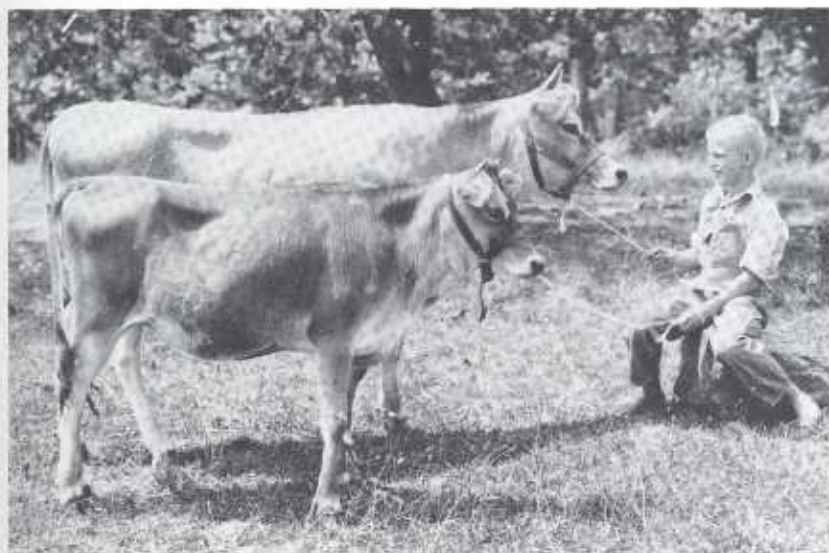


I BEGINNING

"If teachers realize how much the efficiency, comfort, and happiness of their pupils will be increased throughout their lives from being taught to cooperate with nature and to take advantage of her wonderful laws, they will eagerly begin this study. They will find also that their pupils will be actively interested in these studies bearing on their daily lives, and this interest will be carried over to other subjects. Whenever you can, take the pupils into the field, the garden, the orchard, and the dairy."

Daniel Harvey Hill,
Agriculture for Beginners (1903)





The men who pioneered club work and turned it into 4-H in this state gathered in Ahoskie in 1955. Pictured are Corn Club charter members Dr. Raleigh Parker, C. A. Worrell, E. C. Hill, Charles Parker (the first state corn champion), T. E. Browne (the local leader who later served as State Club Agent), Henry T. Browne, J. Raynor Moore, and Troy Newsome. At the right stand founding State Club Agent I. O. Schaub and L. R. Harrill, the first State 4-H Leader in North Carolina.

A Beginning That Worked

The actual decision had been made around Thanksgiving, but Extension's various clubs for North Carolina's rural boys and girls were not officially called 4-H until January 1, 1926. This important date provides perspective; there are really two club stories to be related. The first is about a beginning that worked, about corn and then tomato clubs whose growth and expanding program called for a unifying name and symbol that already had some national and state currency. The second story is about the gradual acceptance of 4-H Clubs and their manifold development after 1926 by old and new agents, leaders, and members alike. Both of these club accounts wear well; the reason is not far afield. For the durable early spirit of learning agricultural and home management skills the demonstration way has still not been plowed under or completely wiped away by time.

Far less obscure than the specific place of Extension's original North Carolina clubs in the national lifeline of 4-H are a number of significant improvements in our society's educational policy. In July 1862, for instance, President Lincoln signed the Morrill Act. It authorized the establishment of land-grant colleges in the various states, ultimately even in those then seceded from the federal union. The granted public land, intended to be sold as endowments for the new state colleges, amounted to 30,000 acres for each congressman a state could legally elect. With two senators and seven representatives, North Carolina's grant amounted to 270,000 acres. Since this considerable territory under federal title did not exist within this state, the figure was denoted in reserve land script. Also in 1862 the United States Department of Agriculture was established by Congress. It was not until 1867 that the North Carolina Legislature, which had accepted its Morrill Act script the year before, designated the old University at Chapel Hill as grantee. That August its trustees agreed to sell the script to a Michigan firm for 50 cents an acre.

At the end of Reconstruction a decade later the North Carolina Department of Agriculture came into being. It was 10 more years, however, before the legislature resolved to found North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Raleigh. October 3, 1889 was opening day for this bonafide land-grant institution. Its leading objective, "without excluding

other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics," was to "teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts . . . in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life." To these words from the original Morrill Act of 1862 had been added, by the Hatch Act of 1887, the provision of federal aid for agricultural experiment stations at all land-grant colleges. Similar stations or test farms were already a decade old in North Carolina; after 1889, however, they were operated jointly by the new college and state as well as federal specialists.

The year 1890 saw two significant tendencies, hindsight reveals, toward the beginnings of club work in this state. In Raleigh, under the direction of the State Agriculture Department, the Farmers' Institute for men was begun. It would be 1906 before Director T. B. Parker would expand the material of these seasonal short courses to attract the farmers' wives and children, however. The other educational tendency of 1890 brought quicker results to certain Tar Heel youth. The Second Morrill Act, in addition to providing for continued federal funding to support land-grant colleges, also made possible the establishment of 17 agricultural and mechanical colleges for Negroes in the South. Among these new institutions was North Carolina A&T, opened at Greensboro in 1891.

A private, out-of-state development of considerable initial importance to club growth in North Carolina was the founding of the General Education Board by John D. Rockefeller in 1902. Endowed with millions for "the promotion of education within the United States without distinction of race, sex, or creed," this Board had by 1906 agreed to join forces with the USDA. Under this agreement Cooperative Farm Demonstration Work was begun in this state in the fall of 1907 by Cassius R. Hudson. That November he set up state offices with a federal budget of \$8,000 in Statesville. Neither the Agriculture Department nor State College would provide this federal agent either space or assistants in Raleigh.

The preceding year the state itself had designated an agent to extend certain new practices from the state's test farms to the farmers themselves. Hudson was funded to designate demonstration farms in the separate counties of the state. These privately-owned farms were to be operated under federal guidelines for the benefit of surrounding farmers. This work con-

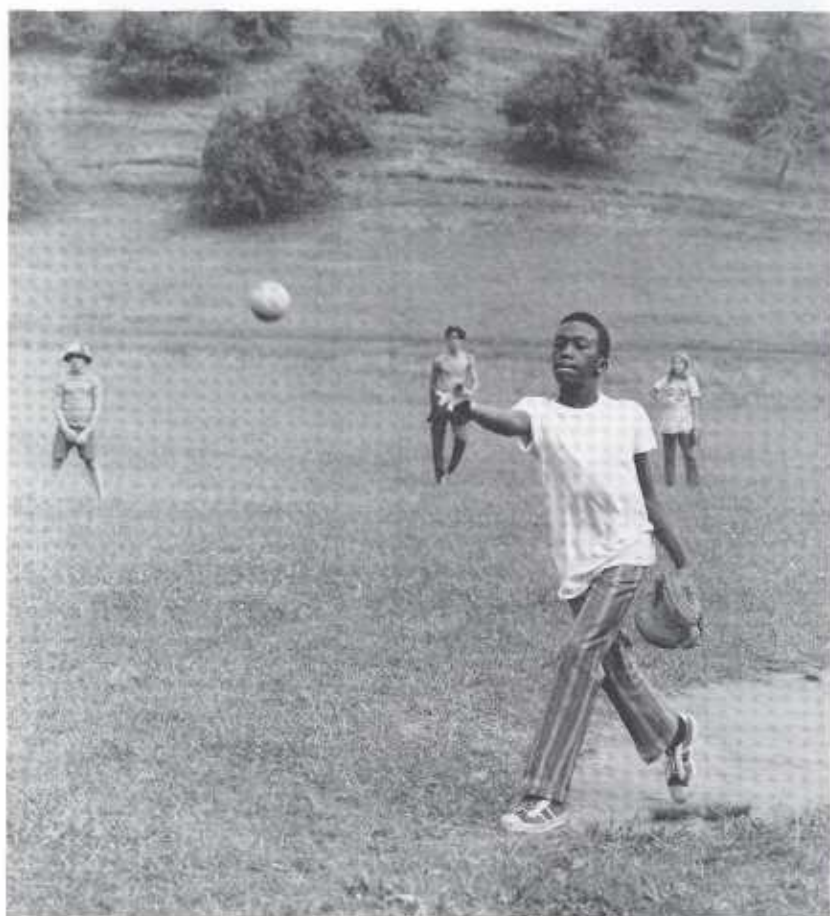
flicted with the state's practices. In 1908, despite the conflict, Mr. Hudson organized eight counties in demonstration farming, including his Iredell base. The next year the number of counties doubled. That second year, near Statesville, he also worked with boys in corn and poultry clubs. Another conflict between federal and state dominion erupted. Since 1906 the North Carolina Farmers' Institute had been offering prizes to boys for corn production. While Hudson's youth clubs were not official in the eyes of Washington, Mr. Parker of the Institute lacked the



C. R. Hudson at his desk, the evidence of a busy man.

organization to put club work in tassel himself. Under these circumstances it is understandable that the rural folk were sometimes skeptical and confused. Certainly professional patience was tried in Statesville and in Raleigh.

The first decade of this century was also vexing in North Carolina public schools. In 1900, in contrast to private schools, they operated only about 75 days in the year; only 65 percent of the youth of school age attended. This waste of winter time and young talent by the state was to be abandoned, however, largely through the huge energies of Governor Charles B. Aycock.



4-H'ers play softball in the orchard meadow at Camp Schaub near Waynesville.

His educational campaign began in 1901. By 1907, under a new administration, a system of public high schools had been established, and compulsory school attendance laws were in force. At the decade's end more than 3,000 new schools had been built in North Carolina. This educational revolution across Tar Heelia had numerous meanings; among them was this: the way was now open for agricultural agents, if cooperation among them could be realized, to work with club boys and girls more conveniently than ever before. This opportunity to begin was enhanced by the thorough willingness of Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner to open the state's new schools to state and federal agricultural club agents.

The power of demonstration will not reveal exactly where or when in this series of educational developments the actual seeds of the clubs that became 4-H were gathered by chance or selected with purpose. Yet the year 1909 dawned with promise for Tar Heel youth, for public school personnel, for various agricultural agents, and for North Carolina State College. In the imaginations of many people a question arose with that spring-time sun: "Has some great movement begun?"

Seventy-five years later, we have another question.

Almost Everything

"What is 4-H in North Carolina today?"

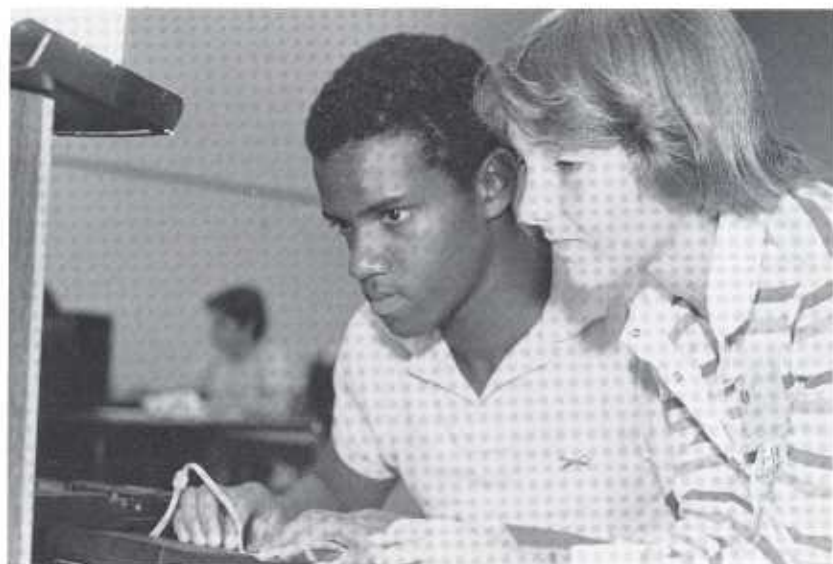
"4-H is almost everything," comes the bold reply of an active member.

The characteristic adaptability of 4-H to youth's customary needs as well as to individual desires transforms both 4-H work and play into unusually fulfilling activities. What a member merely hears may be forgot; what a 4-H'er sees and does will have lasting educational value. The club slogan of "learning by doing" openly admits, however, to trial and error, that fertile soil of personal growth. Of course the member's trials and errors, in addition to the triumphs in 4-H life, are shared by trained extension agents and local volunteer leaders, by parents, donors, and by other 4-H members. All of these people, in response to the member's specific interests in branching out, provide the space or other means of growth—including appropriate current literature—without blocking out the essential sunshine of self.

Deep down the member learns that the club motto "To

Make the Best Better" is a patient philosophy of personal changes, of gradual physical and spiritual development. The United States Department of Agriculture botanist who in 1911 proposed this wording eventually adopted in 1927 for 4-H boys and girls truly understood the expanding boundaries of their evolution. If this same botanist were to question our active Tar Heel 4-H'ers today, she would let it be known that 4-H responds to society's changes as well as to the developing member. For example, age limits for membership—9 to 19 since 1962—have been lowered over the years as the national youth population has gradually increased in number, mobility, and budding sophistication. In 1912 boys between 10 and 18 could sign up; during World War I this range was lowered temporarily to age 8. The initial limits for North Carolina club girls were ages 10 and 20. In 1956 the range for both boys and girls was 10 to 21, the same membership requirement North Carolina had used for its rural youth since the late 1920s. As the proportion of young people living in rural areas steadily decreased, to cite another response to society—4-H literally went to town for additional members, especially as the 1950s wore on. A major proliferation of projects and activities was one result of 4-H's new clientele. Characteristic of the decades of the 1960s and 1970s has been another two-fold accommodation; 4-H in North Carolina and elsewhere has undertaken a racially integrated program conducted not, as traditionally, in the public schools, but mainly in local or community clubs. In very recent times, 4-H'ers at-large and special interest groups have been popular; and television series in nutrition, general science, and photography have reached several hundred thousand members.

The second reason for accepting and cultivating the assertion that 4-H is almost everything is the product of the traditional comparison of 4-H with the member's formal schooling. More frequently than to vocational or social clubs, scouting, or to church youth programs and the Y, 4-H and its forerunners have been compared to the classroom. By 1915 this trend had been established. These analyses are both historically and presently sound, even if 4-H is today a community program with only one remaining taproot to society's school system. This taproot is 4-H's employment of the elementary skills of figuring, reading, and writing from the very start of a member's participation. To read and apply or demonstrate recent agricultural information in the production and processing of corn or toma-



4-H high technology at McKimmon Center.



Back to basics at Millstone.



What better evidence could suggest the club member's pride in practical as well as elementary skill?

toes, then to figure the economics of the undertakings, and finally to write an account of the efforts were always basic to club membership. Those first boys and girls were transforming the abstract skills of the schools into the practical tools of better living. In 1916, for example, with Pig and Poultry as well as Corn Clubs in action, the State Club Agent passed out arithmetic problems like the following to the membership: "A pig weighed 35 pounds when the Pig Club record started; it gained 1.07 pounds per day for 180 days. What did it weigh at the end of that period?"

Yet the club experience was not successful if the smart pup farmers and homemakers became numerical drudges who shunned recreation, singing, and dance. Neither were these young members to become recluses. 4-H'ers would never watch society go from boulders to gravel if their capable hands could salvage the useful rocks as building stones. For 4-H is as solid in recreation, leadership, and citizenship as in more practical skills. And the 4-H year is 12 months long, ample time for its numerous activities and records, all fostered by that original corn and tomatoes, to reach harvest and beyond. North Carolina 4-H camping—yearly including more than 18,000 youth in its statewide summer programs—educational as well as recrea-

tional travel, plus both national and international exchanges of older members flourish in towns, suburbs, and the cities of the state without ever having pulled up roots from the 4-H countryside where almost everything began.

Certainly 4-H has more broad characteristics than its amazing adaptability and the genuine transformation of abstract skills and desires into meaningful realities for youth. And a member does not have to be as active as a puppy in clover to be a fulfilled participant. Consider, for another example, the outlook of North Carolina's 1978 State Council 4-H officers. Elected representatives of the total membership of over 97,000, these four chiefly responsible for selecting programs and themes for the club year. They cite personal growth, spiritual fulfillment, community dedication, and service to others as the largest foundation stones in the complex club they inhabit. Of special thematic importance to them is a wiser use by all of the increasing leisure time we have. Successful among past generations of North Carolinians who were necessarily preoccupied with daily work and worship, 4-H in these terms now thrives among members and leaders alike who work in order to live but no longer seem destined to live only to work. For these new times the 1978 officers also undertook the selection of an original state 4-H song. Similar recent projects include county and dis-



Acting is one of the meaningful realities for today's club boys and girls.

trict 4-H flags, support for the state zoo, a needlepoint tapestry of the counties, and a club time capsule, buried at Penn, to be opened in 2076.

Donald L. Stormer, who became State 4-H Leader in June 1976 and only the fourth person to come into that position in 50 years, has been the responsive 4-H program's official spokesman. "Wise consumerism, career exploration, and production and management in the related fields of agriculture and home economics are a major part of the program," he writes. "These and other programs, such as community action, environmental awareness, leisure education, fire and bike safety and horsemanship, point to the fact that 4-H is constantly striving to meet the changing needs of boys and girls."



1978 State 4-H Council officers: Mike Helms, Jill Kinton, Miriam Nance, and Dale Safrit.

It is generally known that 4-H is the outreach to the nation's youth of the Cooperative Extension Service, a vast federal agency of trained agents and specialists; in this case composed of the United States Department of Agriculture, the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service at North Carolina State University at Raleigh and A&T State University at Greensboro, and the Extension personnel in the 100 counties of the state. These three levels of leadership, incorporated by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, provide the program's policies, rules, and regulations in addition to a portion of



Stormer



At the 1976 burial at Penn of the 4-H time capsule, State Council president Carol Myers presided in a jacket featuring the red, white, and blue 4-leaf clover designed and produced by NCSU as a bicentennial logo. The capsule, sealed by Secretary of State Thad Eure and to be opened in a century, holds microfilm of photographs, club programs, and news clippings.

the budget. Joining in to support 4-H financially are industries, private businesses, and citizens, as well as organizations and agencies like the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund. A list of the various donors in North Carolina alone would run to more than a hundred entries today; many of them have been on the list from 30 to 50 years. *These facts are testimony not only to the strength of 4-H's popular image and support but also to the numerous projects and activities in which a young member can learn by doing to make the best better.*

In the past decade, according to Dr. Stormer, \$4 in private capital and services match every \$1 of public money spent for 4-H in North Carolina. Approximately 13,000 adult and teen leaders, for example, annually volunteer their services in the state's total program.

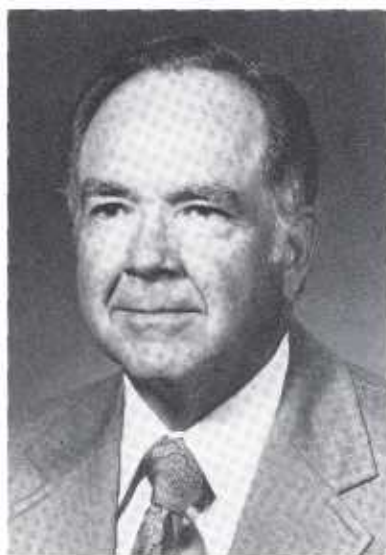
To express the richness of the program in nonfinancial terms, we need only examine the statistics of where 4-H members live. In 1974, for example, during the tenure of Dr. Chester Black, North Carolina's third state 4-H leader, 29 percent of the membership lived on farms, 50 percent lived in towns of fewer than 10,000 people, and 21 percent lived in more densely settled areas. *Among all these members, incidentally, the most popular*



July 27, 1977 State Congress delegates prime the 4-H fountain at McKimmon Center with water from across the state.



Black



Blalock

projects were Health, Foods and Nutrition, Clothing, Bicycle, Crafts and Horse. Black became the state's Extension Director in 1981.

Former N.C. Director of Extension, Dr. T. C. Blalock, once a Tar Heel 4-H'er and the state's second 4-H leader from 1964 until 1970, also has an apt measure of 4-H's good fortune: "While 4-H might be thought of as a worthwhile opportunity for the state's youth even without awards for outstanding achievements, thankfully no other youth program, public or private, enjoys 4-H's broad spectrum of support."

Ample evidence of 4-H plenty and harmonious growth is at hand. There is clover all over North Carolina. In truth, whether 4-H is thought of here as a thriving adaptive plant or as a youthful program still being built on broad foundation stones is only a matter of our preference for figurative expression. We might just as well say that 4-H is Extension's youth program which believes that both education and recreation are in life's mainstream, not merely tributaries to the once daily flood of work. And this view may be translated into very plain language, the actual words of Dr. C. B. Smith who was director of the Federal Extension Service in the early 1920s when 4-H

began to thrive in this part of the United States. Director Smith said that "education is not preparation for life but life itself and that 4-H Clubs can help interest boys and girls in real life problems."

With 12 champions in projects as diverse as bread and soil science, North Carolina's delegates to National 4-H Congress in 1983 witnessed a special celebration of Director Smith's durable notion. A musical extravaganza called "4-H: An American Idea" was put on for the assembly of 2,000 by this state's dynamic 4-H Performing Arts Troupe. Singing, dancing, and acting through 75 years of club history, 33 boys and girls from all over North Carolina carried out their 22 numbers with "life itself," as it were. Adult volunteers assisted with makeup, staging, props, and costuming. Before going to Chicago, the troupe directed by Mark Dearmon and Wendy Leland had performed in Alleghany and Bladen counties as well as at State 4-H Congress.



Even wooden horses see action among Harnett County's 4-H'ers.

The Remainder in Outstanding Service

As early as 1931 Tar Heel youth had experienced the enrichments of 4-H life to the point of organizing, under the guidance of L. R. Harrill, our first State 4-H Leader, a perpetual service group of older, outstanding members. In several counties similar local groups had been organized as early as 1927. With this successful state work ongoing, curiosity about the national roots of 4-H developed. One of the founding members of the North Carolina 4-H Honor Club, Boyce Brooks of Duplin County, dug for evidence. In early September 1931 he found in his Calypso mailbox the following information, supplied by I. W. Hill, the venerable USDA Field Agent for the Southern States:

I note your request for some facts about the beginning of 4-H Club Work. No complete history of this work has ever been written. The first agent employed to do the work was W. H. Smith of Holmes County, Mississippi. He was paid \$1 per year in order that he might use the frank in the work. Mr. Smith was Superintendent of Education in Holmes County. He and the county agents did much in outlining the work. He was afterward Superintendent of Education and President of A&M College of that state. Club work really began in 1909 when Mr. O. B. Martin, Ex-Superintendent of Education of South Carolina was brought into the office by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp. Mr. Martin did the pioneering. In 1911 he brought Mr. Benson of Iowa in to the office. He and Mr. Benson worked out the 4-H Club emblem. Miss Carrie Harrison is the author of the motto, "To Make the Best Better." In 1912 the work was begun in the northern states and Mr. Benson was transferred into the Office of Extension, North and West. I succeeded Mr. Benson in that year. From a comparatively few thousand members in 1912, the work in the southern states has grown to 380,000 and a total membership in the United States of about 880,000. We would like to see every farm boy and girl in the United States engaged in the work.

One important function of this letter is to acquaint us with Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, the heroic founder and shaper of Ameri-



Schaub



McKimmon

can demonstration farming and homemaking, the man who had sent C. R. Hudson to North Carolina in 1907. Field Agent Hill's outline of this work in relation to boys and girls, who very often brought the demonstration way to the farmsteads from the country schools, has been filled in and expanded again and again since 1931. For instance, North Carolina's three pioneers in this national rural adventure have left accounts of their own pathfindings.

Ira Obed Schaub, who served as the state's first Corn Club Agent, prepared two brief histories of demonstration work, one of them entitled "The Way I See It." He began work May 1, under a "Memorandum of Understanding" signed earlier that spring by G. H. Powell, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA, and D. H. Hill, President of North Carolina State College. Dr. Knapp and O. B. Martin had cleared the way for this event. N. C. State, which holds the honor of having signed the first in a series of these memoranda, designated Schaub its first Professor of Agricultural Extension and paid his salary until July 1 when the historic agreement went into effect. Afterwards financing came from Washington for salary and travel expenses through appropriations from the General Education Board. Schaub remained Corn Club Agent in North Carolina through June 1913. During his first month in 1909, with Mar-

tin's aid, he organized the first official Corn Club in the state at Ahoskie in Hertford County. Throughout Schaub's club tenure, planning for and sponsoring home life as well as farm life clubs in rural schools for Tar Heel youth went forward.

Each club was to elect its own officers; a teacher was to be club adviser. His plan, never fully realized, also called for a county association of adult advisors and student officers. Over all, there was to be a state association. Club meetings were to be held as often as necessary for the good of the work. Club Agent Schaub also envisioned local, county, and state contests. If his plan of work was never fully realized in these details, in one administrative area his success was classic. The impasse reached by Hudson and the state Agriculture Department in 1907-08 was resolved after Schaub's arrival in 1909. In 1911 Mr. Hudson moved to Raleigh as State Farm Agent. Mr. Parker of the Farmer's Institute and Mr. Schaub agreed for the College to organize all Corn Club work—one of Parker's assistants even came out to the College to help—and the Institute would continue to supply some of the club prizes. Farm Agent Hudson and Club Agent Schaub shared the same campus office in Patterson Hall. Mr. Hudson also had an office downtown in the Agriculture Building.

November 24, 1911, following a successful seasonal canning experiment in Guilford County, Schaub hired Jane S. McKimmon, an Institute employee, to inaugurate Canning Clubs for girls in the state. Her heartening narrative of this work and her related service as the state's first Home Demonstration Agent was published in 1945 as *When We're Green We Grow*. Schaub, who had become Director of Extension in North Carolina in July 1924, after an absence of approximately a decade from his native state, continued to the last to believe that his early selection of this paragon of duties for work with the state's rural girls and women was the finest job he ever did in Agricultural Extension. Others also recognized her genius which ran in the spirit of Dr. Knapp, who had died in April 1911. He had once stated this philosophy of the initial work undertaken by women like McKimmon: "Cultivation of the tomato plant will take us into the home garden; canning the tomatoes will give us entrance to the farm kitchen; tomatoes fresh and canned will be a valuable supplement to the family diet; the sale of tomatoes will provide income for the girls. What the program will do for the farm home depends on our interest, intelligence, and persever-

ance." These ingredients the new North Carolina Agent clearly had. Her own incisive view can be simply stated: the ultimate object of demonstration work was the uplift of rural life, but the first step was to get a few dollars into the farmgirl's pocket so that the girl could buy material for a new dress, perhaps a piece of finery, and a couple of school books.

At the outset of her employment, ironically, Mrs. McKimmon herself was provided with neither office space nor staff. Her own dining-room table was her first Extension desk, and her five family members were her clerical assistants. One of her first chores, actually performed without pay, was to judge the canning exhibits at the 1911 North Carolina State Fair. She picked for the top prize the tomato display of young Julia Rankin, a participant in a Guilford County experiment in canning completed earlier that summer. McKimmon's keen judgment was validated immediately, for Julia's display went on to take the top prize at the South Carolina Fair as well as at an exposition in Chicago. This club girl's fame had spread even farther than the fame of Corn Club member Charlie Parker, who in 1909 had been a charter boy in the now famous Hertford County Club and who in 1911 produced an incredible acre yield of 235 bushels, which is equal to 196 bushels of dry-shelled corn.

Added to the administrative cooperation achieved in 1911 and the hiring of Mrs. McKimmon, these club members' outstanding records made an expanded club program seem possible for North Carolina in 1912. In fact, with the assistance of State School Superintendent Joyner and his county counterparts, Canning Clubs had been organized by that summer in these 14 counties: Alamance, Catawba, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Hertford, Madison, Mecklenburg, Moore, Pitt, Wake, Wilkes, and Wayne. The death of the Hertford agent caused that county's withdrawal; Warren County filled the vacancy.

The work with boys also progressed in 1912. Mr. Schaub even arranged for about half a dozen Granville County corn champions to spend a couple of days at State College, anticipating in this small way 4-H Short Courses, Club Weeks, and State Congresses of the years to come. As early as 1910, by the way, a Catawba Corn Club champion named Earnest Starnes had won a club trip to Washington, D. C. Many on similar missions have followed in his steps.

It was the fall of 1912 before the State Canning Club Agent

began to share Farm Agent Hudson's downtown office and staff. By then Mrs. McKimmon was also listed in the *Catalogue of N. C. State* as an Assistant in Agricultural Extension. But this same printing's description of this fledgling department, with Schaub as its sole professor, shows that demonstration work was still officially directed at farmers and their sons:

The Department of Agriculture Extension was organized July 1, 1909. This department was and is made possible by the help of the General Education Board in the United States. The work is closely correlated with that of the United States Department of Agriculture. The object of the department is to link the scientific agricultural work of the College and Station to the practical work on the farms of the State. Each year the trained scientific workers of America add to the fund of information needed by progressive farmers. The object of this department is to carry this information to the busy men on the farm, and to help in the teaching of farm science in our schools. This is done by addresses to farmers, by farm schools held in different sections, holding seed-corn days, organizing boys' corn clubs, and in such other ways as time and occasion may permit.

Time and occasion appear to have been permissive. The Smith-Lever fund for Cooperative Extension in North Carolina was accepted by Governor Locke Craig on June 10, 1914, just one month after enactment by Congress. The State Legislature of 1915 approved the arrangement in March. For the sake of efficiency the new Extension Service undertook its work in a series of clear-cut projects. Project number 4 was "Home Economics, including Girls' Club Work." Number 5 was "Boys' Club Work," and project 11 was "Negro Boys' Club Work." By this time Mrs. McKimmon and her single state assistant had agents in 37 counties where a total of 200 Canning Clubs had been organized.

As Director of Extension it was also I. O. Schaub who selected Leary Rhinehart Harrill in November 1925 for the new position of State 4-H Leader, effective January 1, 1926. Having already worked during 1922 and 1923 as County Club Agent in Buncombe, in more time Mr. Harrill would be revered up and down North Carolina as Mr. 4-H. But in the beginning it was

Mrs. McKimmon's staff that provided the new statewide 4-H program its statistical and spiritual head, heart, hands, and health in the membership of a vast network of organized home economics clubs for girls. It would be the 1940s before Mr. Harrill fully developed his most notable 4-H voice, his way of saying: "Big enough to cover the entire world and flexible enough to fit the needs of every rural boy and girl—that is the 4-H Club." In less than two additional decades his evolving sense of club mission would erase the word "rural" from his articulated vision. In his still gifted style he loved to announce as in the golden anniversary club year of 1959: "4-H trains youth in the art of better living."



Harrill

Always equally gladdened by good records and good recreation, Mr. 4-H blazed club camping trails in all areas of his native state. Meanwhile his inspiration and toughness groomed numberless larger-service citizens step by step. The ultimate long-time records of his 4-H generations have been tributes to an open society. Whether the club citadel was Washington, Chicago, Raleigh, State 4-H Electric Congress, the fabled rocks at Millstone 4-H Camp, or a county achievement day, it was the reflection of his gleam in which Tar Heel youth most often stood. But it could have been the songs he sang or that epical laughter, for L. R. Harrill was a roundly talented leader, and just as firm. Not long after he retired in August 1963 appeared his perceptive *Images of 4-H*, soon followed by the equally compelling *Memories of 4-H*. These books outspanned the nearly 40 years of his inimitable service. Until his death in April 1978, this third pioneer in North Carolina's Extension youth program continued to influence 4-H in active symbolic and financial ways.