

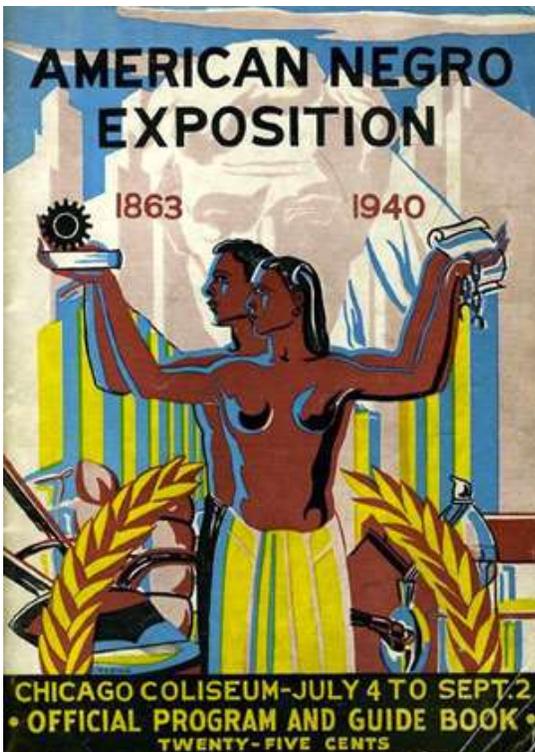


National 4-H History Preservation Program

September 2015, Newsletter
Volume VI Number VIII

Editor's Note: *The article below it made up of quotes from the August 1940 issue of National 4-H Club News. Designations of "African American" or "Black" were not used at that time. The editorial staff chose to run this article to commemorate the accomplishments of 4-H staff and members and not to emphasize the designation terms of people.*

4-H'ers Give Demonstrations at Landmark 1940 "American Negro Exposition"



The following story is from the National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History Website at http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Promotion

Something very special was going on during the summer of 1940 in Chicago – the landmark "American Negro Exposition" celebrating 75 years of African American achievement. The

exposition ran from July 4 to September 2 at the Chicago Coliseum, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and highlighting African American accomplishments and contributions to American life since the end of the Civil War. Extension had a prominent spot for the duration of the exposition with 4-H members giving demonstrations on projects and skills they were learning. The August 1940 issue of National 4-H Club News carried a photo feature entitled "4-H Helps the Negro," on the "American Negro Exposition" and the young 4-H'ers showing off their skills. Quotes and photos from that feature appear below:

"What the Negro [African American] as a race is achieving to obtain freedom from conditions adverse to a wholesome social and economic outlook is being graphically portrayed this summer until September 2 in the 'American Negro Exposition' in Chicago. It marks the diamond jubilee of the emancipation of the race from physical bondage in the U.S.

"Eleven southern states and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are cooperating with the enterprise in demonstrating activities of the Extension Services in behalf of the colored [black] race.

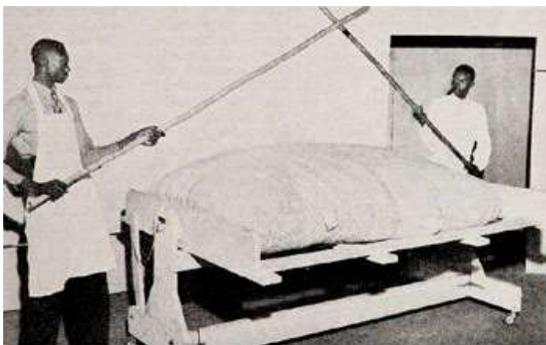


Negro Extension workers who supervised 4-H Club work at the American Negro Exposition in Chicago, from left: Albin L. Holsey, field officer AAA; H. P. Reid, county agent, Suffolk, Virginia; Blanche Harris, county home agent, Louisa, Virginia; J. L. Charity, district Extension agent, Richmond, Virginia; Miss L. A. Jenkins, district home agent, Petersburg, Virginia; D. F. Miller, agricultural engineer, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

National 4-H Club News, August 1940

"Made possible by \$75,000 appropriations each by the Illinois legislature and Congress, the exposition is presenting in highly artistic and effective educational exhibits and demonstrations the history and upward march of the Negro [African American], totaling 10,000,000 persons, roundly, in the cooperating States and over 16,000,000 in the nation as a whole. Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, heads the federal commission to the exposition appointed by President Roosevelt. The exposition is the dream of James W. Washington, former Tennessee extension agent and now a Chicago real estate man, who worked five years with the backing of influential Negroes [African Americans] among Chicago's 350,000 members and others elsewhere to obtain support for the project.

"Featuring the educational program in charge of Negro [African American] agricultural specialists of the Extension Services are demonstrations on housekeeping aids, mattress making, low cost housing, food conservation, table service and meat production. Early in July specialists from Alabama and Virginia held forth followed by others from Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina with Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas and again Alabama scheduled for the closing weeks.



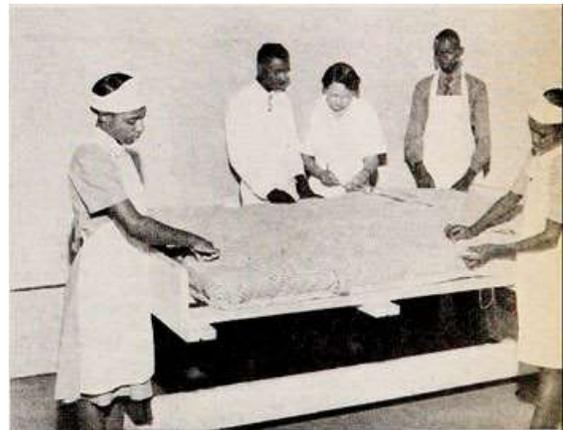
Surplus cotton is used to make mattresses for low income farm families. Two 4-H Club boys from Alabama, Arthur J. Johnson and Columbus Meadows, fluff a mattress before stitching.

National 4-H Club News, August 1940

"Colored [Black] 4-H Club members brought to the exposition to take part in the demonstrations spoke with unconcealed pride of their projects and of being chosen to do a service for their race. Maryland Tyner, Auburn, Alabama, told between the big stitches she was taking on a mattress of having canned 25 quarts of food before leaving home and of her

13 pullets which had begun laying. She had bought the flock as chicks and carefully reared them. She also told of a fine big mattress she and her mother had recently made. Asked how it slept she said it was put in the front room for special guests. She is 16, and there are 10 in her family.

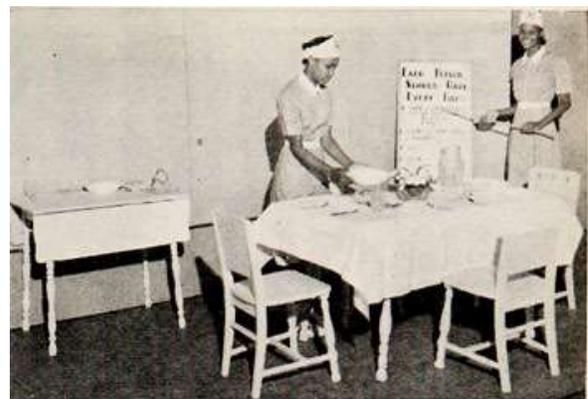
"Zepherine E. Tate, 13, of Tuskegee, has been in club work three years and has some hens, is learning to make clothing and raises peanuts which she sells to pay school tuition.



Finishing off mattress. Mrs. B. T. Pompey (center) home demonstration worker shows how a mattress is completed. Members are: Zepherine Tate, Maryland Tyner, Columbus Meadows and Arthur J. Johnson.

National 4-H Club News, August 1940

"Columbus Meadows, 17, Milstead, Alabama, is growing an acre of corn to feed a pig he hopes to grow into a brood sow. He lives with his family on a 30-acre rented farm which runs two milk cows with calves they are raising. Columbus is one of 10 children and hopes to be a farmer.



Negro [African American] farm families are taught to grow a balanced menu in their gardens and how to serve a meal. Two Virginia 4-H club girls, Margaret Thurston and Addie Perkins, demonstrate during the exposition.

National 4-H Club News, August, 1940

"Arthur James Johnson, 17, also of Milstead, Alabama, belongs to the Cotton Valley 4-H Club having 70 members. He lives on a farm, with 80 acres under cultivation and during his two years of club work has carried poultry, swine, corn and peanut projects. This year Arthur is raising two acres of Hasten Prolific corn and has an acre of peanuts, on which he expects a yield of about 35 bushels."

On This Day in 4-H History

September 2, 1940: The "American Negro Exposition" closed in Chicago, ending a successful summer run for Extension workers and 4-H members exhibiting at the event celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

September 5, 1990: The original Iowa Room in Ketner Hall at the National 4-H Center was dedicated, honoring Edwin T. Meredith, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and a founder of the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work.

September 7, 1950: United Nation Day. President Harry S Truman and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt were presented the first United Nations flag produced from UN flag kits by two 4-H members. The National 4-H Supply Service was the sole national distributor of the kits.

September 10, 1948: The first annual 4-H Donors' Conference was held.

September 11, 1956: President Eisenhower summoned 4-H national leaders to the White House to participate in creating a People-to-People Program for a better understanding of United States' principles abroad.

September 18-19, 1990: National Extension Youth-at-Risk summit was held at the National 4-H Center. In 1988, Youth-at-Risk was identified by the Cooperative Extension System as a priority for action, and focused on: school-age child-care and education; collaborations that support community programming with high risk youth; and science and technology literacy for youth-at-risk.

September 19, 1990: Dedication of Ralph W. Ketner Hall at the National 4-H Center.

September 22, 1977: Dedication of J. C. Penney Hall, W. K. Kellogg Hall, McCormick Hall, Firestone Hall, and the Kenneth H. Anderson Reference Gallery at the National 4-H Center.

Folks Who Helped Make 4-H Great

This is the second in the 1962 series published in the National 4-H News highlighting the work of 4-H professionals who, in the judgement of surveyed Extension workers, contributed significantly to the growth and development of the 4-H program nationwide. We reprint each article as it was written in 1962.

O. H. Benson



Drawing from the March, 1962, National 4-H Club News.

When an accident claimed two fingers from Oscar H. Benson's right hand while he was sawing wood as a boy, it proved to be a cloud with a silver lining for 4-H Club work. The occurrence spurred Benson's desire to get a college education. And that learning later put him in a position of great influence on the early rural youth work in America.

First as a superintendent of schools in Wright county, Iowa, from 1906 to 1911, then in Washington, D. C., in Farmer's Cooperative Demonstration Work, Benson was a leader in teaching demonstrations, now a universal method in 4-H. He was one of the first men, if not the first, to apply the cloverleaf emblem to rural youth club work. (In 1909, he was using three-leaf clover pins – representing head, heart and hands – as an achievement award to farm boys and girls.) And he was a keen promoter of state college-federal agreements on rural youth work.

A question in 4-H as yet unanswered by positive evidence is on the origin of the cloverleaf emblem. Benson was using it in Wright county; at least one other Iowa county had cloverleaf pins at about the same time. Originally or not, Benson was a prime force in getting the 4-H emblem adopted nationally in 1911, soon after he moved to Washington.

In early 1911, he was preaching “head, heart, hands and hustle” to the farmers of South Carolina and their children. Early pins showed the H’s, plus a symbol of the type of club the recipient belonged to – corn, cotton, etc.

In 1912, Benson was transferred to the Office of Farm Management in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. During that year he engineered the first state college-federal agreement for the promotion of rural youth club work in the North and West, his special area of operation, during a trip to his native state of Iowa. Indiana, Nebraska and other states quickly followed with cooperative agreements.

Traveling widely, Benson spread the influence of the teaching demonstrations with his pressure cooker and other canning equipment. He worked hard to convince some home economists that the pressure cooker was superior to the open-kettle method of canning for homemakers.

Oscar H. Benson was born on a farm near Delhi, Iowa, in 1875. He spent his childhood on livestock and fruit farms. College work in Iowa and elsewhere prepared him for teaching. After several years of country school teaching, he was elected to the Wright county superintendent’s post in 1906. There he encouraged farm youth to plant demonstration corn plots and encouraged agricultural improvement in other ways.

One innovation was his unusual form of commencement exercise. Instead of the usual schoolroom ceremony, he would have a tent erected outdoors and use the stage for livestock judging and grading lectures as well as the traditional graduation exercises.

After leaving the USDA in 1920, Benson worked hard in other youth movements. He developed Junior Achievement clubs and served for 15 years as National Director of Rural Scouting in the Boy Scouts.



4-H History Now on Facebook

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.Facebook.com/4H.History>

Put Your 4-H History on the Map



One of the 4-H GES team members studies the poster designed to involve 4-H Alumni attending the Esri International Conference in July.

4-H Alums are just one of many groups that will be mapping their history. During the Fall of 2015 and into the future, thousands of 4-H clubs will nominate interesting national, state and local 4-H historical people, places and events for documentation on the National 4-H History Map. We encourage you to look at your local area and county and see which, if any, 4-H History sites have already been nominated. If your county has no historical 4-H location yet posted, please let us know, so we can help you get started.

Take a look at the current map and the nomination form at: http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_Map

For more information, please contact:

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4-H History in Social Media

The National 4-H History Program uses multiple social media sites to help make it easier to research 4-H History on the History Website at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com>

4-H History Preservation News Service

The News Service publishes stories about 4-H history several times a week. The stories pertain to historical 4-H persons, sites, events and programs. The News Service is located at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation/News/> When a new article is released via the news service, it is automatically published to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

When you have the News Service on your screen, you will see options on the right side of the screen to subscribe to the Twitter feed. If you don't use Twitter, there is also an option to subscribe using your E-Mail address. The E-Mail subscription will automatically send a message the following day with all of the previous day's releases. You will not see more than one E-Mail notice per day.

Twitter

When a new article is released to the News Service, it is automatically posted on the @4H_History twitter account. You will receive a tweet from @4H_History within minutes of the article being released. Subscribing to the Twitter feed is as easy as clicking on the 'Follow 4H_History' button found on the right margin of all of the News Service pages.

Tech Notes

If you are familiar with RSS syndicated feeds, you may subscribe to the 4-H History Preservation News Service using RSS. Each page on the system has the feed information built in. Depending on your web browser, you may see the 'Subscribe' button light up on your tool bar. If you don't see the Subscribe button, click on 'Bookmarks' and look for the 'Subscribe' option.

Facebook

A Facebook presence was established in July of 2015 at <https://Facebook.com/4H.History> Like the Twitter feed, anytime an article is released

to the News Service, it is automatically re-posted on the Facebook page.

You Tube

Many of the videos listed in the 4-H History Preservation Film Archive are also available through our YouTube presence at <https://YouTube.com/4HHistory>

4-H Quote

"In my estimation the Boys' and Girls' Club movement is the greatest movement for progress in civilization of the past century. Now boys and girls, I do not say that for the purpose of trying to please you, I say it because I believe it. I say it because I have traveled over the United States from one end to the other, and I want to say to you that more progress has been made as a direct result of boys' and girls' club work in taking new methods to the farm and to the home than was ever accomplished before – **Perry Holden**, Field Director, Agriculture Extension Department, International Harvester Company, speaking at the 1925 International Harvester Banquet at National 4-H Congress.

(Dr. Holden was the first professor of agronomy in the United States and the national leader in promoting the use of hybrid feed corn.)

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