

Montana

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

GERALDINE G. FENN
(Prepared August, 1977)

1. Born April 1, 1912, and grew up on a farm on the outskirts of Brookings, South Dakota. Youngest of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Fenn. All but one of the children attended South Dakota State University and four graduated from SDSU.
2. Received elementary and secondary education in the public schools of Brookings, South Dakota. Was an active 4-H club member during several years of this period.

3. Higher Education

B.S. Degree, 1933 - Home Economics Education and Music, South Dakota State University, Brookings.

M.A. Degree, 1949 - Cooperative Extension Education, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Other Advanced Work - Extension Summer School, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 1946.

- Human Development-Human Relations Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 1955.

- Courses and activities in Anthropology, Philosophy and Political Science, New School for Social Research, New York City, 1958.

- Courses in Africa and in Art, Montana State University, Bozeman, 1952 and 1963.

4. Professional Career Summary

1933-36 - High school teacher of home economics and vocal music, Castlewood, South Dakota. Principal of the high school the third year.

1936-46 - Ten years a member of the State 4-H Club Staff, South Dakota State University.

1946-67 - Completed over twenty-one years as a member of the State 4-H Staff, Montana State University. Was Acting State 4-H Club Leader in 1954-55. Currently, Associate Professor Emeritus. Was leader of 4-H International Programs for 20 years, and Extension liaison person for the Peace Corps.

Summer of 1950 - Visiting Specialist in Home economics and youth work, Germany, under the auspices of the State Department.

4. Professional Career Summary (Cont.)

Short-Term Assignments

- North Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, and Connecticut.
- 1967-69 - Was self-employed, free-lance Youth Consultant for one year and nine months. Was Education Director of the first Encampment for Citizenship held in Montana.
- 1969-71 - Served as Community Planning Coordinator, Children and Youth Programs for the Human Resources Council of the State of Montana.
- 1971-77 - Same position as above, but serving as a Staff Member for the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth.

5. Other Educational Experiences

Visited and studied the youth programs in over one-fourth of the states, Germany, Canada and England.

Participated in Inter-State 4-H Staff Conferences for 13 consecutive years.

Participated in and promoted recreation laboratories from 1937 to the present, including Northland in Minnesota, the Black Hills Lab in South Dakota, Chatcolab in Idaho, and Southeastern Leisure - Recreation Workshop in Florida.

Visited and studied the United Nations, the Encampment for Citizenship, and the National Conference on Citizenship.

In 1953, visited 12 countries, making a study of the impact of the International Farm Youth Exchange participants after returning to their own countries.

Participated in the National 4-H Seminar held at the University of Wisconsin in 1964.

August 1965, participated in the First World International Farm Youth Exchange Conference in Switzerland, and visited homes in France, England, Wales, Sweden and Switzerland.

December 1965, represented Montana at the White House Conference on International Cooperation.

September 1967, represented the U.S.A. at the Young World Food and Development Project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Toronto, Canada.

Served as chairman of the Montana delegation to the 1970 White House Conference on Children in Washington, D.C.

Designated to go to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth in Estes Park, Colorado, as an observer from Montana.

5. Other Educational Experiences (Cont.)

July 1972, participated in the Second World International Farm Youth Exchange Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado.

January 1977, participated in the Third International Farm Youth Exchange World Conference in New Zealand. Saw all four New Zealand Exchanges who had come to Montana over the years in 1951, 1952, 1966 and 1974.

6. Honors Received

Represented South Dakota at the 1929 National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, as state representative in Girls Record. Placed second in national competition for the Sir Thomas E. Lipton Trophy for 4-H Club Achievement.

Elected to membership in the following organizations: 1) Pi Gamma Mu, Social Science Honorary; 2) Phi Upsilon Omicron, Home Economics Professional Honorary; 3) Epsilon Sigma Phi, Honorary Extension Fraternity; 4) Mu Beta Beta, 4-H Honorary.

Received the Sarah Bradley Tyson Scholarship for graduate study from the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

In 1961, received gold key and citation at the National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C. for 25 years of service with 4-H youth work.

In 1965, honored as Distinguished Alumna by South Dakota State University.

In 1971, awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities by the faculty of South Dakota State University and approved by the Board of Regents.

In 1976, received the National "Friend of IFYE" Award from the IFYE Association of the U.S.A.

Listed in WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN WOMEN AND WHO'S WHO IN THE WEST.

7. Membership in Organizations

A life member of the following:

- South Dakota State University Alumni Association
- The George Washington University Alumni Association
- American Association of University Women (also a member of the Bozeman Branch)
- American Home Economics Association
- Montana Home Economics Association
- Montana Institute of the Arts
- Montana Friends of the Library
- Friends of the Gallatin Libraries
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Epsilon Sigma Phi
- International 4-H Youth Exchange Association of the U.S.A.

Also a member of the Bozeman League of Women Voters, the Montana Health Association, Action for Children's Television and other groups.

8. Service on Committees

In a career of over 40 years, there could be pages of committees. This is a selection:

Three-year term representing the Western States on the Sub-Committee on 4-H Club work of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy of the American Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities. Served as secretary of the committee the final year.

Served as Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on the International Farm Youth Exchange.

Served from 1950 to 1961 on the National 4-H Development Committee on Citizenship Improvement.

One of the nine persons to work with a task force of 100 Extension workers at the University of Wisconsin in 1958 to develop a statement of the scope and responsibility of Extension youth work.

Board of Directors, Northland Recreation Laboratory, 1946 to the present. Helped start the Black Hills Laboratory and served as a resource person for the Black Hills Lab and for Chatcolab.

Served on numerous committees for the National 4-H Conference, the National 4-H Club Congress and other 4-H committees of a national nature.

Committee member for observance of National Library Week in Montana.

Numerous Montana State University committees including: Faculty Government, Exchange of Persons, and Advisory Committee for the Peace Corps Training Program.

Served on the Montana Committee of the American Friends Service Committee.

Worked as a staff member with the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth established by the Governor of Montana in 1970.

9. Fields in Which Leadership Has Been Given

Development of programs which help youth attain their potential.

Citizenship improvement for young people and for adults working with youth.

4-H International Programs, including the International Farm Youth Exchange and the Peace Corps.

Development of leadership among 4-H members, young people 10-30 years, local leaders, and county Extension personnel.

Reading programs for young people. Consultant to Dr. Nancy Larrick, representing 4-H, in the preparation of her book, A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S READING.

Use of the creative process in all fields, with emphasis on music, the arts, drama, games, crafts, recreation, speech, dance and story telling.

9. Fields in Which Leadership Has Been Given (Cont.)

Bringing outstanding resource people to work with youth and adults connected with them, including such people as Grace Walker, Bruce King, Dr. Glenn C. Dildine, Dorothy Emerson, Warren and Mary Lea Bailey, and Dr. Catherine Richards.

Development of experimental programs for the staffs of teenage camps.

Development of the Self-Determined Project Concept which has been adopted by nearly all of the states.

Pioneered in work with committees where a cross section of youth and adults serve on a 50-50 basis.

Stimulation of workshops by youth and adults to identify problems, propose solutions, establish priorities and organize to take action.

Established a scholarship program at South Dakota State University for an urban experience between the junior and senior years. Students had this opportunity from 1971-77.

Initiated the "People Partners" program with the Cooperative Extension Service at Montana State University in 1975.

10. Publications

The following were selected from publications done in recent years:

- Study Action leaflets on other countries
- Recreation and Intergroup Relationships, 1964
- Guidebook for Return Campers, 1965 and 1966
- Working with Youth People in Self-Determined Projects, 1963
- Make Up Your Own Mind - Decision-Making Guide for Self-Determined Projects, 1967
- Case Study: Ecuador 4-F and Montana 4-H Club Program, 1967
- The Land-Grant University and Youth Development Programs, 1967
- Ways with Workshops, 1968
- Leaflets, newsletters, data and reports for efforts related to the White House Conferences on Children and Youth, 1969, 1970 and 1971
- Being a Child in Montana Today, 1970
- What's It All About? The Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth (with Opal Winebrenner), 1973
- Legislative Handbook for Montanans (with Opal Winebrenner), 1973 and 1974

11. Other Media

- Developed a TV Special on the White House Conference on Children with KRTV, Great Falls, 1971
- Worked with MUS Film and TV students and faculty to produce five TV spots on "Rearing Children of Good Will," 1971-72
- Numerous other TV and radio programs, news stories and features