

Evelyn Hess

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meetings. "He was very much looked up to," she says, and now enjoys a continuing association with him as he serves the Foundation in an advisory capacity.

How was 4-H important to her? Evelyn says with a smile, "I was really, really bashful, and 4-H helped me get over it. I also made a lot of friends that I have to this day. We still keep in touch, and I would never have known them without 4-H."

There's every chance, of course, that her husband, J. Robert, might have remained unknown to her without 4-H. After all, he grew up on a dairy farm near Strasburg and she was in Lititz. However, they did meet at a 4-H roller skating party and enjoyed many 4-H activities together.

Their four children also enjoyed the benefits of 4-H. They are: Rob, 31; Debbie, 29; Kim, 28; and Jack, 24. Debbie lives to Boston, with the other three living in the Lancaster area. Each of the children had dairy animals, and the girls took sewing projects as well.

Evelyn traveled to Penn State as a 4-H'er with a demonstration on the color wheel, and finds it amusing that she was learning warm and cool colors in her youth. She says, "It was an excellent experience, and I still use that information. "One of her projects was home improvement, in which she slip covered a chair."

Frankly, she says the many skills she learned in sewing are valuable to her still and are skills she never had a chance to learn elsewhere. "We didn't have home economics in school, so I learned to sew on buttons and darn in 4-H."

Although she "never had any champions" among her many steer projects, she did experience showing at the Farm Show and was first in her class one year.

Today, Evelyn is a 4-H leader with the Lampeter Guys and Gals Club, which has about 50 members. Evelyn is a cooking leader and enjoys giving back to the program some of the same enthusiasm and encouragement her leaders gave her. That club is somewhat unique in that it has already organized for the year and has begun meeting, and will conclude before school is finished. Evelyn points out that is their answer to declining enrollments, and difficulties with summer jobs, family vacations and other obstacles in the summer.

The 4-H program has changed a lot since her days as a 4-H'er. "Then, the extension leader came to every meeting. They were the leaders and 4-H leaders helped," Evelyn recalls. She remembers her cooking clubs meeting in the

leaders farm home, with 4-H'ers scattered throughout the house and in the yard. They were all "neighborhood girls," and Evelyn says, "We rode bicycles or walked to the meetings." They met at the home of Ben Sheaffer, with Jean Newcomer also serving as leader.

"I can't imagine a life without 4-H socially," Evelyn says. "It was very important then. But now kids have many other involvements." She said a big change is that when she was a member, 4-H carried a higher importance. "It was a priority in our life." Now it sometimes gets second or third choice in the busy lives of youngsters.

She also notes that there are far more younger members than when she was in the club. "There aren't that many members who stay in after 15. Many have summer jobs, and there's also girls' softball. That's a change of the times."

The project variety is now much wider than when she was a member, something Evelyn feels is necessary. "4-H has to change to hold interest." She notes the increased popularity of cake decorating and other crafts, and the decreased interest in sewing within her own club.

Evelyn says she continues as a leader because, "I feel very strongly about it. I think it's helpful. It's a big advantage, and it's the least I can do." While Evelyn serves as a leader because for her own experiences, she said her club has many non-4-H leaders, who simply volunteer because they want their children to have the experience.

Having lived on a farm for the first 25 years of married life, Evelyn is used to hard work. She helped to milk the dairy herd, something she enjoyed doing. Today she fills half her days with driving school bus for Lampeter Strasburg School District. In the beginning of her 20th year as a driver, Evelyn continues to enjoy the contact with the children.

Evelyn is a member of Farm Women #28, and has served as president. She is active in the Neffsville Mennonite Church, and can often be found helping in the nursery during their mothers' programs each week. With her husband in real estate, Evelyn also does much bookwork at her desk.

As she continues to serve her community, she is constantly reminded of the importance 4-H played in her life and puts to use skills learned as a 4-H'er.

Darvin Boyd

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a member of the winning state judging team. "Those were great experiences," he recalls.

Just as large a thrill came to him 20 years later in 1981 when he was selected as one of eight National 4-H Alumni winners and traveled with his wife and two of his children to Chicago again. "I felt the same excitement as an alumni. 4-H was such an important part of my background. It was a gratifying experience," he states.

"In 4-H you truly learn by doing. There were so many things I learned from my projects, participation and competition. They were all invaluable to me as I went through school and into my vocation. I learned so much more than what I learned just through projects."

Boyd notes, "It is the total involvement, getting to know other members, and learning to speak and articulate. 4-H offers many opportunities for leadership and for program planning."

Following graduation from Delaware Valley College in 1964, Boyd went to Korea in yet another 4-H program, the International 4-H Youth Exchange program. He recalls, "It was a fabulous experience. After living with five families in six months, with no electricity, no flush toilets, and sleeping on the floor as they do, I did not consider it a hardship. I learned that they share the same aspirations for peace and an enjoyable family life as we do."

"That was my first intercultural experience and it made me appreciate the importance of more international programs to promote better world understanding."

It was a start for Boyd, and after returning to the United States and getting a masters degree in public administration from Penn State, he and his wife Linda went back to Korea with the American Korean Foundation to promote rural development, including establishing 4-H programs. Boyd explained that he helped develop a rural training center which brought together 4-H'ers from all parts of Korea for a four-week course.

He said, "We taught them the importance of patriotism, community development and their contributions to their communities. We also taught them the technical aspects of agriculture, such as soil testing, and nutrition of livestock." The girls were taught home economics as well.

When they returned to their homes, the young people were given project assistance and the support they needed to learn to keep records, and to be responsible for caring for their animals. Through this program, the Foundation supported thousands of Korean young people.

Darvin says he has no doubt that his having lived 4-H for years helped him have an impact on that developing country. "This was very valuable to that country in its earlier stages of development," he remarked.

After six years with the Foundation the Boyds returned to Akron and he worked in Harrisburg as the executive director of the health and welfare committee in the House of Representatives. He did analyses of legislation, studied the welfare system, and in general found the work very rewarding.

After three years he resigned from that job to seek the Republican nomination for

congressman in the 16th district. Although he lost that 12-way race, he said he learned a lot from the experience. He had felt qualified for the congressional seat because of his international interests. "From the beginning I knew the odds were not great that I would win, but I felt I had the experience and I was confident I could do the job."

He gives the impression that he is happy in whatever he is doing, and says flatly, "I really enjoy what I'm doing."

Working with agricultural loans is not easy with the present economy, but Boyd says realistically, "The last five years have been difficult times for agriculture, but I think we're starting to turn the corner. I think we'll start to see the silver lining around the clouds. There are still challenges in the next few years, but I think we've bottomed out."

For Boyd, every day is a good one. He says, "I like working with people in agriculture and in this part of the country. It is a real pleasure. They have a strong work ethic, a simple life, and understand the importance of family. Such important characteristics give more meaning to life."

Boyd himself is firmly committed to family life as the father of three children - Kevin, 11; Cindy, 7; and Brian, 3. He said he feels strongly the need to be available to nurture children.

He also has a strong commitment to the community, and serves as moderator of the Ephrata Church of the Brethren, now in his second three year term.

In somewhat of a departure from agriculture, he is a member of the Lancaster City-County Human Relations Commission, which

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