

# National 4-H Hall of Fame 006 Oklahoma



## **Ray Parker** **State 4-H Specialist**

Home: Stillwater, OK

Nominated by: Oklahoma 4-H

### **Major 4-H Efforts:**

Joined McClain Co. 4-H in 1929; primary projects in poultry and public speaking. Became Assistant County Agent in 1951 and State 4-H Specialist in 1957. Provided leadership for State 4-H Roundup, State 4-H Congress, State 4-H Officers and 4-H Leisure Laboratories. A pioneer in developing and conducting leisure and environmental education programs with impact both in the state and nationally. Gave leadership for a time to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, securing some of the earliest 4-H scholarships. Received awards for distinguished service from USDA and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension. Member of Epsilon Sigma Phi and a frequent donor to Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

### **Biography:**

Ray Parker became a 4-H member in McClain Co. in 1929, where his primary projects were poultry and public speaking. After receiving a BS degree in 1947, he became an instructor for returning veterans' education. He became an Assistant County Agent in 1951 and was promoted to State 4-H Specialist in 1957. Parker provided leadership for State 4-H Roundup (which he had attended as a youth delegate), State 4-H Congress, State 4-H Officers and 4-H Leisure Laboratories. He was a pioneer in developing and conducting leisure and environmental education programs that had an impact both in the state and nationally.

In addition to his program duties, Parker was responsible for the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation until the time that a full time director was hired. He was responsible for securing some of the earliest 4-H scholarships. After 25 years in the state 4-H office, he retired in 1982. That year the State 4-H Roundup was dedicated to him to honor his contributions to Roundup and the 4-H program. During his career, Parker received awards for distinguished service from USDA and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension. He has been active in his local church, Lions Club and Epsilon Sigma Phi and a frequent donor to Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

### **Quotes:**

"I'm a people person, and I always enjoyed working with people, especially young people."

"The highlight of my career was seeing former 4-H members go on make a mark for themselves, and to leave a mark on their community and their country."

"I think the future of the program is very bright. I like the things that I see being done today. The future is in serving young folks where they are. Keep providing opportunities, stay in touch with the times and keep the program relevant and you will have a great future."

**Photos:**



Ray and Bernice Parker with the first female OK 4-H president at a reception in his honor.



Ray Parker speaks with 4-H boys in Garfield County.



Parker and the Oklahoma delegation to the 31st National 4-H Conference.