

Delaware 4-H Alumni Win State, National Awards

NEWARK, Del. — Ask any former 4-H'er the best thing about being in 4-H and you'll find it's the people. 4-H has a tradition of honoring its members current and past.

This year, two Delawareans have been honored as outstanding 4-H alumni. Walter Hopkins, a Sussex County dairy farmer, received a state award of recognition. Ruth Ann Minner, lieutenant governor of Delaware, received a national award of recognition.

The alumni-recognition program identifies former 4-H'ers who are role models for young people. Recipients are selected based on citizenship, leadership, career and personal accomplishments.

Minner was the first woman elected to Delaware's house of representatives, as well as the first female lieutenant governor. She still finds time to speak at 4-H meetings and to work with local 4-H groups. She was a member of 4-H for eight years and partici-

pated in sewing, foods, animal and leadership projects. Minner is a Democratic national committeewoman and vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee's Eastern Region.

"The contacts (through 4-H) broadened my view of the community and gave me an appreciation for the power of volunteerism," she says. "4-H helped me set and stick to goals — to meet and interact with other people. And it helped fuel a love of competition

and commitment to good sportsmanship that carried over into my political career."

Hopkins was the only son of 10 children to remain on his family's farm. He has held numerous offices in State and county community organizations including the Sussex County and Delaware State Farm Bureaus, the Holstein Association, the Delaware Crop Improvement Association and the Cape Henlopen School Board. As a 4-H'er he won a trip to Chicago

on the merit of his dairy project. Hopkins has served as an assistant leader for the local 4-H club. With the support of 4-H'ers and the Sussex County Cooperative Extension staff, Hopkins and his wife host farm tours for school children each May. His three children are actively involved in 4-H.

Hopkins says the 4-H judging in which he participated "helped your mental processes, made you dig deep into your thinking. A teenager needs that kind of training."

"We are proud of the thousands of 4-H alumni," says Joy Sparks, 4-H state program coordinator. "And we're especially pleased with the accomplishments of Lt. Governor Minner and Walter Hopkins. These two individuals serve as excellent role models for Delaware youth."

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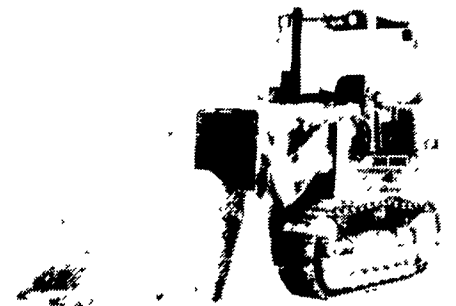
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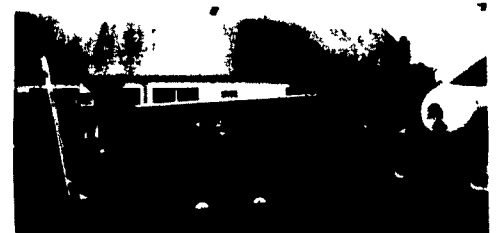
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