

New Jersey 2004



Kenneth Pickett

Cumberland County 4-H Agent

Home: Stow Creek Twp., NJ
(1945-2002)

Nominated by: New Jersey 4-H

4-H Statistics: Joined 4-H in Rhode Island at age 10 in 1929. National 4-H Club Congress Award Electricity Project winner. Selected to Rhode Island 4-H All Stars. Assistant 4-H Agent in Rhode Island, 1942; Associate 4-H Club Agent in Connecticut, 1944-1945; Cumberland County New Jersey 4-H Agent, 1945-1987, including Cumberland County Extension Senior Agent, 1966-1987. Started a daily radio broadcast in 1945 that continues today. Established the first county 4-H advisory committee, in-school 4-H programs, and regional 4-H teen conference in NJ.

Organization memberships include Kiwanis, Planning Board, Cumberland County Historical Society, Alpha Zeta National Agricultural Fraternity, Epsilon Sigma Phi and People to People International. Received NAE4-HA US Air Force "American Spirit Award" (1986) and title of Rutgers University Professor Emeritus (1987).

Ken joined 4-H in Rhode Island at age 10 in 1929. He was a National 4-H Club Congress Award Electricity Project winner. Ken's strong leadership potential developed as a junior leader and a Rhode Island 4-H All Star. Pickett began as an Assistant 4-H Agent in Rhode Island in 1942, then worked as an Associate 4-H Club Agent in Connecticut in 1944-1945. He came to New Jersey as Cumberland County 4-H Agent (1945-1987), and in 1966 became County Extension Senior Agent. Pickett started a daily radio broadcast in 1945 that still airs six days a week - one of the longest running 4-H radio programs. In the mid 1950's, Ken established the first county 4-H Advisory Committee, composed of business people, community leaders, 4-H youth and adults. This group oversees annual event sponsorships and contributions, leader and member recognition, program development, support and growth.

Ken saw the need for teen leadership opportunities and laid the groundwork for a 10 county regional event called South Jersey Council (Teen) Conference. This conference, now in its 47th year, focuses on citizenship, leadership and personal development and reaches over 175 youth annually. Mr. Pickett worked diligently in the design and construction of the Cumberland County 4-H Center that was built in 1978. This facility provides a central location for 4-H club meetings, county workshops and programs. He pioneered the establishment of in-school 4-H clubs as well as developed and conducted several school enrichment programs including a "talking" bicycle that focused on bicycle safety elementary school children. In 1986, Pickett received the NAE4-HA United States Air Force "American Spirit Award." He received Rutgers University Professor Emeritus status in 1987.



Ken received the American Spirit Award from NAE4-HA in Hershey, PA, 1986



Cumberland County 4-H Leaders - Leaders are the key to successful 4-H programs.



“60 miles to North Pole” - Ken and his wife, Ethel toured all seven continents after his retirement in 1987.