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Interview with Kirby Phillips

Rachel Keller

Kirby Phillips

Colin Walker

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Interviewer: Rachel Keller

Interviewee: Kirby Phillips

Date: 6 February 2012

Place: Grove 4H Club meeting, Gund Ballroom at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH

KP: Kirby Phillips

RK: Rachel Keller

CW: Colin Walker [photographer]

RK: This is Kirby Philips—

KP: I've done lots of interviews, so...

RK: Oh, you've done lots of interviews? What for?

KP: With uh we had that one Kenyon girl...him and I was walking all around the fair with them and we...

RK: Oh, Becca!

KP: Yeah, Becca. Yeah you probably saw our pictures on the table.

RK: Yeah that's awesome—yeah I recognize you actually!

KP: Yep. I don't have the uh, I don't have my shirt on that has—I think a picture of my shirt is in that book but I don't have the shirt on that I had in the picture. I was in my bare-foot uh...my bare-foot uh...my bare-foot shirt...never mind. But uh [laughs] anyways, my experiences at the fair are very, can be very fun but yet can be very...you gotta be very, you gotta...competition can be very stiff sometimes, you know. Chickens, well no one really knows what to feel for so its kind of anybody's game you know you pick the best three chickens you know its, from there, its pretty much a guessing game.

RK: Do you show mostly chickens?

KP: I show chickens and uh hogs but uh this year me and Kevin are thinking about taking chickens and hogs. We're thinking about going breeding and broilers, aren't we? [turns to Kevin] Isn't that what we decided on?

RK: Awesome, so in the past you did mostly broilers, right?

KP: Mostly broilers and hogs but last year I drug him into uh broilers and he loved 'em and you know, we figure that's the only thing we can win at so we may as well try.

RK: Sure. Who—how did you guys get involved in 4H?

KP: Well, how I got involved was my mom was an advisor and I told him [Kevin] all about it and how much fun I had and then these two became of age and I decided, well I may as well go ahead and bring him into it. And they've loved it ever since.

RK: What do you like about 4H?

KP: Oh uh, so many things I like. Probably the people you meet, especially these days too you know, I mean, we'll sit at the fair and just sit there and play cards and, showing 'cus you know being at the fair you get to sit there and you know at your show truck, talk with friends, meet friends, pet with your pigs, I mean we'll uh, our pigs are nice and calm, I mean—

RK: Wait, wait I'm sorry I want him [Colin] to take a picture of both of you guys with your ribbons so could you leave them here? [someone was removing their ribbon from the table]

KP: Me, Kevin and Kyle will get in the pins, if the pigs are...if we've got pigs tame enough, we'll use them as pillows and take naps.

RK: What? That's awesome. So the fair's kind of like the highlight of 4H?

KP: The one year we had one of my friends—you've seen a, those phones that are a juke, we had one of our friends' pigs eat it so we waited a few days to see if it'd come out and well, sure enough it came out. 'Member that, Aaron's phone?

RK: [to Colin] Did you just hear that? [laughs]

CW: No.

KP: Pig ate his phone.

CW: Oh my God.

RK: So they waited a few days and it came out.

CW: It came out...

RK: No problem.

CW: Did it still work?

KP: Well, yep, it was pretty well destroyed in the end.

RK: What do you think 4H gives you, what kind of—

KP: I think it gives me more leadership skills but you know, I live on a farm so that's pretty much uh a given I've already learned is how to work on a farm, you know operate tractors, herd

pigs around, you know they get out and you gotta use you know your 4wheeler to try to you know not hit 'em but you know if they're going this way you try to take your 4wheeler to cut 'em off and send—guide them is my word, guide them back to where they belong.

RK: So 4H kind of gives you the chance to use all of that with your friends.

KP: Yeah, give them the experience

RK: That's awesome. Thank you.

KP: You're welcome.