

# 4-H Members Tell Stories Of Their Projects

## Dress Making Finalist Recalls Start, Rise As A Seamstress

**BY RAMONA BOWDITCH**  
I began 4-H Club work in the fall of 1959. I selected sewing as my main project. I was very interested and eager to complete this project. I completed the requirements in my unit, which included the making of a pin cushion, an apron and other small articles. That year I also learned how to use the sewing machine and a few attachments.  
In 1960 I entered my first 4-H Dress Revue. I had no idea of

winning a ribbon, because this was my first dress. I remember how careful I was to measure each seam and how hard I tried to make this dress perfect.  
The day of the revue came. I was very scared. I remember how excited I was when I found out I had won second place in the junior division. I really couldn't believe it. My prize was material for another dress.  
I continued sewing. Each time becoming more interested. Again

I entered the Junior Dress Revue with the same anticipation I had the year before. Again I placed second.  
My interest in sewing grew and grew. Of course I could not give up sewing as a project. Each garment I made I tried to make it perfect. I wouldn't give up that hope.  
In the summer of 1962, Dress Revue time came again. I entered as soon as possible. This time I was the Junior winner! The prize was a free trip to Junior 4-H Camp.

### COOKING

**BY DONNA LEE ATKINS**  
I enjoyed my 4-H project in cooking very much. I learned a lot about cooking in the past year.

Several evenings I cooked supper alone while my mother was working.  
I have learned to make cornbread. My mother says that I can make better cornbread than she. She wants me to make it every time we have it.  
I also learned how to make cakes. I usually make a yellow cake, which I can make better than others.

For 4-H Achievement Night in January of 1962, I made ginger cookies shaped like a four-leaf clover and decorated them with green and white frosting to represent the 4-H Club.

### GARDENING

**BY ARNOLD BALL**  
In 1962 I learned a lesson of a lifetime — that is, nothing grows by itself unless it is weeded. Bugs and insects come free and in droves; never put off until tomorrow what you can do today; and tomorrow is too late.

I started with a problem. My garden was on a loose hillside, was fenced in and it couldn't be plowed with a tractor.

I had to do all of my plowing with a garden tiller. I borrowed my father's tiller, plowed up the hill and dragged it back down because it couldn't be plowed down the loose hill. I made the rows by tying strings to small posts and pulling a hoe alongside the string. The planting was easy because the ground was very loose. Obtaining plants and seeds was easy because I live on a farm and I use the spares left over from home use.

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**UNMODERN, BUT IT WORKS**—Sometimes 4-H'ers aren't able to use dad's up-to-date equipment. The old ways, as demonstrated here by Glenn Presnell of Double Island, aren't always the best but they work. Glenn's the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Presnell.

## State Champ Explains How He Won Honor

**BY BASIL McDUGALD**  
Since much land in Yancey County is covered with trees, there should be a deep forestry. I, for one, am very interested in forestry. Through 4-H I have learned very much about the importance of forestry in Yancey County.  
I started my 4-H forestry project six years ago. Since then I have taken every major forestry project offered as 4-H. My first project was Tree Planting. After that, Tree Identification, Forest Protection and Timber Stand Improvement.

The Forestry program is sponsored by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. They also sponsor Forestry Camp, to which one boy from each county gets a free trip.

Through 4-H forestry I have won a trip to Forestry Camp and a trip to 4-H Club Week in Raleigh. The trip to club week was for winning the forestry demonstration program. My demonstration was on the control of hardwoods. It could not have been completed without the help of Charles Steelman, Assistant County Agricultural Agent.

After winning the Western District Forestry Demonstration, I represented the Western District at the State Demonstrations during 4-H Club Week at Raleigh. I won in the state. This could not have been possible without the training that 4-H had given me.

4-H has been a great experience for me. I would like to urge every boy and girl in Yancey County that is not enrolled in 4-H at this time to join a Community 4-H Club if there is one in their community. If there is not a club in your community contact the County Extension Office in Burnsville and they will be happy to get a club started.



**BASIL McDUGALD**

### GARDENING

**BY GARY BENNETT**  
Writing how I grew my vegetable garden as a 4-H project last spring, summer and fall is simply adding a chapter to a continued story because I have had gardening for my project the past four years.

I planned and prepared the same garden plot in 1962 that I used the previous three years for these reasons: an excellent location, soil tested, good type soil for the variety of seeds and plants to be planted, the kind of fertilizer to be used for the best yield, and time saved from trying to locate a new garden spot.

When time came for gardening I was interested in getting a new start as I had a new garden plot, so I felt that I had good help to start with. I then plowed my garden more often and used my hoe very little. My plants grew faster and it seems my yield was much larger.

A great deal of my time was spent in my garden after school in order to get ready for early planting when the soil had been plowed and the weather became warm enough for the tender plants and seeds to be planted.

I used my planting calendar and information that I received from the Extension Service as a guide for planting my seeds and plants. My family and friends enjoyed the vegetables when they were harvested and I enjoyed sharing them.

Each day my interest grew from planning, planting and observing the growth and yield of the vegetable until they were harvested.

My garden serves as a means for earning money, furnishing fresh vegetables for the home use, for sale and giving to others. It has proven valuable training, and at the same time has provided nature's best foods that furnish valuable materials for building and regulating the body and maintaining health and growth.

During the time I spent in the garden, it was an opportunity for me to use the same time in getting morning sunshine, fresh air and exercise for daily health habits.

From my experience in gardening, I have found these objectives will help any 4-H boy or girl achieve the following: to acquire the knowledge and develop the skill essential to the care and management of a well-planned garden; to increase individual and family income by reducing the amount of food purchased; to contribute to better family health by producing sufficient amounts of essential and nutritious vegetables throughout the year; to enjoy the satisfaction from bringing plants into the successful maturity and develop gardening as a hobby; to develop leadership talents and to work toward achieving the board of objectives of character and effective citizenship.

My vegetable garden provided a place for me to work, exercise, a means of raising money from selling corn, beans, beets and potatoes and foods for freezing, canning, and dried foods for winter use.

Gardening will be a continued project for me as long as I'm in 4-H Club work.

## Calendar Of Events For 4-H'ers In 1962

### Yancey County 4-H Highlights of 1962:

#### JANUARY

The year was started by having the 4-H Achievement Night for 1961 on January 31, 1962 at Burnsville Elementary School. E. L. Dillingham, County Extension Chairman, spoke on the new community 4-H Club concept. Different 4-H Clubs had special exhibits on project work. The Pensacola Club won in the school club division and the Arbuttle Club won in the Community division.

#### FEBRUARY-MARCH

In February and March, 4-H Club members sold first-aid kits to promote the 4-H Development Fund. They raised \$300.

#### APRIL

On April 27 the sixth annual 4-H Talent Show was held in the Burnsville School gymnasium. Over a hundred 4-H'ers participated. Attendance was approximately 400. Placing first was the Bee Log Senior 4-H Club with a skit called "Shortenin' Bread." Second place went to the Clearmont Clappers, a square-dance team. Ramona Bowditch from South Toe School won third place with a piano solo—"Black Hawk Waltz." Other numbers which placed were "Wildwood Flower," a guitar number by Billy Gouge and "The Minuet" by the Bald Creek Junior 4-H Club.

#### MAY

In May Yancey County 4-H Clubs observed 4-H Church Sunday by helping with church services in various ways. On May 29 five boys and girls were selected to receive registered gifts through the 4-H clubs and Sears.

#### JUNE-JULY

June and July are probably the busiest months of all for the 4-H Club members.

The County 4-H Dress Revue and Health Pageant was held June 8. There were three divisions of the Dress Revue. Anita Hall won in the sub-junior division, Ramona Bowditch in the junior division and Mary Sue Grindstaff in the senior division. A total of 20 girls participated.

Fifteen Kings and Queens of Health, selected from various clubs, participated in the Health Pageant. Junior winners Sheila Pale and Gary Bennett won free trips to camp and senior winners Virginia McMahan and Oscar Fender won scholarships to 4-H Club Week.

Joan Gortney from Brush Creek and Glenn Presnell from Double

### SEWING

#### BY CATHY MORROW

My name is Cathy Morrow. I am nine years old. I made an apron and I was in the Apron Revue. I got a white ribbon for my apron. I was proud of the ribbon and my mother was, too. My 4-H leader told me to keep my apron, so I am. My apron is red with white spots and rick-rack on it.

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### THE HOME

#### BY SARAH C. WILSON

My 4-H project has helped me realize how much better a neat room looks and how much space can be saved by simply knowing how to arrange things.

I spent one whole Saturday washing walls and cleaning out closets. Now, I can find the pair of shoes I want more easily.

My grandmother gave me a dresser, bed spread and curtains for my room. I also added two lamps (one bed lamp and one desk lamp) and a rug.

In looking at my room I realized I was losing a lot of space in corners, so I re-arranged the furniture. I also cleaned out the drawers in my closet.

My color scheme is blue. The rug, bed spread and walls are blue. My bed, desk, dresser, chest and table are maple.

## Conference Molds 4-H Leaders

#### BY RAMONA BOWDITCH

The Seventh Western District 4-H Leadership Conference was held at Swannanoa on August 13-17, 1962. This theme was "Your Challenge—Leadership for Tomorrow."

Leadership Conference is planned to provide for 4-H members fourteen and over a chance to secure a broader vision of the opportunities in 4-H Club work and to secure training that will enable them to be more effective junior leaders.

I was chosen as one of the young people from Yancey County to go to 4-H Leadership Conference in 1962. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience that has, and will continue to help me in working with younger 4-H members.

Each morning and evening we had sessions in which state and district 4-H leaders talked to us on such subjects as "Youth Leadership and Group Effectiveness," "You O 4-H Junior Leader," "The Community 4-H Club," "Opportunities in Leadership," and others. Through them we learned how to work together effectively as a group, how not to become irritated with younger people, how your appearance makes a big impression, how to organize and

keep a community 4-H Club going, and what to consider in choosing careers for the future.

We were divided into four groups. Each morning one group would have worship. There were four of these workshops. They were long-time record keeping, recreation leadership, "I Need Your Lovin'," and Communications.

In record keeping we learned the correct way to fill out a long-time record book, plus other things that make it interesting.

Recreation leadership was a period when we were taught new games and dances. We were also given a chance at trying to lead the group in these.

"I Need Your Lovin'" caught everyone's attention with its title. It was to show us how to understand people that are older, younger, and the same age as you and how to make yourself understood.

In communications we learned different pointers in writing more effectively, ways to prepare radio copy and how to act when on a radio program.

We had a "library" in a canteen room. At a certain time each day we had a reading period in which we were to check out books and spend that time studying and concentrating.

Every evening we had special interests groups. In these we se-

lected a project we liked and then spent that time working on it. The ones we could choose from were recreation leadership, long-time records, rocks and minerals, photography, and crafts (aluminum copper tooling, and broom making). I chose copper tooling in crafts.

At night, after sessions, we received some of the things we had learned in recreation.

Of course no day was complete without vespers. Each night a different service was pre-staged and each pointed out something.

Thursday night we had a picnic and "stunt night." Each cabin presented a stunt and also challenged another cabin in some feat. We all had a very good time.

On Friday evening both girls and boys looked their best. We had a banquet and then a Recognition Ball. L. R. Harrill, State 4-H Club Leader, and his wife were present. There were no outstanding leadership awards presented as each person attending had leadership qualities.

Saturday morning we said our farewells and departed with many memories. I'm sure each person left with a better understanding of other people and had learned how to be a more effective junior leader.

