

North Lancaster Club Organized--Mrs. Eugene Croft was leader of a small girl's club which was organized in North Lancaster in 1922. The club had six members at the time. Members carried sewing and calf projects.

In 1927, boys were admitted to the club and the name Merry Mixers was selected for the club. The name was selected because of the "mixing" of girls and boys at this time. It was also in 1927 that Mrs. Lela Govier replaced Mrs. Eugene Croft as girl's leader and Irvin Vesperman became boy's leader.

Miss Geneva Vesperman (later Mrs. Paul Bailie) took over duties as girl's leader in 1929. In 1931, Will Bailie was appointed to replace Vesperman as boy's leader.

The Merry Mixers 4-H club is one of two Grant County 4-H clubs organized in this period of history that has continued, uninterrupted, year after year, to the present day of this writing, 1962. The other of these two clubs is the Hurricane Hustler's 4-H Club of South Lancaster which was first organized in 1928 under the leadership of Mrs. Earla Wieland.

Keenan Reports 4-H Activity--County agent Jack Keenan reported active participation in the Wisconsin Junior Livestock Exhibition in the twenties, with an average of twenty-five to thirty head of beef being shown annually.

In 1923, fifty boys competed in livestock judging contests held at Boscobel, Bloomington and Lancaster Fairs.

A boys and girls demonstration team each won a district contest in 1929 and each went on to place second at the state contest held at State Fair. This same year, three boys won the state livestock judging contest and went on to take part in the national contest held at St. Louis

Keenan, who by this time had developed an intense interest in 4-H club work, stated in his 1929 report, "The value of club work cannot be estimated, but if these 380 boys and girls are

to carry on the principles that are taught in club work, this work will be worth thousands of dollars to Grant County in the future."

Enrollment Jumps—An unprecedented jump in county 4-H enrollment was realized the following year, 1930, when 912 Grant County boys and girls were enrolled. These members were from forty-five clubs that were located in twenty-eight of the thirty-three Grant County townships. Much of this enrollment, however, was due to the enrollment of many vocational agriculture students and others from the schools who were enlisted through the cooperation of the Smith-Hughes teachers. A total of 600 members of the 912 "achieved" at the close of the 4-H year, the achievement pins being donated by the Grant County Banker's Association.

Succeeding years, for a time at least, found a gradual decline in 4-H enrollment and in the number of clubs. For example, in 1931 enrollment dropped to 827 and in 1932 there were only 551 members enrolled in twenty-seven clubs.

Members Receive Recognition--In 1930, Keith Vesperman of the Farview Stars, Lancaster, raised and showed the grand champion steer at the Junior Livestock Show in Madison. Burdette Graney of the North Star Workers, Lancaster, and Dale McFall of the Harrison Hustlers, Platteville, brought home "considerable honors" with their pigs at the same show. Lillian Heller of the Sinsinawa Sunshine club, who had won the county health contest, was declared the "healthiest girl in the state" at the State Fair.

The feat of having the "healthiest girl" in Wisconsin was repeated again in 1932. The name of the winning girl that year is not known. Two Grant County 4-H demonstration teams, a boy team and a girls' team, were winners of first places at the 1932 Wisconsin State Fair. Twenty demonstration teams participated this year in the county 4-H demonstration contest. Four-H members exhibited at four Grant County fairs in 1932.