

Ira Brooks “Tubby” Boggs



I.B. “Tubby” Boggs was a leader for a rural youth in West Virginia for a great part of his adult life. He began his career as a county agricultural agent in Braxton County in 1922, was an Extension livestock specialist for several years and in 1933 became State Boys 4-H Club Agent with the West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service.

People, particularly young people, were always first in “Tubby’s” heart. He was widely known, both in West Virginia and throughout the nation, for his inspirational writings. For many years, “Little 4-H Journeys” and “Chummy Chats” were an important part of the 4-H newspaper published by the Cooperative Extension Service. He originated “Treasures of the Trail,” a monthly guide of “how to” materials for volunteer 4-H club leaders.

A long-time director of State Conservation Camp, “Tubby” was well known for his interest in, and knowledge of, nature which he shared with young and old alike. His contact with thousands of West Virginia 4-H members for more than 30 years made their lives richer for having known him.

A recipient of many awards for youth leadership, “Tubby” was known far and wide for his inspirational leadership, his knowledge of nature, and his love for people. His insight into the problems of young people in 4-H club work kept him ever on the go with enthusiastic youth.

“I’ve got the best job in the world,” was “Tubby’s” appraisal of his work with the youth of West Virginia and the nation.