

Boys and Girls Club Work

Paul Graf, Agricultural Agent, listed seventy-five boys and girls in Boys and Girls Clubs in Grant County in 1921. These were enrolled through rural schools and community clubs. In the following year, ninety boys and girls were engaged in club work in the county, with club work being especially strong in the North Andover area.

No further mention of number of members is mentioned until 1929 when county agent Keenan reported a total enrollment in "4-H Club Work" of 380 members enrolled in twenty-two different 4-H clubs. This was the first mention of 4-H, as such, instead of Boys and Girls Club Work.

Some of the void existing in county agent's early reports on Boys and Girls Club Work has been filled in by Mrs. Delbert Felder (formerly Marian Metcalf) of Glen Haven in a typewritten paper on "Early 4-H History in Grant County," prepared for the author (W. Pierick). Mrs. Felder relates how in 1921 the North Andover Calf and Pig Club, influenced by county agent Graf and George Davies, then secretary of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeder's Association, decided to exhibit at the Junior Livestock Exhibition in Madison. Of the trip she gives the following account:

"The calves were taken to Glen Haven, loaded on a box car and shipped to Madison accompanied by at least two of the older boys of the club. The members who were to show, accompanied by their parents and other interested adults, drove cars on Sunday. It was an all-day affair in those days with a top speed of Model T and other cars being a little over 25 miles per hour. The roads were also not what they are today."

The following year, 1922, Marian Metcalf won first place in the Junior Shorthorn class at the Junior Livestock Exposition and was chosen to attend the second annual National 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago "in connection with the International Livestock Exposition."

In 1923, Rachel Zuenster of the North Andover Calf and Pig Club won grand championship at the Madison show with the same Shorthorn calf, which she had purchased from Marian Metcalf. Rachel was then selected to attend National 4-H Club Congress in 1923.

Dorothy Orr, of the North Andover club, exhibited the junior champion beef calf at the 1924 Junior Livestock Exhibition and was subsequently selected by the State 4-H Club Office to attend the 1924 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago.

It was in 1924 that the North Andover community barn was built to house the livestock for their Community Fair.

In 1925, the North Andover club's girls organized separately under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Metcalf, assisted by Anna Forck and Alice Myers. In addition to exhibiting at the Madison show, a group went to the Wisconsin State Fair. Sewing, baking and canning exhibits were taken as well as two 4-H demonstration teams. Both Helen Metcalf and Earl Retallick were chosen to attend the 1925 National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago.

In 1925 Marian Metcalf made a personal appearance before the Grant County Board of Supervisors to request the hiring of a full-time 4-H club agent for Grant County, but the request was denied.

By 1926, Charles Metcalf was considered 4-H leader for all of west Grant County and Mrs. Charles Metcalf was the girl's leader in the Glen Haven-North Andover area. A new group of girls organized at Bloomington - the Tafton 4-H Club. Another club was organized at Patch Grove under the leadership of Mrs. Walter Andrew and Miss Glee Humphrey.

Also, in 1926, a team of three girls from the North Andover Girl's Club gave a demonstration on first aid at the State Fair and were declared the "state champion demonstration team." These girls were selected to go to the 1926 National 4-H Club Congress to demonstrate.

There they were selected third nationally. The members of this team were Rachel Kuenster (now Mrs. William Himes), Violet Walz (now Sister M. Suzanne), and Marian Metcalf.

Marian Felder "became leader of all west Grant club girls in 1927, except for a group near Beetown. The Beetown group may have been what was later known as the Home Hunters 4-H Club. Three more 4-H clubs were organized later by Miss Felder, one at Mt. Hope, one north of Patch Grove on Military Ridge, and one at St. Joseph's parish, Sinsinawa. These three clubs were the Hilltop Helpers, the Military Star club, and the Sinsinawa Sunshine 4-H club.