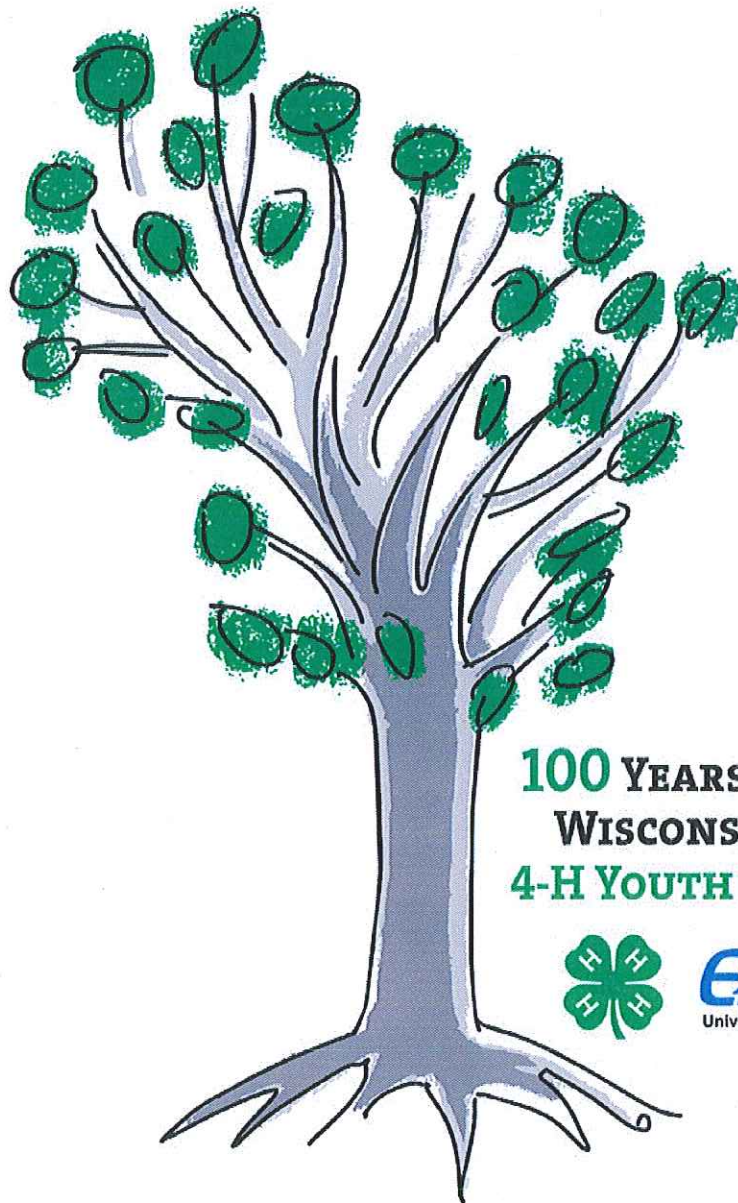


# Interesting, Informative Stories of Past 4-H Members



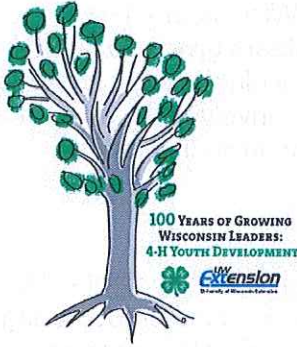
**100 YEARS OF GROWING  
WISCONSIN LEADERS:  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



**UW  
Extension**  
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Project of Lincoln County 4-H and their Centennial Committee





## Lincoln County 4-H's Celebration of the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development celebrated 100 years of positive youth development programming with several events in 2014. Since 1914, Wisconsin 4-H has helped youth grow the leadership, critical thinking and communications skills necessary to be successful in a constantly changing world.

A committee composed of 4-H youth and adults planned special events and activities along with the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. Board of Directors to celebrate the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial in Lincoln County. In addition, Lincoln County youth and adults participate in several statewide events. The following are some highlights:

4-H Day at the Capitol – To kick off the Centennial year, more than 800 4-H members and volunteers came to Madison for 4-H Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. 4-H'ers met with legislators, shared displays in the Capitol Rotunda and celebrated with a noon rally. Youth and adults who attended from Lincoln County included Caroline Lemke, Lori Lemke, Colleen Schult and Katelyn Schult.



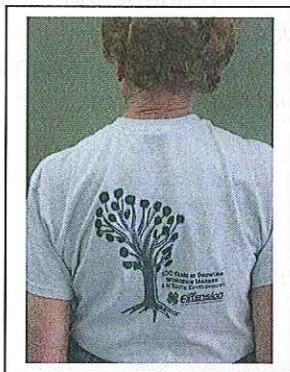
Club History Displays – Each 4-H club was asked to create a display of their club's history that was on display in the lower level hallway of the Lincoln County Service Center throughout the year and moved to various events throughout the year (Lincoln County Fair, 4-H Recognition Banquet, and a 4-H Open House).





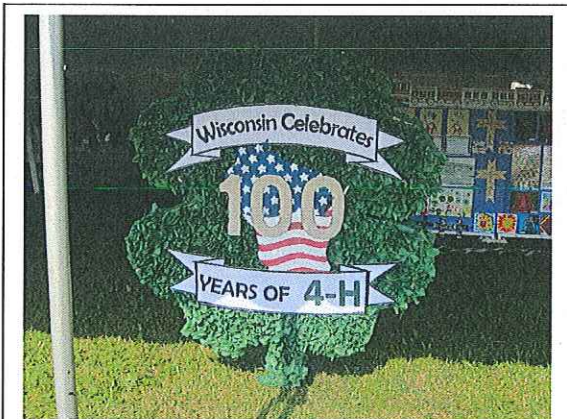
Statewide Service Month during April 2014 – As part of the celebration, Wisconsin 4-H highlighted the thousands of hours Wisconsin 4-H youth and adult volunteers give in local and statewide service. The Hi-Lo's and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Clubs from Lincoln County submitted activity summary form(s) along with photos for service projects they were involved in between April 2013 and April 2014. Stories about service projects across the state including Lincoln County were posted on the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial blog site at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/4hcentennial/calendar/statewide-service-month/>.

Resolution Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development – The Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association Board of Directors forwarded a resolution recognizing the Centennial to the UW-Extension Committee of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors at their April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting who then forwarded the resolution to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors at their May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting where it was adopted. Sue Kunkel, 4-H Leader with the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club worked with Tom Hayden, City of Merrill Attorney, to prepare a similar resolution which was adopted at the May 13, 2014 Merrill City Council Meeting. Caroline Lemke, 4-H Leader with the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club worked with Mayor Stocker, City of Tomahawk on a resolution that was adopted at the July 1, 2014 Tomahawk City Council Meeting. A copy of each of the resolutions can be found at the end of this summary.



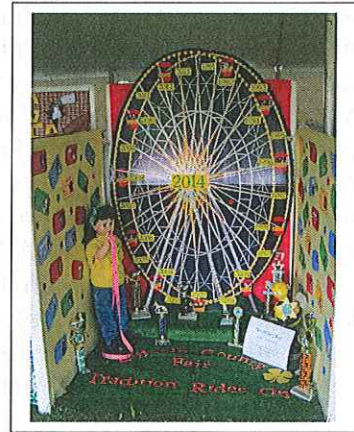
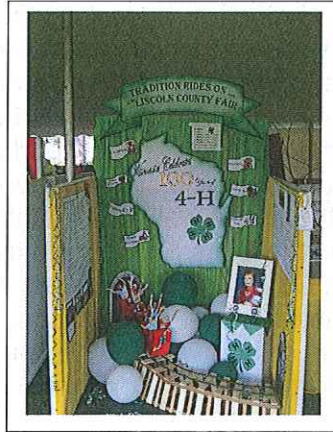
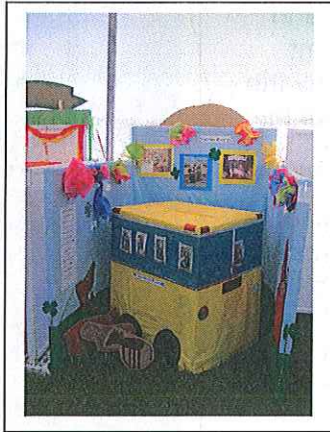
Wisconsin 4-H Centennial T-shirts for Lincoln County – Bill Jaeger, 4-H leader and his daughter Emma worked with a local t-shirt company to design and make available a Lincoln County 4-H t-shirts honoring the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial. The t-shirts went on sale in time for the Lincoln County Fair. Pictured is Caroline Lemke, 4-H Leader modeling the t-shirt.

Hi-Lo's 4-H Club 4<sup>th</sup> of July Float – The Hi-Lo's 4-H Club highlighted the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial for their club's float during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Tomahawk. The large clover that the club created was saved from their float and on display at the Lincoln County Fair and at the 4-H Recognition Banquet.

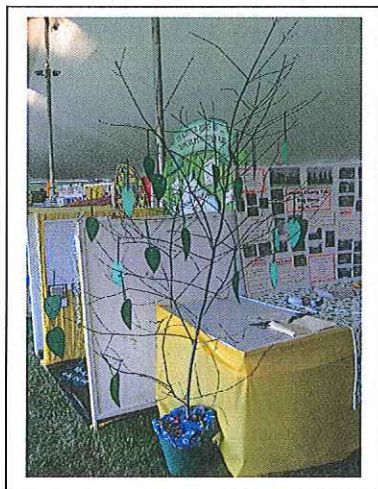
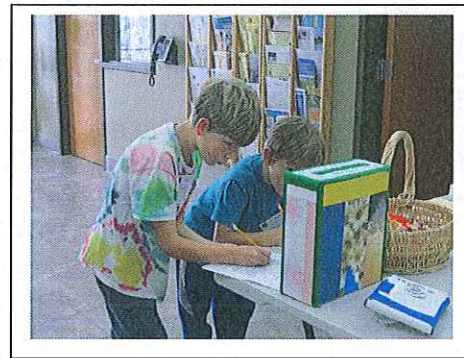




Lincoln County Fair Booths by 4-H Clubs – Several Lincoln County 4-H Clubs incorporated the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial in their Club Booth entries for the 2014 Lincoln County Fair.



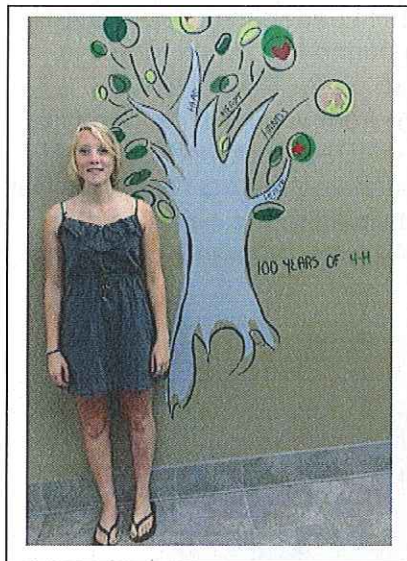
4-H History Scavenger Hunt - Fern Langhoff and Becky Kludy, 4-H Leaders developed a 4-H History Scavenger Hunt that they offered for youth to take part in during the 2014 Lincoln County Fair. The Scavenger Hunt included 20 trivia facts centered on the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial. A total of 70 entries were distributed with 33 (24 were from youth not involved in 4-H) completed forms returned and entered in a drawing for prizes. Debbie Moellendorf, 4-H Youth Development Educator, offered the opportunity for youth attending Project Discovery Day on October 18, 2014 at the Lincoln County Service Center to participate in the 4-H History Scavenger Hunt. Twenty-one youth returned completed forms and were entered in a drawing for prizes.



4-H Centennial Tree – A 4-H Centennial Tree was created allowing individuals to share a favorite 4-H memory as a leaf on the tree. The tree was started at the Lincoln County Fair and then on display in the Lincoln County Service Center with the 4-H Club History displays for the remainder of the year. Forty-four leaves were placed on the tree.



Wisconsin 4-H Day at the State Fair on August 5<sup>th</sup>- As part of the day, fairgoers experienced Wisconsin 4-H robotics, animal science, arts and more at activity stations staffed by Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development specialists, educators and volunteers. They enjoyed performances by the Wisconsin 4-H Showcase Singers and county 4-H groups throughout the day. 4-H Day at the State Fair also provided a great opportunity for members, volunteers, supporters and alumni to share a favorite 4-H memory with videographers or on the graffiti wall. 4-H'ers also marched as a group from the Central Mall to join the State Fair parade that afternoon. Brian and Cherie Hafeman, Lincoln County 4-H Volunteers attended the day on the central mall area surrounded by 4-H flutter flags. As a thank you to the counties for their efforts in celebrating the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial, each county received a flutter flag for promotional use.



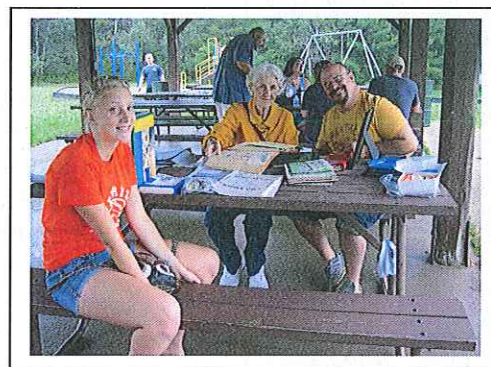
Mural of 100 Years of 4-H – Jeza Kleinschmidt, a 4-H member in the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club, completed a mural to honor the centennial. The mural is located in the lower level of the Lincoln County Service Center at 801 N. Sales Street in Merrill across from conference room 156 that is utilized for many 4-H related meetings and programs.

"The Head, Heart, Hands, Health mural was inspired by the tree created for the 100 year celebration logo and the pledge I learned when I first joined. Through 4-H it has made me a better role model and gave me confidence to do projects like this", says Jeza.

"We are grateful that Jeza decided to create this lasting tribute to honor the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial", says Debbie Moellendorf, 4-H Youth Development Educator for Lincoln County. Thank you also to the Lincoln County Board of

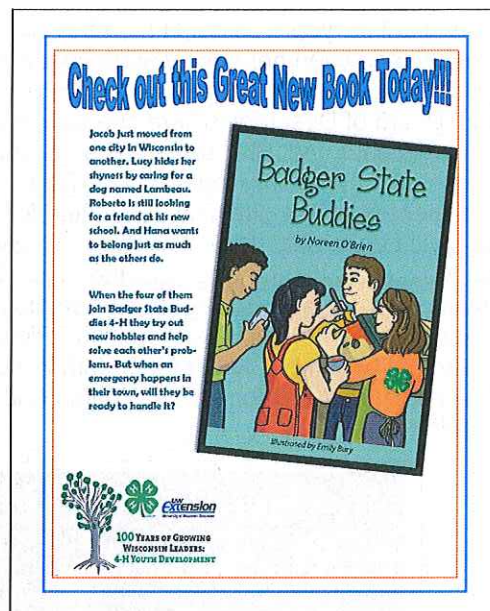
Supervisors through the Administrative and Legislative and Public Property Committees for allowing the mural to be located in the Service Center.

4-H Centennial Fun Day – Jamie Lemke, Frank Lemke, Lauren Lemke and Devin Jaeger served on a committee that planned and conducted a 4-H Centennial Fun Day on August 23, 2014 at Tug Lake Park. The day consisted of fun games, a chance to share memories and a meal.





"Badger State Buddies" book – This new children's book was written to promote 4-H in a fun new way. Third and fourth graders explore Wisconsin history and serve their community. While engaging in 4-H activities, they learn about themselves, their state, and the value of relationships. The Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors distributed a copy of this book to every public and school library in Lincoln County as part of "October is Wisconsin 4-H Reads Month". In addition, information was provided to 4-H clubs on how they could utilize the book with their club members.



Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum and Gala Centennial Celebration – The Forum provided an opportunity for 4-H youth and adult leaders to attend statewide training and participate in the final statewide centennial event, the Gala Centennial Celebration held the evening of Saturday, November 15, 2014. During this celebration the University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program inducted 100 laureates into the brand-new Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame. The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame was established to recognize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to 4-H at the local, state and national levels. The honorees represent 4-H in the broadest sense, according to Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development State Program Director Dale Leidheiser. "We are inducting volunteers, supporters and UW-Extension employees who had an impact on the lives of children, their community or state through significant contributions of time, energy, or financial resource to 4-H and its members," Leidheiser says.

Lincoln County 4-H was represented with two laureates -- Caroline Lemke and Gloria Lukes.



Caroline Lemke has been involved in Lincoln County 4-H for over 75 years: first as a member and now as a 4-H volunteer for 55 years. In the Hi-Lo 4-H Club, she served as organizational leader for 31 years and co-organizational leader with her daughter-in-law for the past 22. She promotes 4-H to everyone and works with youth to have a positive experience, feel part of the club, and have opportunities to try things in a safe and caring environment. On the county level, she has been a member of the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. Board of Directors, where she was one of the first to welcome older youth involvement. She is very open and willing to adapt or create new programs based on the current needs and interests of youth. This has included outreach to new audiences with 4-H

after school programs. Caroline has seen hundreds of members grow throughout the years. She understands and embraces the need for the 4-H program to evolve to meet the current needs and interests of today's youth in order to reach even more youth for the years to come. Pictured is Caroline Lemke receiving her Hall of Fame award with Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program Director Dale Leidheiser and Wisconsin 4-H Youth Leader Council President Pauline Schlais.



Gloria Lukes' years as a 4-H member shaped a lifetime of involvement going well beyond her club, her county, and even her state. Gloria began as a 4-H volunteer in 1997. She was a strong role model for positive youth-adult partnerships. Gloria was involved with the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. Board of Directors, where she was active with fundraising. She co-created a Lincoln County 4-H Endowment Fund. She served as an Ambassador advisor and ran an after-school book club. Gloria was president of Wisconsin State 4-H Adult Leader Council and worked to promote youth-adult partnerships. She served on the planning committee for Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference and Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership. She attended the National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century in 2002. In 2005, she was selected to join the National 4-H Conference Planning Committee. She was invited to the first John Deere Leadership Academy at the National 4-H Center, where she shared her passion for youth-adult partnerships. Pictured is Laurie Humphrey, Gloria's sister accepted Hall of Fame award on behalf of Gloria Lukes, with Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Program Director Dale Leidheiser and Wisconsin 4-H Youth Leader Council President Pauline Schlais. We know that Gloria would be honored.



4-H Centennial Tree for the O 'Tannenbaum Tour – As a culmination of a year of celebrating the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial, Cheryl Roets, 4-H Leader, planned a special tree sponsored by the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association for this year's O 'Tannenbaum Tour. The included photos from throughout the year of celebration activities held in Lincoln County or Statewide events that Lincoln County representatives participated in. The tree was also on display through the month of December at the Lincoln County Service Center outside of the UW-Extension office.

"Interesting, Informative Stories of Past 4-H Members" booklet – 4-H club members and leaders collected stories from former 4-H members and leaders along with pictures during 2014 that are included in this booklet. We hope you enjoy reading them.



To learn more about the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial visit <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/4hcentennial/>.



Resolution 2014-05-24

Motion by: Zeitz

Second by: Woller

Dist.	Supervisor	Y	N	Abs
13	Alber			
19	Allen			
18	Bailey			
10	Baughan			
11	Breitenmoser			
1	Caylor			
12	Gilk			
4	Hetfeld			
15	Lee			
16	Loka			
14	Lussow			
17	Nelson			
21	Pike			
8	Plant			
22	Rankin			
7	Rusch			
3	Schwartzman			
5	Swanson			
20	Vander Sanden			
2	Weaver			
6	Woller			
9	Zeitz			
Totals				
Carried				
Defeated				
Amended				
Voice vote				
Roll call				

COMMEMORATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WISCONSIN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS: Thomas L. Bewick was appointed Wisconsin's first State Leader of Boys' and Girls' 4-H Club Work with the new Cooperative Extension Service in July 1914 and organized the first 4-H club under Cooperative Extension in Walworth County in October 1914; and

WHEREAS: The Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association was incorporated in 1934; and

WHEREAS: 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique partnership between the counties of the state, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development; and

WHEREAS: This partnership of University of Wisconsin campuses, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and county-based 4-H Youth Development programs embodies the true meaning of the "Wisconsin Idea" – that the resources of the university shall be extended to the people of the state where they live and work; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development's purpose is to help youth learn leadership, citizenship and life skills, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities; and

WHEREAS: the vitality of today's Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program as well as 4-H's national reputation as the largest out-of-school educational organization can be credited to the men and women of vision who accepted the challenge in 1914 to help grow 100 years of Wisconsin leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby commends Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and its local 4-H Youth Development Extension educators for their leadership, cooperation and support, which allows the youth and families of Lincoln County and all of Wisconsin to apply the research and knowledge of the University of Wisconsin to their lives, homes and communities and help build strong leaders for tomorrow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors encourages its members to work collaboratively with their local 4-H Youth Development educators and University of Wisconsin-Extension team to commemorate and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014 in Lincoln County.

Introduced by: Land Information, Conservation and UW-Extension Committee

Committee Action: Land Information, Conservation and UW-Extension Committee; Passed on April 9, 2014.

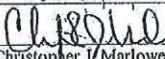
Fiscal Impact: None

Drafted by: Debbie Moellendorf, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Lincoln County 4-H Leaders Association Board of Directors

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) ss:  
COUNTY OF LINCOLN )

I hereby certify that this resolution/ordinance is a true and correct copy of a resolution/ordinance adopted by Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on:

May 20, 2014

  
Christopher J. Marlowe  
County Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2367**

**A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
WISCONSIN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Thomas L. Bewick was appointed Wisconsin's first State Leader of Boys and Girls 4-H Club with the Cooperative Extension Service in July 1914, and organized the first 4-H Club under the Cooperative Extension Service in Walworth County in October, 1914; and,

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique partnership between the counties of the state, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development; and,

WHEREAS, this partnership of University of Wisconsin campuses, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and county-based 4-H Youth Development programs embodies the true meaning of the "Wisconsin Idea" – that the resources of the University shall be extended to the people of the State where they live and work; and,

WHEREAS the vitality of today's Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development programs as well as 4-H's national reputation as the largest out-of-school educational organization can be credited to the men and women of vision who accepted the challenge in 1914 to help grow 100 years of Wisconsin leaders;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014, that it commends Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and its local 4-H Youth Development Extension educators for their leadership, cooperation and support, which allows the youth and families of the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, and all of Wisconsin to apply the research and knowledge of the University of Wisconsin to their lives, homes and communities and help build strong leaders for tomorrow.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Merrill encourages its members to work collaboratively with their local 4-H Youth Development educators and University of Wisconsin-Extension team to commemorate and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development.


Recommended by: Mayor Bialecki

Moved: Alderman Sukow

Passed: May 13, 2014

CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN

  
William R. Bialecki  
Mayor

  
William N. Heideman  
City Clerk



**CITY OF TOMAHAWK  
RESOLUTION 2014-08**

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**A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF WISCONSIN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Thomas L. Bewick was appointed Wisconsin's first State Leader of Boys and Girls 4-H Club with the Cooperative Extension Service in July 1914, and organized the first 4-h Club under the Cooperative Extension Service in Walworth County in October, 1914; and,

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique partnership between the counties of the state, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development; and,

WHEREAS, this partnership of University of Wisconsin campuses, the University of Wisconsin-Extension and county-based 4-H Youth Development programs embodies the true meaning of the "Wisconsin Idea" – that the resources of the University shall be extended to the people of the State where they live and work; and,

WHEREAS, the vitality of today's Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program as well as 4-H's national reputation as the largest out-of-school education organization can be credited to the men and woman of vision who accepted the challenge in 1914 to help grow 100 years of Wisconsin leaders;

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2014, that it commends Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and its local 4-H Youth Development Extension educators for their leadership, cooperation and support, which allows the Youth and families of the City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, and all of Wisconsin to apply the research and knowledge of the University of Wisconsin to their lives, homes and communities and help build strong leaders for tomorrow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Tomahawk encourages its members to work collaboratively with their local 4-H Youth Development educators and University of Wisconsin team to commemorate and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development.

PASSED and APPROVED by the COMMON COUNCIL this 1<sup>ST</sup> day of July 2014.

Moved: Roger Schlegel

Second: Don Nelson

Passed: 8-0

Clarann M. Stocker  
Clarann M. Stocker, Mayor

Amanda L. Bartz  
Amanda L. Bartz, Clerk-Treasurer







## *Lillian and Elmer Allard*

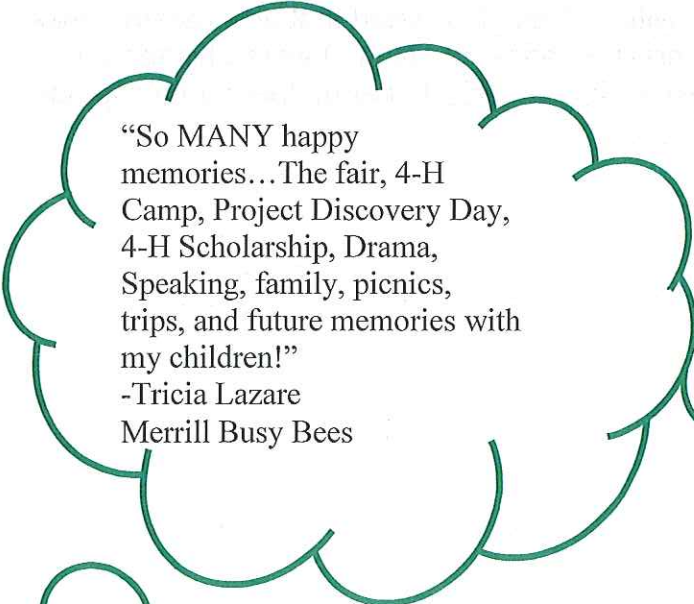
### *Road Lake 4-H Club*

The first 4-H club in Lincoln County was organized in Tomahawk in 1920. Lillian Gladfelter and Elmer Allard were members in that first club. In 1921 when Elmer was 14 years old he was chosen by the State Office as the 2nd Best Calf Club member in the State. His reward was a free trip to the State Fair. He and his brother Bernard Allard raised Barred Plymouth Rock Chickens that had taken a first place at the Community Fair the previous fall.

Girls could only carry the Canning Project. Lillian won many blue ribbons in her canning project. Her prize money from showing at the Community Fair helped her purchase many items she was longing to own.

Lillian and Elmer married and built a resort in the Road Lake area. Lillian became the 4-H for the Road Lake Club in 1938 and 1939. She again took over the leadership roll from 1949 through 1952. She recalled these years as challenging and rewarding years in 4-H. She also served as a club counselor at 4-H Camp. Elmer died in 1976. Shortly after this Lillian moved to Texas to be near her daughter.

In an article published in the Tomahawk Leader, Lillian stated that "club work was a very educational, interesting and entertaining part of my progress as a youth in the Tomahawk area."



"So MANY happy memories... The fair, 4-H Camp, Project Discovery Day, 4-H Scholarship, Drama, Speaking, family, picnics, trips, and future memories with my children!"  
-Tricia Lazare  
Merrill Busy Bees



"I have many favorite memories from 4-H, from being an ambassador, to 4-H marketplace, to the dog show."  
-Cassie Timm  
Merrill Yellow Jackets

## *Dawn Barkholz*

### *Mountain Valley 4-H Club in Bayfield County, Wisconsin*

Dawn Barkholz entered the world of 4-H in 1976 as part of Mountain Valley 4-H in Bayfield County. She was under the leadership of William DaFoe. Projects she carried included arts and crafts, food preservation, sewing and gardening. Arts and crafts were her favorite because they had a project leader. Dawn remembers bicycling to the leader's house to making macramé projects and wind chimes out of silverware and driftwood. Community service projects and getting ready for the fair were two things Dawn liked about 4-H.

One of the most exciting things that Dawn experienced while in 4-H was travelling overseas through the IFYE Program. The group she was with went to Paris on their free time and had quite the interesting experience: "We were standing in line at the Louvre Museum and a girl in our group got pick-pocketed. Hence, we had to leave the museum to take care of business and I never got to see the Mona Lisa," she recalled. To this day she still exchanges Christmas Cards with her host family.

4-H fostered Dawn's love of learning and definitely had an impact on her life. She learned many life skills because of all of the opportunities, such as trips, projects, and club activities, available. No matter whether it was about history, serving others, counseling kids at camp, or learning something for one of her projects, 4-H made learning interesting.

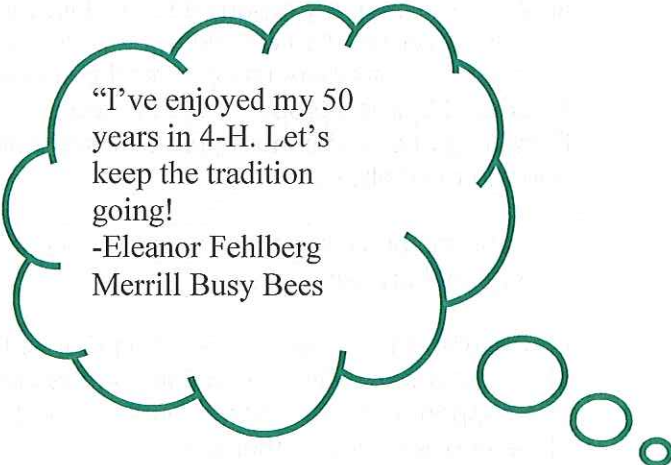
Dawn believes 4-H members today differ from when she was in 4-H in that they now have too many competing activities. She also stated that now record books are more time consuming so kids don't fill them out. Now Dawn's children are fourth generation 4-H'ers and Dawn is very grateful to her mother for having her join 4-H.



*Angela Borchardt*  
*Moonspinners 4-H Club*

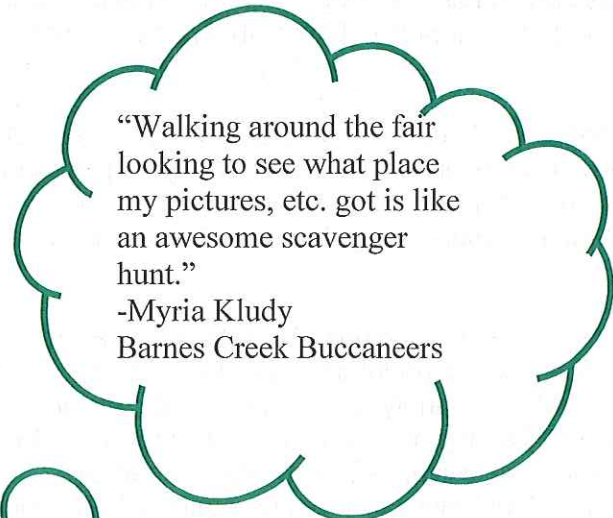
Angela Borchardt was a member of the Moonspinners 4-H Club but she couldn't recall exactly when she joined. She was living in Tomahawk. Clarice Krueger was her leader.

She carried the photography project and crochet project. Her grandmother taught her to crochet. She made a watermelon potholder. She liked the time she spent with her grandmother. 4-H is all about families working together.



"I've enjoyed my 50  
years in 4-H. Let's  
keep the tradition  
going!

-Eleanor Fehlberg  
Merrill Busy Bees



"Walking around the fair  
looking to see what place  
my pictures, etc. got is like  
an awesome scavenger  
hunt."

-Myria Kludy  
Barnes Creek Buccaneers

*Hannah Buhrmann*  
*Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

My name is Hannah Buhrmann. I was living in Merrill, Wisconsin in 1993 when I joined the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club. Jane Schulz and Sue Kunkel were my leaders.

I was always involved with the annual county fair, especially horses and equestrian projects, as I grew up on a small hobby farm. In addition, I showed my pet rabbits, poultry, and goats. I also participated in arts and crafts, science and sustainability projects, public speaking, and as I got older, I began to dabble in cooking and baking.



I really enjoyed the horse shows. Even if I did not perform very well, I gained a lot of equestrian knowledge and professional experience interacting with the judges and show staff. In addition, my organizational skills increased, as I had to prepare for the show days in advance. As I got older, I also increased my leadership skills as I would help younger 4-H members prepare for the shows. The public speaking events were also a favorite. I learned proper stage presence and how to read to a large audience. Recycling and sustainability projects were also really fun and the insight I gained I still apply in my daily life.

The annual fair was the most exciting. I especially enjoyed winning blue ribbons and seeing my hard work pay off.

I remember the strong sense of community that 4-H in my county offered up. Although other clubs were often competition at the annual fair, there was a great sense of sharing and support throughout the entirety of the 4-H community. It was always fun to share ideas and learn from other clubs.

Youth involved in 4-H today have the internet and access to it virtually everywhere. The internet was just becoming popular when I was involved in 4-H, and many projects were executed with no interest of 24/7 access to Google. Today, with multimedia and technology advances, 4-H'ers have access to creative insight, research, information and so much more.

I learned the importance of community service and community-based work. 4-H provided me the foundation to pursue a social justice focused undergraduate degree and further my education, leading me to confidently work in a variety of spheres: health equity, environmental campaigns, and international development work in South America. 4-H helping communities become healthier, more inclusive, safe, and environmentally sustainable, is absolutely innate to me. I undoubtedly would not be equipped with such critical skillsets if it was not for my local 4-H club.

Recycling, waste management and sustainability, were key tenets of my 4-H club's program of work when I first joined as a 5 year old. To reduce, reuse, and recycle as best practice is one of the things that I have learned and has stuck with me today. I have applied much of what I learned during those early years of 4-H into my college course work and current work in Bolivia, helping communities build simple, efficient, economical, bicycle-powered machines made out of recycled materials.



*Robin (Krueger) Comeau*  
*Bits N'Bridles 4-H Club*

Robin (Krueger) Comeau joined the Bits N'Bridles 4-H Club in 1966. She was living in Irma, Wisconsin. She later joined the Moonspinners 4-H Club. Some of her early leaders were Alice Redmond, Pat Troiber, and Clarice Krueger.

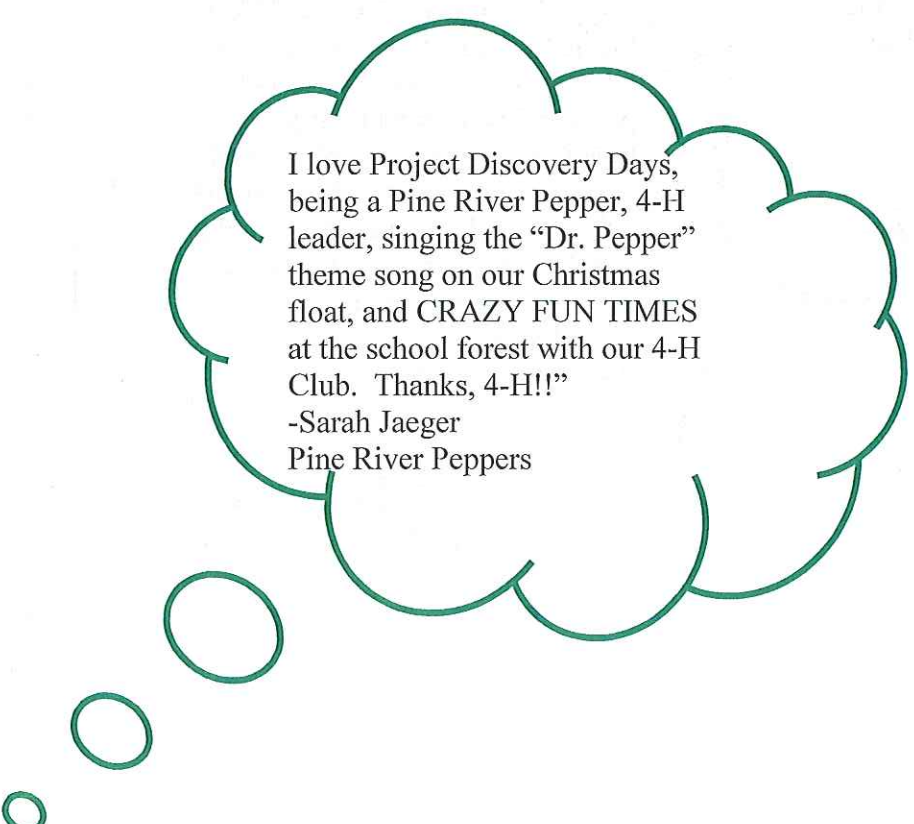
Her projects were Horsemanship, Sewing, Knitting, Photography, and Veterinary Science. She couldn't pick a favorite because she felt each project challenged her. She enjoyed them all.

During her 4-H years she had the opportunity to attend National Club Congress in Washington D.C.

When asked what she remembered most about her years in 4-H Robin replied, "I remember the self-imposed deadlines to get fair exhibits completed on time and I recall the good friends I made. As a leader, I enjoyed watching my own children enjoying 4-H."

Today you don't hear as much about 4-H as you do Scouting. She felt the family unit has evolved.

She felt she gained self-confidence during her years in 4-H and that hard work pays off (most of the time). These qualities still influence her life today.



I love Project Discovery Days,  
being a Pine River Pepper, 4-H  
leader, singing the "Dr. Pepper"  
theme song on our Christmas  
float, and CRAZY FUN TIMES  
at the school forest with our 4-H  
Club. Thanks, 4-H!!"

-Sarah Jaeger  
Pine River Peppers

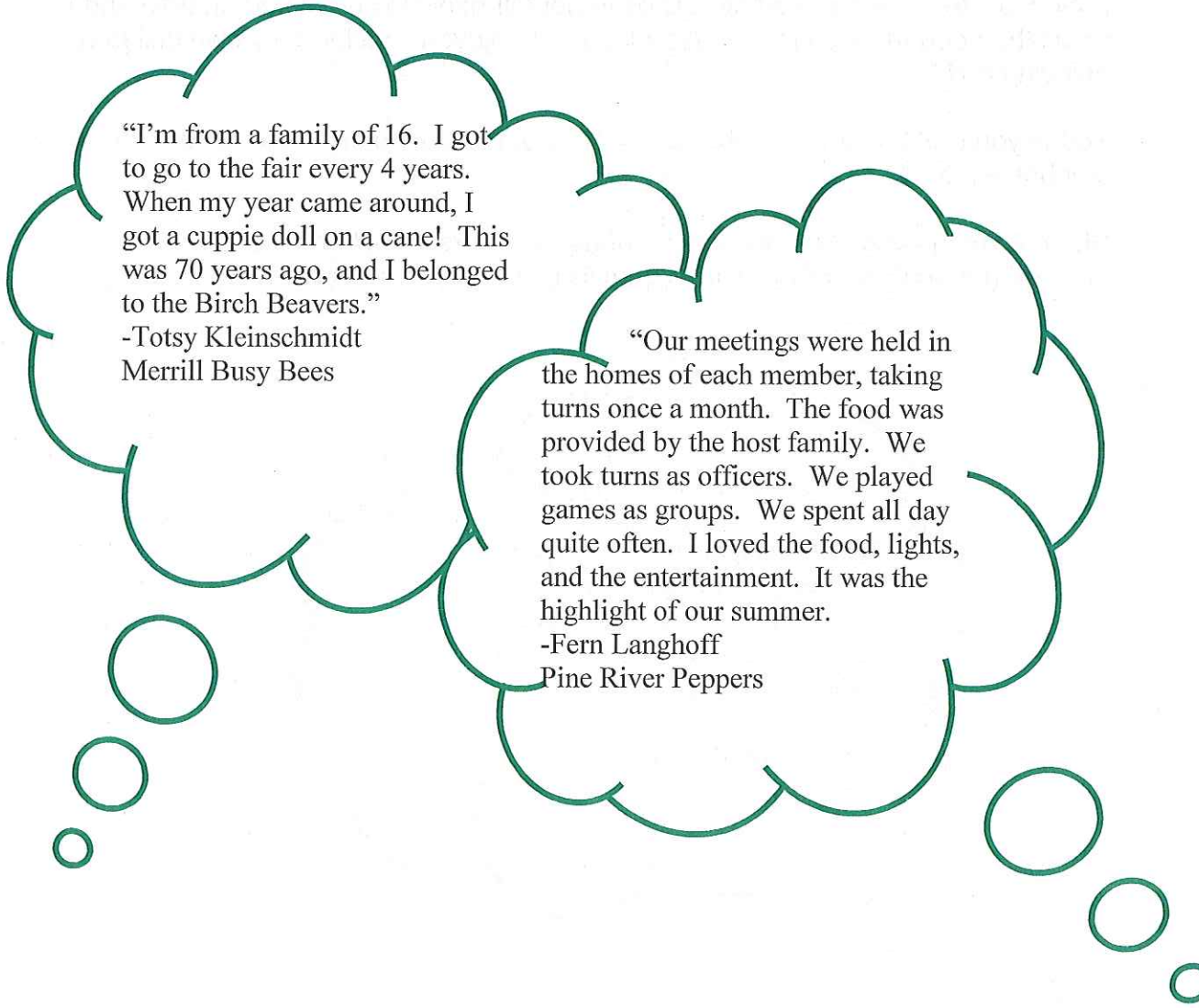
## Arthur Crass

### Road Lake 4-H Club

Art joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1951. He lived with his family on a farm in the Road Lake area. His projects were Dairy and Forestry. He remembered Norman Crass was the Dairy Project Leader. Dairy was his favorite project. He knew then already that he wanted to have his own dairy farm one day. It was a dream he realized.

The family had a heard of beautiful purebred Holsteins. Art thought it was exciting to win a Blue Ribbon. "I remember showing calves at the fair with my brothers, Ron, Ken and my cousin Roger. We all won Blue Ribbons that day. We were a happy bunch of boys that day." He said.

He recalled always attending meetings. He thought 4-H taught him to be honest in his undertakings and to always be willing to help others.



"I'm from a family of 16. I got to go to the fair every 4 years. When my year came around, I got a cuppie doll on a cane! This was 70 years ago, and I belonged to the Birch Beavers."

-Totsy Kleinschmidt  
Merrill Busy Bees

"Our meetings were held in the homes of each member, taking turns once a month. The food was provided by the host family. We took turns as officers. We played games as groups. We spent all day quite often. I loved the food, lights, and the entertainment. It was the highlight of our summer.

-Fern Langhoff  
Pine River Peppers



## Arvilla Crass Road Lake 4-H Club

Road Lake 4-H Club was without a club leader in 1940. Lillian Allord asked my mother, Arvilla Crass, if she would take over. My mom agreed to as she already had 3 children in the club. Mom served through 1948. She didn't serve for a few years and then she was the leader whenever there was a vacancy. She retired near 2000.

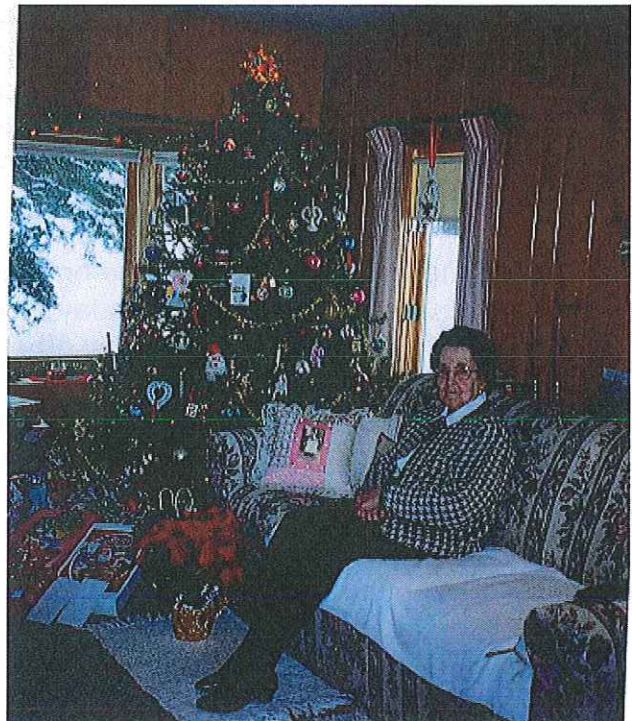


She never really retired. If a member called and needed help with a project she was always ready to help. When members were getting ready for the fair she always had the premium book handy so she could help get the fair entries in on time. She had been a registered leader for 55 years. I had the privilege of serving as co-leaders with her for a number of years. It was a marvelous way to learn about leadership.

Many former members still recall how many times she gave them a ride to a meeting or down to the County Fair. They all remember the sandwiches she made!!

"We get to do a lot of  
crafts. I like the fair, and  
our meetings."

-Amara  
Merrill Busy Bees





## Charles Crass Road Lake 4-H Club

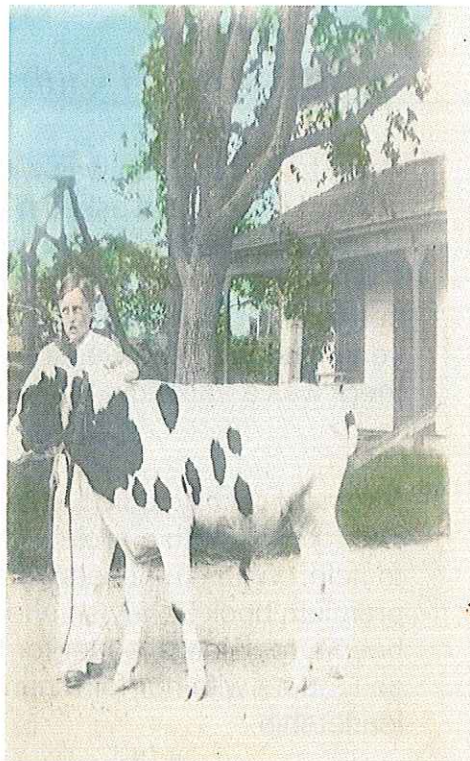
Charles "Chuck" Crass joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1937. His leaders were Mrs. Lillian Allord and his mother, Mrs. Arvilla Crass. His projects were dairy, gardening, and potatoes, with dairy being his favorite. He loved caring for his calves and training them for showmanship at the fair. He spent hours walking them around the farm. "Showing my calf at the fair was nerve racking but still very exciting," he said. "I always got a blue ribbon on my calves but that wasn't the most important. It was the feeling of knowing I did a good job," he said. He felt this was an incentive to work harder the following year.

"4-H was an important activity in our home life. We had a chance to learn while we were having fun," he said. He rarely missed a meeting and made many new friends through 4-H.

Chuck had a very traumatic experience the first year he showed his calf at the fair. His calf died. He had shown his calf and it had won a blue ribbon. He was so excited. After he had shown his calf, he walked around the fair grounds. When he returned to the barn his calf was dead. Farmers had a problem with grasshoppers that year. The farmers got together countywide and mixed a mealy poison to apply to the fields. It was mixed in the cow barn at the fairgrounds. Some of the poison didn't get cleaned up and many cattle were lost. It was a devastating experience for Chuck.

He felt members spent more time on their projects when he was a member. Kids today have an opportunity to take part in so many other activities.

4-H taught him that dedication to learning led to improvement in his life. It was responsible for the advancement in my job later in life.



NAME OF CALF	Chief Waldo.
WEIGHT	503 LBS.
AGE	6 Months 23 days
died	August 8, 1938.

4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB	
BREED	Holstein
DATE OF BIRTH	Jan. 23, 1938
OWNED BY	Charles Crass
Road Lake Club	COUNTY



Kenny Crass  
Road Lake 4-H Club

## Small, But Proud Youngster Wins On 'Speed Queen'

Kenny Crass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crass, route one, Tomahawk, is a little fella with a lot of "gumption."

Ten-year-old Kenny, showing for the first time at the Lincoln Fair, won a blue ribbon with "Speed Queen," his January junior calf. Speed Queen tips the scales at 374 pounds, five times as much as 60 pound Kenny and stands a wee bit higher, too.

The calf balked at the idea of entering the show area to be judged, but Kenny took him with a firm hand and after a bit of help by some bystanders, paraded him around the ring.

The proud youngster no sooner tied up Speed Queen than back he went to the show ring to watch his brothers, Ronald and Arthur Jr., bring their entries before the Judge.

Kenneth and his brothers, as other 4-H youngsters displaying their stock, stayed in the barn with his calf and as he says, "I liked it".

*Janet (Vander Voort)Crowell*

*Harrison Sodbusters and Moonspinners 4-H Club*

My name is Janet (Vander Voort) Crowell. In 1966 I was living in Harrison (Lincoln County) when I joined the Harrison Sodbusters 4-H Club. My club leaders were Helen Vander Voort, Anne Schoone, Charolotte Heikkinen and Arlene Renn. Later on I joined the Moonspinners 4-H Club and Clarice Krueger was my leader.

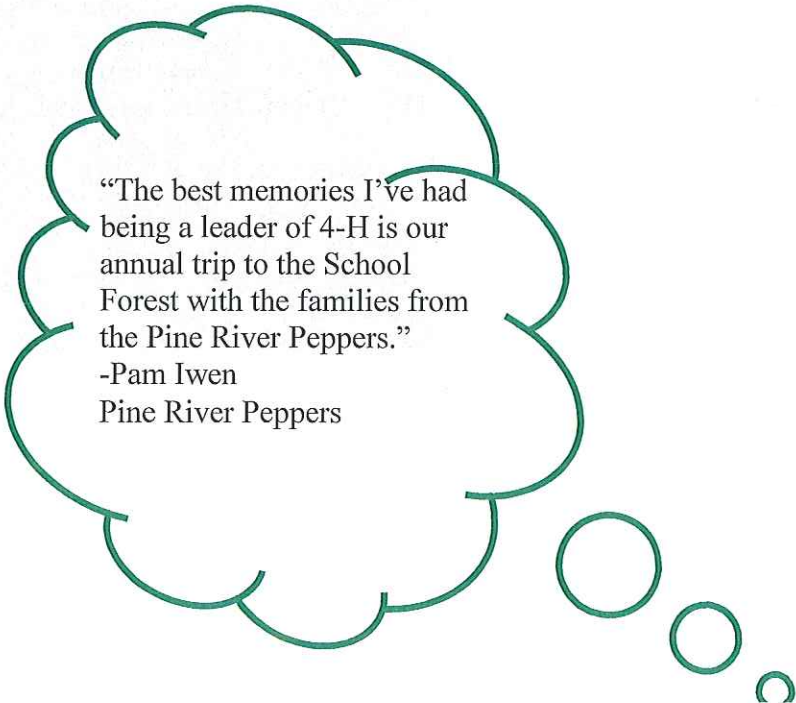
The projects I carried were Knitting, Crocheting, Photography, Childcare, and Home Furnishings. The Photography project was my favorite. I enjoy the outdoors and Photography gave me the opportunity to enjoy nature. I also learned to do darkroom photography. My dad built me a homemade light box to use in the darkroom I had made at home.

It was always exciting going to camp at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. My Mom (Helen Vander Voort) was the cook at both Upham Woods and at Camp Susan.

Memorable times during my 4-H years were getting ready for the Fair and participating in Speaking Drama and Demonstrations. I remember participating in weeklong Drama and Music at the UW Marathon.

I feel members today are more involved with school activities so they don't have as much time for their 4-H Projects.

I learned some things in 4-H that still influence me today. Without 4-H I would not have some of the life skills and abilities such as leadership and confidence. 4-H has had a big effect on my life. My kids have shared their love of 4-H also.



"The best memories I've had being a leader of 4-H is our annual trip to the School Forest with the families from the Pine River Peppers."

-Pam Iwen

Pine River Peppers



## *Dixie (Bohnert) Erickson* *Moonspinners 4-H Club*



Dixie (Bohnert) Erickson joined the Moonspinners 4-H Club in Tomahawk in 1969. Some of her leaders were Clarice Krueger, Vivian Postl, Karen Beeber, Jeanie Gudgeon, and Mrs. Hupfer. Her projects were foods, sewing, drama and speaking.

Foods was her favorite project. She learned so much about baking and nutrition. She spent a lot of time working on bread baking and became very proficient. As a result she was chosen to represent Wisconsin at the National 4-H Congress.

She was a representative in the Clothing Revue at the State Fair. She attended the Leadership Youth Congress in Madison. She attended the National Congress. She was awarded a scholarship from the Fleishman Yeast Company in the Bread Baking Category.

"I remembered the friendships and the many adult leaders who cared about me," she said. "I had opportunities to gain leadership skills and I had a chance to travel," Dixie stated. She recalled going to National 4-H Congress and meeting others from every state and exchanging pins.

Dixie feels there are too many other things competing for kids' time today. Technology has taken its toll on clubs. It is tough for leaders to keep the kids interest.

"I learned time management, loyalty, and commitment. I learned to accept people from all walks of life and that we all excel in different areas. I learned the life skill of being able to accept constructive criticism, learn from it, and do better the next time. I choose my career as a Home Economics and Special Ed Teacher as a result of my 4-H background," Dixie said.

While Dixie was at the State Fair in West Allis she met a fellow who was Boy Scout. 4-H and the Boys Scouts had a dance together. They both ended up attending Stout College and dated for 4 years but she didn't marry him.

Today Dixie teaches in the Merrill School District. Some of the people she competed against are now people she works with or are friends of some of them. "We share good memories of 4-H and the County Fair," she said.

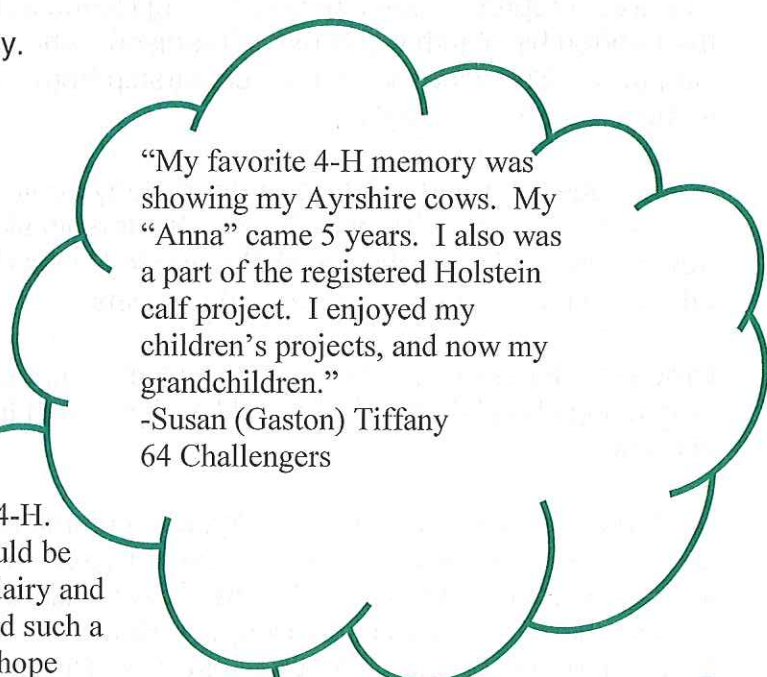
## *Phyllis (Kahle) Evans* *Road Lake 4-H Club*

Phyllis (Kahle) Evans joined the Road Lake 4-H Club. She wasn't sure when she joined, but possibly in the early 1950's. Amy Crass was her leader. She carried the gardening project.

Phyllis recalled the meetings were held at the Gilbert School. Almost all of the kids in the neighborhood belonged to the club. "It was not only for learning, it was our entertainment," she said. The fair was held in August. Gardens had a chance to grow and ripen. A snack was always served at our meetings.

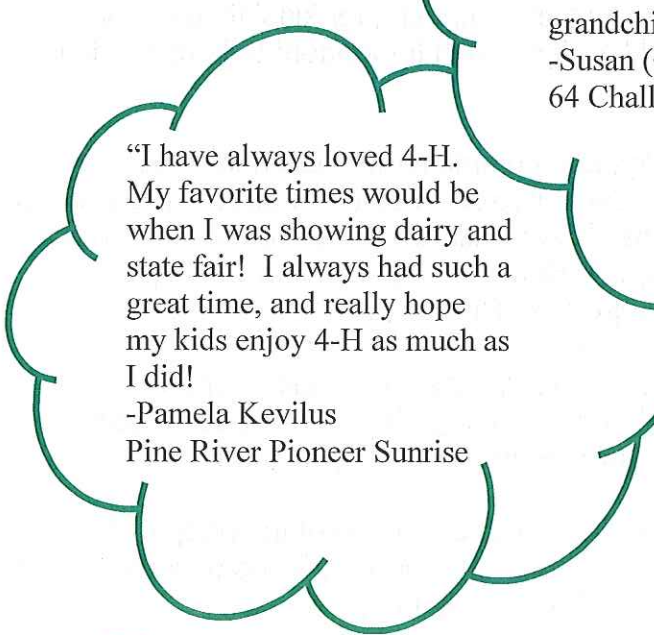
Phyllis always liked going to the Fair in August. That was a fun time of the year. Today members aren't as dedicated to their projects. They have so many other activities to be involved in.

Phyllis still has a garden today.




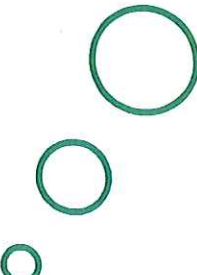
"My favorite 4-H memory was showing my Ayrshire cows. My "Anna" came 5 years. I also was a part of the registered Holstein calf project. I enjoyed my children's projects, and now my grandchildren."

-Susan (Gaston) Tiffany  
64 Challengers



"I have always loved 4-H. My favorite times would be when I was showing dairy and state fair! I always had such a great time, and really hope my kids enjoy 4-H as much as I did!

-Pamela Kevilus  
Pine River Pioneer Sunrise





## *Eleanor Fehlberg*

### *Pine Grove Hustlers and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Clubs*

I'm Eleanor Fehlberg. I will mention some of the many experiences we had in our own 4-H club, years ago. I joined our 4-H club in 1940 and the name of the club was the Pine Grove Hustlers. I went to a country school which was named the Pine Grove School. What could be a better name for our 4-H club, so we named it after the school. Several of our neighbor children joined, and most were from farm families in the area. Alvina Hinz was our first 4-H leader.

I always planted a large garden for our family, some of the projects I carried were: Gardening, Flowers and House Plants, Foods and Nutrition, Food Preservation, and also Clothing. My favorite project was gardening, because I could pick fresh vegetables to feed our family. One year it was so dry, I kept the sprinkler on all night, this paid off as I had the most beautiful vegetable garden. I got first place on my exhibits.



As the years went by we had a new 4-H leader, Hildegard Engel. She was a good seamstress. This was an exciting time for my cousin, Carol Larson and I because we got to bike up to her place. We each wanted to make a dress alike. Hildegard taught us how to sew. We each made a red and white striped dress to show at the Fair. We got good on both of these.

The memories of my 4-H years was getting together with friends, working on different projects, and learning to sew, and knitting a craft. We also got together playing on baseball teams and other games.

The difference today from 4-H years ago is the new technology, now. There are more opportunities for youth to further their education and many more resources to use.

2014 is my 50<sup>th</sup> year in 4-H. Now my children and grandchildren are in 4-H. Some are 4-H leaders. I am still active doing the Flowers project at the Fair. Soon my grandchildren will take this over from me. I have been involved with 4-H these many years because I like working with children to see them succeed with their many endeavors.

*Patty (Forester) Fehlberg*  
*Smiling Scotties and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

I am Patty Forester Fehlberg and I joined the Smiling Scotties 4-H Club in 1975. I lived on Golf Drive in the township of Scott.

Projects that I did were: houseplants, flowers, crafts, swine, and sheep. With the swine and sheep projects I was able to participate in the market animal sales. My favorite project was the sheep and market animal sale. It was fun because I enjoyed raising my sheep during the summer for the fair and getting to know other club members when we were in the barn taking care of the animals.

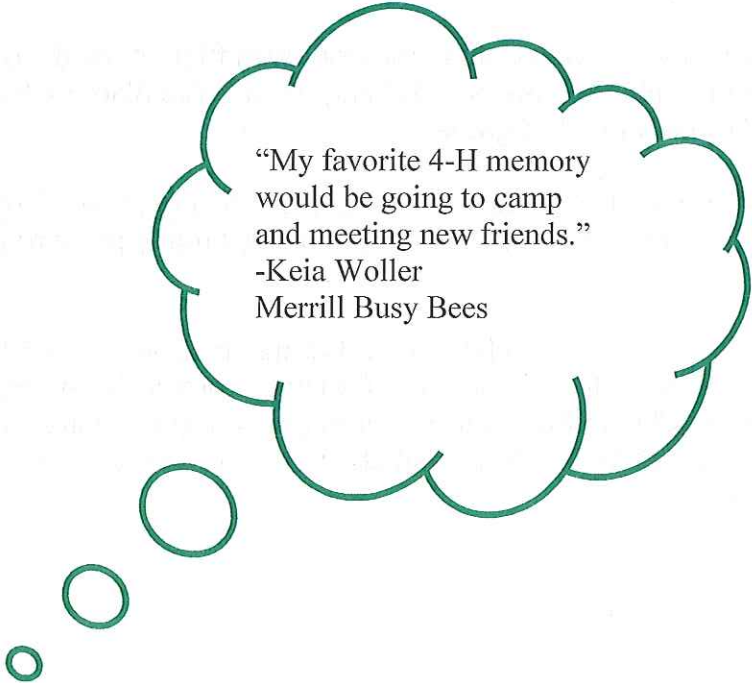
One of the most exciting things that happened to me while I was in 4-H was getting Grand Champion & Reserve on my sheep judging and showmanship.

I do remember playing baseball with other clubs.

When I was in 4-H you joined the club that was in your neighborhood. City youth were not in 4-H. Today you can join any club you want and city kids are joining different clubs.

Lorraine Schneider and Joel and Patty Schneider were my 4-H leaders.

Today I am a farm wife. 4-H has helped me be responsible for taking care of animals.



"My favorite 4-H memory  
would be going to camp  
and meeting new friends."  
-Keia Woller  
Merrill Busy Bees



*Betsy Francoeur*  
*Independent 4-H Club*

In 1993 I was living in Merrill, Wisconsin when I became a 4-H member. I belonged to an Independent Club. My Mom, Jane Francoeur, was my leader. Even though I wasn't in her club, Gloria Lukes was my 4-H Mom.

The projects I carried were Demonstrations, Foods, Animal and Vet Science, Dog Obedience, Clothing, and Plant and Soil Science.

Demonstrations was my favorite project. I learned to conquer my fear of public speaking, went to State Fair twice, and built the basis for a successful career in public relations.

The most exciting thing that happened to me in 4-H was winning a Merit Award at the State Fair for the team demonstration I did with my sister.

I really enjoyed going on 4-H trips in Wisconsin and to other states as well because I learned so much and made so many friends.

I think 4-H members today have even more projects to choose from and opportunities to take part in trips and activities.

I learned anything is possible if you are willing to work hard, challenge yourself, and try new things.

An interesting incident that happened to me as a 4-H member was getting to serve as a 4-H ambassador and who knew that my 4-H ambassador sash would be pre-cursor to the Alice-in Dairyland sash.



My favorite 4-H memory is "playing in the 4-H band. We got to see the grandstand shows for free."

-Viola Hinz Wendland  
Barnes Creek & Plaman  
District

*Katie Francoeur*  
*Independent 4-H Club*

In 1993 I was living in Merrill, Wisconsin when I joined 4-H. I did not join a club. We were a family club (classed as independent).



The projects I carried were Sewing, Demonstrations, Youth Leadership, and Dogs. Youth Leadership was my favorite. I learned about public speaking and had the opportunity to go on Citizenship-Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress and national 4-H Conference trips. I met friends from all over the country that I am still in touch with.

The most exciting thing that happened to me was being selected to attend National 4-H Conference. Another exciting thing that happened to me was when the bear came to camp; more about that later.

The memories I have of 4-H are the trips and the friends I made. I also fondly remember the song sessions.

I live in southeast Wisconsin now, and 4-H doesn't seem to be as prevalent here. Most kids are very involved with club sports.

Public speaking and being camp counselor were the main reasons I chose to pursue my career in education.

My most interesting incident during my 4-H years was a visit from a bear at club camp. Panic ensued. Our cabin used the visit as inspiration for our cabin skit.

"When he displayed his things  
at the fair, he won the first  
award from the Merrill Woolen  
Mills."

-Barb Iwen submitted for  
Donald H. Iwen



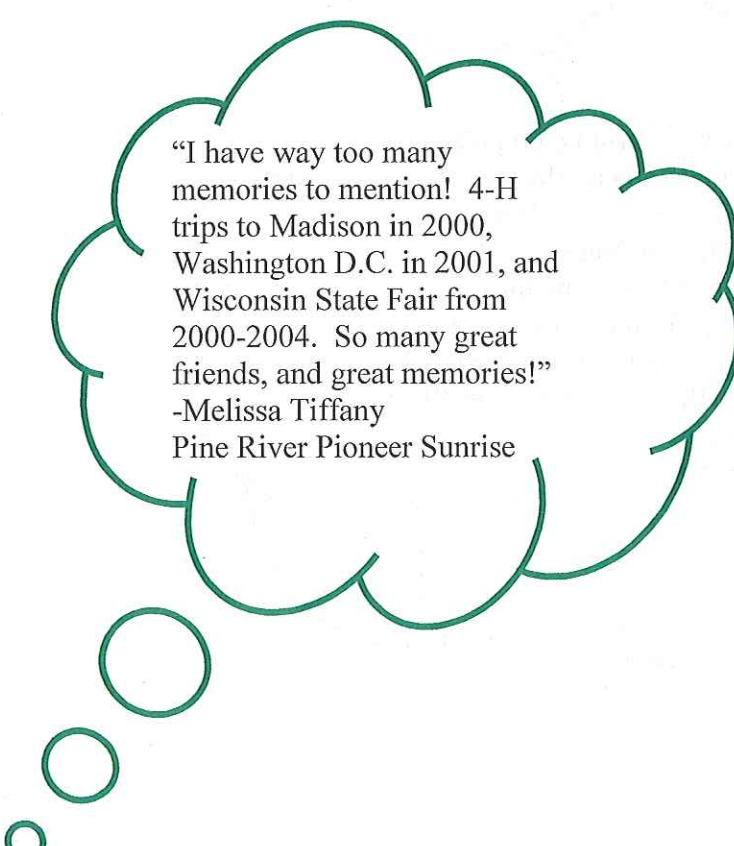
*Beth (Lemke) Johnson*  
*Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Beth (Lemke) Johnson joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in 1987. Some of her leaders were Caroline Lemke, Lori Lemke, and Laurie Ferge. She was a Cloverbud her first 2 years. As a regular member her projects were Flowers, Foods, and Cultural Arts. Her favorite project was Flowers. She loved to watch them grow and blossom. You hoped they would be in blossom right at fair time.

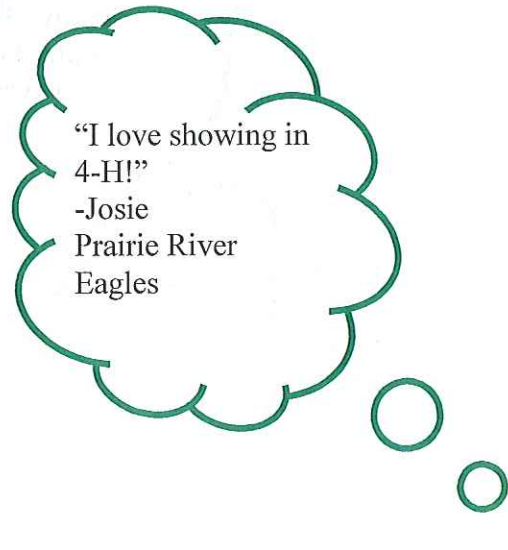
She liked to watch and listen to the judges' judge the flowers. You always held your breath and hoped you would get a Best of Show or an Honorable Mention. That was such an honor. She helped in the Photography Department at the fair on judging day. She helped with many of the community projects the club was involved in.

She thought 4-H was a good family organization when she belonged and she doesn't feel we should make any changes. There aren't many organizations that promote family togetherness. Her son is almost old enough to join 4-H.

She looks back on her years in 4-H as fun. She enjoyed families working together and kids learning new skills.



"I have way too many memories to mention! 4-H trips to Madison in 2000, Washington D.C. in 2001, and Wisconsin State Fair from 2000-2004. So many great friends, and great memories!"  
-Melissa Tiffany  
Pine River Pioneer Sunrise

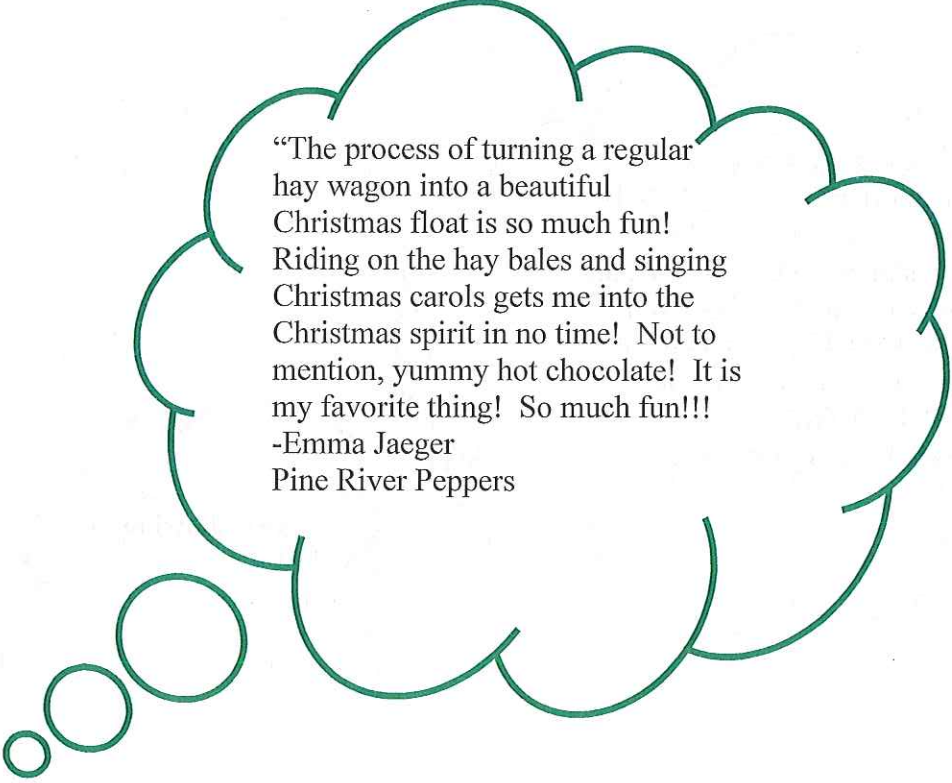


"I love showing in 4-H!"  
-Josie  
Prairie River  
Eagles

*Steve Kahle*  
*Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Steve Kahle joined 4-H around 1967. He was part of the Hi-Lo's 4-H club that was led by Caroline Lemke and Arvilla Crass. Among the projects he carried were gardening, woodworking, photography, junior leadership, forestry, and baking. His favorite project was forestry because he always enjoyed learning about the outdoors and collecting leaves and needles was interesting and educational for him. Being in 4-H taught Steve to respect the outdoors and he still enjoys many of the things he did as 4-H projects.

A very exciting and entertaining part of 4-H for Steve was being a counselor at Camp Susan for several years. He also fondly remembers the fun he and his club mates had during and after their meetings. When asked how he thought 4-H members today differ from the members when he belonged to 4-H, he replied, "When I was young entertainment options were limited. 4-H meetings were a social event for us kids. I doubt that is true anymore."



"The process of turning a regular  
hay wagon into a beautiful  
Christmas float is so much fun!  
Riding on the hay bales and singing  
Christmas carols gets me into the  
Christmas spirit in no time! Not to  
mention, yummy hot chocolate! It is  
my favorite thing! So much fun!!!  
-Emma Jaeger  
Pine River Peppers



## *Joyce (Totsy Burroughs) Kleinschmidt* *Birch Beavers 4-H Club and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

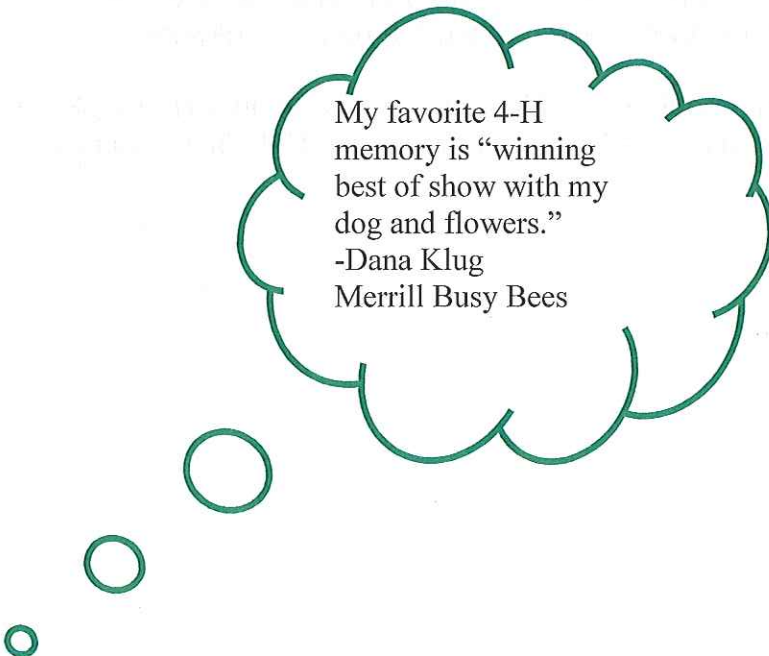
My name is Joyce (Totsy Burroughs) Kleinschmidt. "I was living in Gleason in 1935 when I first joined 4-H." She said. The club didn't have a name at that time so all of the members were asked to present a name. Totzy was very excited because her name was chosen. The club was named Birch Beavers.

The first club leader was Mrs. Hugo Johnson. Totsy's first projects were sewing, baking, and gardening. Sewing was her favorite. Her first project was learning to hem a dish towel by hand. You had a white flower sack and had to pull a thread from the cloth to make it square and then hand hem it.

She remembered how much she enjoyed the friends her age. Totsy thought the members were a closer knit group when she was a member. There were no computers or other technology. She like the club tours when the club members went to all of the homes to see the projects of the other members. As she said, "it was awesome."

Sewing had a big influence on her life. Knowing how to sew made it possible for her to get a job in a sewing factory.

Today Totsy is a leader for the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club.



My favorite 4-H  
memory is "winning  
best of show with my  
dog and flowers."

-Dana Klug  
Merrill Busy Bees

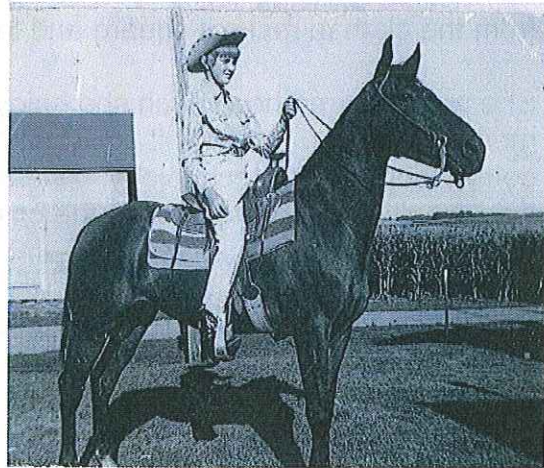
## *Judy Koshak*

### *Brandon Busy Beavers 4-H Club and Hi Lo's 4-H Club*

Judy Koshak was living on a farm outside of Fairfax, Minnesota when she joined the Brandon Busy Beavers 4-H Club in 1959. Her first club leader was Ray Isacson. Her projects were Foods, Flowers, Gardening, Clothing, Photography, Horse, Home Improvement, and Junior Leadership with the Horse Project being her favorite.

She had some exciting opportunities during her years in 4-H. Her singing group won a trip to the National 4-H Convention in Chicago. It was her first airplane ride. Also, after many years she earned Grand Champion Horse at the Renville County Fair.

She had a lot of memories at the fair, especially showing her horses. She took part in talent contests, tours, dress reviews, softball games and the livestock parade at the fair. When she attended activities at the State Fair they stayed overnight in the 4-H building.



She felt members were the same today. The program is different today. 4-H was her whole life. Now members have many more outside activities.

Judy felt she learned a lot about leadership during her years in 4-H. She has put that training to use. She has served as a leader with the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club for many years.



## *Robert Koth*

### *Road Lake 4-H Club*

Robert "Bob" Koth grew up on a farm in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. In 1932 he joined the Road Lake 4-H Club. He remembered some of his leaders were Mrs. Rex Brown, Mrs. Lillian Allord, and Mrs. Arvilla Crass. The projects he carried were Gardening, Forestry, and Poultry. Forestry was his favorite project because he loved the outdoors and enjoyed planting trees.

He enjoyed participating in the music festivals. Exhibiting at the fair was an exciting time. He enjoyed spending time with new friends and the friendly competition of exhibiting at the fair.

Bob thought that when he was in 4-H members were more involved in agriculture and home making projects. They were learning skills that could be used to improve their everyday lives. Today the fair is more of a pet and hobby show.

When asked how 4-H influenced his life he answered, "I learned the appreciation and respect for the commitment of volunteers providing leadership in working with youth." As an adult Bob has served in many volunteer activities.

Bob has served as Director of the Lincoln County Fair and Chairman of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs. He had leadership roles in the Lincoln County Chapter of the American Red Cross. He was a Pioneer Instructor of the Lincoln County Hunter Safety Program. In 1973 he was recognized by the City of Merrill with their Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Service.

The annual fair was a highlight for Bob. Competition and awards were always meaningful no matter what they were. Bob was awarded his 10 year achievement pin at the close of his 4-H career. It arrived just before he left to serve in the United States Navy during World War II. Bob still has that pin.

*Clarice Krueger*  
*Bits N' Bridles 4-H Club and*  
*Moonspinners 4-H Club*

Clarice Krueger became co-leader for the Bits N' Bridles 4-H Club in 1964. In 1971 she took over the leadership for the Moonspinners 4-H Club. She served as general leader for 30 years. During this time she also served as chairman of 4-H districts and drama director for the sub-districts.



Clarice worked with adult and youth from various counties sharing ideas and working together. She received appreciation and thanks from youth and parents. She was instrumental in setting up the Adopt-A-Friend Program in the community. The emphasis of their club was on health and community service.

She felt members were the same today as they were when she started in 4-H. Youth then and now want to be needed and appreciated. They have much to share so they need to feel involved. If this is done, there is no difference. Today it appears parents are too busy to be involved in their child's life. They expect the leaders to mold their child.

"Almost every experience influences my life. Everyone has something to offer. I don't have to agree with everyone but I should be willing to listen."

In 1979 Clarice received the Tomahawk Jaycees Carol Award for Outstanding Leadership. In 1994 she received the Lincoln County 4-H Fair Volunteer Hall of Fame Award. In 1988 she received an Outstanding 4-H leader award. In January of 1978 she was chosen by the Northwoods Daily news as Volunteer of the Month.



*Sue (Fehlberg) Kunkel*  
*Pine Grove Hustlers and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

When I was in 3rd grade I joined 4-H. Having lived on a farm on Lone Pine Road



in Merrill, your only choice was to join 4-H as Girl Scouts was only for City girls. My 4-H group was the Pine Grove Hustlers. All of the neighborhood kids were in that group. I remember going to cooking and sewing meetings on Saturday mornings. This way I got my sewing projects done in time for the Fair. Our 4-H club did do bake sales on Friday nights in downtown Merrill and I would help with this

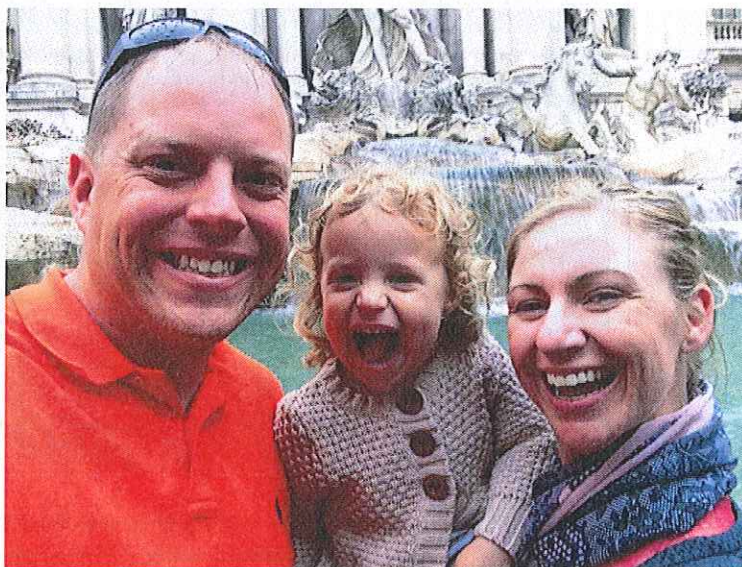
project. Just like other clubs today we would work on a Fair booth for the Fair. My dad would haul milk to the Page Milk Company everyday so when the Fair was on he would drop me off at the Fairgrounds so I could watch the judging of my exhibits. Living on a farm during the summer we would have hay to make. As a family my brothers and sisters and parents would try to have the first crop made so we could go to the Fair. One thing everyone in our 4-H group had to do was a record book. Some of us spent more time than others on this but we all got one done. Today only a few 4-Hers are doing either record books or memory books. My two 4-H leaders were Mrs. Alvina Hinz and Mrs Hildegard Engel. I did participate in the speaking and demonstration contests.

I know my 4-H background has helped me in the things I have chosen in my life. Taking leadership roles when I was on my church council, city council plus being a Merrill Chamber ambassador, and getting involved in the Fair Association.

Today I am a co-leader of the Merrill Busy Bees 4-H club along with Jane Schulz. I have been an adult leader for 25 years. My hope is I can make a difference in some other young 4-Her's life. A few years ago I got a hand written note from my old 4-H leader, Hildegard Engel, telling me of how proud she was of what I have accomplished. It really made me feel good that she still took an interest in me.

*William Kunkel*  
*Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

I joined 4-H in 1991. There were 8 kids at our first meeting. We had just formed a new club so the first task was to come up with a name. Over supper our family discussed different names, and this is where we came up with the name "The Merrill Busy Bees". Jane Schultz and my mother, Sue Kunkel, were our 4-H leaders and are still leaders today. As a small 4-H group our club participated in all the county's music, drama, and puppetry



contests. We had a lot of fun doing that. I participated in the speaking contests for many years. This actually helped me in school and is still helping me today with my Navy career. Being in 4-H gave me the opportunity to go to Washington DC twice. I learned a lot about the government which I really enjoyed. I was fortunate to go on several trips that were offered. The American Spirit Trip, and Washington DC, and Atlanta were all very memorable for me. I made a lot of friends that I still keep in contact with some of them today. I am glad I had all my different 4-H experiences. 4-H is a great program for youth and that is why I am a registered 4-H leader today.

My favorite 4-H  
memory is "being one  
of the 1<sup>st</sup> cloverbuds!!!!  
(1985)"

-Jessica (Tiffany)  
Gruetzmacher  
Pine River Pioneers  
Sunrise



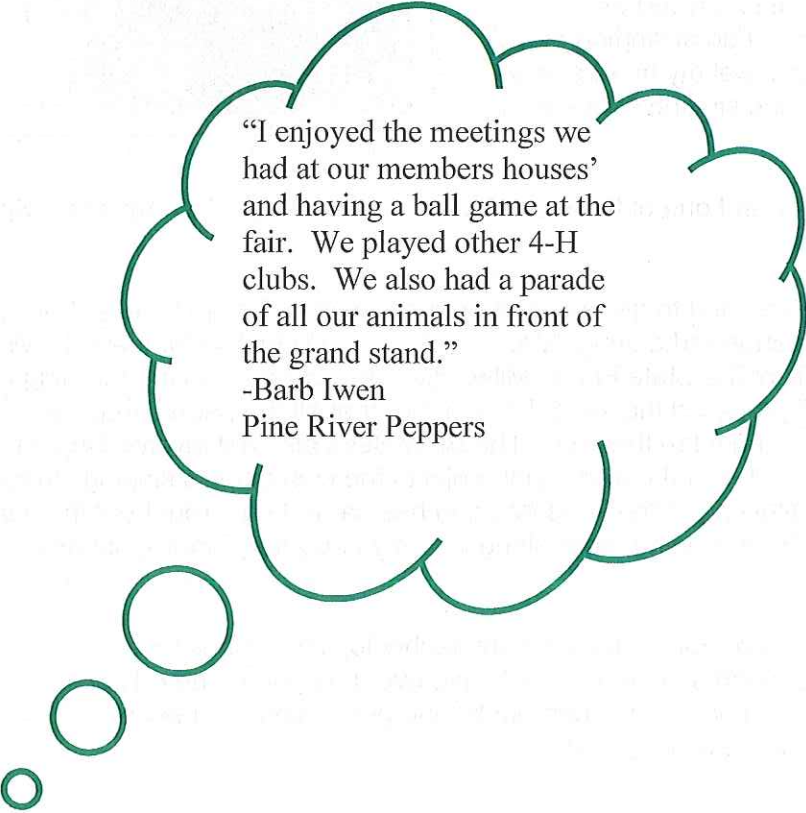
*Jane Lamer*  
*Road Lake 4-H Club*

Jane (Crass) Lamer joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1941. Her mother, Mrs. Arvilla Crass, was her leader. She carried the Sewing project and Gardening project. She remembers learning to sew because she had fun sewing doll clothes. She learned to sew on a treadle sewing machine.

Jane liked being with other kids at the meetings. She thought it was great that members have more projects to choose from today.

One of her memories was going to the fairgrounds the Sunday before the Fair to put up the club booth. Her club always put a lot of work into their booth and won many blue ribbons.

She remembered one time there was some kind of county function and she and her sister put on a dance for the entertainment and they wore old fashioned dresses and danced to Tip-toe through the Tulips. She has never forgotten that.



"I enjoyed the meetings we had at our members houses' and having a ball game at the fair. We played other 4-H clubs. We also had a parade of all our animals in front of the grand stand."

-Barb Iwen  
Pine River Peppers

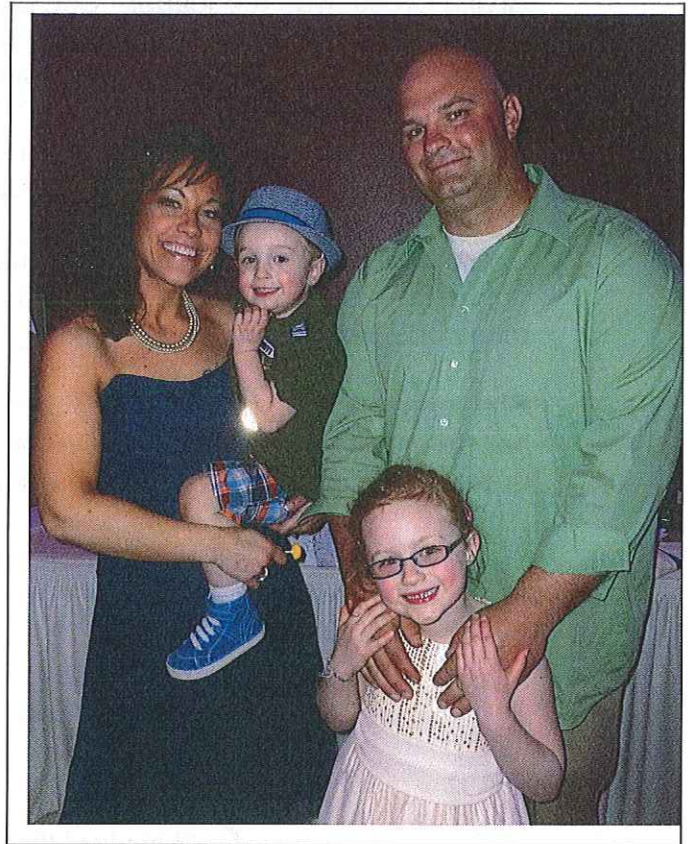
*Tricia (Kunkel) Lazare*

*Pine Grove Hustlers and Merrill Busy Bees 4-H Club*

I joined 4-H in 1989 when I was 8 years old. My first club was the Pine Grove Hustlers, where my Mother was in 4-H. The Pine Grove Hustlers only had a couple of members, so after 2 years the members decided to disband. That is why in 1991 my mother, Sue Kunkel, and Jane Schulz decided to form their own 4-H club. The first goal of the club was to come up with a new name. I remember our family talked about the different names and slogans. We decided on the "Merrill Busy Bees." The club members voted on this and the rest is history. The club leaders at that time were, Chrissy Rohmeyer, Sue Kunkel, and Jane Schulz.

Some of the projects I took were: Flowers, Arts and Crafts, Music, and Speaking. I remember my first year of showing at the Fair. I got a merit award on how wasps make a nest. I showed all the stages of construction and the judges were very impressed with my presentation.

One reason I took the flower projects was I liked to arrange flowers. I loved the challenges it brought. I do arranging at my own home yet. In general my heart always enjoyed the music and singing contests in 4-H.



4-H has a lot to offer and one of the most exciting memory was the "American Spirit Trip" I was able to go on.

The Busy Bee leaders tried to give us a lot of opportunities that 4-H offers. For the music contest our group performed a song, "We recycle we don't just throw it away". We were selected to sing this at the State Fair in Milwaukee. We left early in the morning and at the rest stop we all practiced the song. I remember that all the people that saw us perform it seemed to brighten their day. The Busy Bees also got involved in a lot of community projects. One of the traditional projects the club does is singing Christmas Carols at the local Nursing home. This tradition has carried on throughout the years and I still join the Busy Bees singing there along with my daughter, Amara, but now I am a 4-H leader.

Today 4-H members are able to utilize many technological connections amongst other members. This is beyond anything I could have ever imagined. The 4-H pledge continues to influence my daily life personally and professionally. I keep full citizenship for all in the forefront of the things I do.



## *Alan Lemke*

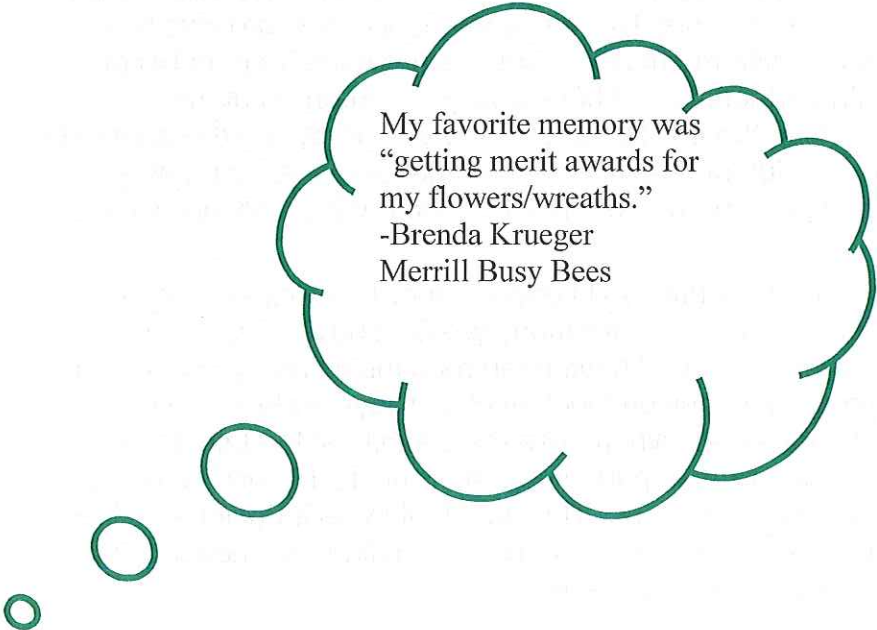
### *Hi-Lo's 4-H Clubs*

Alan Lemke grew up in the Road Lake area in Tomahawk. He joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in 1971. His leaders were Caroline Lemke (his mother) and Arvilla Crass (his grandmother). He remembered Jolene Ross as a Project Leader. The projects he carried were handyman, Photography, Woodworking, Foods, Electricity, and Junior Leadership. His favorite project was handyman. He loved to take old articles and repair and refinish them. His wood working project was a close second. He still builds furniture and does his own repairs on his home.

He was very involved in the Drama Contest and the Demonstration Contest. Winning the Best Actor Award was always a thrill. "I made new friends each year. Sometimes we only got to see them at the fair so we always looked forward to the fair. It was always fun and chaotic getting everything ready for the fair.

"I think project focuses may be different today but what members get out of them hasn't changed from my day. You get out of a project what you put into them," he said. "Looking at the projects I've listed I realize these are the things I've enjoyed all my life and now in my 50's they are part of what I do for a living as a Real Estate Inspector." Alan said.

"4-H has helped make me who I am today", he said. 4-H has helped him develop an ease being in front of a crowd. He started singing professionally while he was in college. Today he sings weekends in night clubs in Austin, Texas.



My favorite memory was  
"getting merit awards for  
my flowers/wreaths."

-Brenda Krueger  
Merrill Busy Bees

## *Caroline (Crass) Lemke*

### *Road Lake and Hi-Lo's 4-H Clubs*

My name is Caroline (Crass) Lemke. I joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1938. The Club name has been changed to the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club. When I joined 4-H, I lived on a farm in the Road Lake area with my family. Two leaders I remember are Mrs. Lillian Allord and my Mother, Mrs. Arvilla Crass. The projects I carried were sewing and gardening. I enjoyed both of my projects.

My mother taught me to sew on her treadle sewing machine when I was 7 years old and I was hooked on sewing. I started sewing doll clothes and hemming dish towels and eventually moved on to sewing clothes for me. I enjoyed gardening because I always felt good working in the garden. I liked to see how many vegetables we could harvest. I still like to garden and love to can the produce I grow. The most exciting thing that happened to me as a member was having a dress and a wool shirt selected to be sent to the Wisconsin State Fair. What I remember about the years in 4-H was entering exhibits at the fair. I liked the friendly competition. I liked making new friends and then getting to see them every year at the fair.

4-H today differs from when I was a member. We put more time into our projects. We didn't have as many opportunities to belong to other organizations or sports teams as youth have today. Our club meetings were a social event for us. One thing I learned from my years in 4-H that still influence my life today is working as a team and the importance of giving back for all that I have received.

An interesting thing that has happened to me while in the 4-H program is that I have gone from being a member to a 4-H leader. I have been a leader for 55 years. I enjoy the young people I work with. I help with projects whenever I am needed. Encouraging young people to get involved in community projects and teaching them to write grants to get the money to finance their projects has been a big part of the work I do with members. I like to encourage them to become involved in Adult/Youth partnerships. I have always been proud of the involvement of our family in the 4-H Program. At one time we were represented with 4 generations in our club at one time. My mother was a leader, I was a leader, my son and daughter-in-law were leaders and my 2 grandsons were members.

I have served on the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders Board for more years than I can remember. I served as president for many years. I have worked in departments at the fair since 1960. I have been recognized many times for my contributions to the program but when I look back I always realize how much I have learned from the members. When I see the exhibits at the fair, see a member get up and emcee, or take part in drama or music, I know the time I spend working with youth is well spent. This past Fall I was inducted into the Wisconsin State 4-H Hall of Fame. It was a most humbling experience. I was being recognized for doing something I enjoy.





## *Dylan Lemke* *Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Dylan Lemke joined the Hi-Lo's Club in 1992. His club leaders were Lori Lemke (his mother), Caroline Lemke (his grandmother), and Arvilla Crass (his great-grandmother).

The projects he carried were Foods, Woodworking, Photography, Flowers, Youth Leadership,

Natural Sciences, and Citizenship. "It was a fun time having Mom and Grandma teach me new recipes. I also got to test the smoke alarms a few times during my training. Mom didn't always appreciate that," Dylan said.



Dylan had an opportunity to go on many 4-H trips which he enjoyed. The American Spirit Trip was his favorite. He enjoyed seeing where our country's history took place. He liked his trips to Washington D.C. because he met members from other parts of the United States.

One of his favorite 4-H memories was working with his parents as they taught him new skills. He loved the fair. He was a 4-H ambassador and always worked at the fair. He loved to see the unique displays and the individual creativity.

He took part in Drama and Lip Sync Contests. He won many Best Actor Awards and Blue Ribbons in Lip Sync. "My brother, cousin, and I would always perform Lip Sync together. My favorite part was playing Jiminy Cricket," he said.

"4-H taught me hard work, passion and desire. If you have passion for something, work hard and never quit you will be successful," Dylan said.

His favorite memories were of the fair. He was at the fairgrounds early in the morning and stayed late at night. Dylan spent a lot of money on cotton candy and ice cream.

Today Dylan lives in Austin, Texas. He is Head Golf Pro and Manages the Blue Bonnet Golf Course.



## *Justin Lemke* *Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

My name is Justin Lemke and I joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in 1991. My first leaders were Arvilla Crass my Great-Grandmother, Caroline Lemke my Grandmother, and Lori Lemke my Mother. My projects were flowers, woods, cultural arts, models, natural sciences, photography, youth leadership, citizenship, electricity and

computers. Woodworking and natural sciences were my favorite projects. Both are still part of my life today. My job is in construction and I build furniture in my spare time. My hobbies are hunting and fishing.



I had a chance to attend many 4-H trips. I attended the State 4-H Congress in Madison, the 9 day American Spirit Trip, 2 trips to Washington D.C. and the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. I loved meeting all kinds of new people. I gained confidence from meeting so many new friends and learning how to communicate with them. This still influences me today.

My brother, cousin, and I always entered the Lip Sync Contest. We won a Blue Ribbon every year. It was fun but we also learned how to present ourselves in front of an audience. We also took part in the Drama Contest.

I loved our involvement in the community projects. We built roofs over baseball dugouts, a ramp for the Historical Society Building, a walking bridge for the hiking trail in Bradley Park, landscaping at the Historical Society, building picnic tables and benches for the fairgrounds, and many others. They were all learning projects.

I feel we learned more about team work when I was in 4-H. Today kids have more technology to aid them so they don't have to depend on other members. Technology is a big part of their lives today.

I served as an Ambassador while a member in 4-H. It was a great learning experience. I developed skills for working and communicating with people. This is an important asset when I have to communicate with people in my work today.

You can't go wrong with 4-H.



*Lori Lemke*

*Lucky Lakers 4-H Club and Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Lori thought she joined 4-H when she was in Junior High School. She was living in Rib Lake, Wisconsin in Taylor County. She belonged to the Lucky Lakers 4-H Club.

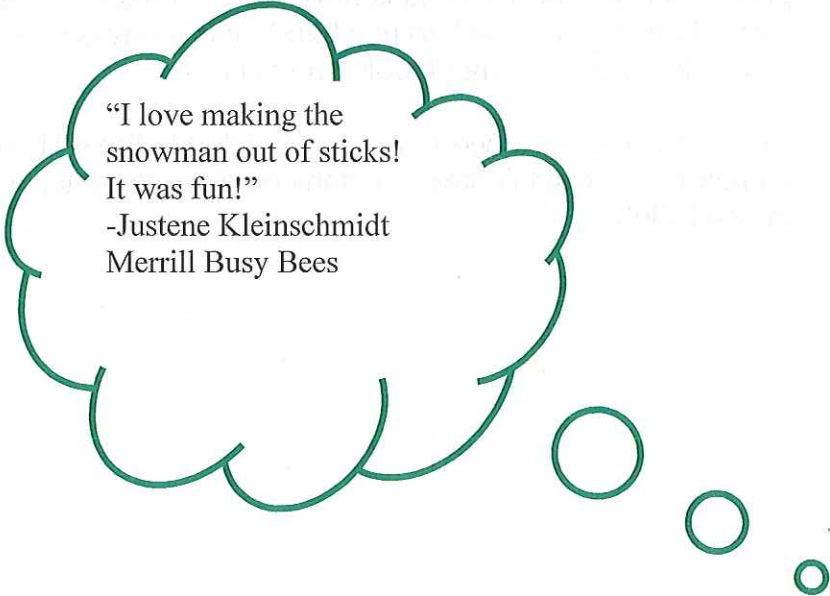
Sandy Rizzi was her project leader. She taught Lori to knit and crochet. The school bus would drop her off at the Rizzi home after school and they would have lessons. Her projects were knitting, crocheting and gardening. She still knits and crochets today and she is a great gardener.

She like the new friends she made and she loved taking her projects to the fair.

She remembered going to summer camp at Camp Forest Springs. She tried to learn to swim but didn't succeed. She liked the camp fire and the singing but she couldn't wait to go home.

Lori has been a leader for the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club for over 25 years. She serves on the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders Board. She was advisor to the Lincoln County Ambassadors for many years and was a chaperone for 4-H member trips. She is chairman for the photography department at the fair. Lori has been recognized as Outstanding Fair volunteer.

She has given many hours of her time to the 4-H program in Lincoln County.



"I love making the  
snowman out of sticks!  
It was fun!"

-Justene Kleinschmidt  
Merrill Busy Bees

## *Marty Lemke*

### *Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Marty Lemke was living in the Road Lake area in Tomahawk, Wisconsin when he joined 4-H in 1970. His leaders were Caroline Lemke (his mother) and Arvilla Crass (his grandmother).

The projects he carried were woodworking, electricity, photography, and nature projects. He loved working with wood and building things. He carried the woodworking project for his entire 4-H career and became very proficient using wood tools. He and his wife bought a home and completely remodeled it. He learned skills from many of his other projects that he still uses today.

He loved the outdoor field trips the club went on. They learned so much about the outdoors and how taking care of our environment determined how much wildlife remained around.

He enjoyed going to Camp Susan. The Fair was a great part of his summer. He looked forward to entering the items he had made during the year. He made many new friends at the fair and he looked forward to seeing them each summer.

He and his friend took part in the Demonstration Contest every year. They were a good team and won many Blue Ribbons. "I learned how to organize a demonstration and speak in front of an audience. It was good training. I can still get up in front of a group and express myself," he said.

I learned to use many hand tools in my woods projects. We didn't have all the power tools available that kids have today. I became very proficient using hand tools. I enjoy going back to use hand tools today on many of my projects. It takes skill to use the hand tools," he said.

He felt 4-H members were more committed to the 4-H program when he was a member. They didn't have so many outside interests. They devoted their time to the 4-H Club.



*Pat Lemke*  
*Road Lake 4-H Club*

Pat (Crass) Lemke joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1939. Her leader was her Mother, Mrs. Arvilla Crass.

She remembered carrying the sewing project. Her mother taught her to sew. She always had some sewing articles completed to take to the fair. Her mother was very involved with 4-H as a leader for 55 years.

My favorite 4-H memory is "competing in the horse show for the chance to go to state."

-Lynn Simon  
Merrill Busy Bees

My favorite 4-H memory is "going to the state horse show and my daughter ran her best pole run ever! 20 seconds. Grand champ!!"

-Jane Schulz  
Merrill Busy Bees

"I enjoyed all of the years of entering flowers for 4-H."

-Lea Kultgen  
Merrill Busy Bees

## *Paul Lemke*

### *Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Paul joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in the early 60's in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. His leaders were Mrs. Arvilla Crass (his Grandmother) and Caroline Lemke. Some of the projects he carried were Home Furnishings, Photography, Flowers and House Plants, and Foods. Flowers and House Plants were his favorite project and one he excelled in. He enjoyed learning about flowers and trees and how they can be incorporated into a beautiful lawn.

He thought it was exciting to watch the judging and listening to the comments about flowers and plants. It was interesting to hear why the judge thought a bloom should receive a Blue Ribbon or a Best of Show. Making new friends and good memories at Camp Susan was a good memory he had of 4-H. When asked what he remembered most about 4-H he listed attending Camp Susan, hot days at the fair, and involvement in community service projects.

After graduating from 4-H, Paul and his wife were project leaders with the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club. Paul supervised some of the big community projects the club undertook. Paul spent many hours helping members with grant writing and supervising and teaching skills for their community projects.

He compared 4-H members today with those of his day. He felt 4-H members today have more sports teams and other organizations to join. "We had to create our fun. Our club had picnics, sledding parties, Halloween parties, and such." He said. The fair was a big deal....It was later in the year and we had more time to complete our projects.

4-H had big influence on his life. He learned that good results come from hard work. Always be willing to help those in need and look for ways to help improve the community.

Paul hoped that after many years in 4-H as a member and as a project leader while his son and daughter were members he hoped he would see his grandson and granddaughter become members.



*Barb Paulus*

*Madison All Stars, Doering Dodgers, and Barnes Creek  
Buccaneers 4-H Club*

My name is Barb Paulus. I joined 4-H in 1968 and was living in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin at the time. I have been a part of the Madison All-Stars, Doering Dodgers and the Barnes Creek Buccaneers.

Some of my leaders were Blanch Tagge, Jean DeSnidt, Edith Tauschek, Kaye Zimmerman, Elaine Koeppel, Roy Kelmarren, and Mary and Al Fenner.

Projects I carried were Sewing, Knitting, Foods, Jr. Leadership, Music and Drama, Photography, and Canning. My favorite projects were foods. We had lots of meetings, and Jr. Leadership. We had county events for teens with inter-club activities and statewide events.

Exciting times for me were 4-H camp, club Congress, Winter Workshops and Drama Festivals. We performed at the State Fair and Farm Progress Days. I was excited to be chosen to exhibit at the State Fair.

Memories from 4-H included playing on the Jr. and Sr. softball teams. We practiced 2 or 3 times a week and held the county title for several years.

We didn't have after school activities. We were rural and we were happy to bike to the neighbors for meetings or ball practice. Parents took turns hosting the club but didn't drive us all around.

I participated in demonstration contest. I gave talks at many public speaking events. As a result, I am not shy and have learned to be confident.

We learned to have a friend and be a friend. Camp taught us to work with all ages. Club Congress let me live in a big city for a week. Jr. Leadership opened friendships inter-county for me. I am still friends with many in our 50 member club. My mom still keeps in contact with other leaders.

*Juri Paulus*

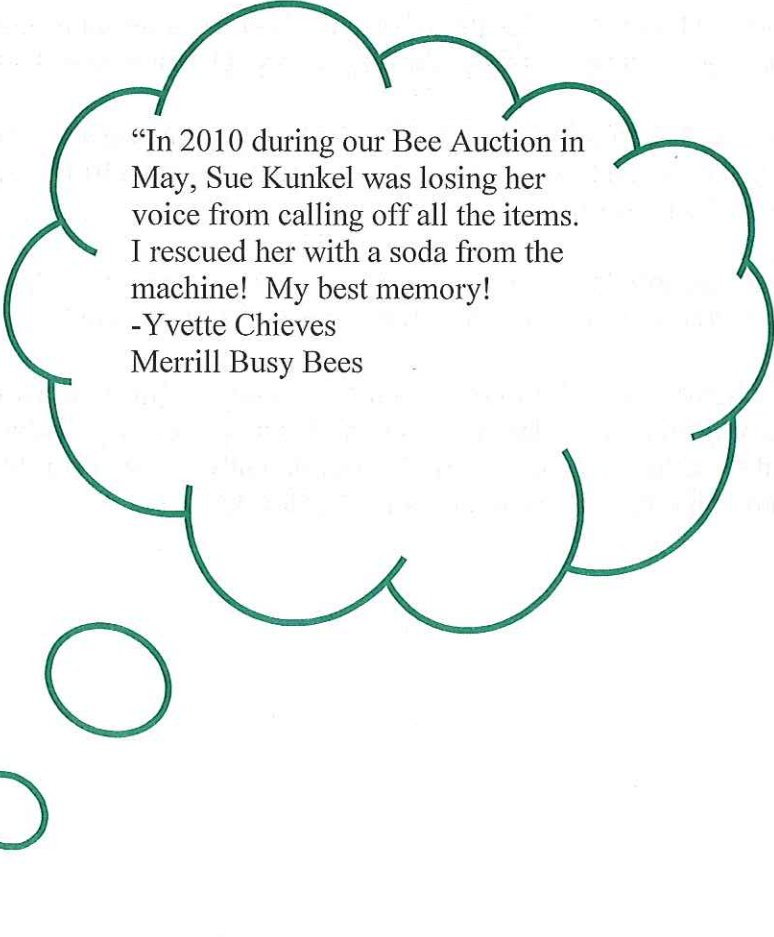
*Barnes Creek Buccaneers 4-H Club*

My name is Juru Paulus and I joined the Barnes Creek Buccaneers 4-H Club in 1998. I was living in Gleason, WI at the time. My leaders were Barb Paulus and Linda Burhans.

I carried the Art Project. It was something I was always good at. I was an exchange student through 4-H so that alone was exciting. I also enjoyed summer camp and Youth Leader Camp. They were fun.

Members now (including us) seem to be busier so it is harder to get together and work together as a club.

Meeting people from all over the world through 4-H was the best thing that happened to our family. We still have contacts with some of them. This has been an influence on my life today.



"In 2010 during our Bee Auction in May, Sue Kunkel was losing her voice from calling off all the items. I rescued her with a soda from the machine! My best memory!  
-Yvette Chieves  
Merrill Busy Bees



*Shannon Radtke*  
*Bits N' Bridles 4-H Club*

My name is Shannon Radtke and I was living in Tomahawk when I joined the Bits N' Bridles 4-H Club in 1983.

Alice Redmond was my leader. I was interested in Horses and Plant Projects.

I have always loved horses. The first year I was in 4-H I used a horse from the Cottrell Family. After that I had my own horse named Love Bug.



The most exciting thing that happened to me in 4-H was winning at the County Horse Show. I remember the project meetings and the Horse Shows. I think when I was a member more activities were led by the leader. Now it is more self-study which can make it more difficult to try new things.

Sharing and having fun as a group was important to me when I was a member and it still influences my life today.

I remember one horse show when the judge asked a question of me and another rider. The other rider got it correct and she won. Up until then it had been a tie. If I had studied the parts of a horse I could have won. I learned a valuable lesson.

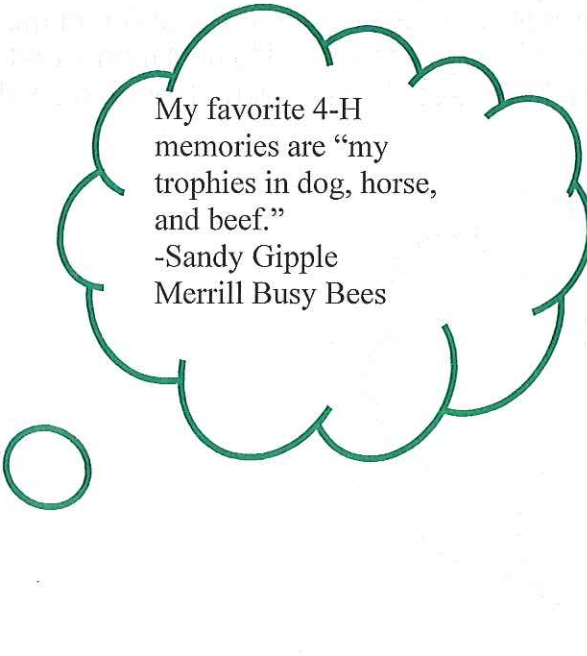
My favorite 4-H memory is  
"taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in dog  
agility, obedience, and  
showmanship."

-Brianna Maas  
Merrill Busy Bees

## *Mary (Postl) Smith* *Moonspinners 4-H Club*

It was 1963 when Mary (Postl) Smith joined 4-H. She was part of the Moonspinners 4-H Club which was then led by Mrs. Vivian Postl, Mrs. Van Norman and Mrs. Elaine Kahn. The projects Mary was involved with included sewing, foods, childcare, junior leadership, speaking, and demonstrating. Sewing was her favorite project. "I loved it, then and it became my passion." She said. She especially enjoyed the dress revue.

What Mary learned in 4-H definitely stuck with her. The areas she worked with became her passion and prepared her for her career. Mary recently retired from 35 years of teaching Family and Consumer Education (Home Economics) at the Tomahawk School District where she had the pleasure of teaching over 10,000 students. The speaking and demonstrating projects in 4-H, she said, helped her to become a better teacher. Through 4-H, she also learned self-confidence, organization, and how to commit to a project. To sum up her 4-H experience, Mary said, "I am not sure where or what I would have done if not for 4-H."



My favorite 4-H  
memories are "my  
trophies in dog, horse,  
and beef."

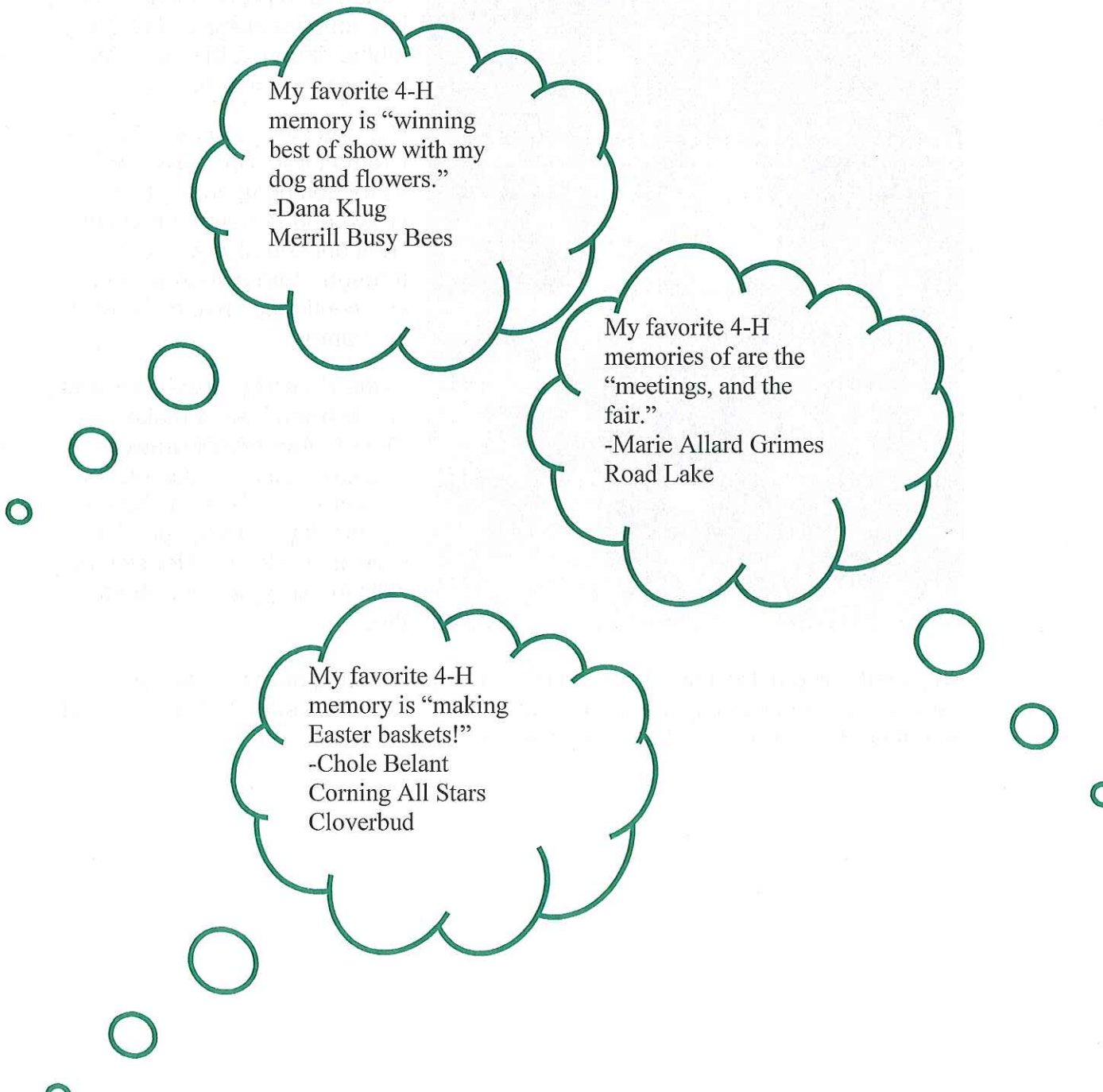
-Sandy Gipple  
Merrill Busy Bees



## *Sherry (Young) Thompson* *Road Lake 4-H Club*

Sherry joined the Road Lake 4-H Club in 1945. She was living in the Road Lake area south of Tomahawk. Mrs. Lillian Allord was her leader.

The projects she carried were sewing, canning, baking, and junior leadership. Sewing was her favorite project. She learned how to sew. She won many blue ribbons in this project. A real bonus to this project was having something new to wear.



My favorite 4-H  
memory is "winning  
best of show with my  
dog and flowers."

-Dana Klug  
Merrill Busy Bees

My favorite 4-H  
memories of are the  
"meetings, and the  
fair."

-Marie Allard Grimes  
Road Lake

My favorite 4-H  
memory is "making  
Easter baskets!"

-Chole Belant  
Corning All Stars  
Cloverbud

## *Patricia (Stephan) Urban* *Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Pat grew up in rural Tomahawk and joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club around 1957-1958. Her leaders were Caroline Lemke and Arvilla Crass. The projects she carried were Foods and Nutrition, Photography, Forestry, and Home Furnishings. Photography was her favorite project. She has continued taking pictures all her



life. She said pictures hold memories of the past, when having little was okay. She remembered winning a blue ribbon for a photo she took of her younger sister and winning a blue ribbon at the fair. She still has the picture.

Pat was always involved in the Drama Fest. She said it was scary getting up in front of a crowd and remembering your lines but she always came through. She gained a lot of self-confidence being involved in Drama.

In the Home Furnishing Project she learned how to make dividers for dresser drawers. She won a blue ribbon on a drawer she entered at the fair. To this day she arranges her drawers perfectly. Her sisters still laughingly kid her about this.

Pat loved going to the fair. It was an exciting time entering her exhibits. "It always made me feel important and proud of my work," she stated. She said 4-H taught her to be self-reliant and responsible.



*Nicole Welke*  
*Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

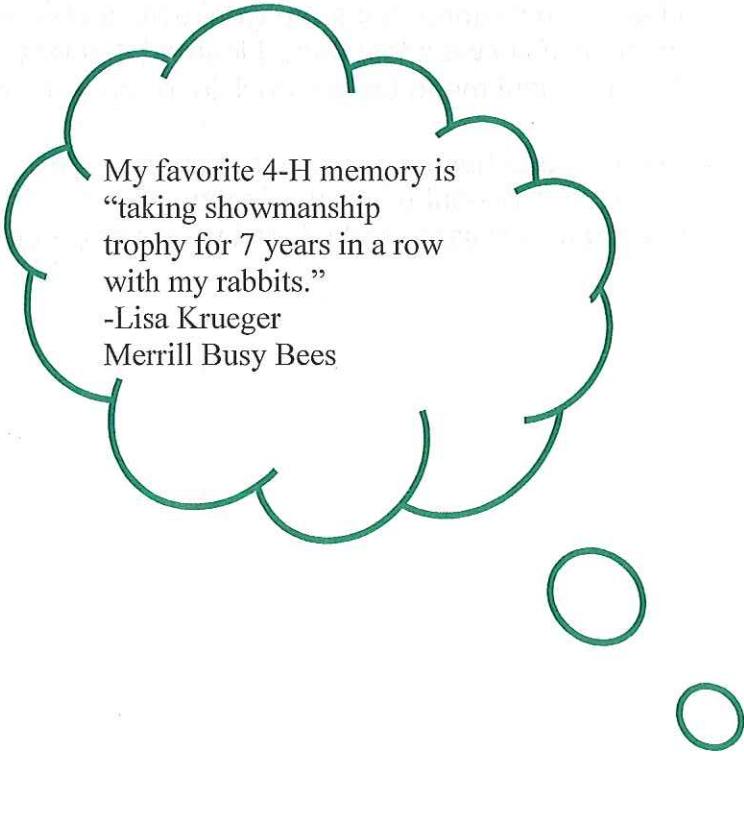
Nicole joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in either 1998 or 1999. She was living west of Tomahawk at the time.

Her first leaders were Caroline Lemke and Lori Lemke. The projects she carried were clothing, foods, dogs, photography, home environment, arts and crafts, and vegetables. Her favorites were probably sewing and photography because she still uses those skills today.

"My trip to Washington D.C. was exciting but it couldn't equal an experience at 4-H Club Camp. I was a counselor, and a bear and its cub were eating out of the dumpster right outside the cabins. As a counselor we had to evacuate the campers up to the main hall. It was terrifying but a great learning experience in leading through the fear and the unexpected," she said.

I made many friends in my club and at the fair. I also remember serving on the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders Board. I learned so much," she said.

"The skills 4-H teaches are less common in their peers who are not part of 4-H. The leadership skills and experience I gained I use each and every day...I may not be where I am today without the leadership experience I gain through 4-H," Nicole said.



My favorite 4-H memory is  
"taking showmanship  
trophy for 7 years in a row  
with my rabbits."

-Lisa Krueger  
Merrill Busy Bees

*Debi (Lamer) Winkelman*  
*Hi-Lo's 4-H Club*

Debi (Lamer) Winkelman joined the Hi-Lo's 4-H Club in 1960. I was living in the City of Tomahawk at the time. My first leaders were Arvilla Crass and Caroline Lemke.

The projects I carried were sewing, home improvement, and forestry. I think sewing was my favorite. I was in the dress revue and I won a ribbon. I was so proud and excited.

The most exciting thing that happened to me during my years in 4-H had nothing to do with my projects. One year Minnie Pearl was appearing at the grandstand for the evening entertainment. I got to meet her after the evening show and had my picture taken with her. I was thrilled.

I always enjoyed being in the dress revue. I liked going to Camp Susan with other club members. I have fond memories of going down to the fairgrounds the Sunday before the fair to put up our club booth. It always seemed to be really hot that Sunday. But it was fun with everyone working together.

I think 4-H members have more opportunities to go places and try new things today. And they have such a list of fantastic projects to try. The program has really evolved since I was a member.

I learned how important team work was, and is, today. We can accomplish most anything if we work together. I learned that when you start something you finish it. 4-H taught me to be responsible for my actions and I learned to be confident.

They used to have an ice cream booth underneath the grandstand, right next to the ramp that went under the grandstand. I got to work in the booth and scoop ice cream one year. Did I think I was important!!!!



## Do you have a story you'd like to share about your 4-H involvement?

Lincoln County 4-H will be 100 years old in 2020. We are planning to do a second edition of the "Interesting, Informative Stories of Past 4-H Members" booklet as part of our celebration. To have your story included in the second edition, please fill out the following questionnaire and return to the UW-Extension Office at 801 N. Sales Street, Suite 101, Merrill, WI 54452 along with a photo(s) you choose to share. We will use this information to create a story to include in the second edition that will be made available to the public as part of Lincoln County 4-H's 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration in 2020.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (include city, state and zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to publish story and/or photo:

*By signing below and completing this form or participating in an interview, I grant permission to have my story and/or photo published in the centennial stories booklet being produced and sponsored by the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. as part of the Lincoln County 100<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2020.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Please respond to the following questions about your 4-H experiences:

1. What year did you join 4-H?
2. Where were you living when you became a 4-H member?
3. Do you remember the name of some of your leaders? If yes, please list them.
4. What projects did you carry?
5. Which project was your favorite and why?

6. What was the most exciting thing that happened to you in 4-H?

7. What do you remember most about your years in 4-H?

8. How do you think 4-H members differ today from the members when you belonged to 4-H?

9. Did you learn something in 4-H that still influences your life today? If yes, please explain.

10. Please tell us about interesting incidents that happened to you while you were a 4-H member?

11. Would you like to share a photo(s) of you either from today or when you were a 4-H member? We would make a copy and send the originals back to you.



## The History of Lincoln County 4-H

Since 1914, Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development has prepared young people for cutting-edge careers. Whether through the corn and canning clubs of yesterday or the STEM, communications and leadership activities of today, Wisconsin 4-H imparts leadership and life skills that are critical for future success. A national study shows that youth involved in 4-H Youth Development excel beyond their peers in academic achievement, healthy living and civic engagement.

In the early 1920's, under the guidance and encouragement of A.H. Cole, the Lincoln County Agent, the first clubs were organized in Lincoln County in Tomahawk. T.L. Berwick, the State 4-H Club Leader and Mildred Hagerty, Assistant State Club Leader, worked with farm families and rural school teachers to interest the young people in club work. With the help of Florence Dunn, these leaders organized a number of clubs in the northern part of the county. Hulda Vonderheid, a Pine River school teacher, became a leader in the organizational movement of clubs in the southern part of the county.

The idea of 4-H clubs became very popular the first couple of years after being introduced in Tomahawk. The early meetings were held in the schools. Teachers spared the time to help with club work. Some of the schools that first served the 4-H clubs were Harmony, Tripoli, Mitchell, Gladfelter, Spirit Falls, Bigelow, Fulscher, Skanawan, Nash, Irma and the city public and parochial schools of Tomahawk.

The first projects were calf raising, poultry, and canning. Girls were taught canning and food preparation. Much effort was used to encourage farm youth to appreciate purebred and high grade livestock. In the early 1920's, the term 4-H became the accepted title for club work. "4-H club" and "4-H club work" replaced previous titles such as boys and girls clubs and canning and corn clubs.

In the late 1920's 4-H clubs became a major part of the county fair as members, parents and leaders became more interested in competition at the fair. In addition, 4-H club members paraded their livestock in front of the Grandstand to start the fair in Lincoln County each year.

In the 1930 and 40's, the 4-H club program grew rapidly throughout Lincoln County, due to the untiring efforts of parents who volunteered to be club leaders, rural schoolteachers, and other persons who were in positions of influence. With the rapid growth of the number of 4-H clubs and their memberships, it became necessary to form a 4-H Club Leaders' Association to handle the affairs. The leaders of all the clubs became the membership.

In the 1950's it was recommended that club work be made available to every boy and girl in the state; that urban clubs be planned as project clubs; that all club work in a county be one unified program; that all club bulletins refer to 4-H as a program for all youth, urban and suburban, village and farm.

In the 1960's the use of television in transmitting 4-H programs served as a means for introducing 4-H in the schools. Early programs included: 4-H T.V. Action Club (emergency preparedness), 4-H T.V. Science Club, and 4-H T.V. Photo Fun Club.

In 1973, the first full-time 4-H and Youth Agent was hired in Lincoln County. In addition to working with the 4-H club program, half of the agent's time was designated to work in community youth development. Prior to hiring a full-time 4-H and Youth Agent, the Agricultural Agent, Home Economist and summer agents provided support to the 4-H club program. 4-H continued to grow in the 70's and 80's, with enrollment in Lincoln County continuing on the upward trend.

In the 1980's, the "whole child" was the key phrase in the statement on 4-H youth development in Wisconsin. Rich variety in learning experiences offered 4-H members opportunities to participate in programs that related to the historical four "H's". Head - thinking and learning, solving problems, making decisions, and setting goals; Heart - caring, determining values, respecting and supporting one another; Hands - using new skills to create, build, design, or shape; Health - forming attitudes, habits and life styles that enhance physical and mental well-being.

During the 1990's the Lincoln County 4-H program placed special emphasis on expanding opportunities for older youth in an effort to retain older youth members. Opportunities included serving as Youth Directors on the county 4-H Board, recruiting older youth to serve as instructors for countywide project trainings, expanding the role and number of 4-H Ambassadors, Teen Weekend's, and Career Days. In 1994, the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association became a legal corporation. Its purpose and mission continued to provide programs and learning opportunities for all youth.

A national strategic plan in 2000, identified goals in five major areas for the vision of what the 4-H youth development program will be like in the future: Power of Youth; Access, Equity and Opportunity; An Extraordinary Place to Learn; Exceptional People, Innovative Practices; Effective Organizational Systems. The Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association initiated the creation of the Lincoln County 4-H Endowment Fund in 2003 to provide long-range support for the Lincoln County 4-H Program. During the 2000's the following programs were initiated to provide increase 4-H youth development opportunities to youth in Lincoln County: 4-H Youth Market Place, After the Bell, Lincoln County Teen Court, and 4-H after school clubs.

Today in Lincoln, there are thirteen active community 4-H clubs and five after school clubs involving nearly 500 youth and 200 adult volunteer leaders. 4-H members are able to choose from over 80 projects ranging from youth leadership, to robotics, to woodworking, and the arts. Additional youth are reached through special interest programs including camps, project days, and Lincoln County Teen Court.



### **TIMELINE OF WISCONSIN 4-H HISTORY**

**September 27-30, 1904** - Ransom Asa Moore, director of the UW-Madison College of Agriculture Short Course, held the first countywide roundup corn show at Richland Center.

**1909** – Moore held a youth Short Course on the campus, during the same week as the college-level short course. 25 were in attendance.

**1910** – 45 fairs in Wisconsin had corn growing contests. This year the Short Course had 44 girls in attendance.

**1912** – The first county Cooperative Extension agent is hired in Oneida County, marking the beginning of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin.

**1914** – Passage of the Smith-Lever Act by Congress on May 8 made possible the Cooperative Extension Service funded by federal, state and local (county) governments. Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, including boys' and girls' club work, became the delivery system for taking the research of the land grant colleges (in Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture) and agricultural experiment stations to farm families.

**1914** – On July 1, Thomas L. Bewick was appointed in the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture Agronomy Department to assist Professor Moore in his work with ten thousand or more rural young people throughout the state. On October 1, Mr. Bewick was appointed Wisconsin's first State Leader of Boys' and Girls' (4-H) Club Work with the new Cooperative Extension Service.

**October 30, 1914** – Linn 4-H club began under the guidance of Thomas L. Bewick, Wisconsin's first State 4-H Leader. He served for more than 40 years.

**1915** – The first State Fair exhibit of boys and girls club work was arranged at West Allis. Potato, dairy calf and pig projects were featured.

**1916** – Wisconsin State (4-H) Club Leader, T.L. Bewick and other state boys and girls club leaders identified green and white as the national club work colors; the four-leaf clover as the club work emblem; and "Not Our Bit, But Our Best" as the club work motto. The first recognized Junior State Fair department was set up in a tent camp.

**1917** – More than 26,000 youth enrolled in Extension's boys' and girls' clubs during World War I.

**1917** – Elizabeth Amery was hired as Assistant State 4-H Leader. She was the first home economist on the staff. This was a part of the war effort. Her members worked under the pledge: "My Head, my Heart, my Hands and my Health for food production and conservation, to help with the war and the peace." The first year each member was to preserve five pints of fruit and five pints of vegetables. The next year it was ten pints each. They had to keep records, make an exhibit and teach others the cold pack method of preserving food.

**1917** – Boys and girls club members participated in the first annual junior livestock exposition sponsored by the Wisconsin Live Stock Breeders Association.

**1918** – First State Club Week (State 4-H Congress) was held at the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture in Madison.

**1919** – The first 4-H Leaders Handbook was issued.

**1919** – Wisconsin boys and girls clubs participated in the U.S. Garden Army to boost the production of food for defense during World War I.

**1920** – The 4-H motto was changed from “Not Our Bit, But Our Best” to “Make the Best Better.”

**1920** – The State Club Staff issued the original Wisconsin volunteer 4-H leaders handbook.

**1921** – First Extension agent employed and paid by the county to work with boys and girls club programs was Wakelin McNeel in Marathon County. Businessmen and leaders of agricultural organizations established the National 4-H Service Committee as a non-government organization to help further the 4 H movement through private support.

**1922** – First National 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago.

**1923** – A few part-time paid county leaders hired.

**1924** – 4-H is recognized as the official name for Extension boys’ and girls’ clubs.

**1924** – The first home economics judging team sent to Club Congress.

**1924** – Geneva Amundson of Trempealeau County took top honors in the first National 4-H Dress Revue at National Club Congress with a red woolen dress she made herself.

**1925** – The first 4-H club camps established in Wisconsin in Shawano and Rusk Counties, and in Langlade and Marinette Counties a year later.

**1925** – 14 different projects offered with an enrollment of 32,948.

**1925** – Staging of the first state 4-H Girls Dress Revue at State Fair.

**1926** – County leader organizations began forming, adopted unified programs and began holding county leadership training meetings.

**1927** – First full-time county club agents appointed by Cooperative Extension with federal funding to do primarily youth work included: C.J. McAleavy, Marathon; Bruce Cartter, Marinette; and Ben Hauser, Milwaukee.

**1927** – Wisconsin sent delegates to first National 4-H Club Camp (National 4-H Conference) in Washington, D.C.



**1928** – First three school forests dedicated in Forest County. 28 county club agents hired on a temporary summer basis.

**1929** – First statewide drama contest at the State 4-H Club Week. Forty plays from nine counties with the 4-H Boosters of Marinette County as the winner. They put on "Early Ohios and Rhode Island Reds". They also performed at the National 4-H Club Congress.

**1929** – Wakelin McNeel and Verne Varney inaugurated the first series of weekly radio sketches over WHA.

**1929** – Helen Haldiman of Green County won the Thomas Lipton cup for achievement. Later she became the Douglas County Home Agent.

**1930** – Club work was a part of every county agent's program.

**1930** – Professor Ransom A. Moore was made an honorary member of Wisconsin 4-H during a ceremony dedicating the 4-H Club Knoll set aside by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents near Agricultural Hall on the University of Wisconsin Madison Campus.

**1932** – More than 4000 members went to 16 different 4-H camps.

**1933** – State club staff member, Wakelin "Ranger Mac" McNeel, initiated "Afield with Ranger Mac," a weekly feature for schools on radio station WHA.

**1934** – There were 3 or 4 county based gatherings to help local planning of programs, judging, demonstrations, music and drama.

**1937** – Six counties hired club agents.

**1938** – State 4-H enrollment reaches 30,877—largest number to this point. Dairy and Field Crops are the most popular projects. Nearly 10,000 girls enroll in the clothing project.

**1939** – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 4-H. 75 leaders honored by the state for 10 to 21 years of work. Oscar Hafs and May Hatch of Walworth County honored for 21 years, Ella McCarthy of Dane County and Mrs. Jennie Heifferman of Rusk County honored for 18 years. Three others well known for their work were recognized: Veva Divan of Green County, George Price of Kenosha County and Frieda Justman of Shawano County.

**1940** – First 4-H camp in southwest Wisconsin is held at Wyalusing State Park in Grant County. 60 4-H'ers from Grant and Crawford Counties attended.

**1941** – Elizabeth Upham Davis and Caroline Upham Keene chose to memorialize their parents, Horace and Mary Upham, by giving 310 acres of land near Wisconsin Dells to the University of Wisconsin to be used as a nature laboratory and youth camp. Wakelin McNeel (Ranger Mac), Assistant State 4-H Club Leader, was instrumental in procuring the land, to be known as Upham Woods, for use by 4-H clubs and other people cooperating with the University.

**1941** – There was a war defense emphasis in 4-H posters, bulletins and over WHA radio. County agents had a heavy defense emphasis. Local leaders had to do most of the 4-H leadership. Over 1000 4-H members (boys) joined the armed services. Over 8,000 girls worked in the fields. Victory gardens were emphasized.

**1942** – For wartime service and victory projects members collected 5,616,000 pounds of scrap metal and 559,000 pounds of paper and rags for salvage use.

**1944** – Enrollment dropped, but only by 1,000. The drop was mainly in the older age brackets...the boys were in the service.

**1946** – Wakelin McNeel was the State 4-H Leader. 30 counties had 4-H Club Agents. 59 Home Agents helped with projects.

**1947** – Wisconsin 4-H club enrollment reaches 36,486 members: 18,200 boys and 18,286 girls. The first 4-H Health camp was held at Green Lake.

**1947** – Farm safety activities were popular -- 14,000 members took part in farm hazard inspections, speaking contests, leader training, and trip awards.

**1948** – Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Agents was organized.

**1949** – Teams from 50 counties gave daily demonstrations at the State Fair – along with dress revues, chorus, marching bands, citizenship ceremony, tractor operator contest, booth displays and calf shows. New projects were health, music, drama, citizenship, religion, stewardship of natural resources and home improvement.

**1950** – Clover leaf pins and certificates were awarded to Wisconsin pioneer club leaders according to years of service.

**1951** – Wisconsin initiated its participation in both the outbound and inbound phases of the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) Program. Eldora Keske of Milwaukee County 4-H, Lois Linse of Buffalo County 4-H, and Burton Olson of Vernon County 4-H were Wisconsin's first IFYE Representatives to travel abroad. Four youth came to Wisconsin from Germany, Finland, France and Belgium.

**1952** – The Wisconsin 4-H Leaders Council was organized. Members represented the eight supervisory districts.

**1953** – Wisconsin 4-H Club Foundation was approved by University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and incorporated in 1954 to help finance club work in special areas and to supplement state appropriations and other funds. The Foundation supported Upham Woods, IFYE, adult and junior leader training, awards, scholarships and trips.

- Past Presidents included:
  - James Murphy, who was the Walworth County Agriculture Agent in 1915 and then owned Murphy Products first in Delavan and then in Burlington
  - Walter Renk from Sun Prairie, farmer and grain dealer



- Arlie Mucks, Barron County Extension agent, animal husbandry specialist, and Assistant Agriculture Program Leader
- Ed Parminter, Dodge County 4-H Agent, Milwaukee County 4-H Agent, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

**1955** – Federal funds received to experiment in urban 4-H.

**1955** – Fifty-nine counties participated in the first annual presentation of the Wisconsin 4-H Key Awards.

**1956** – A group of Wisconsin 4-H leaders and county agents meeting in Sheboygan in April recommended that club work be made available to every boy and girl in the state; that urban clubs be planned as project clubs; that all club work in a county be one unified program; that advisory committees be chosen for urban areas; that suitable projects for urban areas be explored and developed; and that club bulletins refer to 4-H as a program for all youth, urban and suburban, village and farm.

**1956** – Wisconsin Junior Leaders Council formed during State 4-H Week in Madison.

**1957** – The University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture was the midpoint assembly for 176 International Farm Youth Exchanges (IFYE) from 40 counties before they went to their next host families. Photography and floriculture were popular additions to the project listing.

**1958** – Wisconsin followed the national 4-H recommendation and changed graduation from 4-H from 21 years of age to 19 years of age.

**1959** – There were 12,344 adult leaders and 2,315 urban members. Of the latter, 1,875 were from rural non-farm homes. A Wisconsin room at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D. C. was furnished in memory of T. L. Bewick, Wakelin McNeel and J.A. Craig.

- **Thomas L. Bewick** was a song writer and State Leader. He arranged “Sing Your Way Home” for 4-Hers and was part of the Squeaky Hinge Quartet. That included Verne Varney, C. J. Chapman and R. E. Vaughan. Bewick wrote songs and lyrics for various events.
- **J. A. Craig** of Janesville paid the expenses for four young people to National Club Camp for many years. He made the fairgrounds available at cost to Rock County 4-H and the Livestock Associations. He was an original inspirer of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. He was director of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club work for 22 years. He set up a loan fund for Rock County 4-Hers. A cabin at Upham Woods is named in his honor.
- **Wakelin McNeel** (Ranger Mac) had weekly sessions on WHA radio for 21 years. The school forest movement mainly came from his love of trees. At one point there were 300 school forests, especially in northern Wisconsin. They were nature classrooms.

**1960s** – 4-H programs are introduced in several of Wisconsin’s urban centers, including Milwaukee.

**1960** – The 4-H Band and Chorus performed at the State Fair for three days. They went on to the State Teachers Convention in Milwaukee and the State Extension Homemakers Conference and then toured four counties. 46 counties were involved with drama productions. There were 14 district drama festivals and one state drama festival.

**1962** – Wisconsin observed the 50th anniversary of 4-H club work. At the time, some 50,000 club members and 60 county 4-H club agents worked actively alongside 12,000 volunteer leaders.

**1963** – The first 4-H agent training workshop on urban 4-H programming was held.

**1963** – Attention was given to opening 4-H to all sectors of society with special focus on youth from urban areas, minority youth, low-income youth, and youth with developmental disabilities.

**1963** – As 4-H began reaching out to non-farm and special audiences, the number and variety of 4-H project offerings grew. Dog, exploring 4-H, knitting and small engines were among the projects added at the State level.

**1966** - The use of television in transmitting 4-H programs also served as a means for introducing 4-H in the schools. Early programs included: 4-H T.V. Action Club (emergency preparedness), 4-H T.V. Science Club, and 4-H T.V. Photo Fun Club. The first annual Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Show (now WI State 4-H Horse Expo) was held in Madison.

**1967** - The 4-H program officially became known as the State 4-H Youth Development Program.

**1969** - Wisconsin 4-H initiated its involvement in the federally funded Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program as another way of reaching previously unreached groups.

**1970s** – Options for participating in 4-H expanded significantly during the 1970's. In addition to the traditional full year 4-H club, special interest, short term, and mini 4-H (for those under 4-H age), groups came into being.

**1970s** – The idea of life skills was introduced in 4-H programming. The life skills of learning how to learn, relating to others, relating to change, using science and technology, mental and physical health, communicating, decision making, and managing resources, placed emphasis on the 4-H member and his/her development. Greater emphasis was placed on the individual rather than the product or achievement.

**1970s** – Face-to-face judging was introduced at county fairs as a way of improving the educational value of evaluating project exhibits.

**1970s** – As 4-H continued to reach new audiences, the number and variety of 4-H projects also continued to expand with such projects as aerospace, snowmobile, veterinary science, bicycle safety and crocheting. In the latter part of the 1970's such projects as caged birds, caviar, tropical fish and horseless horse were also added at the state level.



**1970s** – Cultural arts projects and activities had much influence on the increasing enrollment of 4-H youth. The number of youth in art and crafts projects grew from 11,365 in 1972 to nearly 21,000 in 1979.

**1970s** – Wisconsin 4-H Adult Leader Council spearheaded a campaign to raise \$70,000 in support of a major building program at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. With all county 4-H programs participating, Wisconsin 4-H met its goal and paid its pledge in 1973.

**1970** – A state historical marker commemorating the first organized boys and girls (4-H) club in Wisconsin after passage of the federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914 was dedicated. The historical marker is located in Linn Township, Walworth County.

**1971** – The first State 4-H Reach Out Group performed at State 4-H Congress. The group used music and drama to explore teen issues and concerns.

**1971** – First time Wisconsin 4-H had teens participating in the International 4-H Youth Exchange to reflect the shift in 4-H population from strictly rural to include rural, rural non-farm, and urban youth.

**1973** – "... And My World" was added to the close of the national 4-H pledge originally adopted in 1927.

**1973** – New federal urban funds added second 4-H youth agent and staff assistant positions in more populated counties, resulting in youth program expansion. A variety of new program models (day camps, special-interest clubs and short-term project clubs) helped 4-H reach more urban youth, at-risk youth, and youth of color.

**1974** – Wisconsin joined with other states nationwide in rejecting a national committee recommendation to discontinue the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better."

**Mid-1970s** – Home and Family projects focused more attention on consumer education and less on technical skills.

**Mid-1970s** – In response to national concerns for energy conservation, Wisconsin 4-H developed a Home Energy Education Program to help 4-H families learn more about energy use and conservation.

**Mid-1970s** – Extension youth staff members were placed at the Milwaukee Zoo and Wehr Nature Center to expand outreach program models.

**Mid-1970s** – The national Civil Rights laws brought about the formation of 4-H Expansion and Review committees to examine current youth demographics and 4-H participation trends and make recommendations for future programming. Based on this information, staff developed active plans to expand 4-H programs to underserved audiences. Staff became conscious of how to plan and conduct programs in non-discriminatory ways.

**Mid-1970s** – There was strong emphasis on developing county level volunteer committees to set program direction, and plan and run county events. Some counties started project area key leader systems.

**1976** – History and Heritage 4-H Projects were very popular with Wisconsin 4-H members and clubs as they joined in the celebrating of America's Bicentennial. The "Family in 4-H" slide/tape program and the home helper concept in working with 4-H members were introduced to reinforce the role of family in 4-H.

**1980** – The first statewide volunteer leader training workshop for Horse project leaders was held at Upham Woods. Other projects initiating statewide leader training workshops during the early 1980's included: dairy, dog, clothing, nutrition and photography.

**1980** – At the 1980 4-H Staff Development Workshop, a building block approach to developing curriculum materials was identified. At this time, 4-H curriculum was described as the impact 4-H has on youth within a specific content area and includes everything participants experience in that 4-H project.

**Early 1980s** – The "whole child" was the key phrase in the statement on 4-H youth development in Wisconsin. Rich variety in learning experiences offered 4-H members opportunities to participate in programs that related to the historical four "H's": Head - thinking and learning, solving problems, making decisions, and setting goals; Heart - caring, determining values, respecting and supporting one another; Hands - using new skills to create, build, design, or shape; Health - forming attitudes, habits and life styles that enhance physical and mental well-being.

**Early 1980s** – "Taking Care: A Way of Life" represented a revised approach to 4-H health projects and activities. The literature encouraged family involvement in decision-making activities that focused on life styles.

**1981** – The Adventures in Dairyland project was introduced for youth interested in learning about dairying without owning an animal.

**1983** – For the first time in its history, Wisconsin 4-H reached over 100,000 young people: 53,859 in 4-H clubs; 46,772 in short-term special interest programs; and 13,244 in other programs.

**Mid 1980s** – There was an increase in staff attention to community youth development, resulting in more cooperative work with other youth-serving agencies.

**1985** – Emphasis on the total family in 4-H was strengthened with the introduction of the Family Times program.

**1985** – The first annual State 4-H/NJHA Horticulture Day was held at UW-Experimental Farms, Arlington.



**1986** – Wisconsin 4-H was awarded a major grant through the National 4-H Council and the W.K. Kellogg Foundations to strengthen volunteerism in the state's 4-H program. The "Volunteer Force," a group of 22 4-H Volunteer leaders from throughout the state, was involved in training other volunteers to accept responsibility for 4-H program management roles.

**1989** – The Extension Service celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act. The 4-H program hosted an anniversary conference at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, April 29-30.

**1989** – UW-Extension Family Living Specialists developed the Teen Assessment Project surveys. 4-H Youth Development and Family Living staff members teamed with specialists to tailor the survey to the interests and needs of a local community. The survey response helped the community understand how they could support positive youth development and discourage problem behaviors.

**1989** – The Youth Futures program was initiated in Wisconsin communities to bring together coalitions of educators, parents, community leaders and youth to develop comprehensive actions plans to address youth issues.

**1990s** – Youth empowerment became a part of on-going work, resulting in greater youth participation in county and state level decision-making groups. Collaboration with other groups such as school systems, non-profits, United Way and human service departments and agencies greatly increased.

**1990s** – School-aged child care programs increased. New programs were developed based on needs identified through child care surveys. 4-H Youth Development staff developed and adapted 4-H curriculum for child care staff to use with 6-12 year olds in after-school programs, day care centers and family day care homes.

**1993** – At a National 4-H Curriculum Conference, a plan was introduced for integrating the experiential learning cycle into the 4-H Curriculum Handbook.

**1994** – A very successful North Central Animal Science curriculum development effort evolved into what is now the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System (4HCCS). By 2001, this cooperative system has produced over 150 curriculum products and includes 39 member states. Staff from Wisconsin were involved in the creation of both the National 4-H Curriculum Criteria as well as served in leadership positions with 4HCCS.

**1994** – The "Youth at Risk" and "Children, Youth and Families at Risk" initiatives merged. The same year, "State Strengthening" grants from the CYFAR funds began providing intensive staff development efforts across the nation.

**Mid-1990s** – Volunteer risk management grew as a concern resulting in a mandatory youth protection system involving volunteer background checks, training, and signing of a behavior agreement.

**Mid-1990s** – There was greater emphasis on community youth programming. Staff position descriptions were revised to reflect this expanded program direction.

**Mid-1990s** – The number of home-schooled youth in 4-H increased in many counties.

**Late 1990s** – State-level support for community youth programming increased through grants and hiring of additional youth development specialists.

**Late 1990s** – There was a renewed focus on civic contributions of 4-H groups via Public Adventures, community service grants, and evaluation of efforts.

**2000s** – 4-H Technology projects are developing along with web pages and programs that help the youth work in our global high tech world.

**2000s** – Extension sets up new partnerships with the University system to provide additional resources for the clubs and the local communities.

**2000s** – Mini-society and other entrepreneurial programs are established, helping youth understand the world from a financial standpoint.

**2000s** – State 4-H Adult Council organizational structure evolves to include one delegate/county or nation who attends an annual statewide meeting. At the annual meeting, an executive board is selected which meets throughout the year. The purpose of the State 4-H Adult Leader Council is to enhance 4-H Youth programming at local, county and state levels.

**2000s** – State 4-H Youth Leader Council evolves their structure to annually elect two youth/district for a two-year term at the State 4-H Youth Conference.

**2000s** – Partnerships were increasingly developed with local schools, neighborhood centers and community organizations to provide 4-H in after-school settings. "Century 21" funding encouraged schools to partner with community organizations to provide additional after-school opportunities for youth in lower income neighborhoods.

**2000s** – Some 4-H Youth Development staff members are involved in establishing Teen Court in their county.

**2002** - Wisconsin and national youth development "conversations" were held to celebrate the National 4-H Centennial. The centennial celebration culminated with a report to the President.

**2002** – Joseph Albert Craig, Rock County 4-H volunteer, inducted in to the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

**2002** – Wakelin "Ranger Mac" McNeel, Wisconsin 4-H Assistant State Club Leader and Upham Woods Superintendent, inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame.

**2009** – State Wisconsin 4-H STEM specialist Catherine Vrentas designs the 4-H National Youth Science Day experiment, Biofuel Blast. Tens of thousands of youth around the country took part in the experiment which was designed to teach about renewable energy sources.



**2011** – Tamara Koop, retired 4-H Youth Development educator in Waukesha County, inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame.

**2012** – Jim Barthel, retired 4-H Youth Development educator in Green and Winnebago Counties, inducted into National 4-H Hall of Fame.

