand Arlie Champ. All three Steed children were active in 4-H, members of the Jefferson Livewires 4-H Club. The original painting is housed at University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The National 4-H Youth Conference Center has a numbered print of the much reproduced painting (shown in photograph on page 2).



## 4-H Quote

"The economies in producing agricultural products at less cost including the conservation of soil fertility, are the foundation of future agricultural prosperity. It is my judgment that more progress is being made in this line through the activities of the Boys' and Girls' Club Work than through any other channel." (*Alexander Legge, President, International Harvester Company, 1928*)

## 4-H Idea Award Minnesota County Plans 4-H History Book Bill Svendsgaard, Former Hennepin County 4-H Agent

"For nearly 100 years, 4-H Youth Development has been conducted in Hennepin County. It is Minnesota's most populous county, including Minneapolis, Bloomington, and Edina. It also includes many rural areas that have been rapidly becoming urbanized and throughout history, both these rural and urban communities have hosted community 4-H clubs and many other innovative 4-H delivery models. It needs to be formally documented. There currently exists no inclusive chronological and interpretive written account that captures its history.

There are many people still living who can account for much of its history, and now is the time to collect their stories and their boxed records. This proposed history project was first announced at the 2010 Hennepin County Fair. About 20 names were collected from past 4-H adult leaders who were excited to become a part of it by helping to recover past 4-H history memorabilia. One current 4-H leader, Florence Larson, a 4-H leader for nearly 40 years, has consented to take leadership in collecting, sorting, classifying and authenticating found literature. Her mother, Florence Gaulke, was also a 4-H leader for over 50 years, one of the first charter 4-H leaders in Hennepin County.

They have boxes of valuable 4-H history. One 4-H alum, Amy Scherer, currently also a 4-H leader, has volunteered to help write drafts for this history, using her computer skills. I will enjoy working with all of these people while serving as author of this history as they were all active in 4-H while I served them as their Hennepin County 4-H Agent or Extension Educator between the years of 1976 to 2002, a total of about ¼ of its total history. I have kept boxes of records from the years I served, and salvaged Hennepin County Agricultural Extension Annual Reports for the years 1914-1937, now saved in my basement. Documents from all other years have been destroyed, but those saved will reflect the earliest years.

All history is cherished, but Hennepin County 4-H history encompasses so much transitional 4-H: from rural to urban, from early days to present, from traditional to innovative programming, from all-white to very diverse participants, and from piloting many national 4-H curricula and employing various staffing formats over the years.

The time line of this project begins in March, 2011, with proposed completion within two years, culminating in a book with a possible title: "Hennepin County 4-H History, the First 100 Years."

## We are searching for...

The current location of either or both of the Moses Leadership trophies. These were traveling trophies given each year at National 4-H Congress to the winning boy and girl in Leadership. Each individual was allowed to keep the trophy for one year. This award was discontinued in 1950.

4-H or 4-H type memorabilia from other countries. (Please e-mail photos of items.)

We're also still looking for video or film copies of the "Mulligan Stew" TV series to digitize.

## QR Codes Help Audience Move From Newsletter to Website Easily

There is a new symbol in the Contact Box at the end of this newsletter. This pattern in the lower right corner is called a QR Code. It is a special type of bar code that is recognized by free software available for smart phones and other electronic equipment with reading devices. When the device reads the QR code it automatically navigates to the website that is encoded in that particular code. If someone has a printed copy of this newsletter they can get to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> by reading the QR code with their device.

QR is short for Quick Response (they can be read quickly by a cell phone), and originated in Japan. They are used to take a piece of information from a coded media and put it in your cell phone. You may soon see QR Codes in magazine adverts, on billboards, web pages or even on someone's T-shirt. Once it is in your cell phone, it may give you details about that business (allowing users to search for nearby locations), or details about the person wearing the T-shirt, show you a URL which you can click to see a trailer for a movie, or it may give you a coupon which you can use in a local outlet. They are more useful than a standard barcode because they can store (and digitally present) much more data. The other key feature of QR Codes is that instead of requiring a chunky hand-held scanner to scan them, many modern cell phones can scan them; the cell phone needs a QR code reader. You will soon see QR Codes in Kathleen's Corner and other locations at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center.

## January Photo Identification

"The first three to win the Moses 4-H Leadership Trophy contest, Right to left: Ford Mercer and Frances Smith of Oklahoma and Kenneth Hinshaw of Washington. Ford and Frances are now Mr. and Mrs. Mercer." Mercer received the trophy in 1924, Smith in 1925 and Hinshaw in 1926. This photo appears in the 4-H - A Story written by Kenneth Hinshaw (who was

the third winner pictured in the photo). This photo prompted us to try to learn the current location of those trophies. (See item above.)

## Identify this 4-H Photo

We did not receive the correct identification of this photo which you can see after page 194 of the Hinshaw book, 4-H - A Story, which appears in the book section of <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>.



A Gypsy Chorus of Iowa 4-H Club girls dressed in feed sacks with necklaces created from chicken leg bands and harness rings pose at the end of their program. They are part of a group of 175 Iowa Club Girls who amazed the Nation by performing an Opera, "The Bohemian Girl," before an audience of 8,000 at the climax of their State 4-H musical program.

## Historical 4-H Trivia

### Boy Sends Calf to Egypt

Thomas Rich, from Hobart in Delaware County, New York, has the distinction of being the first person in the United States to introduce a pure-bred calf into Egypt. His 4-H calf, "Sophis Sons Viola" was purchased by Professor M. C. McFeetra, professor of Agriculture at Assuit College, American mission at Assuit, Egypt. It was necessary to secure a special permit to make the importation into Egypt, as formerly all stock was slaughtered at the docks. (National Boys and Girls Club News, November 1929)

## Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

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

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

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

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

**Tom Tate;** *Extension Service, USDA, retired*

**Sue Fisher;** *National 4-H Council*

**David E. Benedetti;** *National 4-H Council, retired*

**Rick Moses, Webmaster.**



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