



Cabins at Dublin 4-H Center (ca. 1962)

A. S. Bacon joined P.H. Stone at the United States Department of Agriculture in 1959. Gus Hill was promoted to state agent for Negro Extension Work. Alexander Hulse became State 4-H Leader for the black Extension Service, assisted by Morris Little and Carrie Powell. Together, they led more than 100 black Extension agents in 57 counties and one-third of the total 4-H Club members in the state. Those agents conducted more than 150 meetings for about 5,000 participants each year at the Dublin 4-H Center.

Morris C. Little assumed management of the summer camping program based upon the American Indian theme used so successfully at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Cloverleaf (rising 6th and 7th graders), Junior (rising 8th and 9th graders), and Senior (rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders) campers were organized into four tribes: Cherokee, Apache, Cheyenne, and Shawnee. College-age counselors were hired to help manage the camp's daily activities which focused on leadership, health education, first aid, civil defense, and 4-H Club project work. Recreational opportunities included swimming, square dancing, crafts, sports, and games.

Passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act meant the state 4-H staff for black 4-H'ers and white 4-H'ers merged into one, under State 4-H Leader Tommy Walton. His staff included: Morris Little, Carrie Powell, Jean Cogburn, Harold Darden, and Rhonwyn Lowry. Since 1964, all 4-H Club programs and facilities have been available to all youth. Black and white 4-H Club members attended camp together at Dublin 4-H Center and Rock Eagle 4-H Center, but most preferred the larger campus in Eatonton, enhanced by a 110-acre lake.



Morris C. Little, left presented awards to the 1962 state 4-H Club winners Betty Giles and Joseph Kennedy. Little managed camp at Dublin 4-H Center according to the successful format used at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. (ca. 1962)



Betty Lowe, left, congratulated 1962 state winner Christine Jackson, center as Mrs. Russ Postelle enjoyed the accomplishment.

built with pride and determination, closed in 1968. It was a place beloved by 4-H Club members who bettered themselves and their destinies through participation in 4-H Club projects. The property reverted back to the original owners, the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce and the Martin family estate, as reflected in the original agreement. The Dublin-Laurens County Development Authority began proceedings to acquire the property on the west bank of the Oconee River in 1969. The purchase in 1973 consisted of 140 acres from the Martin family estate and 67 acres donated by the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce. Construction of the 18-hole Riverview Golf Course began in 1976, opening to the public in spring 1977. The City of Dublin acquired the property in 1977 and operates Riverview Park as a major recreational complex for the area. The only building remaining from the Dublin 4-H Center is the Emery Carter Thomas Auditorium. It is now used primarily for weddings, receptions, reunions, and large golf tournaments.

*During the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Master 4-H Club, the University of Georgia announced that all 4-H Club members who earned first place in state competition at Dublin 4-H Center were extended Master 4-H status. Six former state winners from Dublin 4-H Center were recognized during the Master 4-H Club banquet and during an assembly of the State 4-H Council at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Those accepting Master 4-H Club certificates were: Maggie Duncan who won in Canning in 1962; Celestine Henderson Jones who won in Recreation in 1964; Josephine Burdette Brown who won in Clothing in 1957; Carolyn Maxine Roseberry Kilgore who won in Public Speaking in 1958, 1959, and 1960; Smithie Tuggle Baccus who won in Corn Meal Muffins in 1961; and Ola Mae Pitts Gilstrap who won in Dairy Foods in 1962.*



In 1965, State 4-H Leader Tommy Walton reported that Georgia led the nation in 4-H Club enrollment with 150,881 participants. In 1969, Georgia's national winners included George Earnest Maddox, Jr., Peach County, the first black 4-H Club member to win at Georgia's State 4-H Congress in Atlanta, earn a trip to National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, and return home a National 4-H winner in the photography project, complete with a \$600 educational scholarship. He learned his photography skills from his father and was nurtured in the 4-H Club way by Peach County Extension agents Billy A. Dick and R.T. Church. He built his professional career around his 4-H Club project, building one of the first African American photography businesses in middle Georgia.

The Dublin 4-H Center,



Present for the dedication of the E.R. Gay Pavilion at Dublin 4-H Center were, left to right, State 4-H Leader Tommy Walton; H.T. Edwards, Sr., principal of Burney Harris High School in Athens; Harold Darden, assistant state 4-H leader; Hubert Stone of Savannah; Morris C. Little, associate state 4-H leader; Mrs. E.R. Gay, Clarke County school teacher; and A.S. Bacon, assistant to the administrator, Federal Extension Service, Washington, D.C. (ca. 1967)

#### Dublin 4-H Center Campus Buildings

Emery Carter Thomas Auditorium  
Effie Lampkin Building  
Dining Hall  
E.R. Gay Pavilion  
Pool – Mrs. Parker B. Poe

#### Cabin Donors:

Mills Bee Lane Foundation  
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**For more information please visit [Georgia4h.org/Dublin](http://Georgia4h.org/Dublin)**

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