

New Maryland 4-H Center Opened

COLLEGE PARK, MD — A pavilion of memories, a launching pad for future leaders, and a symbol of service to the families of Maryland. These descriptions apply to the new Maryland 4-H Center at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Built at no expense to the university, the \$1 million, single-story structure with modified hip roof is the culmination of a 42-year dream by one man and a six-year fund-raising effort by more than 5,000 other adult volunteers.

Its 6,000 square feet of floor space provide a permanent headquarters for the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation, plus offices and meeting rooms used by state 4-H faculty members and staff of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service. A conference room accommodates public meetings for groups of up to 100 persons.

James R. Moxley, Jr., of West Friendship, a Howard County developer, was the man with a dream. A former president of the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation, Moxley headed the building committee which made his dream a reality.

During dedication ceremonies for the new building on May 10, Moxley told those in attendance that his dream for a Maryland 4-H center began in 1947 when, as a Howard County 4-H member, he won a trip to the West Virginia 4-H Center at Jackson's Mill.

The May 10 dedication ceremony was a highlight of a week of events marking the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service, both nationwide and in Maryland.

A plaque at the front entrance of the Maryland 4-H Center honors the memory of Florence Arabella Crook Blaisdell, a former Howard County resident who loved young people.

In addition to the memorial to

Mrs. Blaisdell, the Maryland 4-H Center has plaques throughout the building that honor other adults, living and dead, who have played key leadership roles in Maryland's 4-H youth programs. All of the plaques were presented during the May 10 dedication program.

The honorees are:

James R. Moxley of West Friendship, chairperson of the building committee. As a 4-H member, Moxley was a member of one of Maryland's international champion youth dairy cattle judging teams. He has been inducted into the Maryland 4-H Hall of Fame.

Edward G. "Daddy" Jenkins, deceased. Jenkins was state 4-H boys club agent, 1919-1943. His son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Eben C. Jenkins, still live in the Hillandale section of Silver Spring.

Mylq S. Downey, deceased. Downey was state 4-H boys club agent, 1943-54. He served in national 4-H leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1954-67. Downey was a Washington County native and University of Maryland graduate.

Dorothy Emerson of Chevy Chase. Now more than 90 years old, Miss Emerson provided state and national 4-H program leadership for nearly 40 years. She served for many years as Maryland 4-H girls club agent. "Miss Dot's" training sessions in public speaking left a championship legacy for Maryland's 4-H dairy cattle judging teams.

W. Sherard Wilson of Ellicott City. Wilson served as state 4-H leader, 1954-67. He is a Howard County native and University of Maryland alumnus.

F. Grove Miller of North East. Miller is a longtime farm organization leader and president of the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation. He also heads the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society.

An entrance display is planned
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F. Grove Miller, right, president of the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation, presents a plaque to W. Sherard and Sue Wilson of Ellicott City. Wilson served as state 4-H leader from 1954-1967.

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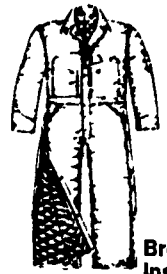
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