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THE TRAINING OF THE HEART IN 4-H CLUB WORK

A radio talk by Mary Wien, 4-H club member, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, January 4, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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The 4-leaf clover was adopted as the emblem of 4-H Club Work during a National Conference of state club leaders in Washington in 1916. This emblem has a white H on each green leaflet. These 4 H's stand for the training of the head, heart, hand and health. The H that stands for greater loyalty of the heart is the one in which I am most interested.

In 4-H Club Work, we believe that our love and loyalty should reach out in service to our neighborhood. We give our best to better our community. We try to teach others the things we have been privileged to learn. We try to make the best, better -- whether by an improved crop of corn, a perfect seam, a new method of canning, or the building up of a purebred herd of cattle -- if we have helped to make them better, we feel our service has been worth while.

We learn to love the country and the beauty surrounding us. We are glad that we live in the country. We try to share in its beauty.

We also learn to appreciate the finer arts. We learn to recognize the works of an artist. We appreciate good music. Our minds drift away with the strains of a symphony. We are carried away by the swish and the swirl of a dancer interpreting a lovely lyric. We enjoy the production of a literary classic. Otis Skinner thrills us to the tip of our toes.

In our training of the heart in 4-H Club Work, we learn to be good citizens. We are loyal to our flag and to our country.

Our heart furnishes an instinct to push us ever onward and upward to higher ideals and principles. Nothing worthwhile has ever been accomplished that did not first come from the heart.

Our dreams, however, do not always come true. Life is not a fairy story -- it is real. 4-H club members are not easily discouraged. They do not weep when their plans and hopes seem to be beyond help. They try to pick them up and "carry on". "They can take it."

After an avenue of progress has been visualized, 4-H Club Work trains us to explore it with determination and devotion and to decide its worth. A 4-H leader will have the magnetism to draw others along this same path he has explored. He will cause others to strive to attain that goal or achievement which will bring benefits to all with whom he associates.

A 4-H club member's heart is sincere -- true to ideas, true to ideals, true to his task, true to others, and true to himself.

(over)

He creates and preserves human happiness through his kindness and the generosity of his heart. He believes in sharing things -- whether it be a new recipe for cookies, a new ration for feeding cattle, an improved variety of seed corn, or a new collar and cuff pattern -- if it will help his neighbor, the 4-H club member shares it with him.

4-H club members will go marching on as time progresses -- marching on in a great movement which is beautifully described in a poem that is very dear to me and expresses it more graphically than I can hope to do.

"I see an Army of Youth marching,
Cheeks freshly pink as the deep wild roses,
Eyes shining with hope and idealism,
Strong muscles, straight backs, plastic minds
Youth -- spoiled, unspoiled, naive, wise, brave, yellow,
But always Youth and its lacy cobweb dreams
They shall strike out into paths.
Taking the open road
Becoming pioneers in far-off lands.
They shall smell the salty tang of the sea.
And caress voluptuous Persian silks;
Japan shall rain her peach blossoms on them
They shall go to new lands
Ahead of them adventure, daring enterprises, exploration,
thought (original thought), a new philosophy
That shall subdue the world.
They shall gain all because they gave all.
Their lives shall be gloriously exhilarating.

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