

Charley Family Combines 4-H Work With Rearing Foster Sons

Under the 4-H program, each of the 117 clubs in the Rogue Valley has a volunteer adult leader. This leader has the job of guiding the members of his club, demonstrating for their projects, and supervising their work. With Eldred Charley, 744 Beall lane, Central Point, this work has gone considerably farther.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley live on an 11-acre farm. In all, Charley farms about 45 acres of land, raising grain and hay. In addition, the Charley family has a few milk cows, some pigs, and a donkey named "Herman," which the family uses when they hike into nearby lakes.

The Charleys have three sons, Bill, 20, Curt, 10, and Kevin, seven months.

Through the Jackson County Welfare commission, and with the aid and cooperation of their sons, Mr. and Mrs. Charley have in the past seven years had about 29 foster sons in their home. Most of these boys have been from the Medford area, and many of them have had no experience in living on a farm.

Each of the boys has joined 4-H clubs, has helped with the farm, and has taken part in family activities.

As part of their family responsibility, each of these foster sons has had an animal of his own to raise. If the boy chooses to raise a steer, the animal is financed through the bank, in his name. In this way he learns the meaning of responsibility.

If the young man chooses to raise pigs, the Charley family provides the piglet and the financial backing for its growth.

With both kinds of animals, the boys raise them under the direction of a 4-H livestock club. They are carefully cared for and when they are grown, they are entered in the Jackson County 4-H and FFA fair.

They are then sold through the fair auction.

Each boy keeps his own books on his animal. From the proceeds, he reimburses Charley for the amount spent for feed, and if a pig, for the piglet. What remains is his profit, which he often spends for school clothes and other supplies.

Four years ago, Charley decided to take a 4-H club of his own. Called the Central Point Sparkplugs, it is a tractor club. Using a workbook and practical experience, the boys are taught to use farm implements correctly and safely.

Members of the club are around 16 and 17 years of age. There are a minimum of four belonging at any time. In conjunction with the clubs, the Charleys continue to take foster sons into their home. **Only Two Clubs**

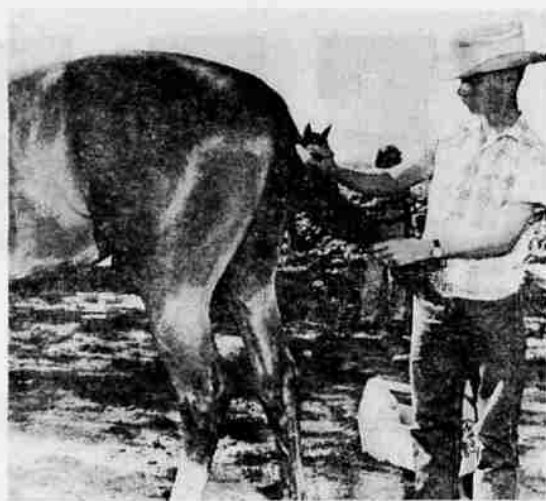
Because of the danger of taking on more than they can

accomplish, the boys are allowed to join only two 4-H clubs. This, in addition to their school work and farm chores, proves to be enough to keep them busy.

Although some of the boys have lived with the Charley family for only a few months, many of them stay for several years. Many of them enter military service when they are old enough to take care of themselves.

Charley reports that three of his foster sons are now in the service, and several are attending colleges and universities. Some have returned to live with their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley agree that they have had good luck with their program of rearing foster sons. They state that a good deal of their success is due to the cooperation of their own sons with the program. This has made most of their work with the boys worthwhile.



BRUSHES TAIL—Bill Hoefft, member of the Lake Creek Horse 4-H club, brushes the tail of his horse prior to trial activities before the 4-H Horse show last week end. He was second in Class 2 of the senior division of halter showmanship and also participated in Western horsemanship.



NEAT AND TRIM—Carolyn Field, member of the Westside 4-H Beef club, prepares her animal prior to the beef fitting event for juniors during the recent Central Point-Westside 4-H Pre-fair.

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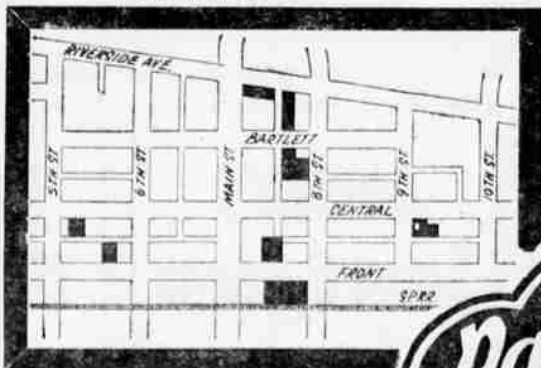
MONEY PROJECT—Pat Neal, member of Crater FFA chapter, is one of the members of the group who are manning the chapter's vegetable stand near Central Point this summer. All of the produce for sale at the stand is raised by the members. Vegetables will also be exhibited at the 4-H FFA fair.

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