

Entre Nous



THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

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“PAST”

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Entre Nous means “between us” and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Articles should be submitted via e-mail, either in the body or in an attached Microsoft Word document. The e-mail should be addressed to René L. Mehlberg at rene.mehlberg@ces.uwex.edu

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The Winter issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on the Present, so start writing your articles now. The final due date will be February 1, 2003. You don't have to limit your articles to the focus theme. The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

A Blast from the Past

René L. Mehlberg, Editor, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent

"I've learned so much, met many new friends, and had experiences I never would have had if it wasn't for 4-H. I will continue on as a leader and will keep my 4-H involvement forever."

R. Mehlberg

As the communications committee was brainstorming themes at WAEP in April, the thought began as a tie-in to the 4-H Centennial of which we were in the midst. From that came the themes for the year: Past, Present and Future. And we start with the Past.

Looking back at my 4-H past, as a 4-H member I didn't always understand why I had to do a record book. Yet, I always did them and did them well. Over the years, I came to realize the value as I began filling out ME forms and scholarships. I still have my record books and now they serve as a look back at my 4-H past.

I dug out my very first record book and my last. My first 4-H story as a 3rd grade Explorer made me laugh. It had some typical things such as the fair was what I enjoyed the most. I earned three blues and one white. One of the funny parts was that I said the most interesting thing I did all year was a tour to McDonald's and that "I even got to fill some French fry containers." Even though we say 4-H teaches life skills, this did not lead to a job at any fast food restaurant.

Eleven years later my last record book was put together. Reading my club story revealed experiences that I had forgotten: teaching a workshop on how youth can be used as resources presented to the Northeast District and serving on the interview committee for CWF delegates.

Looking through my 4-H record books gives some insight on how I reached my present. This is the last paragraph from my final record book: "After eleven years of 4-H, it's hard to believe it's all over. I've learned so much, met many new friends, and had experiences I never would have had if it wasn't for 4-H. I will continue on as a leader and will keep my 4-H involvement forever. 4-H has given me so much to me that I feel obligated to give all I can back. Even though I'm no longer a member, I have big plans for me in the 4-H program. I'll never give 4-H up."

My blood is 4-H green, but I was surprised at the prediction I made eleven years ago. Who knows exactly where 4-H will take me in the future. All I do know is that 4-H will be a part of it!

My first edition as editor was fun as there is so much 4-H history out there that this edition could have gone on forever. Yet, all good things must come to an end. I hope you enjoy this brief look at 4-H past.

Welcome to the Hall!

Wayne Brabender, State 4-H Specialist

One of my fun writing assignments this year was working with Linda Kustka to draft something on our state's nominees for the National 4-H Hall of Fame, a 4-H Centennial Project of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

We succeeded in landing two distinguished people in the Centennial Class of 2002. These two did so much for 4-H in our state and the country that it would have been almost impossible for the national folks to leave them out of the inaugural class. The hard part was trying to summarize their industrious, valuable lives in just a few words. That's a lot of pressure on a writer. Ranger Mac and J.A. Craig are in the Hall, and I can't think of two more deserving people.

The purpose of the National 4-H Hall of Fame is to recognize and celebrate those people who made a significant impact on 4-H and the lives of millions of members for 100 years. The Hall exists exclusively on the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents web site. That's where you'll find information on Ranger Mac and J.A. Craig. Check them out, and the other 98 members, at www.nae4ha.org/hof/index.html. The only permanent physical presence of the Hall is a kiosk at the National 4-H Center unveiled at National 4-H Conference in April 2002.

Following is a sneak preview of our Wisconsin inductees.

Ranger Mac

Wakelin McNeel, better known as Ranger Mac, spent a lifetime as friend of youth and nature. He was a popular Wisconsin school teacher, administrator, and "chief" of Junior Forest Rangers. He served on the Wisconsin 4-H staff for 28 years, including six as state leader. He broadcast a statewide radio program for school children. Over 21 years, Ranger Mac inspired 700,000 listeners to conserve natural resources. In 1942 "Afield with Ranger Mac" received the Peabody Award as the country's outstanding educational program. The Peabody is the equivalent to an Oscar for film.

In the 1940's Ranger Mac influenced the Upham family to donate 300 acres to 4-H. Through his leadership, "Upham Woods" became a 4-H environmental education center that now reaches 10,000 youth each year. He also served as the camp's first superintendent. If you ever slept in the Ranger Mac cabin at Upham Woods, you slept in the cabin dedicated in his name in 1955.

Joseph Craig

In 1918, industrialist J.A. Craig brought General Motors to Janesville, where it has employed thousands over the years. But he said his greatest legacy was his work with 4-H. His contributions benefited many 4-H youth and leaders from the local level to the national. As a volunteer he organized 4-H clubs throughout Rock County. He even promoted 4-H in cities before it was popular.

When the Rock County fairgrounds foreclosed during the Depression, he bought and donated the 47 acres to 4-H. Working with kids, Craig said, kept him young. He lived to be 91. He left behind a Janesville high school in his name and one of the strongest county 4-H programs in the country. He was also one of the founders of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. He, too, has a cabin at Upham Woods, dedicated in 1951.

Ranger Mac

- *28 years on State 4-H Staff*
- *Helped secure donation of Upham Woods*

J. A. Craig

- *Bought & donated the 47 acres of Rock County Fairgrounds to 4-H after it foreclosed during the Depression*
- *One of the founders of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation*

The 4-H Community Club as I've Known It

An interview with Betty Davies, Retired Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Specialist by Nancy Franz, State 4-H Specialist

Betty Davies

- *4-H member in Waushara County*
- *Worked in Iowa and Sauk Counties as the Home Economics Agent from 1940-1952*
- *Worked on the State 4-H Staff from 1952 until retirement in 1975*
- *Advised the WI 4-H Youth Leader Council when it began in 1956 until retirement*
- *Began an endowment fund with the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation which still supports the work of the State 4-H Youth Leader Council*

I started in 4-H in sixth or seventh grade. I was still at the country school and I didn't go to the country school for eighth grade so it must have been about 1929. At the country school the county agent, Jorge, came out and talked about 4-H. There was a brand new county agent, a young man with lots of vitality. I thought, "I know my dad will be taking us to that tonight." There was a girl there that didn't have a telephone so we walked a mile and a half to ask her folks if she could go home with me and if she could go to that meeting where we would talk about 4-H club work. That was the first 4-H meeting I went to.

We were very lucky in our community because we had two fellas who had been ag teachers who had retired and were farming. One of them was the club leader. So we had that strength. Then we had their sister who was a home economics teacher and she became the home agent in Milwaukee County. This family was very close to us. We didn't have a home agent and this county agent was a very good friend of theirs. There wasn't a club agent when I was a 4-H member. The county agent was the only one. He started the 4-H club but I don't have any other memories of him coming out to the club. I do remember him being at a big night picnic. He attended big county events and he was very dedicated.

Our club started out with a boys club and a girls club. It wasn't very long before we were a boys and girls club. We had good project work. We had good leaders because they knew what they were doing. When I was a 4-H member we had the flour sack project in '29 or '30 and I remember making a white dress with white flour sacks and green trim. Another project I had was the home furnishings project. I made curtains, bedspreads, and everything else. There were four girls in our family. Dairy and hogs were the main projects for the boys. My brothers were in hogs and crops.

I did 4-H all through high school. Then I went to school and I didn't have a strong association. I did belong to the student university 4-H club but I was working all the time so I didn't have much time for anything extra. When I went to the university I had two opportunities. I could do home economics or teach school. My neighbor became a teacher and a home agent in Milwaukee County and she was my model. Without her, I wouldn't have taken home ec at the university because I didn't have it in high school.

My entrance into Extension came about because of Jorge. My father and him were very good friends and he said, "She ought to be in Extension work." It is hazy what happened but I came down to Madison and interviewed. They said I was too young because I had only had a year and a half of teaching. Jorge told the interviewer, "Oh she's good." So I got hired in Iowa County in 1940. There weren't many home agents at that time.

Next I became an agent in Baraboo in Sauk County. I worked with one of the most wonderful men I've met in my lifetime. His name was Dave Williams and he came to Madison eventually. He had been an ag teacher in the county for years and he had many friends as vocational ag teachers. I

think back about who helped us along in 4-H and it was the vo ag teachers. The president of the leaders association was a vocational ag teacher.

Home agents were hired about the same time as club agents and there were three club agents. It was sort of interesting where they were located. They were in Marinette, Marathon, and Milwaukee County. Some home agents were working during World War I on nutrition. There was more of that than I realize sometimes. The home agents did 4-H club work. In '49 the first club agent was hired in Sauk County. Sauk was later than some counties.

"If I could get out right now and make a speech, it would be on how sound the 4-H club principles are. You look at youth work today and the emphasis is on parents. There is nothing more sound than that."

B. Davies

After Sauk County I became an assistant state 4-H club leader in Madison. Until Bob Clark (state 4-H program leader) came we operated pretty much on the rule that state leaders would go out and hold district meetings with the local leaders. In fact I remember the first one I had in Iowa County and I thought, "What in the world will I do?" Geneva Erickson (state 4-H staff member) came out and helped us establish what we would be doing. A lot of the local leaders already knew what they were doing. As a specialist, I gave talks to leaders associations. Someone asked me to talk about all stages of club work. So I told them if they got a good start, that was important.

I think we had a very sound 4-H club philosophy established in Wisconsin and all of the Midwest. We had people who had been school people and realized how club work could extend and help the school program. That didn't change too much over time. When I talked to leaders I'd go through the 4-H pledge to show the stability of the pledge and what it means. If you had the pledge in your mind and you thought it through, it gave you a good strong basis for much of what you would do.

If I could get out right now and make a speech, it would be on how sound the 4-H club principles are. You look at youth work today and the emphasis is on parents. There is nothing more sound than that. In some ways I suppose it is because early 4-H club work was designed in part to teach the adult. I know that leaders will tell you how much they learned. One young man was the head of the Farm Bureau and a local 4-H leader in Monroe County. He got on the state leaders council and he used to say to Agnes Hanson on the state 4-H staff, "That was the best training I've ever had. I never could have handled this if I hadn't had that." My own family is another example. My older brother Myron had pigs. They weren't high quality. My aunt gave him money back in the depression days to get good stock in Cheshire White hogs. It wasn't long before my dad was in the business of Cheshire White hogs. It was not only Myron's project but it was also my dad's.

When I went to Cornell for my masters I enrolled in a course in child development. I found that working with children is the same as working with adults. The course included important principles of child guidance. I used the 4-H club bulletin as my bible for that class. The principles are show affection (that was number one), show respect and then give help, and give approval. That is what we talked about all through that class - affection, help, respect, and approval that is worthy. I used those principles time and time again. I found that was the core of leader training as far as I was concerned and in everything I tried to do with agents. I could always see these principles when agents were working with leaders.

One of the changes for the better is that we no longer hire 4-H agents to become county agents. That is the biggest thing that has happened. I think of some of the boys - Sid Bjorkman, Severt Olson - they used to say there were five of them. They called themselves Betty's boys. I always have felt very lucky because I always got along with the agents.

Over the years I think people became more informed in what 4-H could be. There was a larger diversity of projects for one thing. There were lots of new ideas coming in as I retired. Volunteers changed over time too. In my 4-H club many women weren't employed outside the home. I know that must be very difficult at this point in time to get volunteers.

“One of the changes for the better is that we no longer hire 4-H agents to become county agents. That is the biggest thing that has happened.”

B. Davies

When I was involved with 4-H, the specialists were very dedicated people. In fact I remember Jane Voichick (state family living specialist) when she was starting. She was so unfamiliar with what she was getting into with Extension and I started to give her some help. She always said, “Betty you were the first to introduce me to what leader training should be.” She asked where I learned it and I said I learned it from other good specialists. The specialists would go out to the 4-H staff and have district meetings and give training in projects. That was possible because there wasn't the diversification of projects that there is today. 4-H agents would then hold project meetings with their leaders. There were a lot of specialists who did some very good work. One agent I worked with in dairy was trying to improve the quality of the care of milk and he used to come out to the counties and get the leaders together for a 4-H club project. He would show washing the milk machines and washing the separators.

The changes in the 4-H club program over time are one of the reasons I retired early. I began to feel that at one point in our working with young people we were assuming they knew too much. I had a fine child development teacher at Cornell and she used to say to us, “You know, no child of 14 has all the answers.” I thought of that so many times when I was working with agents. That was the thing that was bothersome – everything was the child. It lessened the leader's feeling of competence. I don't know if it bothered others as much as it bothered me. I had been a district leader for the west side of the state and all of a sudden the young people that came said, “These are professional people. They don't need supervision.” Well it wasn't supervision. It was guidance. I think there is a difference. So we went without district leaders for I don't know what length of time – a person in the area that was responsible. Then agents in the area began to say, “We need people like Betty again.” My strong point was training new agents. I always had an appointment with the agent when they started and I spent the day with them.

I think the separation of agents into program areas also lost something for 4-H. The girls that came up as 4-H members and were Extension staff had strong dedication to the program but the girls that had not been 4-H club members did not. The men were also very dedicated. The separation was partly our fault too at the state level – we tried to do too much. I remember working with the expanded food and nutrition program. Some of the club agents didn't really feel that program was a part of their job. Some home

agents thought that when they did expanded food and nutrition with kids that this was really the club agent's job.

Those of us who were strong 4-H supporters never gave it up. We were always in there doing it. I got some teachers to become home agents. In the early days we tried to grow our own agents. When there became more opportunities for employment we had less of that.

“Agents need to clearly state what the job is and their expectations for the volunteer. Sometimes we were so anxious to get anyone to do the work that we didn't share our expectations.”

B. Davies

In the future, 4-H clubs will have a wider variety of people involved. At least I hope so. If we have foods projects we'll have to look at the way people eat and buy today. I also think that consumer education should have a bigger role than it has had in 4-H club work – finances and child development too. Most of the club agents had not had very much in child development. Competition and county fairs still hold sway I think. County fair brings out the best and the worst in people. We sway back and forth about the value of competition. It was very hard on some leaders when we down played competition. They recognized that something was good that was happening there.

If I were to advise 4-H agents today I'd start with the person. They would have to know that they would have to like people. They would have to know that they couldn't be a perfectionist. It is important for them to give status to the volunteer leader. They must know they are doing something very important, and I don't think we did that enough in the past. We have to do this in order to keep them. Agents need to clearly state what the job is and their expectations for the volunteer. Sometimes we were so anxious to get anyone to do the work that we didn't share our expectations. I think too that we haven't really thought about giving leaders recognition. Agents need help in how to give recognition to these people – to give real recognition.



Frank and Terry Frantal, 16 and 13 respectively, operate a roadside vegetable stand in front of their Kenosha, Wisconsin home. Produce sold from the stand is raised by the boys in their gardens. Photo taken in the 1960's. (Courtesy National Archives, photo no. 33-A-121-3)

What will 4-H be like in the year 2000?

Editor's note: As I was going through my office files last year I came across a copy of the following article, "What will 4-H be like in the year 2000?" Wayne Brabender wrote the article as a special to The Country Today and was printed Wednesday, October 6, 1982. Wayne interviewed Mitch Mackey, 4-H statewide program chair for UW-Extension. Mitch was a Door County native and passed away last year. The article not only helps us look at the past, but also allows us to see how close we came to predictions Mackey made to give way to the future. Below is an excerpt.

Mitch Mackey

- *Began Extension Career in 1950 as Asst. Ag Agent for Milwaukee County.*
- *In 1970 moved to 4-H Youth Development with the goal of changing the program to meet the needs of urban & rural youth.*
- *Served as State 4-H Program Leader until retirement in 1983.*

"By the year 2000 we should be able to reach all 4-H leaders and youth right in their own homes through computers and cable TV."

Prediction made by Mitch Mackey in 1982.

What will 4-H be like in the year 2000?

It may be a bit more space-aged, but 4-H will still be down to earth enough then to meet the needs of youth and families throughout Wisconsin.

He predicted an increase in the number of adult 4-H leaders in the state, "but they will be 'short-term' leaders. They won't be signing up for 25 years," he says like some of the veteran volunteer leaders of today. "There is a growing reluctance to take on leadership for a long time."

Many of these leaders will not have children at home - early retirees, the elderly, bachelors and childless couples - but they will want a chance to share their love and special interests with young people, he says.

"These are people who want to remain flexible and not be involved in 4-H for the entire year," Mr. Mackey adds, "but they are the people we need in 4-H because they're interested in youth."

This change in volunteer leadership will no doubt trigger other changes in the 4-H program of the future, he says.

To accommodate the leader, who has only a short time to give to it, 4-H is developing a variety of short-term learning opportunities, such as camps, field days and workshops. These are all "efficient ways of teaching," notes Mr. Mackey, and more in tune with the fast-paced world of the 21st century.

He thinks that during a two-day camp on leathercraft or dairy science a leader can share as much information with a group of 4-Hers as he or she can during a whole series of night project meetings spread out over a year.

With more leaders to train, the UW-Extension specialists and agents of the future may have to replace face-to-face leader training meeting with sessions over new communications media.

"By the year 2000 we should be able to reach all 4-H leaders and youth right in their own homes through computers and cable TV."

The role of the county 4-H agent will be affected by these changes. Agents will probably spend more time maintaining the organization, recruiting leaders and simply "keeping track of who's coming and going" then they do now, he says.

Mr. Mackey does not think the basic subjects of 4-H will change much by the turn of the century. How to grow plants, how to raise animals, how to improve the home environment and how to relate to people will still form the heart of the program.

"It's hard to tell where the city ends and country begins anymore," he says, noting that people are "now growing together - city kids are interested in rural things and country kids are interested in city things."

M. Mackey

But because of smaller budgets, 4-H will have to make hard decisions about which particular projects will continue to get full-scale literature support. The days of leaders and member guides for all the projects are gone, he adds.

Over the next 20 years, Mr. Mackey thinks 4-H membership will continue to become more "urbanized – rural" reflecting the trend of our society.

"It's hard to tell where the city ends and country begins anymore," he says, noting that people are "now growing together - city kids are interested in rural things and country kids are interested in city things."

4-H projects already reflect the changing interests of youth. Today, Wisconsin has dairy project literature that doesn't require a whole herd of dairy cows. There are gardening projects that can fit a small backyard city plot and a horseless horse project in which kids don't need to own a horse.

Mr. Mackey also predicts that 4-H will develop projects between now and 2000 "that we don't even visualize yet."

The reason?

"We don't know what the economic and social situations will be in Wisconsin," according to Mr. Mackey, and 4-H has a good track record for changing rapidly to deal with these new situations.

So, unless he can gaze into a crystal ball, Mr. Mackey says he can't be exactly sure what this flexible youth program will be like in the year 2000. "It will be whatever the people want it to be."

But he is sure that 4-H will continue to be a "learn-by-doing" organization for young people.

And he's sure that it will continue to be an educational program that adults can turn to along with the home, church and school for help in raising youth to be productive members of society.

"And who knows," speculated Mr. Mackey, "we may have sprouted another leaflet or two on the 4-H clover by then."



Did you know that the original clover only had three leaves and the H's stood for head, heart, and hands? It was designed by O.H. Benson. He wanted the fourth H to stand for hustle and the 4-H was adopted. He later changed "Hustle" to "Health."

Courtesy: 4-H Centennial Website

Another Blast from the Past

Linda Kutska, State 4-H Specialist

Editor's Note: Linda came across the following that were printed in 1952. She wrote, "Even though our language use has changed, much of the content is still applicable 50 years later." I agree with her statement. Read for yourself.

A Dozen Attributes of the Ideal Extension Worker

Alfred Vivian

Dean, Ohio State University

From The Spirit & Philosophy of Extension Work. 1952. R.K. Bliss



The 1926 4-H Handy Book, a precursor to the National 4-H Supply Catalog.

Abounding Faith In the importance of the work.

Infinite Tact In meeting trying situations.

Unlimited Patience In overcoming community inertia.

Endless Good Nature In the face of all trials.

A Saving Sense of Humor When nothing else will meet the situation.

A Large Vision Of the work to be done.

Ability to Lose Gracefully And to rebound after each defeat.

Indomitable Courage In standing for the right.

Grim Determination To see the work put through to its completion.

Contagious Enthusiasm To inspire local leadership.

Unquenchable Optimism In spite of all discouragements.

Unreserved Belief in the Importance of the Farm Family to the Commonwealth.

Voices of 4-H

Denise Retzleff, Fond du Lac County 4-H Youth Development Agent

How has 4-H changed in its 100-year history? What impact has it had on the life of members and leaders? To find the answers two 4-H members in Fond du Lac County planned and conducted videotaped interviews this summer. One member, Rikki, who is in the communication project asked questions while the other member, Amy, videotaped. Because it is the 100th anniversary of 4-H the interviews focused on how 4-H has changed over the years. Amy and Rikki interviewed a variety of current members, current leaders who were previously members, and retired leaders part. These are excerpts from the nine interviews.

Rikki: What did you learn from a leader that impacted your life?

Mary: How to get along well with others.

Heather: You don't always have to be the best at everything.

Marion: Establish goals and put your heart in things in order to succeed.

Sheila: Never be afraid to try something new.

Rikki: Describe some changes in 4-H that you have seen.

Mary: Back when I was in 4-H 25 years ago it was more of the necessities of life that you learned. You had knitting, crocheting, foods, cooking, sewing, dairy, beef, pork projects and now a lot of things are getting away from that. You're getting more into your rocketry, photography, not your life lessons.

Rosie: 4-H has become more kid oriented in the past a few years. It's picked up on projects that kids really like such as arts and crafts, rocketry and some of the shooting sports as compared to longer ago.

Gerald: One of the biggest things that has changed over the years is the leadership. You have project leaders now like we didn't have many years ago when I was in 4-H. You did have a guide to go by and we did have books but they were very simple. There were just very, very few projects that we had to choose from also. Today it is almost unlimited what subject you may want to take.

Marion: 4-H has extended membership to students in the urban areas as well as the rural areas. When I was a member it was mostly in rural areas that 4-H was promoted.

Ray: 4-H has changed pretty much with the times. Electronics, for example, when I was in 4-H was a very minute part and today you have photography, video cameras, recorders, and computers. That was unheard of 35 years ago when I was in 4-H.

Stan: Well this was 50 years ago, but today I see more young people taking part and really putting themselves into it, and I also see leadership coming from adults. If you didn't have parents, friends and leaders you wouldn't have a good 4-H.

"One of the biggest things that has changed over the years is the leadership. You have project leaders now like we didn't have many years ago when I was in 4-H."

Response from Gerald when asked the question: "Describe some changes in 4-H that you have seen."

Rikki: Tell us about an interesting experience in 4-H.

Gerald: Having former members contact and tell me of the woodworking projects they have made since they left 4-H. I'm pleased they have continued with their hobbies.

Marion: We won the first place in the state in the safety contest. There were fifty some members in our club at the time and the Milwaukee Journal sent a bus up to pick us up on Friday and we all went to Milwaukee for the weekend. We visited many interesting places, had wonderful meals, met the state 4-H hierarchy and we came home on Sunday. Everybody just had a wonderful time. Everybody worked very hard trying to put the report booklet and all the experiences together. This was the biggest event during my 4-H days. This was about in 1962. I have the booklet that won us the first prize. I look through it every now

and then and think of all the hard work we put in getting this all together. We distributed all kinds of bulletins and wrote letters to the radio and TV stations on using seat belts, farm safety, and driving blunders. We had the Red Cross come out and give first aid to different pretend patients.

Stan: Showing cattle at the fair and having a grand champ cow. I became a member of the state 4-H club chorus and I had the honor of going to the State Fair two successive years and singing with 4-Hers there.

Rikki: What was your favorite project and why?

Mary: My favorite project in 4-H was knitting. The leader would have two to five of us members come over. You could sit and talk and knit and we had a good time.

Gerald: My favorite project was woodworking. I started when I was in grade school building birdhouses, bird feeders, and scooters, with whatever kind of wood I could get to build something.

Heather: Computers because I can go more in-depth with it. There are a lot of countywide meetings that I go to.

Marion: My favorite project as a member was canning. I believe it was because my mother influenced me a lot.

Sheila: Photography because you can express yourself.

Ray: There was a lot in the dairy project to offer me, to teach me about what happens in the day-to-day operations on a farm and I learned a lot about judging dairy cattle and it has followed through into my profession today.

Stan: I was milking cows and I liked them. I always liked to work with cows and show them. That was my best project.

Rikki: Describe activities you were involved in 4-H besides project work.

Mary: I used to do the speaking and demonstration contest and I went to 4-H camp, which was one of the favorite activities of my 4-H years.

Eric: My neighbor and I have a tradition to have a Halloween trail inside the gymnasium for our club members where we try to make it a little scary but fun to just break the ice with members.

Rosie: I usually helped with the June Dairy Month promotion and one year we had a set of cheerleaders, all boys, so that was kind of fun watching them perform.

Gerald: We had paper drives during WWII. We collected milkweed pods. We also collected tin cans for the war effort. The 4-H was very active in those type of collections.

Heather: I've gone on the Madison trip and I am going on the DC this summer.

Marion: As a member we didn't have many social activities. We met in the homes, and not real often. We didn't have monthly meetings or

"My neighbor and I have a tradition to have a Halloween trail inside the gymnasium for our club members where we try to make it a little scary but fun to just break the ice with members."

Eric's response to, "Describe activities you were involved in besides 4-H project work."

regular meetings. The big thing was going to the county fair. And if we had a dollar to spend at the county fair we were big time. If we had a dollar and a half we were big, big time. This was in 1928 or 29, in the depression days. Later when I was teaching special education I started a club for the handicapped kids. I think it was probably the only one in the state at that time. We did our projects in arts and crafts. Of course they all went to the fair.

“The big thing was going to the county fair. And if we had a dollar to spend at the county fair we were big time. If we had a dollar and a half we were big, big time. This was in 1928 or 29, in the depression days.”

Marion’s response to “Describe activities you were involved in besides 4-H project work.”

Sheila: I go to the fair. I was in show choir. I did the speaking contest. I’m in Jr. Leaders. That’s kind of fun because you get to go different places and lead activities. I help fund raise for our club. I went to camp too. I’ve been on all the trips, Madison, CWF and Atlanta. They were really fun and I enjoyed the trips a lot. I met new people. I’d recommend you go on any of the trips if you could.

Ray: Softball was a major part of 4-H. Almost every club had a softball team and it was quite competitive. I also participated in Club Congress. It was quite a learning experience for me. I think it was probably the first time I was to a large city, away from my parents, and it got me interested in Madison to the point where I went to school there. Jr. Leaders was always exciting and it is still exciting today when my children are in it. They’re always doing new and exciting activities.

Stan: We always had dairy judging every year. I remember Mr. Vern Viney from Campbellsport who coached us saying, “On a black and white cow if you want to get that black to really shine, it needs palm oil and elbow grease.” That means you have to rub it into the cow. I’ll always remember that. That doesn’t only apply to shining up a cow that applies to anything. You’ve got to be willing to work.

Rikki: Tell us about a fun experience in 4-H.

Mary: I guess one of the moments I remember most about 4-H would be going to 4-H camp. The first year that I went to camp the younger girls were all in a loft of a cabin. There must have been 10 or 15 of us upstairs in the cabin and it was just like a slumber party where everybody just had a good time.

Eric: One funny thing that we did was our demonstration on Valentine’s Day where me and my neighbor decided to put on an act to show the history of Valentine’s Day. One of us was cupid and we showed how the cupid’s arrow worked on each other.

Marion: One time as a leader we were promoting dairy month and I had some very ambitious members in my club and they put a big banner up over the street in Byron and they’d just get it up and about a few minutes later a big truck would come along and hit the banner and down it would come. And they kept on doing that three or four times and finally they gave up. It just didn’t work. But we laughed about it.

Ray: We had a lot of good times in the dairy project, washing cattle and water fights. Those were always a lot of fun when I was a kid and they still are now. In 4-H there are a lot of fun times. That’s what 4-H is a lot about. It’s not just learning. It’s having fun and it’s sharing the good and the bad times.

“One funny thing that we did was our demonstration on Valentine’s Day where me and my neighbor decided to put on an act to show the history of Valentine’s Day. One of us was cupid and we showed how the cupid’s arrow worked on each other.”

A fun experience in 4-H as told by Eric.

Stan: The funniest experience I had was at the old county fairgrounds. There was a barn of hogs and sheep. We spent nights there. In the barn we put up about three bales of hay for steps and we had a neat sign above it, "See the Green Pig." As people from town would step up and look in there, they would look into a mirror. They saw themselves and we sat back laughing.

"The funniest experience I had was at the old county fairgrounds. There was a barn of hogs and sheep. We spent nights there. In the barn we put up about three bales of hay for steps and we had a neat sign above it, 'See the Green Pig.' As people from town would step up and look in there, they would look into a mirror. They saw themselves and we sat back laughing."

Stan's fun 4-H experience.

Rikki: Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us?

Gerald: I just think that 4-H has come a long way. It builds character. I would encourage any youth today to join 4-H and be involved in it. They are people that are willing to carry a project and work at it and succeed.

Heather: 4-H has definitely changed my life. I met a lot more people that I wouldn't have met otherwise. It's definitely a good experience.

Marion: I think 4-H is wonderful and it's helped many, many kids. I can mention a number of neighbors that were former 4-H members and they have successfully made it in life. They used some of the items or some of the goals that we had in 4-H to succeed.

Sheila: 4-H is an important thing for people because it teaches you a lot about yourself and the community around you. It teaches you to be nicer to people. Instead of just focusing on just one thing you get to learn about different people and different projects and things that can use later on in life.

Stan: Whenever the fair was ending, every one of us that won an animal ribbon paraded all our animals in front of the grandstand. And we were really recognized by the community. It didn't matter how small, how big, what your award was, everybody got the same treatment and the same honor and that was a great thing.

Ray: 4-H teaches you to work with and play with other people, not necessarily just your age; you learn to work with other adults, other children. What you do in 4-H affects you later in life.

4-H helps bridge so many divides – gender and generation. A photo from the 4-H Volunteer Archives.

Courtesy: 4-H Centennial Website.



Reflecting On The Past 20+ Years

Jim Winkler, Chippewa County 4-H Youth Development Agent

When I began my career in Extension in Anoka County, Minnesota in 1975, things were certainly much different than today. Allow me to reflect on some of these changes as a youth development professional.

“Well! There you have it. One agent’s perspective who has been around the block a couple of times and has worked with Extension in three states.”

J. Winkler

TOPIC	THEN	NOW
Title	Assistant 4-H Agent – all - the “county” agent was reserved for director	County 4-H Youth Development Agent or Educator
District Directors	Two DD + Program Liaison	One DD + 1 program liaison
*Professional Goal	4-H agents would enter as 4-H, then move to Ag or Home Ec positions	Some of us have made 4-H our career
Education of Agent	Primarily Ag & Home Economics background. I was the 2 nd recreation major hired	Various degrees and backgrounds
E-mail	E - edified that the pony express worked	100 per week on average
Office Technology	A working phone, overhead, camera	Computer, cd-rom, video, dvd, you name it
Reporting	MEMIS - a cumbersome statistical plus monthly, quarterly & yearly narratives	Outcome based goals and objectives
Benefits	Federal Retirement	State retirement, no fed
Volunteers	Thousands	Hundreds
4-H Community Club Youth: Non Club	2800: 0	550: 1700
Hours	Many 70 plus hour weeks	Many 60 plus hour weeks
Other	Seemed liked a 24/7 job	Still seems like a 24/7 job at times

*When I began my career, no 4-H agent had retired as a 4-H agent. The first for the state was in 1983 or 1984.

Well! There you have it. One agent’s perspective who has been around the block a couple of times and has worked with Extension in three states. I did not include my home state of Missouri because I worked for Extension while finishing my master degree in 1974-75, but was not in a county office.

In my 20+ years, it has been a very rewarding career. I would recommend it to anyone.

Past, Present and Future

Tamie Koop, Waukesha County 4-H Youth Development Educator

Just yesterday I was asked, “How many Dean’s of Extension have there been in your career?” Oh, boy! You know you have been around awhile when you can remember back to Dean Gayle Vandenberg. (Answer is 4 or 5) Which prompted me to think about the other changes I have seen in my career as a 4-H Youth Development Agent.

Some of the things early in my career included required monthly attendance at district faculty meetings. The only acceptable excuse not to attend was your death or that of an immediate family member. We were required to do monthly “EMIS SEMIS” reports. Mulligan Stew was an Extension television program on nutrition. Each year there was a new theme for National 4-H Week with a poster. You were hired with a Bachelor’s degree, you’d work for a few years, request a study leave to obtain your Masters degree and return to Extension work. I’ve also lost count of the 4-H position title changes.

“When I was hired in Oconto County as a 4-H Agent, the first woman ever in that position, I crossed the gender line as to who was hired for that county 4-H agent position.”

T. Koop.

County 4-H Agent positions were thought of as stepping-stones to the position of County Agricultural Agent. Women applicants to Extension were traditionally considered for Home Economist positions. I remember to this day being interviewed by the personnel director in the Madison Lake Street building. One of the interview questions was “How long would you process green beans?” I didn’t know nor did I care! I guess that took me out of consideration for Home Economist positions, although I did interview for the Door County Home Economist job!

I interviewed with Extension with three things in my corner: a first hand, hands-on agricultural background; 4-H member experience; and a Home Economics Education and Extension BS degree. I was young, eager, roaring to go and ready to have a job. I did not realize the following until years later. When I was hired in Oconto County as a 4-H Agent, the first woman ever in that position, I crossed the gender line as to who was hired for that county 4-H agent position. District directors took a chance on bringing women to the hiring process for county-based 4-H Agent positions. District Directors convinced County Agricultural and Extension Education committee members that women would be a good choice in non-traditional roles. What was a predominantly male professional career in the 1970’s has become a mixed gender profession in 2000. Also during that time urban or expansion funding dollars brought a second 4-H agent position to many counties across Wisconsin. The Northeast district hired at least six people to fill 4-H agent positions, of those hired, two colleagues remain in Extension today.

With changes in hiring, work requirements have grounded us to a good foundation. Our present times will allow new transitions and prepare us for the future. Together with volunteers and members we will explore the future and bring 4-H to another generation of families in Wisconsin. Think about your own career, “How many Dean’s have you worked with in UW-Extension?” How about the 4-H program changes in your county?

Celebrating the Past

Dawn Schneider, Assistant Editor, Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent

The theme of the “Past” was a difficult one for me to write. I was not a 4-H member growing up. As a matter of fact, I did not know much of anything about 4-H until I began my position as the Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent in May 2001.

However, the more that I thought about the past theme, the more I realized that I have been literally surrounded by the past since I began my position.

The 4-H Centennial celebration helped me learn about the specific history of the Wisconsin and the national 4-H program. Although the information was new to me, the values and beliefs that came along with it were not. The importance of family, hard work, being a good citizen, and learning were all engrained in me as a child growing up in a very rural, small town.

Another issue that repeatedly came up in my first year and a half was Camp Susan. The camp was built in 1929 as a WCC camp and has been run by the Langlade County 4-H Leaders Association for decades. The issue of handicap accessibility has been the hot topic with the camp for years. To make a long story short, the county gave us the go-ahead to build a new handicap accessible dormitory at camp. We, however, needed to raise a large sum of money to accomplish this.

With the stress of politics and fundraising, it was very easy to think how much simpler life would be without the camp. It was difficult for me to see why the 4-H Leaders were fighting so hard for this camp. Then the donations started coming in.

Along with the donations came stories—lots of stories—stories about fun and crazy times at camp, stories about the friends or leaders they met at camp that are no longer around, stories about learning about nature and swimming, and even love stories. One woman in her 60’s wrote a note with her and her husband’s donation that said, “We were both raised with 4-H...We became acquainted at 4-H Camp Susan. The 4-H Youth Fair and Camp Susan were the highlights of our lives.” I saw and heard many tears with the power of those memories and was moved to tears myself on several occasions.

Now that is a past to celebrate!

4-H - 100 Years Old and Still Full of YOUTH!

Michelle R. Batterman, Fond du Lac County 4-H Staff Assistant

As 2002 winds down, the 4-H program will start another year of success and another century of progress. This was a year of celebrating, reminiscing, and planning for our future.

“We were both raised with 4-H...We became acquainted at 4-H Camp Susan. The 4-H Youth Fair and Camp Susan were the highlights of our lives.”

One woman’s 4-H memories.

“To unite as 4-Hers and share with the community the positive aspects of 4-H from the past to the present to the future.”

Fond du Lac County’s 4-H 2002 mission statement.

Fond du Lac County’s focus for the year was to recognize the YOUth in 4-H, young or old and plan events that show the true spirit of 4-H in 2002 and beyond. The spirit of 4-H consists of doing community service, working on projects, being a family, making new friends and the most important, having FUN! Yes, that’s right, having FUN! 4-H involves a lot of planning and work, but our mission is to make sure the learning experience is a pleasant one and that the youth, when “old” remember the fun times they had in 4-H. Too often, our hometowns focus on the youth whose activities are not for the good of the community and one way of changing this mindset is allowing 4-H to show off the outstanding youth who do good deeds for the community while learning and having fun.

Many of our present 4-H members have a long heritage of 4-H involvement in their families. The “old” go back three or four generations of being involved in the program.

When 4-H began the journey many decades ago, parents were interested in their sons gaining knowledge in the farming industry and their daughters in the home economics area. In the early stages, 4-H was addressed as a Boys and Girls Club. It was not until 1918 that the federal government used the term “4-H.” Over the course of time, 100 years to be exact, 4-H has changed their way of thinking. Today, all youth have the opportunity to study anything from animals to gardening to arts to cooking to naturespace to communications and the list goes on. Tomorrow, youth will become more involved with technology and space. The learning experience in 4-H is never outgrown no matter if you are five or 95 years old.

The Fond du Lac County 4-H program established the following mission statement for 2002: “To unite as 4-Hers and share with the community the positive aspects of 4-H from the past to the present to the future.” The hope is to educate the community about a program that has existed for 100 years and show the true 4-H spirit while having fun! The group is hopeful that while they exhibit the 4-H spirit through various events over the next year, they bring 4-Hers together to show others that 4-H is fun and to give an invitation for others to join, and to portray a positive picture of 4-H to the community. We salute the 4-H spirit in 2002 and we look forward to the next 100 years of unity and success!

WAE4-HYDP Family Members Receive Awards

Sharon McDowell, Chair, WAE4-HYDP Awards Committee, Green Lake County 4-H Youth Development Agent

Congratulations to those who received Regional and/or National awards, in the recent past at the NAE4-HA Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia!

REGIONAL AWARDS:

Air Force Recruit Salute Award: James Barthel

Professional Development Grant: Annette Bjorklund

Excellence in Teamwork—Team: Karen Nelson, Cheryl Rew Stapleton —
“Children in the Middle”

Search for Excellence in Teen Programming—Team: Denise Retzleff, Karen Fischer, Phil McCabe — *“Summer Leadership Adventure”*

Periodical Publication—Team: Karen Nelson, Susan MacLeish, Lori Hepler — *Columbia County 4-H “Rolling in Clover”*

Radio Program: René Mehlberg — *“Touching Tomorrow Today”*

NATIONAL AWARDS:

Professional Development Grant: Annette Bjorklund

Radio Program: René Mehlberg — *“Touching Tomorrow Today”*



If you recognize the 4-H'er demonstrating flowers, you've been around Wisconsin 4-H for awhile. If you recognize anyone in the Rural Rooters photo, you've *really* been around a long time. When Wisconsin celebrated its 75th anniversary of 4-H in 1989, these photos were part of the display at the statewide celebration in Madison. It's never too late to start planning for our state's 100th anniversary of 4-H in 2014. If you do recognize anyone in the photos, send a note to Wayne Brabender at wayne.brabender@ces.uwex.edu. And for an informative national history of 4-H, visit the National 4-H Headquarters web site at: http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/4h_history.htm.

2002-2003 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors

Fast Fact

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