

# Four Welsh brothers build foundation in 4-H

By JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Reporter  
EAST BERLIN, Pa.

The problem: How do you direct four young men into worthwhile learning experiences as they are growing up?

The solution: Get 'em involved in 4-H!

Four such young men became involved, and in the process, have been named winners of top awards in the recent county 4-H Achievement presentations.

The boys are the sons of James and Emilie Welsh, East Berlin R1. Seven years ago, the Welsh family moved to York County from a farm in Maryland, not far from Washington, D. C., hoping to escape the encroaching suburbs. James Welsh's parents were already living near East Berlin, and helped to make the transition into the new dairy facilities somewhat smoother. After getting settled in the beautiful new ranch home, the opportunity arose for their sons to join the nearby Thomasville 4-H club. At that point, the boys' 4-H success story had begun.

Gary, age 17, is the oldest of the boys. He gleaned the top male award in the York county competition when he was chosen Outstanding 4-H Boy Overall at the 1976 Achievement Day. A senior at the York County Vocational-Technical School, studying auto mechanics, Gary also won the 4-H's automotive project plaque. Another project for several years in his 4-H work has been dairy, and he is responsible for helping with the outside work on the family farming operation. But, Gary has decided that he would "sooner be an automotive mechanic than a dairyman."

This young man's interest in expanding his automotive knowledge, coupled with the teen leadership project involvement, has led to his helping to establish the first 4-H Automotive Club in York County in several years. The club has received a donated car for their study. They plan to tear the motor apart in order to get a first-hand look at what makes motors "go."

Gary recently discovered an interest in journalism, and through his elective writing classes at school, he is contributing to their newspaper, *The Tech Times*.

Active in his local Thomasville Community Club, Gary also carries rifle, agronomy and pesticide projects. When he rounded up all the safety measures he takes on the assorted project areas, and set them down on a "blue form," the story won him an additional award, the Keystone Safety presentation.

Sandwiched into his busy schedule each week during the school months are several hours devoted to work with the York area Junior Achievement program. Sponsored by participating industries, the Junior Achievement advisors help interested youth establish "mini-industries." They elect a board, then produce, advertise, and sell



Displaying their trophies around (back, left to right) Tommy Welsh, the family-room fireplace are: (front, left to right) Joey Welsh, Outstanding Jr. Boy; Mike Welsh, Rookie Boy; and Gary Welsh, Outstanding Boy Overall.

a product, and balance their books to determine a profit or a loss. Geared toward teaching business knowledge through involvement, the JA program gives corporations a chance to effectively educate the participating youth. Pace Resources, of York, sponsors the company to which Gary belongs. Their project, this year is producing wooden baskets with beaded macrame hangers.

Sixteen-year-old Tommy Welsh received the Outstanding Boy for 1976 trophy in the senior division. Like brother Gary, Tommy has been in 4-H for five years, and carries numerous projects. Included in the list are tractor, rifle, leathercraft, rockets and teen leadership. In addition to his projects, Tommy has just been elected president of his local club.

A number of first-place show awards helped Tommy to win another county award, in the senior dairy project division. He owns several animals in the family herd, but his favorite Brown Swiss senior heifer calf did the best job in his show string this year. The calf placed first at the county roundup, then went on to do the same at the district and state 4-H competition.

Included in Tommy's home chores are helping to milk and raise the calves. His work with calves blossomed into the demonstration that he took to 4-H State Days this past summer. Entitled "Moo-vin Out," the demonstration featured a model of an outdoor calf hutch, patterned after the 10 hutches in use at the Welsh's Ponderosa Farms.

"We really like the hutches," states Tommy. "Calves stay in them until weaned, and then the building gets moved to a new spot. It really helps cut down on diseases."

Tommy is a Junior at the county's Vo-Tech School. His

field of studies - electrician - gave him the background to take another 4-H award in the electricity project.

With Gary, he serves as a football manager for the Vo-Tech team. Originally, Tommy planned to play on the team. He found he had to choose between football and 4-H showing of cattle - and the 4-H activities won. However, he does play the trumpet in the school band after football season ends.

Junior Achievement has a place in Tommy's life, too. He belongs to a company backed by American Chain and Cable Company of York. Hanging basket items are popular this year, and this junior corporation is also in that field.

The third brother, Joey, is a 14 year old ninth grader at Spring Grove Junior High School. He, too, is planning future studies in the vocational area, possibly the electronics field.

Joey was presented the Outstanding Junior Boy award and an Outstanding Junior Dairy Project plaque. The owner of a two-yr-old Ayrshire that was grand champion at the county roundup, Joey can frequently be found in the milking parlor, helping his Dad. He also owns a Jersey senior heifer calf that took first place and reserve champion at the York Fair. "There's a lot of competition between Mike (his younger brother) and me," he laughs.

A specialty of Joey's is working in leather. One of his projects was a beautiful wall clock with a leather face, now prized by his mother. This interest inspired his demonstration for State Days. Showing the steps in making a leather belt from start to finish, the presentation brought him a red ribbon.

His mother, Emilie, worries about Joey's unabashed love for taking things apart. She relates how she once mentioned this to one of his teachers.

"The next thing I knew, the teacher had him working on a cassette tape player. I wondered what in the world I had gotten him into," she said.

When asked what happened to the player, Mike related, "It was a make no one had ever heard of before - but another kid and I fooled with the wires. After while it made a funny squawking sound, and we got it working again!" The teacher must have been pleased - Joey has since repaired walkie-talkies and a CB set for him.

In addition to his 4-H activities, Joey works with the youth group at nearby Paradise (Holzschwaam) Lutheran Church in Thomasville. They recently hiked the Appalachian Train, camping overnight in the mountains. He also camped in June at the 4-H Hidden Valley Camp in Perry County.

Exuberant Mike is the youngest family member. This was his first year in 4-H work, and his efforts made him the winner of the Rookie Boy award. Mike owns four dairy project animals, two Jerseys and two Holsteins. At the 4-H county roundup, he took reserve and champion in the Jersey class. An animal lover, Mike also carried a pets project with his two rabbits. He received a county award for that field. Sharing the family's enthusiasm for leathercraft, Mike prepared a county demonstration showing the medallions he has made.

The presentation won the beginner a red ribbon award.

A friendly, outgoing youngster, Mike especially enjoyed helping with the 4-H Chicken Bar-B-Que held as a fund-raising event at the 4-H Center near Bair. Each 4-H'er had a specific job to do. "I helped to show the people their seats; that was really fun," confides Mike.

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