

6-1-2015

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Gilberta Horn Lieuallen

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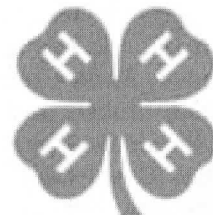
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Recommended Citation

Horn Lieuallen, Gilberta (2015) "History of 4-H in Pilot Rock, Umatilla, OR," *Swedish American Genealogist*: Vol. 35 : No. 2 , Article 6.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swensonsag/vol35/iss2/6>

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History of 4-H in Pilot Rock, Umatilla County, OR



BY GILBERTA HORN LIEUALLEN

A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, in 1902, which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs. The purpose of 4-H is to open doors for young people to learn leadership skills. 4-H revolutionized how youth connected to a practical, hands-on learning experience outside the classroom.

My grandparents were Grant and Thressa Porter Horn. They had three children: Wilbert¹ (my father), Hilmer, and Thelma. Before Thressa Porter was married to Grant Horn, she was a teacher at Pendleton Academy. She knew her subjects and how to relate to young people. This knowledge helped her when she became a 4-H leader. Early in my grandmother's married life, she began sharing her knowledge of sewing and cooking with her relatives and their children and later her daughter, Thelma.



Thelma Horn.

Thelma graduated from Oregon State with a major in home economics and a minor in art. This was a great background when she came home to help her mother with 4-H.

My earliest memories of 4-H began in the mid 1940s when I would attend 4-H club meetings with my older sisters, Tylene and Petra. I was given small projects that taught me the basics. I was expected to attain the same high standard of workmanship as my older sisters. As my grandparents' home was five miles out of Pilot Rock on Stewart Creek, club members would ride the school bus to the ranch for the meetings. Boys and girls were welcome to attend. Boys took part in the cooking, and girls did both cooking and sewing. The boys were in "Cooking I" and learned to make biscuits, which when the fair came, they ended up taking a sample to the County Fair. The girls would choose a sewing project that fit the level of their experience. On each step of their project the boys and girls would keep a record, which also needed to be turned in with their project at the County Fair.

Some of the children that I remember who attended were: Sandra Smith, Marcy May, Joyce Porter, Marilyn Porter, Juanita Jones, Josephine Jones, Jesse Jones, and my brother Ladd. Club meetings were structured with the usual officers conducting the meeting. Songs were sung and demonstrations given. After the meeting, games were played, and quite often we would have a juicy orange with a small peppermint candy stick to suck the orange juice. Then parents would come and take their children home.

Two of the prominent 4-H leaders in Pilot Rock were Thelma Horn and Mrs. Charles Carnes. Sometimes the

4-H club leaders would take the children's projects to the County Fair or the county agent would take them. If the girls' projects made it to the State Fair, then Mrs. Carnes would take a group and parents also took children. While Tylene was at the National 4-H Convention in Chicago, she heard Fred Waring and his band. Fred Waring and Jack Dolph were commissioned to write a song for 4-H. The song is "A Place in The Sun." The names in this story are few compared with those who took part in 4-H through the years while at Pilot Rock. The benefits the youth gained from this program are long lasting. A special thank you goes to all the leaders who have stepped forward to be a 4-H leader!



The Grant Horn family: Thressa, Hilmer, Wilbert, Thelma, and Grant.

Editor's note: This article was first published in *Pioneer Trails*, vol. 38, # 3, fall/winter 2014, journal of the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum, Pendleton, OR.

Photos: courtesy of Gilberta Horn LieualLEN.

Note 1: Wilbert Horn married Emma Elizabeth Johnson, born in Oregon to Swedish parents. Father: Carl Jacob Johnson, born 5 July 1873 in Vinköl (Skar.), and mother: Jenny Maria Elisabeth Johansson, born 4 May 1883 in Hamneda (Kron.).

Gilberta Horn LieualLEN lives in Adams, OR.
Her e-mail is:
<glieualLEN@gmail.com>