

Montana



Geraldine G. Fenn - Montana State 4-H Staff

4-H Efforts:

Originated the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE). Initiated Montana People Partner Program. Many efforts in Montana Children, Youth and Families programs.

4-H Honors:

Honored at the National Convention of the IFYE in 1986. Received State of Montana Governor's Citation for her work with Montana Children, Youth and Families.

Born: South Dakota

Nominated by: Montana 4-H

Year Inducted: 2002

This excerpt from a letter to IFYEs portrays Gerry's commitment to youth development and enthusiasm for her work.

"For a long time, I've been interested in a community development approach to youth. It has been clearly demonstrated that youth organizations and youth serving agencies can strengthen their work by:

1. Getting acquainted with each other
2. Assessing the local situation
3. Deciding upon goals
4. Carrying out mutually helpful activities and programs.

When there is a potential for developing a community approach to youth in Montana, or in other states and countries, I am glad to try to help."

Former Montana State 4-H Staff member and originator of the International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) died in Bozeman in September, 1989. She earned degrees in home economics and music from South Dakota State University and joined the Montana State 4-H staff in 1946. Miss Fenn was a visiting youth specialist in Germany in 1950, trained Peace Corps volunteers for work in Equador during the 60's, retired from the University in 1967, and then served on the State's Human Resource Council until 1977.

In 1965 she was honored as Distinguished Alumni of South Dakota State University. She received the State of Montana Governor's Citation for her work with Montana Children, Youth, and Families. After retiring, she initiated the People Partner Program, which is administered by the Montana 4-H Foundation and directs donated money to youth groups working on community projects. In 1986 she was honored at the national convention of the IFYE. Her hand of leadership was most prominent in the developing of programs helping youth attain their potential. Through them, her memory will be with us for years to come.