

# 4-H Club News

"To Make The Best Better"

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No. 6



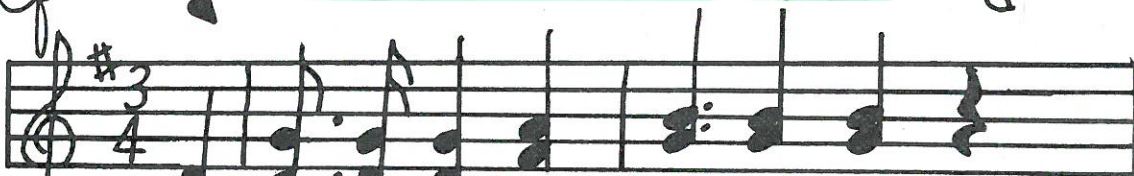
Shankitunk,  
my  
Shankitunk



Here is where  
we gather  
By the flowing  
Delaware.  
4-H Camp  
forever.

You are cordially invited  
to the  
50th Anniversary  
of the Founding of  
4-H Camp Shankitunk  
July 16, 1977  
Open House 1:00 to 4:00 p. m.  
Ceremonies 3:00 p. m.

Bring your  
uke and  
bathing suit,  
A first  
settler  
story.



How he worked and fought and won  
For his country's glory.



## From A History of 4-H Camp Shankitunk by Mrs. John Lennox

1927 — "In a letter from former Honorable John D. Clarke of Fraser, New York, he wrote, 'If you will come down, I am sure you can find a suitable site for the 4-H Camp. I will turn over the sap house with a dandy spring nearby, and any amount of ground you need, or we can fix a place on the other side of the river and cooperate in every way.'

As an outgrowth of this letter and many meetings, it was decided to open camp July 1, 1927 on the John D. Clarke estate. We used the sap house for a kitchen and State School tent for dining room. We used planks on saw horses for tables and blocks of wood for chairs. What jolly times at that building three times each day.

Mr. Goldie Hall of Cornell University was camp director. Clarence Blewer and Homer S. Pougle were his assistants. Miss Zena R. Travis was camp mother, Mrs. Borden, nature study specialist, and Mrs. E. W. Thurston, cook.

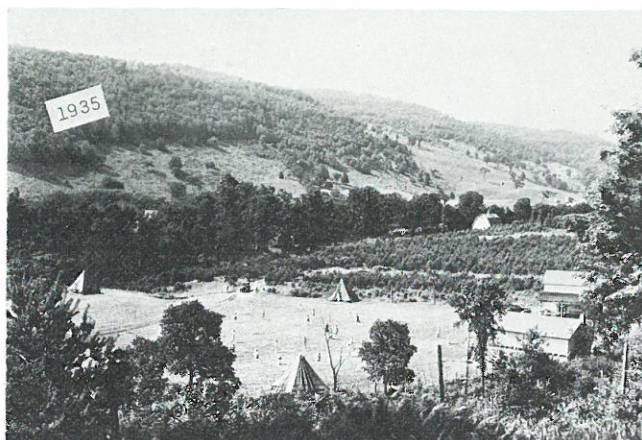
Mrs. Lennox assisted the cook and taught a very meagre course of handicraft. We made pocketbooks, book marks, etc., of leather and beads.

We were all very anxious to name our camp the very first year, so a letter was sent to the club members of the county, stating that the person submitting the best and most appropriate name should have a free week at camp.

Virginia Oestrich of Walton sent the name of "Shankitunk," an Indian name meaning "Woody Place." She came as a free camper that year.

One of the first things to do was to blaze a trail to the river for swimming. The Indian Trail was pretty rough, steep and full of rocks for girls to cut. A rough path was made so that each day the girls wended their way to the river to wade and swim.

Mr. C. O. Field, physical director of Delhi High School came each afternoon to teach swimming lessons. A rope was stretched across the river, two strong people held each end and Mr. Lennox in the center a bit below to keep anyone from floating downstream. It worked out nicely the first year. The river depth was low and great fun was had both in the water and on the bank playing games and learning to swim.



The boys celebrated the 4th of July. Every member brought some fireworks for the occasion and what the camp force added, we thought we equaled most any "big celebration."

1928 — After the first year's experiment, which proved to be so successful, the matter of a more permanent camp was discussed. Plans were made to lease ten acres of land from Mr. Clarke for a period of ten years. The rent was to be procuring and planting one hundred trees on this land each year.

Next was the matter of a dining room, which Mr. Clarke suggested should be built at the southern end of the sap house adjoining it, and to contain a fireplace and outside entrance. What a wonderful addition it proved to be in spite of dirt floor.



Vespers were held every evening on "Vesper Knoll" and were conducted by the children themselves with the fine help of the book, "Vespers in the Open."

After this quiet hour with God and nature came campfire on the hill by the "totem pole" and "council rock."

Nature study, archery, hiking, swimming, rifle shooting, basketry and leather work were on the program.

1929 — We decided that so much interest had sprung up in the county that we would be justified in holding the season open for four weeks instead of three and to divide the younger and older girls' groups. This seemed a fine plan and has lasted for eleven years.



The splendid spring water piped to different points of the campus is unexcelled for drinking, according to reports made by state chemists.

Mr. Clarke in discussing the camp said, "I feel that Shankitunk is rendering a most extraordinary bit of service for the boys and girls of Delaware County, particularly from the farms. Viewing their enjoyment has amply repaid me for any service I may have been able to render them. I and my son, Jack, have agreed that as long as the work at Shankitunk is carried on, that portion of the farm will remain dedicated to Junior Project Camp use."

John A. Lennox, camp director, asked concerning the purpose of the camp said, "The whole purpose of the Junior Project Camp is to teach leadership. Unless we accomplish this we do not feel that we have justified our existence at state and county expense. We strive at Shankitunk to teach each boy and girl the idea of making of himself or herself their own best exhibit."

1930 — After carefully figuring, \$2,600 seemed the smallest amount that an adequate pool could be built for and insure water enough at all times. Even with Mr. Clarke's great generosity, he could not shoulder that sum and the first donations ever requested for 4-H work in the county was asked and money came in from every corner to the amount of \$2,400.



The pool was started and piping taken care of so that by July the loveliest irregular body of water was ready for paddlers, beginners, swimmers and divers.

Mr. Clarke this same year donated one of his one-story farm buildings, not in use, to us for a craft house. A second story was added, porch extended, painted outside in white with letter, 4-H, in green.

Campers thought it great sport to "sleep out" a night during the week. So that it was a common sight to see two or three starting off with bedding and food as the sun went over the horizon.

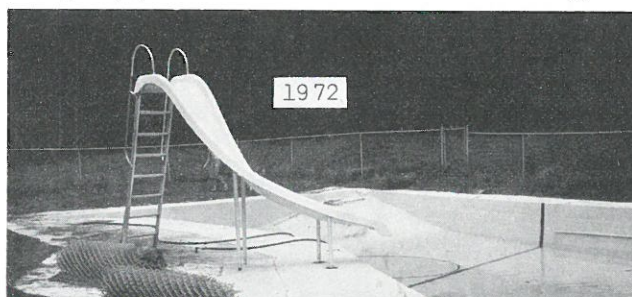


County health winners were chosen during the season to enter the state health contest. This contest has continued through the years with success to Delaware County and great praise bestowed upon fathers and mothers for healthy children.



1934 — We felt that we had accomplished a good deed for members in the tents when solid floors were put in nearly all the "houses" this year.

1938 — Mary Hinckley and Louise Carlson for younger girls and Mrs. Sanford and Mrs. Beers for older girls were pretty pleased with the new recreation building. The



State School tent sides were used, but there was a fine new roof and concrete floor to shelter the folk from rain and sun. The construction trade class of the State School of Agriculture, built a beautiful fireplace in the eastern end of the 20' x 36' building. It was formed of brick and field stone, a very fine piece of work.

The National Youth Administration cooperated in providing labor, and everyone was pretty proud of having such a building for the county camp although it would take another year to have it completed.

1939 — The highlight of the season was the dedication of the recreation hall. Raymond Dann and Leon Rider, N.Y.A. boys, worked on it to finish the carpentry work and paint job so that at the end of the second week it was a shiny white piece of art and a great credit to all concerned.



## 4-H News

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Delaware County 4-H programs, including clubs, activities, events, camps, fairs, and special interest groups, are provided to all clientele on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, or national origin.

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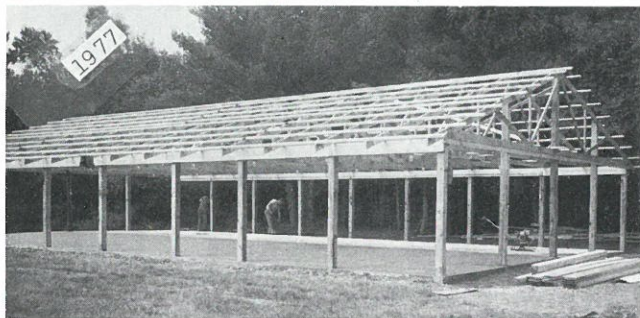
We all feel sure Honorable John D. Clarke would approve and feel proud of the name "Clarke Hall."

Flush toilets were also added to camp buildings, put up out of field stone by N.Y.A. help.

1940 — N.Y.A. youths with the help of experts built on an addition to the 4-H dining room, laid a new floor, raised the fireplace base, made new benches, and painted new tables.

1941 — Work will continue on the new earth house, being constructed by N.Y.A. boys of the county.

1942 — Most of the members were farm folk, and help this year is an unknown quantity, but more attended than in

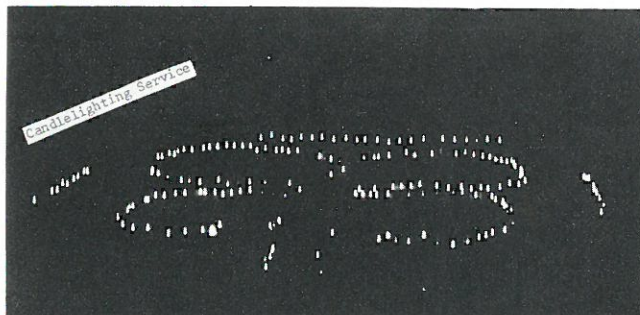


any one year of Delaware County Camp's existence. All counsellors, but the nurse, were 4-H members or leaders."

Camp survived the War Years but there were changes in the program; Armed Forces names replaced tribes for group titles and instead of hikes and nature study, instruction was in home nursing, food preservation, victory gardens and War Council Physical Ability Tests. In 1943, Service Flags with 401 stars were dedicated in honor of former Delaware County 4-H members who were serving our Country — six were gold stars.

After several years of meetings, negotiations and dis-appointments, Delaware County purchased the Camp in 1968.

Buildings and equipment have been added as monies and labor have been available.



## 4-H Program Committee

Edward Dunbar-Chairman  
Herbert Hait-Vice Chairman  
Ann Moody-Secretary

Mrs. Robert Popp  
Franklin Oles

Howard Gilchrist-President of Association

Perry Shelton-Supervisor Representative

MERVIN CONKLIN

WALTON # 2

N.Y.

13856

Barracks used for housing students at Delhi Tech after the war were moved to the Campgrounds for use as a dining hall, kitchen and staff housing. Hot and cold running water in a centrally located shower and toilet facility was funded by the County and a government surplus mobile home was procured for use as an infirmary.

Lean-tos have been constructed, many by volunteers. Delhi Tech classes, Co. D 204th Engr. Bn. National Guard, and Federal Funded Labor have also contributed to the physical facilities at the Camp.

"Make The Best Better"

## HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY SHANKITUNK!

Delaware County Federal  
Savings and Loan  
Walton

Delaware National Bank  
Delhi

First National Bank  
Downsville

First National Bank  
Hancock  
Hamden

National Bank of  
Stamford

The National Bank &  
Trust Company of  
Norwich

Grand Gorge  
Hobart  
Margaretville  
Deposit

Deak National Bank  
Fleischmanns, Delhi

National Bank of  
Roxbury

First National Bank in  
Sidney

The National Bank of  
Delaware County  
Walton, Franklin, Andes

Member Federal Deposit  
Insurance Corporation