

(Read by J. (C) Whitehouse, + OK'd by  
Miss Edith Macy)

With pictures -2  
Mrs. Stokes and Jimmy  
(1938)

4-H History File

4-H Week Story

By Orinne Johnson, UK Extension Specialist in Public Information

National 4-H Week, Feb. 28 to March 7, has unusual significance in Kentucky this year, for it marks the 50th anniversary of the first Junior Agricultural Club in Kentucky--forerunner of Kentucky's 4-H Clubs.

It was in the spring of 1909 that the late Prof. George Roberts, agronomist at the Kentucky Experiment Station, and revered throughout his life, as he is now, for his contribution to Kentucky's agriculture, interested a group of young people in Fayette county in forming an agricultural club.

Its chief objective was to increase corn yields, and members who joined promised to grow an acre of corn, "not a fraction of an acre," and to report yields and costs at the end of the season.

Commissioner of Agriculture Ranking encouraged the members by giving them free seed corn, it was reported.

And so began a youth program in Kentucky that spread to every county in the state, influencing the lives of countless thousands of young people and adults in the state today.

Special tribute will be paid this week, both nationally and statewide, to 4-H alumni members, who over the years have continued to remember the ideals pledged in their teens:

- My head to clearer thinking
- My heart to greater loyalty
- My hands to larger service and
- My health to better service for my Club, my Community and My Country

A member of that original agricultural club in Fayette county was Mrs. C.J. Stokes of the Military Pike--the former Hanna Wocham.

Encouraged by her father, the late L. Wocham, an early advocate of increased corn yields and better farming practices among both adults and juniors, she joined the club. But her contribution was not to grow corn, Mrs. Stokes said this week,

(K)  
OK'd by Mrs. Stokes

but rather to display rolls of sweet, home-made butter at the annual agricultural exhibits of the club held in the old Agriculture Building. Fifty years ago, between 85 and 100 pounds of butter were made every week at her farm home, she said.

(Mrs. Stokes has continued her interests in better farm, home and community living, and it was in her home that a homemakers club was organized 31 years ago.)

In 1910, Prof. T.R. Bryant was made head of the newly organized Agricultural Extension Service <sup>so directed</sup> and <sup>the</sup> agricultural club <sup>which</sup> soon included pigs and beef <sup>canning</sup> clubs for boys and tomato clubs for girls.

From 1920 to 1924, youth leadership was in the hands of C.W. Buckner, who was succeeded by J.W. Whitehouse, district leader of county agents and former county agent in Daviess county. Mr. Whitehouse served as state leader of 4-H Club work for 32 years. Upon his retirement in 1956, Boyd Wheeler and M.S. Carlside carried on as acting state leaders, George D. Corder, UK Extension agronomist, being made chairman of 4-H Extension programs in 1958.

The term, "Junior Agricultural Club Work," was used to designate Extension's youth program <sup>in Kentucky</sup> until 1928, when the name was changed to Junior 4-H Club Work. In the next few years, the word "Junior" was gradually dropped, in accordance with <sup>the</sup> youth program in other states.

#### Purpose of 4-H Work

The primary objective of the 4-H program, says Mr. Corder, is to provide young people with opportunities and practical situations that will develop trained minds, strong bodies and healthy personalities, while they learn useful skills/  
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ These opportunities, he said, are designed to develop attitudes that lead to useful and satisfying lives, and prepare young people to accept a full share of citizenship responsibilities.

During the past year, 33,184 boys and ~~43,405~~ <sup>43,405</sup> girls, or a total of 76,589 <sup>White + Negro members</sup> were enrolled in project work, an approximate increase of 2,000 in each of the past five years <sup>in membership</sup>.

One of the greatest assets to Kentucky's 4-H ~~XXXXXX~~ programs is the large number of volunteer adults and older members who become local leaders. Approximately <sup>and</sup> 10,900 ~~men~~ women, and 1,550 youth leaders have taken an active part the past year.

From the adult group, 4,027 men and women are members of the 120 County 4-H Councils--one in each county. From all walks of life, they have one great common characteristic--their interest in youth.

Meeting regularly, each Council develops plans for greater opportunities in the form of projects, activities and events which meet the needs of youth in the county.

To ~~ensure~~ make the Council idea <sup>were</sup> effective, 12 district Leader Councils are made up of a man and a woman from each county Council in the district. District Councils meet quarterly, and assume the major responsibility for district rallies, livestock shows and achievement meetings.

A still further step forward is the formation of a State 4-H Leaders Council, made up of ~~XXXXXX~~ a man and a woman from each district Council. This group of 24 serves as a clearing house of ideas and problems presented by the districts, and in an advisory capacity to the state 4-H club staff.

Councils are the keys to successful 4-H club programs, and deserve a large share of the credit for the rapid advancement made in 4-H club work in the state in the past 15 years, according to UK 4-H staff members.

#### Project Work

Home economics projects planned for 4-H girls are divided into units, each one being more challenging than the last. That there is satisfaction to the girls in such a plan is seen in the enrollment in clothing--a total of 28,957--the largest of any 4-H project in the state.

<sup>preparation</sup> Foods/projects have an enrollment of 17,598; baled fppds. 12,379; canning, 3,145; frozen foods, 1,507, and home improvement, 1,859.

The unit plan was adopted last year for boys also in dairy, garden, electric <sup>ity</sup> tractor and beef projects. It is expected that the plan will be continued through the remaining agricultural projects.

Numbers of enrolled in the various agricultural projects last year were: dairy, 3,032; electricity, 7,433; field crops, 5,132; forestry, 1,281; garden, 5,412; poultry, 2,168; soil and water, 1,819; swine, 3,287, and tractor, 1,835.

Other projects of interest were: safety, 22,593; health, 2,579; home grounds, 2,251; entomology, 2,202; leadership, 1,545, and public speaking, 702.

#### Special Opportunities

A total of 11,550 boys and girls took part in various 4-H activities designed to develop leadership, self-confidence and independence; promote an attitude of group responsibility, and recognize the intelligent use of leisure time.

Included in these activities were 36 weeks of 4-H camping at seven points in the state; 12 sub-district spring rallies in which members competed in public speaking and demonstrations; 12 sub-district fall achievement meetings, to determine honors in project work, and 18 district livestock shows and sales at different points ~~for~~ from western to Eastern Kentucky, making it possible for members to show their animals at little expense. Prizes for the best calves were provided by the Kentucky Legislature.

Annual 4-H Club Week in June at the University of Kentucky was attended by ~~approximately~~ <sup>8</sup> 1,237 members.

#### Out-of-state trip opportunities:

Camp Minnivanca, Shelby, Mich., six members; 4-H Round-Ups in nearby states, five members; the American Institute of Cooperation in Pennsylvania, six members; National Junior Vegetable Growers Association, 12; National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, 29, ~~and~~ National 4-H Club Conference, Washington, D.C., four boys and girls, and <sup>from Belgium and Pakistan by three girls,</sup> Extra activities for Negro boys and girls include the annual 4-H Club Week, Frankfort, 122; Conservation Camp, 88, and National 4-H Camp, Washington, D.C., eight.

Culmination of 4-H fairs and shows was the Kentucky State Fair, where 4-H boys showed their best dairy cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry, ~~and~~ and girls exhibited clothing, canned and frozen food, baked foods, and room improvement projects.

Assisting Mr. Corder in the 4-H Extension program are Field Agents Conrad Feltner, M.S. Garside, Miss Margaret Gulley, O.J. McKenny, E.E. Fish, and Miss Edith Lacy, <sup>and Marie Ross, recreation specialist,</sup> and county agricultural and home demonstration agents.