

Dean Singleton

Young County, Texas

4-H Leadership Skills

Foundation of an Exemplary Publishing Career

Inducted 2015

Dean Singleton was a 4-H and FFA member in Young County Texas, where he was raised on a cattle ranch that was located 25 miles from the school he attended in Graham, Texas. 4-H was the main social aspect of his younger years, with all his childhood friends being in 4-H and FFA. Dean's projects included swing, public speaking, and demonstration contests.

Recently, Dean retired as publisher of the *Denver Post* which he purchased in 1987. He got his start in the newspaper business at the age of 15 working for the *Graham Leader* where he wrote sports articles for the paper.

Dean bought his first newspaper at the age of 21. He went on to put together the second largest newspaper company in the United States. Singleton was a pioneer in "Clustering"—developing groups of newspapers that centralized a variety of functions, including ad sales, business operations, and in some cases, editorials.

According to Singleton, the most significant accomplishment is his professional career was serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Associated Press* and the *Newspaper Association of America*. Dean credits his 4-H experience for his success. He states that if it weren't for the public speaking skills he learned in 4-H, he would still be trying to make a living on that dusty old ranch in Texas. Today, Dean owns cattle ranches in Jackson and Grand counties in Colorado.