

WALTER HELMER, JR. LEE COUNTY GOLD STAR 4-H CLUBBER OF YEAR

OUTSTANDING FARM BOY SHOWS LEADERSHIP IN FOUR LEAF CLOVER ACTIVITIES

Lee County 4-H Clubs took advantage of National Club week by announcing their county Gold Star 4-H Clubber of the year, an outstanding farm boy who has made better than average progress and shown leadership in the 4 leaf clover activities. He is Walter Helmer, Jr., of Dime Box, a twelve year old lad who has, in spite of a spinal inflection for a couple of years, kept up his indomitable spirit to achieve honors in his field. Though Walter has made several trips to Galveston to be treated, and has been prohibited from ample exercise, he has personally cared for all his projects and gone on to win.

The spunky youth made his start in 1947, writing an essay in the Sears Gilt Contest and winning with it a registered Duroc gilt to be raised in the Sears program. With the beginning of his first project, he became president of his local club, and his father took over the sponsorship of the same. In 1949 Walter, Jr. became vice-president.

Walter gave special care and feed to the gilt he won and took her to the 1948 Lee County Sears Pig show, winning a second place with her. He then bred her to a Sears Registered boar belonging to Louis Woelfel, Jr. of Dime Box. The sow then farrowed ten pigs and raised ten pigs, an excellent record in any farmer's language. At weaning age the porkies weighed 460 pounds, an accomplishment which won Walter second place honors in the Austin area of 8 counties heavy litter contest. Out of this litter Walter fed out 3 barrows and took them to Austin to the Area Sears Pig Show, walking off with the top money on the pen of three barrows for the whole area, in 1949. He sold those barrows then and there for \$21.50, a good price, to Capitol Auction Company. He then took the sow to the Lee Co. Fair, grabbing the grand champion female award of the entire show.

Young Helmer attended the Houston Stock Show in February, and was engaged in other activities. He has helped to cause his club to become more interested in
(Continued on last page)

WALTER HELMER —

(Continued from Page 1)

raising good pigs. He used the money he made for more and better equipment, more animals, and other improvements, including an electric fence. He plans to double his project scope during the coming year. He helped prepare the Dime Box 4-H exhibit in the Lee County Fair of 1949.

Brown O. Spivey,
County Agricultural Agent