

## Lee Allen Memorialized in the 4-H Auction

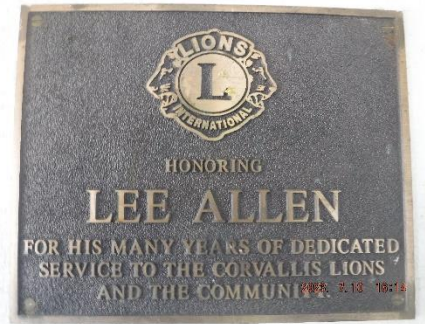


Wilson Lee Allen (1919-1992) may have helped raise more money for the young people of Benton County than anyone else in history. That's why a banner with his name is hung during the 4-H/FFA auction at the Benton County Fair.

Lee, as he was known, worked for the federal Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. For decades Lee volunteered with Rich Guerber and Bill Dowless to organize and promote the 4-H auction. While 4-H members were raising their animals, Lee was beating the streets to find prominent businessmen, publicity-seeking politicians, anonymous benefactors, and well-heeled supporters of youthful enterprise who would come to the 4H Auction and bid on their animals.

The Corvallis Lions Club has been the lead sponsor for the Benton County 4-H/FFA Auction since 1948, and Lee was a prominent figure in the club from 1958 to 1992. Lee served as club president in 1978 and was "Lion of the Year" in '62, '67, and '82. His wife, Elsie, and daughters, Brenda and Glenda, were also members, carrying on the family tradition.

When he wasn't spearheading the 4-H auction, Lee was improving Avery Park. His name appears on a plaque at the Lions Shelter, which boasts an 86-foot-long, single-plank picnic table. Lee was instrumental in establishing and expanding the Corvallis Rose Garden, which now features 250 kinds of roses blossoming near the park's north entrance.



### Lions Club legacy ensured

Before he passed on to the Big Barn in the sky, Lion Lee recruited Lions Marc Vomocil and Steve Pilkerton to carry on his mission. Lion Marc hasn't missed an auction since he joined the team in 1991. Marc's auction work helped him earn distinction in 2014 as Corvallis First Citizen.

### Millions raised

Over the past half-century, Lee Allen and the Corvallis Lions he recruited have helped raise millions of dollars for the enterprising young people of Benton County. In 2023 alone, the auction raised just shy of \$1 million.

### Join the Lions to continue Lee Allen's good work

You can take an active role in continuing Lee Allen's work. During the auction, find Lions Steve Pilkerton and Marc Vomocil and tell them you would like to help. And if you have a memory to share about Lee, please visit the Lions Club "Burger Barn" during the fair or call Lion Skip Volkmann any time at 541-753-5555.