

# PIONEERS IN THE ATTIC

**CAROL MARTIN ROSS:**

## **4-H Club All Star Imperial County Champion 1946**

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Eighteen year old Carol Martin, future wife of Imperial Valley educator Tom Ross, was named 4-H Champion in 1946. Carol took the 4-H pledge in 1938, saying, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, and my country."

As a member of Eucalyptus 4-H, Carol spent the next eight years on 4-H projects. During her first year, she decided to focus on sewing and learned how to use and thread a needle, to use a thimble and a sewing machine, how to place and cut patterns, and to baste, to whip, and to tie knots. The

first two items Carol made were a dish towel and a pot holder. Her most important achievement that first year was a collarless, sleeveless, dress that won a blue ribbon at the fair.

During Carol's second year, she became president of the club. Her sewing continued and Carol began voice and violin lessons, from Mrs. Eugene Waterman, and Mrs. Gibson, a rural music teacher. During her high school years, she continued in 4-H, later commenting that, "I enjoyed 4-H a great deal and it was so profitable to me. 4-H is intended to make rural life attractive and satisfying, and it has for me." Carol added volleyball, baseball, and basketball to her list of activities.

The Mid-Winter Fair was not

held for several years during World War II. In 1946, Carol won ten Blue Ribbons and became the First Methodist Church Junior Choir Director. In addition, she offered the 4-H members informal fashion advice:

"I was taught to choose a pattern that would be suitable for my material and figure. A large person should specialize in smooth dark fabrics. Two piece dresses show off a perfect posture, and make a person look smaller. A petite person should "play up" their dainty figure by sticking to soft colors and prints. The color of the eyes and hair must be taken into consideration, but skin tone is the most important thing. A vivid red head cannot wear any shade of pink or maroon. A neutral blonde can wear white and black, but no in between shades. Last, an olive skinned brunette cannot wear black, gray or brown."

When asked about 4-H many years later for a newspaper article, Carol said, "I only wish that more young people had the opportunity to belong to 4-H. 4-H prepares a person to deal with life's problems. It is character building, and teaches young people the virtues of initiative, thrift, integrity, and service."