

# 'I Remember When ...'

By MRS. L. A. McCABE

(We asked Mrs. L. A. McCabe, 17 year leader, to reminisce about the beginnings of the 4-H program in Morrow county.)

The aim of the 4-H program has been basically the same through the years whether you are today's 4-H'er, their parents, or grandparents. The aim has been to teach responsibility through project work, and different projects have been added to keep up with changing times.

## First Club Work in Morrow County

The first project work in the county was organized in 1920 under the leadership of Mrs. Burton Peck and Mrs. Arthur Keene with projects in gardening, cooking and sewing. Among their club members were Irene and Elinor Peck and Mary and Grace Buschke. 4-H work was organized through the schools. This club was school district No. 35 (Upper Rhea Creek).

Irene, now Mrs. Millard Nolan, Lexington, tells of her 4-H experiences in the following words: "The Liv Seed Company sponsored the beginning of our present Garden clubs it would seem.

"They provided the seeds and the club members planted, cultivated, and harvested them and received \$5.00 from the company for their efforts.

"The sewing projects included a patch and a sock with a hole neatly darned. Today's club member no longer has to struggle with these as these requirements were dropped in the late 1940's.

"Boys and girls in the early 4-H club program were expected to earn the money to buy any materials needed for their project. I remember that my sister and I picked gooseberries for 10¢ a gallon to purchase material for our aprons.

"In cooking we made white sauce and corn syrup. I remember taking some pigs to the county fair. But the cooking and sewing groups had a community picnic and exhibit day at Keene's."

## An Early Achievement Day

4-H clubs were organized in the schools by the county superintendent as late as 1940. I recall, as I know many others will, the work of Lucy Rodgers to promote club work in Morrow county (1929-1944.)

About 1930 I remember attending what must have been an exhibit day or achievement day held at the old fair building on lower main street in Heppner. There were demonstrations. I remember particularly someone making a milk drink by putting the ingredients into a fruit jar, attaching a tight fitting lid, and shaking it vigorously for a few minutes and then pouring it into glasses and serving everyone

that watched. The purpose of the demonstration was to show others how easy it was to have a milk shake, without benefit of electricity. I'm sure our family consumed more milk in the next six months just because I'd seen the demonstration. Milk shakes weren't as common or as easily attained then as now. I'm sure anything I have eaten at the modern day "Drive-in" haven't equalled the goodness of that small taste I had that day.

## My Entry Into 4-H Leadership

I had no actual participation in 4-H work until 1944 when one of my daughters enrolled in 4-H clothing at school with the teacher, Mrs. Gladys Ely, as leader. She later found someone else to take the girls clothing project and organized a health club. It was easier to carry on health projects in the school room. This health club developed a short playlet on "Health and 4-H" and gave it at PTA meetings and the achievements party that year.

The principal's wife, Mrs. Ben Forsythe, took charge of the clothing group and enrolled them in a homemaking project. Due to illness in her family she was called away from home. She handed me a stack of project material and said, "You'll see that they complete the years work won't you?"

We did and the girls were so enthused that we started another project the next year. One year we had three projects—foods, clothing, and food preservation.

## Everyone Was Making Sponge Cakes

The first year of foods was called "the Breakfast Club." We learned about muffins and nut-breads.

The second year was the "Luncheon Club," with an exhibit of a sponge cake. So many sponge cakes were made and consumed that little brothers of the girl's families would wail, "Sponge cake again!"

Because of the lack of facilities for demonstrations at the fair grounds in the 1945-49 years the sponge cakes were mixed at the fair grounds and taken down town to "Grandmothers" to bake, then taken back to show the judge.

Many demonstrations were given at fairs in those years. The girls had to cope with the lack of running water, the traffic problem, and NOISE! What a pleasure it is to have the wonderful facilities of the Fair Annex these days for our 4-H exhibits and demonstrations!

## Early Style Revue

The style revue, which is now a major event of the Morrow county fair, had a very small and drab beginning in 1947. A handful of girls, among them Rita and Betty Graves (now a 4-H leader with a 4-H daughter),

June Van Winkle, Faye and Veneta Cutsforth, Lorene Mitchell, and Lola Ann McCabe assembled in the old fair building on north main street. They were "scared stiff" as they walked before the judge and a handful of spectators—most of them mothers.

The judging and style revue were done at the same time then. Now judging is done earlier in the day and a public style revue at night.

The dress revue has grown to some 60 girls now. It has outgrown the present fair pavilion and last year was staged out-of-doors before the rodeo grandstand.

## Extension Takes Over 4-H in 1940

After 1940 the 4-H program became the responsibility of the extension service. Later Morrow county obtained two full-time agents who divided their time between the 4-H and adult program. More contacts were made and the 4-H program grew rapidly. Enrollment has doubled itself in the past ten years. Now there are close to 400 members.

## 4-H Leader Council Organized, 4-H Camp Big Project

A 4-H Leaders council was organized about 1946 to better give information and instruction to the leaders. From this group the dream of a 4-H camp in the mountains became a reality!

The camp was for 9-13 year-olds (not old enough for 4-H Summer School at Corvallis). The camp lacked many things, that first year, but the least of all—campers!

The next year saw improvements such as more tents and a tarp lean-to for the kitchen. The next year the concrete slab was poured for the floor of the present camp shelter. An S.O.S. went out to parents and leaders that Fourth of July to erect the shell of the present kitchen and store room. (At least the food for that year's campers was prepared under a roof). The roof over the dining area was added later.

The camp site and building has been made possible through the efforts of parents, club members and "friends of 4-H." The land was made available by Fred Mankin and Orville Cutsforth, Heppner. With the present facilities it is possible to accommodate 60 nine to thirteen year-olds for three days of crafts, sports, singing, and hikes.

## First Achievement Party

The first achievement party was held in the Lexington Grange hall in 1948. The crowd was small, but the enthusiasm great. Each succeeding year saw the event grow larger and larger—filling the present fair building to capacity. This, and many other 4-H events, are family affairs. Potluck suppers were the order of the day for the achievement parties until the number



MORROW COUNTY'S delegates to the annual 4-H Summer School on the campus of Oregon State University, Corvallis number twenty-seven. (Front row, left to right) George Van Scholack, Ronnie Jones, Tony Doherty, David Van Scholack, Mitchel Ashbeck, Shirley Jackson, Mary Gerberding, Linda Daniels, Martha Doherty. (Second row) Mrs. Weldon Witherrite (Chaperone), Johnny Partlow, Anna Mae McQuaw, Dewena West, Penny Jones.

Jeanne Stockard, Dianne Warren, Arleta McCabe, Patti Collins, Terry Ann Greenup, and N. C. Anderson, County Agent; (back row), Danny Wardwell, David Proudfoot, Howard Calif, Richard Willard, Roland Ekstrom, John Lathrop, Jean Stewart, Judy Smith and Karla Luciani. Delegates must be at least 13 years of age to attend summer school.

# Two Families Hosts to IFYE Students

The Fredrick T. Martin and Keith Rea families of Ione each played host to two IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange) students from Luxembourg and Venezuela this past summer.

## Early Project Materials

The early 4-H projects were written by the three State Extension 4-H staff members, Helen Cowgill, Doc Allen and Harry Seymour. They endeared themselves to all 4-H clubbers even after their retirement in 1947. Since then the project material has been revised many times to meet the needs of the 4-H'er.

## Good For Another Ten Years

Through my 17 years of 4-H leadership I have taken many girls through their 4-H club work. Many are now married and have families of their own. I hope they have learned a tenth of what I learned as their leader. I have two daughters (my second family) who will soon be ready for 4-H work. So it looks like I'll be putting in another ten years!

IFYE is a program for selected farm youth from the United States to live and work with farm families in other countries for four to six months, and for farm youths from cooperating countries to come to the United States to live on farms and in urban homes.

The project is dedicated to the belief that understanding people is the foundation of world peace.

Marie-Victoire von Roessen of Luxembourg, 24, spent the period of August 6 to August 26 with the Martins. She was Catholic and had completed seven years of primary and two years of secondary school. She had always lived on a farm, and had experience with gardening, fruit culture, and cooking. She could read and speak English.

The Rea family hosted Edgar Uzcatequi U. 20, from the University of Venezuela, between September 22, Edgar was also Catholic and had completed secondary education. His family owned a large ranch where their major crops were coffee, sugar cane, and small fruits. He could understand English when spoken slowly.

Both families showed their foreign visitors the operations of wheat and cattle ranching in the county, besides recreation activities such as huckleberry picking at Mt. Adams, boating on the Columbia, and the Pendleton Round-up.

Ron Anderegg, Oregon's 1960 IFYE to Italy and Dale Martin,

Oregon's 1961 IFYE to Greece also made appearances in the county to report back on their experiences.

Inquiries are being made by the county agent's office to see if there are Morrow county families that would like to play host to foreign IFYE's this summer.

## Martins Appreciate Experience of Student's Visit

Dear Miss Kirmis:

As a host family to an International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) student for Morrow county, we wish to express our appreciation to you for this wonderful opportunity. Our whole family enjoyed our experience of sharing our work and pleasure with Miss Marie-Victoire von Roessen of Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg, Europe for three weeks last August. Our neighbors who visited with her speak affectionately of this ambitious, courteous, quiet, dignified, yet friendly, young lady, also. As a member of our household she was like a daughter and sister. We have become more con-

scious of the geographical position of this tiny country of Luxembourg. We begin to realize how young our country is in comparison with the history she could reveal through her colored slides—even to the home in which she lived.

The experience we had, created within us the desire for further acquaintance with the people of Luxembourg. We dream of the time when we might visit Marie's family and country.

Thank you for granting us the privilege to be an IFYE host family—a privilege we are happy we did not pass by.

Sincerely,  
The Fredrick Martin Family

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