

National 4-H Council – 2012



Home: Silver Spring, MD
Nominated by: National 4-H Council
Year Inducted: 2012

Glenn Dildine Project Coordinator, Research Project in Developmental Needs of Youth

4-H Activities: Professor of education at the Institute of Child Study, University of Maryland. Joined the National 4-H Club Foundation staff in 1952 to become project coordinator for the Research Project in Developmental Needs of Youth. Studies provided the framework for 4-H's first move away from projects devoted strictly to agriculture and home economics resulted in a series of training workshops for state and county personnel. The Citizenship Improvement Study he led in the 1950s was an elaborate extension of the human development-human relations workshops that attracted 4-H professionals to summer programs at the National 4-H Center.

Glenn Dildine revolutionized 4-H and Extension staff development in the 1950s by introducing citizenship and human development into the preparation of extension agents and volunteer leaders. He joined the National 4-H Club Foundation staff in 1952 to become project coordinator for the Research Project in Developmental Needs of Youth. With grants from the Rockefeller and Schwarzhaupt Foundations, the 4-H Foundation started a series of research studies that provided the framework for 4-H's first move away from projects devoted strictly to agriculture and home

economics. They resulted in training workshops for state and county personnel in which professionals realized that "the kid was more important than the calf."

Dildine saw a close relationship between citizenship program development and human relations training for staff, saying "work in citizenship education is inseparably related to the basic purpose of the human development - human relations work." He agreed to lead both initiatives because "it provided a chance to maintain many activities already underway, and ... promised to provide an ideal way to focus in depth the basic purpose of the Human Development - Human Relations Program." The Citizenship Improvement Study he led in the 1950s was an elaborate extension of the human development - human relations workshops that attracted 4-H professionals to summer programs at the National 4-H Center.

Quote: Dr. Glenn Dildine advanced the skills that educators need in helping youth and adults mature in the developmental and behavioral tasks. He made a major contribution to the training and staff development programs of the Cooperative Extension System especially for youth education and volunteers. His cooperative relationships with The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and the Institute of Child Development at the University of Maryland enriched the six week-long short courses in Human Development-Human Relations for Extension personnel which he conducted annually. In addition he taught and advised countless training conferences across the country.

- Grant Shrum, former President and CEO, National 4-H Council

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Melvin Thompson Director of 4-H International Programs

4-H Activities and Honors: Muskegon Co. MI 4-H member; State 4-H Achievement Award, 1951; State Safety Award, 1949; National 4-H Congress, 1949; National 4-H Conference, 1952; Michigan State Univ. 4-H Scholarship, 1951-55, IFYE delegate to Turkey, 1953; IFYE Fellowship, 1956-57; Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover Society (Hall of Fame), 2004; IFYE Association Meritorious Service Award, 2005; National 4-H Council honor for "lifetime service and leadership to the 4-H movement and dedication and support to 4-H International Programs and 4-H globally," 2010. Held Michigan county and state 4-H positions. Associate Director and later Director of 4-H International Programs, National 4-H Council.

Mel was a 4-H'er in Muskegon Co., MI. After graduating from Michigan State, he worked with National 4-H Foundation (Council) prior to military service. He returned as a 4-H Youth Agent in Monroe Co., then joined the Peace Corps staff as liaison with Cooperative Extension. He spent two years in Nigeria as the Overseas Representative under a Peace Corps contract. He returned to the Michigan State 4-H staff for two years before joining National 4-H Council in 1968 as Associate Director, and later Director of 4-H International Programs. Mel was consultant to the Botswana 4B Foundation Board of Directors and coordinator of the 1972 World IFYE Conference and 1979 & 1984 Caribbean Rural Youth

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Leaders Seminars.

Mel's international interest began when his family started hosting exchange participants and was strengthened when he heard Russell Mawby report on his 1948 IFYE experience in the United Kingdom. He and Mawby now chair the Michigan 4-H International Programs Endowment to support global education experiences for Michigan 4-H. He was president of the Michigan 4-H International Association, twice president of the IFYE Association of the USA and edited the newsletter for over 15 years. Mel served on the National 4-H International Task Force and on the International Home Economics Services board of directors. He is Vice President of a family business founded by his wife, Linda, and an active church member.

Quote: Thanks to a Great Grandmother who started our 4-H Club and to a Mother who kept it going for 60 years! 4-H provided the incentives which led to my career involving an international emphasis at all levels - county, state, national, and globally. People-to-People connections are the key to understanding - a must objective for all educational institutions and programs.....an endeavor I strongly endorse and promote! A challenge to all: An Image of Excellence includes an International Dimension!



Mel with other 1953 Michigan IFYE Delegates and (right) with a host brother in Turkey.



Mel and Seminar Consultant Dr. Charles W. Lifer of Ohio (lower right) during the 1979 Caribbean Rural Youth Leader's Seminar in Trinidad and Tobago.



Mel with his 4-H Achievement Booth during the Michigan State 4-H Show in 1951.