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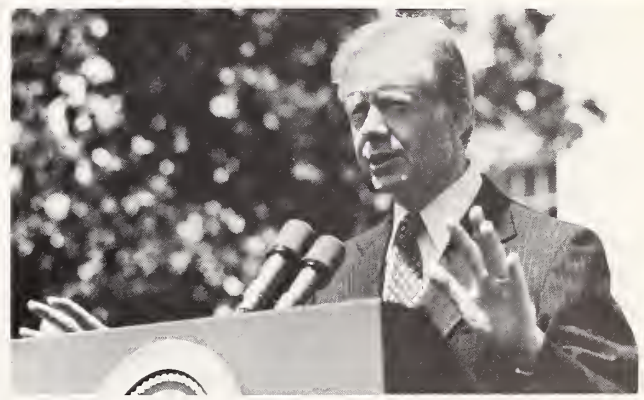
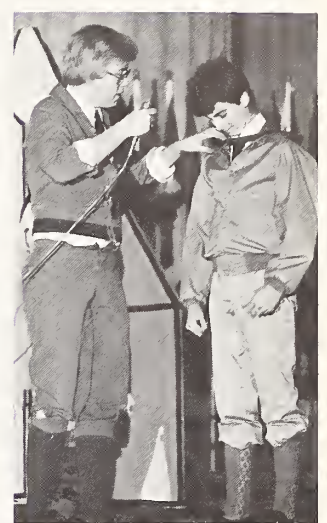
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Highlights of the 50th National 4-H Conference

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Cover: *In celebration of half a century of learning and growing, the 50th National 4-H Conference took place in Washington, D.C., in spring 1980. President Carter welcomed the participants, and Secretary of Agriculture Bergland addressed them. Delegates gave skits, conferred, made new friends. And 4-H alumni shared their recollections about 4-H's past.*

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November 1980



President Jimmy Carter welcomes the 1980 conference delegates to Washington, D.C., and the White House. Representing their fellow 4-H'ers are, from left to right: Robert Sherrod, Jr., N.C.; Carol Jo Noble, Nebr.; and Kenneth Guin, Jr., Ala (480A382-25a)

Highlights of the 50th National 4-H Conference

From astronaut training, business offices, farms, and world travels, 600 4-H alumni joined more than 300 4-H delegates at the 50th National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., April 12-18, 1980. The delegates represented more than 5.2 million young people, 570,000 volunteer leaders, and 10,000 field staffers in the United States.

President Jimmy Carter's visit with 4-H delegates and alumni on the South Lawn of the White House was a special part of the conference. The president received mementos from the 4-H'ers, including a 50th anniversary commemorative plate, a

commemorative book explaining the 4-H program of the Cooperative Extension Services, and a 4-H T-shirt for his daughter, Amy.

Delegates also visited Members of Congress, a featured event of every conference. U.S. Senator Larry Pressler (S. Dak.), a former 4-H member, was a conference speaker. And Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland answered questions about agricultural policies.

Tennessee 4-H members presented a pageant depicting events of the first years of the National 4-H Camp, predecessor of National 4-H Conferences. At the first meeting in 1927, delegates stayed in tents erected on the Mall in front of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Administration Building. Since



Senator Larry Pressler (S. Dak.), a former 4-H member, is spruced up by conference officials prior to his address to 4-H delegates. (480L381-5)

1959, conferences have been held at the National 4-H Center. The conferences are conducted by USDA's Science and Education Administration (Extension), the Cooperative Extension Services of the States, the National 4-H Council, and 4-H members.

The first camps and conferences were designed to reward and develop outstanding junior leaders in 4-H work. Each State selected two boys and two girls after considering their overall 4-H records. In 1980, each State sent as many as 10 representatives, including 4-H youth,

volunteer leaders, professional staff, and donors who serve on local or State councils or committees. Conference delegates represented nearly every segment of society: Males, females, whites, blacks, Hispanics, native Americans, Orientals, and others from rural, suburban, and urban areas. Other participants included representatives of other youth-serving organizations in the United States and foreign countries.

Increasing the involvement of young people and adults in 4-H at all levels is one of the most important objectives of each National 4-H Conference. As a result, the conference is becoming a national advisory group in the formation of programs and policies for 4-H work. During workshops this year, delegates made recommendations in such areas as reaching



special audiences; helping 4-H volunteers be effective; implementing career programs in 4-H; promoting educational efforts in energy, cultural heritage, 4-H citizenship, and collegiate 4-H programs; cooperating with other voluntary youth-development agencies; involving families in 4-H work; and showing the difference 4-H makes.

Alumni from 45 States were honored during special events. And alumni, including 11 who attended the first camp, helped reenact a tree-planting ceremony similar to one held at the 1927 meeting.

At the conference closing, the Honorable Juanita Kidd Stout, Judge of the Court of Common

Pleas in Philadelphia, Pa., urged delegates to follow the 4-H motto, "To Make The Best Better," as a means of developing responsibility. In paraphrasing the 4-H Pledge, she said: "If you strive for excellence in all your activities and keep the pledge of your head to clearer thinking, your heart to greater loyalty, your hands to larger service, and your health to better living, your future—without doubt—will be a responsible one."

The Honorable Juanita Kidd Stout, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, Pa., and a former 4-H member, makes the last conference speech.
(480A415-5)

Grant A. Shrum, executive vice president of the National 4-H Council, Washington, D.C., and Hazel Jordon, an Arkansas delegate in 1927, admire a lei that Dr. John Banning, chairman of the 1980 conference, is wearing. It was a gift from the Hawaii delegates.
(PN-6911)



Dr. John Banning, chairman of the conference, greets Camille David Fernandez of Virginia, a 1927 delegate. (480A412-27)



Video cameras record some of the discussions on future 4-H programs in consulting group sessions. (480A355-22)

In a collegiate 4-H'ers skit, members portray a "tuck-in service" complete with a 4-H bedtime story. (480A374-45)



The jury brings in a "yes" verdict to the question, Does 4-H make a difference?
(PN-6912)

A song-and-dance routine highlights "Family Involvement in 4-H."
(480A374-36)





4-H'ers present "Expanding Horizons," a production of the University of Tennessee's Extension staff that celebrates 50 years of National 4-H Conferences. (480L381-27)

The skirling of bagpipes delights the audience of "International Intrigue"—a night of music and other international activities. (480A337-34)



Erwin Williams, a 1927 delegate from Michigan who helped plant a ceremonial tree at the first conference on the grounds of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, participates in a tree-planting ceremony at the National 4-H Center to commemorate the 50th National 4-H Conference. Three onlookers are delegates from previous years: Zoe Coulson, Ind., 1951; Barbara Schick Stratton, N.J., 1947; and Captain Ellison S. Onizuka, Hawaii, 1963. At right is Joan Olson, a 1980 delegate from Minnesota. (480A418-26)



*It's always hard to say good-bye—but new friends, new experiences, learning and growing—that's what a 4-H conference is all about.
(480A419-22a)*

*Memories of the 50th National 4-H Conference will be with 4-H delegates and alumni for a long time to come.
(PN-6913)*

