

NAE4-HA

James Bishop

Oregon 4-H Agent, A Founder of NAE4-HA

Home: Oregon

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Major 4-H Efforts: James Bishop of Oregon represented the western portion of the United States in the formation of the National Association of County Club Agents. He was elected to the organization's Executive Committee and helped write the first constitution. He encouraged western states to establish state 4-H agent associations and promoted 4-H work as a profession.

James Bishop of Oregon almost single handedly represented the western portion of the United States in the formation of the National Association of County Club Agents, known today as NAE4-HA. He was elected to the Executive Committee and helped write the first constitution. He was appointed to the first Constitution and Publicity Committees. Bishop was instrumental in gaining support for NACCA from western states and in helping them establish state 4-H agent associations. Prior to his work in promoting 4-H work as an important profession, most 4-H agents were assistants to the County Agricultural Agent and encouraged to seek that career path rather than continuing their work with young people.



Bruce Buchanan

County 4-H Agent, First Association Newsletter Editor

Major 4-H Efforts: County 4-H agent in Vermont. Well known for his 4-H camping programs and developing community 4-H committees.

4-H Honors: Received the Distinguished Service Award in 1952.

Bruce Buchanan worked in Windham County, Vermont. His 4-H program involved nearly every rural youth in the county as well as many urban children. He was known for his camping programs, which included a weeklong camp for 100 youth ages 12 and older, a three day conservation camp and a camp counselor weekend. He also started the idea of starting a town commoiittee in each of 28 communities to promote 4-H and maitain 4-H clubs. Buchanan was the first president of the Vermont agent's association.

Home: Windham County, Vermont

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Buchanan served as secretary of the New England Club Agents Association in 1946, an organization that provided valuable support to the formation of the National Association of County Club Agents. Buchanan was appointed to serve on the first Publicity Committee and later chaired that group. In 1948, he became the first editor of "The National County Club Agent" the newsletter of the national organization. Mr. Buchanan provided valuable service in keeping 4-H agents nationwide involved and informed. He received the NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award in 1952.

Home: Kansas

James Childers
County 4-H Agent, First Vice President of NAE4-HA

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Major 4-H Efforts: 4-H Club Agent in Wichita, Kansas. First Vice President of NAE4-HA and Chair of the Publicity Committee; helped to establish the association.

James Childers served for many years as a 4-H Agent in Wichita, Kansas. He was elected Vice President and appointed to chair the Publicity Committee when the National Association of County Club Agents formed in 1946. He was one of the most active of the founders, making or seconding a wide variety of policy setting motions including: establishing the group's purpose and objectives, appointment of a nominating committee, appointment of a constitution committee, suggesting a plan for voting delegates at conference and for holding the group's annual meeting in conjunction with National 4-H Congress. Mr. Childers continued to provide leadership to the organization by serving on the Policy and Resolutions Committee.

Home: Michigan

B.E. Henry
First NAE4-HA Secretary-Treasurer

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Major 4-H Efforts: 4-H Agent in Michigan and President of Michigan 4-H Agents. Leader in the founding of the National 4-H Agent Association.

Honors: Elected first NAE4-HA Secretary-Treasurer

In 1946, Henry was serving as president of the Michigan 4-H Agents Association. He was one of the first people in the nation to propose the creation of a national 4-H agents organization. When a group of 4-H agents met to discuss the idea in during National 4-H Congress, Henry was appointed keep a record of the discussion and shortly thereafter was elected as the organization's first secretary-treasurer. In addition, he was appointed to chair both the Constitution Committee and the House Organization Committee. Henry was instrumental in gaining support of the Home Demonstration Agents Association to form the new 4-H agents organization. B. E. Henry was one of the leading founding fathers of NAE4-HA.



Clara Oberg
County 4-H Agent, First Female President of NAE4-HA

Home: Ramsey County, Minnesota

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Major 4-H Efforts: Ramsey County 4-H Agent. Maintained rural 4-H club program and developed gardening programs in suburban areas. Helped to build the NJVGA (now NJHA) program in MN and served as state advisor.

4-H Honors: Received NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award in 1952 and held every office of the association.

Clara Oberg was a 4-H agent in Ramsey County, MN. She maintained a strong club program in her rural communities and gardening and other programs for suburba youth. During WWII, Oberg represented 4-H on the National Post War 4-H Planning Committee. She worked with other organizations on school lunches and the state nutrition council.

Oberg was elected as the first female president of the National Association of County Club Agents in 1952 and held every office of the Association. That same year she received the Distinguished Service Award. She was appointed to the Professional Development Committee in 1949 and in that role helped provide opportunities for 4-H agents to grow in their profession.



Home: St. Mary's County, Maryland
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2002

John Lancaster
4-H Agent, Past President of NAE4-HA

4-H Efforts: John G. Lancaster served 36 years as a youth development professional in two states, Virginia from 1940-1955 and Maryland from 1957-1978. Maryland 4-H EFNEP Program Leader, 1973-1978.

4-H Honors: In 1972, served as the first African-American President of the National Association of Extension Workers - 4-H, which is known today as the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA).

"The 4-H experience is one of the greatest opportunities available to equip young people to live in and contribute to a democracy. Developing our future leaders – that's what 4-H is, that's what it does for kids."

John G. Lancaster served 36 years as a youth development professional in Virginia and Maryland: County Agent, Prince Edward County, Virginia (1940 - 1955); Negro County Agent, St. Mary's County, Maryland (1957 - 1961); Assistant County Agent, St. Mary's County, Maryland (1961 - 1962); County Extension Agent, 4-H, St. Mary's County, Maryland (1962 - 1974); Program Leader, 4-H EFNEP, University of Maryland, College Park (1974 - 1978). In 1972, Lancaster served as the first African-American President of the National Association of Extension Workers - 4-H, which is known today as the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA).

While NAE4-HA president, Mr. Lancaster established relationships with southern states and encouraged extension 4-H agents and professionals to join their professional association. His efforts were successful and the first members from the southern states began to join. After retirement from the Extension Service, Lancaster served on the St. Mary's County School Board in 1981 and was elected to the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners, where he served from 1982 to 1990. Lancaster resides in St. Mary's County with his wife Albertine.



John Lancaster with Maryland 4-H members at a conference.



Don Stiles
County 4-H Club Agent, First President of NAE4-HA

4-H Agent in Massachusetts and Essex County New York.

4-H Honors: First President of NAE4-HA, 1947; NAE4-HA Meritorious Service Award, 1947; NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award, 1965; President of New York State Association of 4-H Agents, 1967; Established NAE4-HA Stiles Memorial Scholarship.

From a NAE4-HA 25th Anniversary speech about the beginnings of NAE4-HA:

"We [a group of New England 4-H Agents in 1945] were unhappy with our lot and decided to do something about it... [We] decided to 'take the bull by the horns' and sponsor a meeting at Club Congress... Two agricultural agents were present primarily to try and discourage us. This only made us more determined..."

Home: Massachusetts
Nominated by: Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development, New York State Association of CCE 4-H Educators, & NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2002

Stiles was a graduate of the University of Vermont and did graduate work at Cornell University, University of Massachusetts and University of Georgia. He started his career in Extension in 1938 as 4-H Club Agent in Franklin County, Vermont, and moved to Hampshire County, Massachusetts in 1942 to a similar position. Stiles moved to Essex County, New York as County 4-H Club Agent in 1947 and retired from that position in 1972. He was instrumental in the formation of NAE4-HA and served as its first President in 1947.



Don Stiles at a 4-H club meeting.



Don Stiles presents an award as 4-H Association president.



Don Stiles cuts 10th anniversary cake with 1956 NAE4-HA President Sarah Harman.



Florence H. "Nancy" Thayer
New York 4-H Club Agent

Major 4-H Efforts: 4-H Club Agent in New York state. Served as president of the New York State Club Agents' Association and charter member of the national association.

4-H Honors: Received the NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award and 25 Years of Service Award in 1962.

Nancy Thayer graduated from Russell Sage College and established her career in home economics. She reached thousands of youth in Schenectady, Albany, and Rensselaer Counties with outstanding 4-H home economics programs. In 1935, she instituted an annual visit by 4-H members to the Capitol and meeting with the Governor that became a state event. Her efforts helped to make a 4-H camp from a former CCC camp. At least eight of her 4-H members grew up to become professional 4-H club workers.

Home: Upstate New York
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2002

Thayer seconded the motion that created the National Association of County Club Agents, the original name of NAE4-HA. She was elected Vice President of the first board of directors and chaired the Professional Development committee for several years. She was one of the founders of the organization and provided excellent leadership in helping develop the policies and procedures that would make the group successful.



Jack Tyree
4-H Agent, Member of the first NAE4-HA Board

4-H Efforts: Active West Virginia 4-H'er for twelve years. Served on first NAE4-HA Board in 1946. Jack was an advisor to the National 4-H Report to the Nation Team in 1963. In the early 70's he was a member of the National 4-H Subcommittee of ECOP (Extension Committee on Policy) and served as the group's chair in 1972.

4-H Honors: Selected for National 4-H Camp, National 4-H Congress and Camp Miniwaca. Inducted into the WV 4-H All Stars (1934); helped organize the Interstate 4-H All Star Organization (1946).

Hometown: Cabell Co., West Virginia
Nominated by: NAE4-HA
Year Inducted: 2002

Jack Tyree described himself as "dedicated to changes in attitudes, knowledge and skills through 4-H and other Extension Education Programs for the good of humanity."

Jack Tyree was an active West Virginia 4-H'er for twelve years winning many honors including trips to National 4-H Camp, National 4-H Congress and Camp Miniwaca. He was inducted into the WV 4-H All Stars in 1934 and helped organize the Interstate 4-H All Star Organization in 1946. Jack served as the Upshur County, WV 4-H Agent from 1940 to 1950 with a three-year break to serve in the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII and a year to earn a Masters Degree from Cornell. In 1950 Jack joined the Virginia State 4-H Staff where he held various titles over 23 years, retiring in 1973 as State 4-H Leader with the rank of professor.

Jack served as an advisor to the National 4-H Report to the Nation Team in 1963. In the early 70's he was a member of the National 4-H Subcommittee of ECOP (Extension Committee on Policy) and served as the group's chair in 1972 when the words "and my world" were added to the 4-H pledge. Jack was instrumental in organizing the 1973 NAE4-HA Conference in Roanoke, VA and in helping Virginian Nancy Ascue to become NAE4-HA president in 1974. Among Jack Tyree's proudest accomplishments are helping organize NAE4-HA in 1946, being elected to the first board of directors and serving as chair of the Relations Committee. Jack continues to support the All Stars and numerous other 4-H activities.

Ruth Weston
New Hampshire 4-H Agent, A Founder of NAE4-HA

Home: New Hampshire

Nominated by: NAE4-HA

Year Inducted: 2002

Major 4-H Efforts: Ruth Weston was a 4-H Agent in New Hampshire and one of the Founders of the National Association of County Club Agents in 1946. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the first board of directors, was appointed to chair the Rural Youth Committee, and helped to draft the first constitution.

Ruth Weston of New Hampshire was one of the founders of the National Association of County Club Agents in 1946. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the first board of directors and was appointed to chair the Rural Youth Committee. She was also appointed to help draft the organizations first constitution and made the motion that established membership requirements. She also provided leadership in deciding that the group would meet during National 4-H Congress and setting the annual dues at \$2. Weston provided valuable leadership that led to the founding of the group that would become the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.