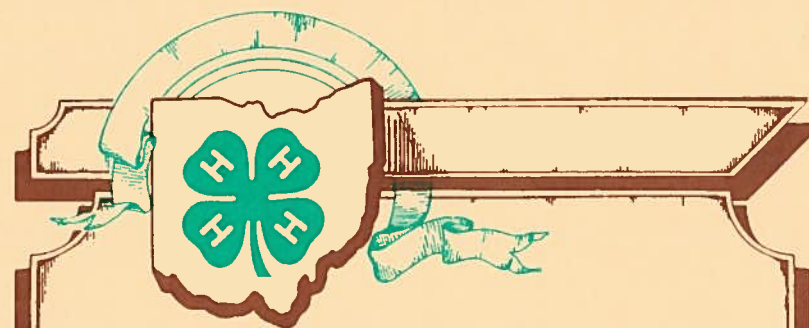


221



Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

sponsored by

the Ohio 4-H Foundation

OSU Cooperative Extension Service
The Ohio State University



The Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame

Honorees, 1977-1983

Four-H Today

Four-H was started on January 15, 1902, by A. B. Graham in Springfield, Ohio. Early club members met during the year to learn about growing corn, planting gardens, testing soil, and identifying weeds and insects. Today, 4-H is still a "learning by doing" education program, but has many varied projects and activities.

The 4-H club program is for all youth between nine (or in the third grade) and nineteen. Volunteer leaders are the backbone of the program and receive training from Extension 4-H agents to develop club leadership skills.

Four-H is the youth education program of the Co-operative Extension Service, which is conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with The Ohio State University and county government. The Extension Service and its 4-H program serve people in towns, cities, and rural areas by providing information on, and guidance in, agriculture, home economics and related subjects.

The Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame

In 1977, the 75th Anniversary of 4-H in Ohio, the first honorees were enshrined in the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame. These are the charter members of the Hall and include A. B. Graham, founder of 4-H in 1902, and the five living members of the first 4-H-type club: Blanche Harley Bickle, Roy Dickerson, Jennie Webster Irie, Mildred Butler Neff and Theodore Spears, Sr.

The Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame is designed to honor individuals who have given a great part of their lives to helping young people grow into responsible, productive, and self-guided citizens. Each of the honorees in his or her own way has influenced the lives of hundreds of Ohio citizens and has contributed to the success of Ohio's 4-H club program.

Charter



Albert Belmont Graham

Albert Belmont Graham

On January 15, 1902, thirty-three-year-old Albert Belmont Graham, then Superintendent of the Springfield Township Schools, met with a group of 81 grade school students to start the first Boys and Girls Agricultural Club. It was A. B. Graham's insight and tremendous dedication to young people that started the agricultural club movement that was later to become known as 4-H.

Theodore Spears, Sr.

At age eight, Theodore Spears joined the first Boys and Girls Agricultural Club. Through the teaching of the club's advisor, A. B. Graham, Theodore experienced the dignity of farming and a love for the beauty of nature.



Theodore Spears, Sr.

Mildred Butler Neff

Mildred Neff felt very fortunate in being a member of Graham's first Club. The opportunity gave her the chance later to become involved in many programs and share the news about 4-H with others.



Mildred Butler Neff

Honorees

Blanche Harley Bickle

Blanche Bickle was eight years old when she became a member of the beginning Club. Belonging to the Club meant a great deal to Blanche, especially over the years as she watched it progress into today's 4-H club program.



Blanche Harley Bickle

Jennie Webster Irie

Jennie Irie was enrolled as a member in the first Boys and Girls Agricultural Club for six years. For Jennie the experience of being a club member allowed her to build with her mind, her hands, and her heart, and to know the importance of health throughout her life.



Jennie Webster Irie

Roy Dickerson

Roy Dickerson joined Graham's Club as a third grader. To Roy, A. B. Graham's Club was very special, but he never dreamed it would evolve into something as grand as 4-H.



Roy Dickerson

Gus DeYoung



Gus DeYoung

Gus DeYoung has been an extremely active citizen within his community of Ravenna and throughout Portage County.

Part of that citizenship included serving for 30 years as a 4-H advisor. During those 30 years, he counseled and advised a total of 804 4-H club members. Nearly 200 of those individuals went on to assume leadership positions as a result of his guidance.

Through his own interested and dedicated leadership on several county committees, including the County Extension Advisory Committee, the County 4-H Committee, and the County Fair Board, Gus has helped shape the Portage County 4-H program from what it was in 1948 toward

what it has become today. (Back when he began his work with 4-H, Portage was a three-agent county with a one-day fair and a 4-H enrollment of 837).

Additionally, he assisted in organizing the Portage County Saddle Horse Committee and the County 4-H Small Animal Committee, represented Portage County on the Canfield Area 4-H Committee and served as a member of many other community improvement groups.

Gus is clearly a strong believer in the concept of helping people help themselves, both young and old alike.

Margaret Barker Meredith

Margaret Meredith first joined the Putnam County Food 4-H club in 1919. In 1920 and 1921 she won trips to the Ohio 4-H Club Week at The Ohio State University as the Washington County 4-H Food Project Winner. In 1922 the Oak Grove Girls 4-H club was organized, and she became the leader for that club. From that point on, Margaret dedicated herself to young people through her work as a 4-H advisor of the club (a period of over five years). She served also as an advisor on the Washington County 4-H Personality Club.

Margaret was also active as an officer of the Washington County 4-H Council and the State 4-H Advisory Committee. Additionally, she was a member of the State 4-H Nutrition Project Committee and helped to develop new literature. In 1936 she worked as a 4-H Assistant in Jackson County and from 1937 through 1939 was a 4-H Assistant in Monroe County.

Margaret was involved as well with Extension activities beyond 4-H. She participated for more than 25 years as a member of the Washington County Extension Advisory Committee, during which time she served as both its Chairman and Secretary. She was instrumental in helping to develop 4-H Camp Hervida in Washington County in 1940 and held a position on its Board of Directors until 1976.

4-H has greatly benefitted from Margaret Meredith's interest and hard work.



Margaret Barker Meredith

William H. "Billy" Palmer

(State Leader, 4-H in Ohio)

William H. "Billy" Palmer served as State Leader for 4-H in Ohio from March 1, 1916, until March 31, 1951. But even after retirement, he continued to be deeply interested and involved in 4-H. This commitment in fact continued through the rest of his life.

When he was appointed State 4-H Leader, he moved rapidly to expand the number of 4-H projects offered to boys and girls in Ohio. He was instrumental, also, in expanding the scope of literature for 4-H members and advisors. Further, he initiated programs to provide training in teaching methods for officers and advisors and encouraged the development of county 4-H club committees to serve in an advisory capacity to County Agents.

He also provided inspired leadership toward the initiation of 4-H camping programs and was the moving force behind the establishment of Camp Ohio, the State 4-H Camp.

It has been said that A. B. Graham had the dream of 4-H, but Billy Palmer made it work and live in the hearts and minds of people.



William H. Palmer

John E. Wise

In the early 1920s John Wise recognized the importance of private support for Ohio's 4-H program. Consequently, as Vice President of the Union Bank of Bellevue, he offered financial assistance and incentive awards to the 4-H clubs in Huron County. He also was local chairman for two 4-H camp fund drives and for the Ohio 4-H Foundation fund drive in Huron County.

He continued this generous support for nearly 45 years, during which time he served as President of the Willard United Bank and as President of the Citizen's National Bank of Norwalk.

Also, John was especially active in promoting and sponsoring the annual Kiwanis Grade "A" Banquet for 4-H members, advisors and parents. This banquet continues to be one of the outstanding recognition programs in Huron County, involving some 700 to 900 4-H members, parents, and advisors each year.

In addition to his work in 4-H, he served as a member of the Huron County Extension Advisory Committee for 20 years, during which time he was also very active in his church and in community affairs.

At every point in his career, John Wise sought to help young people develop themselves to their greatest potential. Not least among the ways he helped them was the leadership he demonstrated in involving his fellow citizens in the support of 4-H.



John E. Wise

Beatrice J. Cleveland

(Associate State Leader, 4-H in Ohio)



Beatrice J. Cleveland

Time has been a great personal part of Bea Cleveland's giving to the Ohio 4-H program—she has given time to improve the lives of boys and girls; time to inspire volunteer leaders; and time to ensure 4-H opportunities for future generations. From 1945, when she worked as a Home Demonstration Agent in Madison County, through her career as Associate State 4-H Leader, to 1979 as a volunteer fund raiser for the Ohio 4-H Foundation, Bea has devoted her time and talents to 4-H around the world.

Since May of 1977, Bea has traveled thousands of miles across Ohio in her effort to raise one million dollars for the Ohio 4-H Foundation

Fund. It is a tribute to Bea's remarkable personality and enthusiasm that she has far exceeded her goal. Many have said that no one in the State of Ohio, other than Bea Cleveland, could have raised so much money in so short a time for Ohio 4-H: She has raised nearly one-and-one-half-million dollars!

Bea has also been active in the International 4-H Youth Exchange Program since its inception in 1948. Never officially off duty, Bea has been friend and confidant to IFYE delegates to and from Ohio for over 30 years.

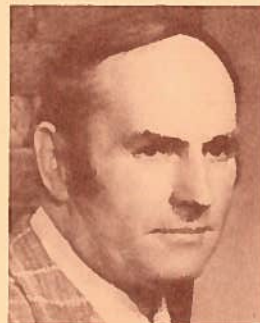
Four-H is stronger by Bea Cleveland's work; and it has been enriched by her presence throughout.

Lewis Conger

Lewis Conger dedicated a lifetime of service to 4-H Camp Conger, a camp started by his parents in 1925. Lewis represents the second generation of the Conger family to provide a site, free of charge, for 4-H camping. Thus, the Congers have developed a family tradition of service to camping by donating materials, scheduling groups into the camp, and providing labor and equipment for the camp operation.

Through the Congers' efforts and caring, thousands of Huron County young people have enjoyed the beauty and fellowship of 4-H Camp Conger. Four-H boys and girls from Ottawa and Wyandot Counties, as well as youth from other organizations, have had their lives enriched through learning about Ohio's Indian heritage and developing a strong understanding of the importance of conservation and management of our natural resources.

Lewis Conger's family is still continuing its support of Camp Conger. This family has donated thousands of hours and thousands of dollars to benefit Ohio youth.



Lewis Conger

Edna Hupp

Urban children have long been of concern to Edna Hupp. In 1969, beginning with 13 youngsters, she pioneered the urban 4-H program in Springfield, Ohio. In working with low-income youth, Mrs. Hupp generated in them a strong desire to succeed and helped them to develop positive self-concepts.

Serving for 27 years as a 4-H advisor and clothing project leader, Edna is a past president of the 4-H Extension and 4-H Expansion and Review Committees. She was instrumental in organizing the Clark County Fashion Board and served as President of the 4-H Clothing Committee. She also served for four years on the Washington Court House Area 4-H Committee and was a member of the Extension Support Committee and the Bicentennial Planning Committee. One of Ohio's 4-H Alumni Winners in 1967, Edna initiated the formation of the Clark County 4-H Alumni Club that same year.

One of Edna's co-workers in 4-H recently commented, "You can travel throughout the State of Ohio and you will not be able to find a lay person more dedicated to 4-H than Edna Hupp. Edna is truly a compassionate person who cares for youth."



Edna Hupp

Harry Steiner

Harry Steiner did not begin working with the Ohio 4-H program until he was 62 years old. But during his 22 years of service, he influenced the lives of many boys and girls.

A specialist in 4-H electricity and woodworking projects, Harry has always inspired youth and encouraged them to come into his Hardin County home workshop for help and instruction. He enjoys working with youth, especially on a one-to-one basis, and has often reached out far beyond local club meetings.

A man of great respect in his community, Harry is looked up to for the personal guidance and assistance he gives boys and girls. His leadership is honored by adults and young people alike. Beyond 4-H, he has served as Sunday School Teacher for 65 years and has been a member of the local School Board.

He continues contributing regularly and freely to the Ohio 4-H Foundation and supports the Hardin County Fair with awards to encourage participation. Harry believes in 4-H and youth.



Harry Steiner

Avinelle Corfman



Avinelle Corfman

Avinelle Corfman was an extremely active citizen within her community of Thurman and throughout Trumbull County. She was involved with 4-H for 57 years, 37 of which she served as a 4-H club advisor and 12 of which as a consultant and key leader.

Among the 250 members she advised, five were national 4-H award winners, twenty-eight were Ohio 4-H Congress attendees, six were Citizenship Short Course participants, one was a 4-H Program Assistant and fifteen are 4-H advisors. Her children and grandchildren became 4-H members and are also presently 4-H advisors.

Avinelle was involved in many ways beyond her local club and community. She participated in the selection of the first State 4-H Camp held at Nelson Dodd Camp, near Brink Haven. She also served as president of the local 4-H Advisory Committee and was Dean of Girls at Ohio 4-H Congress. For five years she did a monthly radio program for 4-H and participated in the first 4-H classes at the State Fair.

Within her community she contributed to her church and school by serving as a school teacher for 50 years and as a church volunteer, also for 50 years. During World War II, she worked with the USO and was a recipient of an award for 200 hours of service. Finally, she served as a member of the Farm Bureau for five decades and was juvenile matron of the Grange during her 50-year membership.

Avinelle Corfman has been a vital force, both in her community and in the Ohio 4-H program.

Mary Norris

Mary Norris has been a very highly motivated individual who, for 46 years, has enthusiastically dedicated herself to helping the youth of Monroe County. She has been an outstanding 4-H club advisor for 46 years, an adult counselor at 4-H Camp Piedmont for three years, in charge of 4-H fund-raising activities for six years, a 4-H Project Judge for several years and was the Assistant 4-H Agent in Monroe county in 1953, 1954, and 1955.

Mary has served her community, county and state as an active member of a variety of committees since 1920. She was a charter member of the Monroe County 4-H Committee in the '20s and has been an active member each year since. She was also a member of the County Extension Advisory Council, as well as a member of the Area 4-H Committee and a member of the Area Extension Advisory Committee. She has also been an active member of the State 4-H Committee and State Extension Advisory Committee.

Mary has been truly a community leader who has dedicated her life to helping youth. She has been one of the most respected "Role Models" for Monroe County youth for decades.



Mary Norris

Leslie "Blair" Porteus

Blair Porteus has been a staunch supporter of 4-H and the entire Cooperative Extension Service in Coshocton County for 47 years.

Blair has been chairman of the Coshocton County 4-H Advisory Committee, and has served on the County Extension Advisory Committee for 12 years, the Wooster Area Extension Advisory Committee, the Junior Fair Committee and the General Livestock Committee. He has been closely involved in planning and conducting the 4-H Steer Carcass Show, the County Tractor Rodeo and Junior Fair Livestock Sale. Additionally, he was an Advisor 38 years for the General Livestock and Tractor Clubs.

His dedication and leadership have included community activities as well. He has been President of the Coshocton County School Board for eight years, and is currently Secretary for the County Memorial Hospital Board and President of the Coshocton County Farm Bureau. He has also served youth through his leadership in FFA, Grange, Church and Sunday School.

Blair Porteus is a man who believes in and expresses high ideals to the young boys and girls in Coshocton County.



Leslie "Blair" Porteus

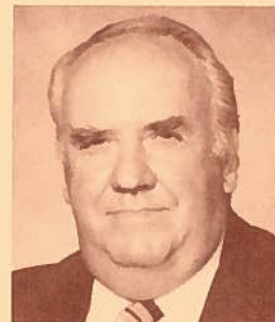
Benjamin Lloyd Roby

Benjamin Lloyd Roby, better known as Lloyd, has been involved with 4-H for 37 years as an advisor. His enthusiastic support has given the boys and girls of his community of Amlin the opportunities available to them through the 4-H program.

He has served on the Madison County Senior Fair Board for over 30 years and provided that vital link between the Fair Board and the County 4-H Program. Through his encouragement, many improvements have been made to the 4-H buildings at the Madison County Fair and new buildings have been constructed. He has been instrumental in the Fair Board's continued support of 4-H activities, such as Ohio 4-H Congress scholarships and sponsorships of the Madison County 4-H Advisors Recognition Banquet. Moreover, he has trained many 4-H members to become 4-H advisors.

Lloyd has also been active in the Young Adult Farmer Club for many years, participating in their activities and attending classes. He has also worked on the County-State Foundation Fund Raising Committee, the County Extension Advisory Committee, and the Junior Fair Committee, and recently has been elected for another term on the County 4-H Committee.

By setting goals and demonstrating determination, Lloyd has set a very positive example for Madison County youth; and he remains committed to meeting their needs and interests.



Benjamin Lloyd Roby

Carroll E. Frank



Carroll E. Frank

Carroll Frank is a very highly motivated individual who for 50 consecutive years has served the 4-H program as an advisor in Wood County. Carroll was a 4-H member 12 years prior to that.

He has proved to be invaluable in his county and was instrumental in reviving the Wood County Fair in 1950, which had not been held since 1927. He subsequently served as the first president of the new Fair Board and held that position for 14 years.

His contributions of dedication to and leadership in the 4-H program is long and broad in many 4-H activities through the years, and includes long-term membership on the Wood County

4-H Committee. Also, Carroll was heavily involved in setting up 4-H Camps in Wood County in the 1930s. He obtained a \$1,000 donation for 4-H Camp Palmer from the Bowling Green Kiwanis Club; he continues making personal contacts with Wood County businesses and obtains an average of \$800 a year for camp scholarships. Additionally, he made the initial contact and has coordinated 4-H exchange trips to Iowa, Minnesota, and New York.

Carroll Frank is a person who has given much in time, effort and caring to youth through his work for Ohio 4-H.

Guy E. Smith

Guy Smith has contributed much to 4-H youth work over his 42 years of service. A former 4-H'er of eight years, he began his adult role in 1936 as an advisor to an agricultural project club; he continued in that capacity through 1979. In addition, he served as a tractor club advisor from 1954-1963 and had an average of 10 boys in the club each year.

Guy has touched the lives of over 275 youth through the 4-H club he has advised. And he has done so while owning and farming land in three different counties—Greene, Clark and Madison. (However, most of his 4-H activities have centered in Greene and Clark Counties.)

Among the major contributions made by Guy is his chairing the Livestock Committee, which spearheaded the way toward combining 4-H and FFA livestock shows and sales in Greene County. This has worked out extremely well since its inception in the early 1970s.

He also helped organize the 4-H Council, as it was known at that time, which was responsible for planning and organizing the 4-H advisor recognition banquet, officer and advisor training, and many other events.

Guy won the 4-H Alumni Award in Greene County in 1957 and the Ohio Pork Industry Excellence Award in 1980.

Four-H has indeed been rewarded and strengthened by Guy Smith's dedication and achievements.



Guy E. Smith

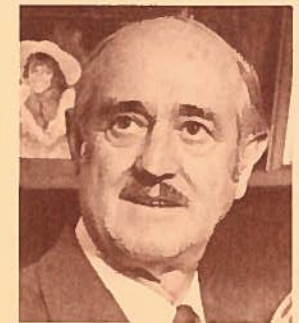
Ralph P. Spinks

Ralph Spinks has been a solid supporter of 4-H in Greene County, contributing a great amount of his energy, time, and talent in the last 27 years. He has been an advisor for 27 years and had approximately 300 young people in his club over that period of time. He has recruited 12 other advisors and has been instrumental in starting eight other 4-H clubs. He also serves as a key leader for the 4-H Engineering project.

Being a strong supporter of 4-H, he has donated trophies for the county fair for over 18 years. He has served numerous times as instructor for 4-H officer and advisor training and project clinics.

He has served as chairman of the Building Committee, which was responsible for construction of a new 4-H building in 1962. Ralph has also been instrumental in developing judging and interview procedures, which have contributed to program growth. Further, to promote 4-H, Ralph has constructed window displays and built floats paraded in Greene County towns. Also, he has made 4-H signs in Xenia and Jamestown to promote 4-H Week in his county.

Ralph Spinks's many contributions to 4-H well bespeak his interest in and support of Ohio youth.



Ralph P. Spinks

Alga D. Weaver



Alga D. Weaver

Alga (Peg) Weaver has been involved in 4-H for more than 45 years. Those years include being a member of 4-H; a 4-H Advisor in Franklin County; and an Extension Agent, Home Economics. Further, she has given many years to supporting 4-H by recruiting advisors and securing money for the Ohio 4-H Foundation.

As a young teenager, Alga gave one of the first radio broadcasts telling about 4-H Camp Ohio and encouraging boys and girls to join 4-H and attend its camp. She has continued speaking up for 4-H ever since.

A member of the A. B. Graham Club, Peg continues serving 4-H by providing a scholarship to The Ohio State University School of Home Economics for a worthy 4-H member.



Bob Evans

Bob Evans

Bob Evans, founder of Bob Evans Farms and the popular restaurant chain, has given generously of his time, talents, and money to support 4-H. Bob promotes 4-H Conservation and Natural Resources education by sponsoring conservation education books for 4-H members and leaders. He has sponsored "Acre For Wildlife" projects at five 4-H camp sites, and encouraged the major improvements of Canter's Cave 4-H Camp near Jackson, with a \$250,000 challenge grant. He initiated and sponsors the Ohio 4-H Competitive Trail Ride each year at his Rio Grande Farm and gives Quarter Horse colts to selected 4-H members in Ohio and other midwestern states.

Bob has encouraged the improvement of swine production by supporting many county and State Fairs. He also sponsors the trophies for the 4-H Natural Resources Day at the State Fair.

Bob has also served six years on the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Directors. He is a member of the 4-H A. B. Graham Club and Presidents Club of The Ohio State University Development Fund.

Four-H is much enhanced by the interest and work of Bob Evans.

Robert L. Hutchison

For over 36 years, Bob Hutchison has been involved with 4-H. He has been a 4-H advisor for 25 years, during which over 200 youth have been members of his club. One of the unique features about Bob and his wife Barbara is that they stress "family" involvement. The parents have a meeting at the same time as their 4-H club meets.

Bob is also very active on a county-wide basis by serving on many committees. He served as chairman of the Greene County 4-H Committee and was a member for two six-year terms. He is a member of the 4-H and FFA Beef Committee, 4-H and FFA Dairy Committee, 4-H and FFA Sale Committee, and represents 4-H on the Fair Board.

Bob was instrumental in starting and gaining recognition for the dairy beef project. He also assists with the 4-H officer's training program, general livestock judging, and showman of showmen contest.

He is a member of the Greene County Extension Support Committee and the County Extension Advisory Committee. In addition, he is very active in his church, school, agricultural groups and other community organizations.

Being involved is a "way of life" for the Hutchison family.



Robert L. Hutchison

Lenora M. McLeish

Lenora M. McLeish, better known to her friends and 4-H associates as "Mac," has dedicated her energy, time, and talents to boys and girls through 4-H. Mrs. McLeish has been the 4-H Advisor/Director of the Licking County 4-H Band for 33 years. Mac and her husband, John, work very closely together in managing the 4-H Band Club of over 200 4-H members each year. The band performs 22 to 30 concerts every summer, including the Ohio State Fair on occasion.

For the past 25 years Mac has directed a week-long 4-H Band Camp at Camp Ohio to prepare the band for concerts, as well as provide opportunities for leadership development and personal development.

Mac and her husband spend full-time with the band during the Hartford Fair in Licking County. They gave leadership to a successful \$100,000 fund raising campaign to build a 4-H band dormitory on the fairgrounds, and the band is now raising \$150,000 to complete an amphitheater for the performing arts at the Hartford Fairgrounds.

Enthusiastic, talented, dedicated, and creative are a few words that describe Mrs. McLeish in working with over 2,500 youth during the past 33 years.



Lenora M. McLeish

William "Bill" Zipf

Bill Zipf dedicated his life in service to Ohio and the midwest agriculture industry. Furthermore, he went that extra mile, and was a true friend of 4-H. Bill was greatly interested, very supportive, and dedicated to recognizing young people involved in 4-H. He always requested stories and did a great job of writing about 4-H members as well as reporting 4-H events and activities.

Bill recognized 4-H members, 4-H advisors, and faculty for 30 years through his newspaper columns, radio, and television programs at the county, state, and national level. His personal interest stories promoted the positive accomplishment of hundreds of 4-H'ers.

In 1981, an Ohio State University college scholarship program was established for majors in Agriculture Communications and Journalism in memory of Bill by the Columbus Dispatch. He also earned 4-H A. B. Graham membership posthumously.



William "Bill" Zipf

Arthur Carrier



Arthur Carrier

Art has been a total supporter of 4-H since his membership in a local club in the 1920s. He was a 4-H advisor in Medina County and a farm underwriter for Ohio Farmers Insurance, later known as Westfield Companies. One of his primary projects while at Ohio Farmers was company coordinator with the 4-H program, and his involvement began with the companies' first sponsorship; he continued working with these programs until his retirement in 1975, his 45th year as a 4-H advisor.

Additionally, Art helped initiate the first county-wide Safety Speaking Contest, which is now represented in every county in the state with county, area, and state contests. In addition to

this, one of Art's pet projects for 10 years was teaching safety at the annual 4-H Leadership Camp at Camp Ohio.

Art has also been very active on a county-wide basis by serving on the Extension 4-H Committee for 10 years, being a member of the Medina County Fair Board for 12 years, and participating on the State Future Farmers of America Foundation Board and the Governor's Committee on Highway Safety. Art has also been active in his community by serving as President of the County YMCA Board and the YMCA Camp Board.

Mary Curry

Mary Curry has been an extremely active 4-H supporter for 45 years in Clinton County as an advisor for over 700 boys and girls. She spent hundreds of hours in homes helping girls with sewing projects and flower gardening projects and has served as advisor for many 4-H floats. Mary has also served on the Clinton County 4-H Council and has been chairman of the Clinton County 4-H Foods Kitchen since 1952.

Mary also has contributed much to her church and community by serving on numerous committees. In 1978 the Clinton County Agriculture Society honored Mary as 1978 Citizen of the year for her contributions to her home, community, and 4-H program.

Mary has always offered a lending hand to anyone who has needed her help. Her dedication and leadership to the 4-H program over the past 45 years in sharing her talents to the young people of her community has had a lasting effect on many boys and girls.



Mary Curry

J. Lynn Gower

J. Lynn Gower was a man who contributed much to his fellow men, county, agriculture, and 4-H programs in his lifetime.

Lynn Gower was a President of the first Boys and Girls Agriculture Club (now called 4-H) in Springfield, Ohio, under the direction of A. B. Graham. From this point on, Lynn continued to be involved in the community both as an educator and as a farmer. He took a personal interest in the boys and girls in his first 4-H club when he became an advisor in 1928.

In later years, speaking about the first 4-H club in 1902, he explained that it was an organized club with a definite enrollment, meetings with instructions by Mr. Graham, followed by work, exhibits, papers written, and trips made as a club. He also believed that fairs would not be what they are today if it were not for 4-H clubs.

In 1932 he unveiled a bronze tablet in Springfield, Ohio, dedicated to the members of the first Boys and Girls Agriculture Club of the United States, as founded in 1902 by A. B. Graham. It hangs today in the Clark County Building, which was dedicated as a national shrine of the birthplace of 4-H.

J. Lynn Gower, who died July 28, 1976, was a true 4-H pioneer.



J. Lynn Gower

Grace Harsh

Grace Harsh has been an unselfish, loving and caring 4-H advisor in Hocking County for 52 years. Grace will always be known as "4-H" by all the hundreds of girls she has helped mold through those many years. There were several cases of two-generation memberships and one of three-generation memberships in the club, where girls gained much from Grace's experiences and influences. She has been a person who was always willing to help at all times and did countless extra jobs because she was sincerely interested in and cared about youth.

Grace's dedication and leadership were further demonstrated by her actively serving on one 4-H committee or another during those 52 years. She served as secretary to the State 4-H Advisory Committee for many years, the Hocking County Extension Advisory Committee, and the Senior Fair Board, and was involved in the planning for 4-H advisor training for district and state programs.

Grace is also a positive supporter of her community and church, where she has made an outstanding contribution to improving the quality of rural life in Hocking County. Her endeavors to improve the human conditions through education and leadership cannot be challenged.



Grace Harsh

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living, for
My Club, my Community, my Country,
and my World.

