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[Americorps/USDA - Third Quarter Report - April 1, 1995 - June 30, 1995] [Folder 1]: [2]

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Department of Parks, Montgomery County, Maryland
9500 Brunett Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

May 17, 1995

Americorps
901 Newton St., N.E.
Room 306
Washington, D.C.

Dear Susan:

This is just a short note to say thank you so much for the assistance you and your Americorps crew gave us in the reforestation project we undertook during the first week of May at Little Bennett Golf Course. With your group's help we managed to reforest a section of Dark Branch (55 trees and shrubs in 1 and 2 gallon pots) and to pondscape one irrigation pond (225 shrubs in .5 and 1 gallon pots, 900 herbaceous emergent plugs). These combined efforts will hopefully help to reduce surface runoff, lower stream temperature, and provide habitat for wildlife in the not too distant future.

Again, thank you so much for your time and trouble. Perhaps we will work together on a future project.

Sincerely,

Carole F. Bergmann
Forest Ecologist, M-NCPPC

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS

Kittson County
Environmental Services Office

P.O. Box 504
Hallock, MN 56728

June 6, 1995

Dear Americorp Volunteers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping with the Kittson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Thursday, May 25.

Although only 44 vehicles attended the collection event, it went very well. I think the weather and farming were factors in a low participation rate. Comments about the program and workers were very positive.

Without your volunteer help our of program would not work.

Sincerely,

Gary Rice

Gary Rice



Larry L. 'Butch' Brown
Mayor

(601) 445-7555
(601) 442-2536 (Fax)

Historic

Natchez

on the Mississippi

May 10, 1995

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Knowing of your extreme interest in the AmeriCorps Program and having recognized Mrs. Shelly Foutz-Lowe as one of the most enthusiastic and dynamic members, we would like to encourage you to attend her Teen Rally in Natchez, Mississippi, on May 27. It has been brought to our attention that you or the Vice President will be in our state in the upper Mississippi Delta on or about this date. We are certainly cognizant of your very busy and demanding schedule and would like to suggest that if you are unable to attend, that you allow Vice President Gore to honor us with his presence at this very important AmeriCorps program.

The City of Natchez, with a population of 19,500, is fortunate to have Shelly Foutz-Lowe as its AmeriCorps member. Mrs. Foutz-Lowe is from Pascagoula, Mississippi, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg. Shelly's keen interest in social issues, especially those relating to teenagers, led her to volunteering in various community services while attending USM. Her involvement included participation at the Sexual Assault Crisis Center, the soup kitchen, co-facilitating meetings with youths in crisis at the Pine Grove Mental Health Clinic, leading the Girls in Action program in her church, and volunteering her services to help re-elect Congressman Gene Taylor (D) in 1992. Shelly also served an internship in Washington with Congressman Taylor during 1993.

This bright young lady is also a very eloquent public speaker and has had the privilege of speaking at several colleges and high schools, including USM, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Natchez High School, Natchez Middle School, and Cathedral High School. The topics Shelly discusses range from AmeriCorps, date rape, teenage pregnancy, and the importance of young people getting involved in community service.

May 10, 1995

Shelly is married to Michael A. Lowe, a graduate student in Psychology who attends USM. While skillfully managing to juggle her private life with her public life, Shelly plans to enroll in graduate school to obtain her masters degree in social work. She attributes her decision to make social work her life's endeavor to her involvement in the AmeriCorps Program.

In her role with AmeriCorps in Natchez, Shelly has two objectives: eliminating teenage pregnancy and re-establishing a YMCA in the community. When she began her AmeriCorps program, Shelly wanted to implement programs to help pregnant teenagers stay in school, take care of their bodies, and also focus on male responsibility.

Of course, in order to implement programs, the exact problem needs to be identified, and in this effort, the USM School of Social Work has agreed to assist her in compiling a scientific sexuality survey to be distributed. The basis of the survey will measure attitudes, knowledge and behavior among teens in grades 8-12, and the public and private schools in Natchez have agreed to participate in the survey. She has held numerous meetings with professionals, business, civic and political leaders and has successfully acquired their support for developing programs for pregnant teens and curbing the problem of teenage pregnancy.

On Saturday, May 27, 1995, Reuben M. Greenberg, Police Chief of Charleston, South Carolina, and nationally recognized author of Take Back our Streets, will be our guest speaker. Ms. Maggie Wade of WLBT TV in Jackson, MS, a well-known humanitarian who uses her local celebrity status to help children in need, will also be featured. Your or the Vice President's participation would, of course, be the highlight of the program that would ensure the success of this rally to motivate our young people to stay in school, be responsible and abstain from sex. Your serious consideration to our invitation will certainly be appreciated.

With warmest regards and best wishes, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours very truly,



Larry L. 'Butch' Brown
Mayor, City of Natchez

LLB:dv

cc: The Honorable Al Gore, Vice President
Mr. Joel Berg
Ms. Bettie Oliver

A:\AMERICOR.LTR

NH National & Community Service Executive Board
AmeriCorps: Getting things done in New Hampshire



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Deborah Tasker
Dover Adult Learning Center

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Program Coordinator

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First Deposit Credit Card Bank
NH Charitable Foundation

May 2, 1995

Mr. Joel Berg
US Dept. of Agriculture, Room 538-A
14th and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1300

Dear Mr. Berg:

The New Hampshire National and Community Service Executive Board would like to articulate its support for White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps.

We are particularly proud of the accomplishments New Hampshire AmeriCorps members have achieved for the citizens and visitors of New Hampshire. Eli Segal, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, stated at a meeting of AmeriCorps State Chairs on December 6, 1994, "New Hampshire has given us some of the finest AmeriCorps programs in the country." The White Mountain National Forest has played an important role in this success.

Tourism is our largest industry with millions of people visiting New Hampshire's mountains and its wildlife every year. The White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program, the state's largest AmeriCorps program, not only helps preserve our natural resources but enhances economic growth as well.

In conclusion, we strongly recommend the renewal of the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program for 1996. We look forward to a continuation of the close relationships we have formed with White Mountain National Forest administrators and the New Hampshire Conservation Corps.

Sincerely,

Terry Shumaker

Terry Shumaker
Co-chair

Debbie Tasker

Debbie Tasker
Co-chair





NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Steering Committee Agencies

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Cascade Education Corps

EnviroCorps

Kennedy Middle School

Looking Glass Job Center

Northwest Service Academy

Oregon Commission on
Children and FamiliesOregon Commission for
National and Community
ServiceOregon Department of
Education Food BankOregon Youth Conservation
Corps

OSU Extension Service

North Portland Youth
Conservation Corps

Synergo

The Oregon Governors' School

The Volunteer Center

Clearinghouse Address:
Oregon Commission for
National and Community
ServicePSU/Neuberger Hall Rm. 369
PO Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207
Tel: (503) 725-5903
1-800-826-4865
 (503) 725-3693

*****April 25, 1995

April 27, 1995

Ms. Jennifer Thompson
c/o EnviroCorps
Portland METRO
NE Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Jennifer:

Just a note to thank you for your help in orchestrating the McDonald's Farm project for National Day of Service on Tuesday. It sounds like your site in Corbett accommodated lots of people. I can't wait to see the photos and/or video!

I am enclosing some leftover buttons -- I'd appreciate it if you would pass these along to your AmeriCorps members (and to anyone else who would like one!) There were a few YSA* tee shirts but they disappeared in a hurry. I'm checking with their D.C. headquarters to see if we might get our hands on more.

In the meantime, I'm enclosing a copy of the Project Evaluation form. I would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to complete the sheet and return it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Thank you again for your help. And if you are ever on campus, I hope you will stop by the Commission Office so that we can meet.

Yours truly,


 Kate Clinton-Jacky
 Special Projects Coordinator

*Youth Service America

... BECAUSE NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY

Mayor
Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

Mayor Pro-Tem
Richard R. Dial



City Commissioners

Mike Arnold
Jack W. Scott
Steve Neville

August 11, 1995

Director of National Service
Mr. Joel Berg
USDA/Americorps
AG Box 1310
14th & Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-1310

Dear Mr. Berg:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you how much we have appreciated the Americorps staff in our Community. We have enjoyed working with Laura Horochowski, Ana Gomes, Erick Aune and Shantel Farnsworth. Theirs has been a true spirit of dedication, persistence and a commitment to the betterment of our City. They have shown an interest far above the normal realm of their duties and participated in Community projects beyond the scope of that which was required of them.

At this time, I would also like to give my support for any further appropriation of funds to continue this worthwhile and effective program.

I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you during your visit to our City.

Sincerely,

Debi Lee
City Manager



Genesis

Adult Day Care Center

P.O. Box 2467 Farmington, N.M. 87499

325-8005 or 334-8614

August 27, 1995

Dear Mr. Joel Berg:

Struggling to begin a new project, ANY new project, is a study in frustration and tenacity. Commitment and persistence (and might I add long-suffering) are the necessary elements in success of a new project. There are so many "no"s and "come back next year" and "while we do believe the work you are doing is worthwhile..." that sometimes one feels totally alone on the PLANET!

Ameri Corps was introduced to us through county public services. Eric was the first person we told our situation to and he listened carefully and made an appointment to come to the facility. Laura, Shantel and Eric arrived and discussed what they could do and what they couldn't. In short, they acquired donated materials, spread sheep manure and compost, planted grass seed, made a garden spot, trimmed tree's and planted flowers. They were wonderful.

They also wrote grants and sent six out to foundations (we were turned down by every one). But the most important thing they did was CARE; the most important thing they gave was HOPE and the most important thing we received personally was the knowledge that AT LAST someone out there really thought that what we were trying to accomplish was important enough for them to roll up their sleeves and say "What can we do to help".

We would add WELL DONE, and thank you from all our staff and board members. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Charlene Holt,
Executive Director



DOUG ROBERTSON

JOYCE MORGAN

MIKE WINTERS

1036 S.E. Douglas Ave., Room 217 • Roseburg, Oregon 97470 • (503) 440-4201

July 3, 1995

Ms. Pat McVein
Americorps
P.O. Box 158
Drain, Oregon 97435

Dear Pat:

I would like to extend my appreciation as the Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the Umpqua Regional Council of Governments for your assistance and help last week at the Ecosystem Investment Team meeting.

Your willingness to take care of the little details counts for so much on such a full-day of activity. Please accept my thanks for taking such good care of all of us at the Civic Center and helping with the dishes!

Sincerely,

Joyce Morgan
Chair, Board of Commissioners

June 14, 1995

Mr. Mark Berkland
USDA/NRCS
1835 Assembly St.
Columbia, SC 29209

Dear Mark,

I just wanted to take a moment to write and tell you the wonderful job the AmeriCorps group did for us.

We offer a kindergarten through 12th grade solid waste curriculum to schools across the state at no charge. The curriculum, which was developed by DHEC in conjunction with a statewide group of teachers and the S.C. Department of Education, has been available since January 1994. Since its introduction, almost 3,000 teachers have been trained on the curriculum in 75 of the state's 91 school districts.

The AmeriCorps group, led by John E. Morgan III, reviewed the curriculum and researched parallel materials and contacted the organizations for that information. The group also did cost analysis for each of the 160-plus lessons.

Morgan, Diggs Hill, Jr., Karen Kinard, Madeline Cislo and Abby Gage worked quickly and thoroughly. Each of their projects will provide us with much needed information and make the curriculum a better product.

We would be honored to have them back for another project.

Sincerely,



William W. Culler, Director
Division of Solid Waste Management

Forest Lake Elementary School

6801 BROOKFIELD ROAD
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29206

PHONE: 803-782-0470

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

April 21, 1995

Mr. Mark Berkland
USDA NRCS
1835 Assembly Street, Room 950
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Berkland:

On behalf of the entire Forest Lake Elementary community, I would like to thank your Americore Volunteers, Madeline Cislo, Diggs Hall, and Karen Kinard. These students made our School Improvement Council's Beautification Project a reality. Their hard work has begun the process of creating an outdoor learning environment for our community of learners.

Our students will benefit from the positive role modeling of these fine college students. Everyone involved with Forest Lake has admired the efforts of the Americore Volunteers. Neighbors have already inquired about how they can contribute their own time and talents to continue the development of an outdoor classrooms. Our vision is now becoming a reality and the involvement of everyone is critical to the success of our dreams.

Again, thank you for providing these excellent students to Forest Lake Elementary School. We truly appreciate their contribution to our community.

Sincerely,

Martha R Roberts

Martha R. Roberts
Principal



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

301 University Ridge
Suite 4800
Greenville, S. C. 29601
Telephone (803)467-2775
FAX (803)467-2774

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Walley Turner
ASTC (P)

FROM: Dave Demarest *DWD*
Urban Resources Conservationist

DATE: June 14, 1995

SUBJECT: Commendation of Americorps Team G1

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the work done by Americorps Team G1. Their work done on the Happy Hearts Community Center/Park was outstanding.

Team members Chris Beaver, Susan Miller, Angi Paulus, Sherrell Stevens and Becky Wooten should be commended for their dedication. Their enthusiasm and genuine community concern was most admirable.

The comments I have received from the sponsor Mike Hendrix of the Greenville County Recreation Commission have been most favorable and have also mirrored my above comments.

Americorps is truly a worthwhile program that is fortunate to have quality people like the five young people that make up Americorps Team G1.

DWD:sh
cc: Jimmy Sanders
Sherrell Stevens/Team Leader G1



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COWPENS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

POST OFFICE BOX 308

CHESNEE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29323

*Wally who
is on this
team,*

ONLY REFER TO:

June 16, 1995

Mr. Mark Berkland
Natural Resource Conservation Service
1835 Room 950
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Sir:

An Americorp Team, led by Chris Bever, has just completed two weeks of work at Cowpens National Battlefield. I was very much impressed with them as I was the team which worked for us at Ninety Six National Historic Site. The young people who worked on these teams did high-quality and long-lasting work. They were dedicated, hard working, enthusiastic, and self-motivated. And they were ready to do anything which we asked of them.

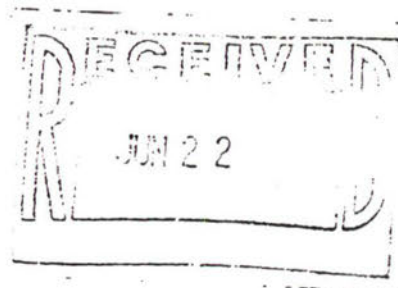
A major distraction I first noticed when I arrived at Cowpens was the red clay banks covered with weeds at the entrance of the park. We desperately needed to do something about this problem area so this crew was asked to conceive and design a landscape plan and then implemented it by creating plant beds in these troublesome locations. This they did in exemplary fashion along with developing plans for future expansion.

Other projects at Cowpens were the building of a map case for our hanging park construction blueprints, park drawings and maps; reorganizing our research library so researchers can find needed materials; striping of our parking area particularly the handicapped slots; and assisting the park staff in preparing for the Mighty Moo festivities. This yearly event was made special by the dedication of the model ship to honor the men who served on the namesake of the Battle of Cowpens. The assistance provided by the Americorp team was invaluable. All of the work requested was completed on or ahead of schedule along with other projects they did on their own.

It was such a delight to have this team at Cowpens that we welcome any Americorp team, or as many teams as are available, in the future.

Sincerely,

J. Farrell Saunders
J. Farrell Saunders
Superintendent



Blackville Communitywide Downtown Development Association (BCDDA)



May 2, 1995

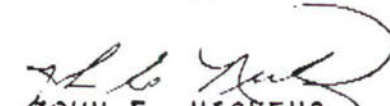
Ms Jacqueline Porter
Americorp Representative
213 N. Lartigue Street
Blackville, SC 29817

Dear Ms Porter,

I would like to commend you for all the hard work you've done within the Blackville communitywide area as an Americorp member. Your assistance to our organization in the local community has been like a guiding light out of a dark tunnel. Your expertise has assisted individuals in our community in such areas as housing, rural development, creating public and private ventures for adults as well as our youth, and avenues for low interest loans to established businesses and future businesses. The spirit of this community has changed from "just wait and see" to "we can create and improve for ourselves." I'm sure that this "spirit" has a lot to do with your desire and drive for progress in this community.

Your dedication and desire to help the community is to be commended by all who know you. Myself and the BCDDA would like to say "thank you and keep up the good work!"

Sincerely,


JOHN E. NICKRENS
President, BCDDA





1522 Highland Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

615 525-9945

May 17, 1995

Jeremy Williams
Clinch-Powell
Resource Conservation & Development Council
Route 2, Box 423
Rutledge, TN 37861

Dear Jeremy,

This is to express support for AmeriCorp participation in East Tennessee public and nonprofit services. The involvement of AmeriCorp volunteers with the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council has greatly enhanced the ability of rural organizations to obtain support services for their community improvement projects. With past and current support from the VISTA program, now combined to include AmeriCorp, the Community Design Center has been providing services to community groups and nonprofit for 25 years. These two groups have spawned a partnership of assistance and referral between VISTAs at the Community Design Center and AmeriCorp at the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council. Together they are helping local residents and organizations bring about positive changes in their communities.

As manager of the DesignWorks program at the Community Design Center I greatly appreciate the support of the VISTA*AmeriCorp program. I began my nonprofit community service as a VISTA in 1984 before becoming a paid staff member. The local efforts of groups and individuals are greatly enhanced by the organizational support of volunteer programs enabling them to accomplish more and greater things. I hope that the partnership of VISTA*AmeriCorp, the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council and the East Tennessee Community Design Center can continue to be an asset to the people and communities of East Tennessee.

Sincerely

J. Perry Childress
DesignWorks Manager



A United Way Agency

State of Vermont

Director
(802) 244-7345

Teletax No.
(802) 244-1106



Field Force Division
(802) 244-8775

Criminal Division
(802) 244-8781

Support Services Division
(802) 244-8786

Department of Public Safety
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

State Complex
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, 05671-2101

ST-1/C Robert Kalinowski
P.O. Box 215
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
(802)442-5421

August 26, 1995

To Joan McCloud

I would like to express my appreciation for all of the assistance you and the Green Mt. National Forest, along with the group of people participating in Americorps. I am a nine year member of the Vt State Police Search and Rescue Team. I have participated in numerous searches all over the state and have worked with many groups and organizations. Normally I take a group of several people and perform grid searches such as the search in Woodford during the week of 081495.

I was informed that you were more or less in charge of the group from Americorps. The two days that we performed grid searches, I had the opportunity to be part of the team made up mostly of Americorps people. I can honestly say that this group I had on both days was one of the best groups I have ever worked with in the woods. The weather was not the best on one of the days. The terrain was not the easiest, and the hours were long. I did not hear a complaint. I only encountered enthusiasm. The group was determined to find the lost man, and even wanted to come back a third day to assist.

This was a valuable resource and it was a pleasure to work with these people. I understand that the Americorps is federally funded and is in danger of being cut in 1996. This would be very unfortunate because if they perform all of their details as they performed during the search, the program will be missed.

Again, thanks for all of the help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Kalinowski".

ST-1/C Robert Kalinowski

FREEDOM

UNITY



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

THE SENTINEL ECHO
LONDON, KENTUCKY
MAY 29, 1995

AmeriCorp workers building new home for WWII veteran

By Eddie Arnold

Keavy resident Bertress Feltner served his country during World War II — now, the government is getting a chance to help him.

Feltner will soon have a new home thanks to the efforts of local AmeriCorps workers and other local community service agencies.

Local AmeriCorps worker Tina King, who is assigned to the London Rural Economic Community Development office (formerly the Farmers Home Administration), has been working to make the Feltner project a reality for more than seven months.

When King first visited the

Feltner home to do a health and safety assessment, she found that the elderly man, who has numerous health problems, was living in conditions that were less than adequate.

Walking through Feltner's frame home, King explained that the house was extremely cold in the winter. His only source of heat was a coal-fired stove which left a layer of coal dust throughout the house.

King said that she worked with members of London's Heavenly Helpers to get a cook stove for Feltner to allow him to cook meals at home.

"I bet I've made 50 trips out here," King said, adding that she

THE DAILY PRESS
VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 25, 1995

► COMMUNITY SERVICE

High desert residents moving forward, thanks to AmeriCorps

By Julie Johnson
Daily Press

Valli Andreasen knew she needed a change.

The oldest of her six sons was entering 10th grade, so she would soon have to get a job to help send the children to college.

But because she had dropped her goal of a degree in zoology to spend 17 years as a homemaker, Andreasen didn't know what she should do.

An advertisement for AmeriCorps changed that.

Now the 37-year-old is three months from completing her one-year portion of a project to survey soil at Fort Irwin. When she finishes she will have \$4,725 in scholarship money waiting for her.

"It's nice to be able to contribute to the community," Andreasen said of the project. "And I earned an education award so I can continue school."

AmeriCorps is a federally funded program that pays for community ser-

vice throughout the nation. This was the first year money went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Apple Valley, said district conservationist Rick Aguayo.

The program gave him enough money to start soil surveys at Fort Irwin, Edwards Air Force Base and the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms. Six people of various ages are currently enrolled.

Soil surveys map the different types of soil in a region, said Crisand Giles, a 24-year-old participant from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. If the type of soil is known, scientists can determine, for instance, where desert tortoises might live or how to treat a hazardous spill, she said.

Aguayo's five-year project is unique to AmeriCorps. Most are short-term, such as planting trees or diverting a stream.

Aguayo's six participants have also worked in the community, teaching school children about soil and conser-

Please see AMERICORPS, B4►

► AMERICORPS / From B1

vation.

In addition to a scholarship, AmeriCorps pays workers, who must be at least 17 years old and U.S. citizens, a living stipend of about \$12,000 for the year they spend in the program.

Aguayo said he hopes to get the soil survey funded again next year. He also wants to expand the project to the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, across the Colorado River from Havasu

City, Nev. Participants would work with the tribe to plant traditional crops and help them apply for grant money.

"I think it's a win-win situation," he said. "These folks are providing community service and will be able to pay for school."

Opinion

Saving funding, food

Respectful, open-minded, community based, worthy. No, this is not the new creed of the Boy Scouts. These are some of the values embodied by the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, a program to feed disadvantaged Vermonters that is worth watching.

The year-old effort is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps services program, his domestic version of the Peace Corps. In exchange for a small wage and later money for college, volunteers work in community service projects. In this case, the winners are hungry Vermonters.

Though the program is now a target for Washington's budget cutters, including the \$850,000 that goes to Vermont's effort, its attributes are precisely what government should be doing for disadvantaged people.

■ **Respectful.** The corps does not just give food away. Respecting the people it serves, the anti-hunger effort joins with city recreation in St. Albans, for example, and then provides lunch for the kids who come to swim.

■ **Open-minded.** The corps has tapped into whatever resources will feed whoever needs to be fed. The inmates' garden at the Northwest State Correctional Center in St. Albans — already a provider of 30,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters each year — has been a focus for one corps volunteer.

■ **Community based.** Far from using a federal know-it-all approach, the corps devises local solutions to local problems. Many of the workers are volunteers, and the food is often grown at community gardens.

The merit of this strategy is that the program's beneficiaries — often the rural poor — learn skills and develop systems that they can sustain themselves, without outside help. It also means the corps' work fits the community's needs.

■ **Worthy.** Some of the program's local ideas may be duplicated statewide, for example teaching proper nutrition to furloughed prison inmates. The anti-hunger effort has also won Vermont recognition and a chance to serve as a national model — "not by giving more handouts but by building opportunity and responsibility among the people they are working with," said Joel Berg, Agriculture Department director of national service.

These goals replicate those of many of Washington's fiscal conservatives, yet they do not place the corps above budget cuts. The federal government's debt is more than \$4.5 trillion, and growing. AmeriCorps' status as a pet Clinton initiative makes it particularly vulnerable.

So are the people it serves. The program's values are so Boy Scout-laudable, it deserves better. Its return on federal investment is high, too, for the hungry and for the participants.

The state's Congressional delegation should help it survive. Meanwhile Vermonters should continue to expand the program's volunteer supporters. Good ideas should survive no matter who is paying for them.

THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
JUNE 27, 1995

SANTEE STRIPER
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA
MAY 26, 1995



AMERICORPS

GETTING THINGS DONE

In Rural South Carolina



"There is no member of the U.S. Congress more committed to the AmeriCorps program than I am. I feel very strongly about volunteerism," 6th District Congressman James Clyburn on Tuesday tells the 40 South Carolina members of the national service program begun by President Clinton. The AmeriCorps members are in Santee for a two-day training session. (T&D photo by David P. Phillips)

AmeriCorps builds spirit to fight hate of Oklahoma City, Clyburn says

By GENE CRIDER
T&D Staff Writer

SANTEE, S.C. — It was a day when AmeriCorps members showed what they can accomplish by working together.

And they received encouragement from 6th District Congressman James Clyburn, who said experiences such as theirs can prevent occurrences such as the Oklahoma City bombing by teaching people to work together.

The 40 South Carolina members of the national service program started by President Clinton spent much of the morning Tuesday cleaning the town of Santee — painting the town police department, cleaning the roadside along Highway 15 and making repairs to a nearby day care center.

The AmeriCorps members are in Santee for a

two-day training session. Besides attending workshops on everything from using time wisely to serving customers, members also heard Clyburn express his support for the program.

"There is no member of the U.S. Congress more committed to the AmeriCorps program than I am," Clyburn said. "I feel very strongly about volunteerism."

Everyone ought to find something to do with their energy and enthusiasm, for which they are not paid, Clyburn said. Every meaningful job he has had has not paid a salary, he said.

And volunteerism does not go unnoticed, he said, relating the story of how his volunteer efforts while he was a school teacher led to his becoming director of an area Neighborhood Youth Program.

Please see AmeriCorps, 2B

Clyburn: Volunteerism helps

AmeriCorps

Continued from Page 1B

"I didn't stop doing volunteer work," Clyburn said. Eventually, his efforts were noticed again, eventually leading to his position as South Carolina human affairs commissioner, he said.

Nine-to-five jobs can be rewarding, but volunteerism provides rewards for the person served and the server, Clyburn said. And it is recognized, he said.

Clyburn then slipped into a discussion of the Oklahoma City bombing, saying he knows the occurrence caused many in the audience to grieve.

He quoted a letter written by Martin Luther King Jr. to some clergymen he wrote while he was in a Birmingham, Ala., jail in 1963. The clergymen had told the civil rights leader that they believed in his cause, but that they felt his presence was a disruptive one and the timing was wrong.

King wrote that timing is neutral - time does not resolve problems - and that "I'm beginning to believe the people of ill-will in our society make a much better use of their time than people of good will."

The responsibility of bad acts falls not only on bad people, but also "the appalling silence of good people."

Democracy cannot be had in a closed-down society, and people who close society down "can not be called patriotic, because that's not what patriotism means," Clyburn said. The AmeriCorps members' work "is what patriotism is all about."

The members should "build upon experiences you've had with AmeriCorps and the relationships you've had here," to work "on what patriotism is all about," he said.

"We need each other and no one of us is more im-

portant than the other," Clyburn said. It is working together that builds communities, states and nations.

"Once we learn that, we will learn what patriotism really is," he said.

Clyburn wasn't the only official at the program. State and local officials were on hand for a morning press conference and the afternoon session, including AmeriCorps' U.S. Department of Agriculture National Service Director Joel Berg.

Berg, who was mowing grass outside town hall in the morning, said he was on hand to show his support for the program on the day that Clinton recognized national service, with a focus on rural America.

The South Carolina program is "all about" helping rural areas, Berg said. AmeriCorps members in South Carolina are working to organize communities for the common good and helping the elderly, building "dry hydrants" and outdoor education centers, and other work.

He also stressed that most AmeriCorps workers are not directed by the federal government, but by state governments who use the free manpower to serve communities' needs.

AmeriCorps is not about doing make-work, "its about getting things done," for a better South Carolina and nation, he said. Also, it helps middle-class and poor students afford a college education.

Berg also took time out during the press conference to express regrets for the death of Josephine High of Holly Hill, who was a member of the AmeriCorps from the first. High's family was to receive a presidential recognition later Tuesday evening.

The work of the AmeriCorps members impressed others as well.

"I think it's a wonderful thing to see young people take an interest in the environment and the community," Orangeburg County Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Fred Wehrun said.

"We are proud, very proud, to have this meeting here today," Santee Mayor Franklin B. Goodwin said. "And you know who caused it?" he asked, pointing to AmeriCorps member Gloria Richardson of Bowman, who helped bring the meeting to Santee.

AmeriCorps employees receive a \$12,000 a year living allowance, health and child care benefits and a \$4,725 educational award.

AmeriCorps service honors go to 3 locals

By ALEC ROSENBERG
Staff Writer

It wasn't Memorial Day, Veterans Day or the Fourth of July, but the federal government Monday recognized three locals for their service to the country.

Anabelle Alvarez, 22, of El Centro; Maria Patricia Gonzalez, 39, of El Centro; and Santiago Luevanos, 35, of Oxnard were awarded for participating the past year in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service initiative. All three have bachelor's degrees from San Diego State University's Imperial Valley Campus.

"What we have here are people who have been to school to come back to the communities to put some of the things they have learned in the classroom into action," said Wilbur Peer, associate administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Cooperative Development Service. Peer also presented Imperial County with its \$2.95 million check for being a rural enterprise community.

Alvarez has been working in the county's economic development office headed by Maria Matthews.

Alvarez has helped begin a Healthy Start office in
See AMERICORPS, A6

AmeriCorps

(Continued from A2)

Winterhaven, attended coordinating meetings of the enterprise community committee, talked to homeowners about government programs and promoted economic development for this area.

"I'm sort of like an ambassador from the office," she said.

Gonzalez and Luevanos have done outreach work for the Rural Economic and Community Development Service, previously known as the Farmers Home Administration.

They mostly worked with elderly people, many who only spoke Spanish, and informed them of RECDs programs and helped them complete paperwork.

"I feel great because I've been helping my community," Gonzalez said.

Many Republicans have criticized AmeriCorps, calling it too expensive for these times. The program was allocated \$575 million for

this year, but Congress may cut or kill the program in coming years.

"It is important that the national service and AmeriCorps keep getting funded," Peer said. "It costs about \$15-16,000 a year (per person) for AmeriCorps. It costs \$40,000 a year to lock someone up. This nation was built on community action, and that's what AmeriCorps was built on."

The three Imperial County participants will end their service next month.

Each will receive \$4,725 educational stipends to further their education.

Gonzalez and Luevanos plan to pursue their teaching credentials at SDSU's Imperial Valley Campus. Alvarez will pursue master's degrees in psychology and public administration, also at SDSU's Imperial Valley Campus.

They all are happy they participated in AmeriCorps.

"AmeriCorps mainly is about building trust," Alvarez said. "It benefits both the community and the individuals who participate. I think both sides end up winning."



EMILY JONES passes out lunch packages at the St. Albans swimming pool during the first day of the summer lunch program for area children. (Photograph by John Thornton)



JAMIE DOES delivers a load of radishes to the Franklin/Grand Isle Community Action office in St. Albans, Wednesday. (Photograph by John Thornton)

For some, the answer is Americorps

STORIES BY KATHARINE BILODEAU

'My life was feeling meaningless...'

ST. ALBANS — There is a feeling you get when about to embark on some new leg of the life race. It's a sort of an anxiety on confusion sandwich, light on the conviction please.

Probably everyone experiences this feeling at one time or another, the most common being that strange limbo between high school and the "real world."

For some, a year off, thinking and focusing while possibly also doing something productive, might be the best thing in the world.

Emily Jones, an Americorps volunteer working in St. Albans, is one for whom this worked well.

She grew up in what is known as the New North End in Burlington. She went through the Burlington school system and when graduation came around, she wasn't really sure what she wanted.

She ended up at Amherst College, in Amherst Mass. majoring in the infamous

The thread of community

ST. ALBANS — Community. Community action, community involvement, community spirit.

These are themes that have recurred in Jamie Does' life, leading or following him on his far-ranging travels and wide-ranging interests.

Eventually they landed him here in St. Albans, as an Americorps, Anti-Hunger Corps volunteer. But in 26 years, his life has take considerable twists and turns.

In junior high, his parents took him out of the Burlington School system and entered him into an alternative education experience called the paradise project.

For two years he worked on life skills like public speaking, and empowerment while traveling all over the

country on student-planned trips.

At the top level of the program, he directed and led his own community service project.

Then he went through Burlington High

About Americorps...

Emily Jones and Jamie Does are two volunteers for the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, a division of the Americorps program. The program is in its pilot year in Vermont with five 8-member teams around the state.

The volunteers work for a subsistence stipend which goes toward their room and board. At the end of their one-year commitment, they receive an educational award of \$4,725 to be put toward some form of school.

► See AMERICORPS, p. 8

AmeriCorps gets thumbs up from members

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

RED BUTTES WILDERNESS — Ed-
die Mather has hacked a trail out of the
wilderness.

On the physical level, he's done that as
a member of AmeriCorps' six-member
"back country" team clearing the Butte
Fork trail deep in the 20,323-acre Red
Buttes Wilderness in the Rogue River Na-
tional Forest.

But on the spiritual level, Mather, 21, a
high school dropout who temporarily lost
his way through drug abuse, has blazed a
path out of a personal wilderness to enroll
in college.

"AmeriCorps has helped me turn my
whole life around," said the soft-spoken
youth while taking a break clearing brush
along the Butte Fork trail.

Having left drugs behind two years ago
and now with a fiancé and four children,
including two stepchildren, he intends to
use his AmeriCorps experience to forge a
future.

"It has given me college money," he
said, adding that he will begin classes at
Southern Oregon State College this fall.
"And it has given me a good look at how
it would be to work for the Forest Service,
something I want to do. I push myself
now."

Mather is one of 31 AmeriCorps mem-
bers based in the Rogue River forest grad-
uating this coming week after a 10-month
tour that began Nov. 1, 1994. The local
national service crew, one of 40 nation-
wide, has been deployed out of the old
Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Rang-
er District.

Program participants, all from 17 to 23,
earn at least \$7,500 and an educational
voucher of \$4,725 for 10 months of work.

There are about 20,000 members na-
tionwide, all pathfinders in the program's
first year.

"The crew has earned its keep," observed
Bill Fleeger, a Rogue River forest employ-
ee working with AmeriCorps members.

"They've done a lot of work," he said.
"And most of it would not have been ac-
complished otherwise."

Because of staff and budget shortages,
the Forest Service hasn't been able to do
a lot of work it had done in the past, he
explained.

"They (AmeriCorps) did more than
10,000 hours of trail maintenance and more
than 2,000 acres of silviculture work," he
said. "That's not including the work
they've done in the communities."

In Butte Falls, AmeriCorps crews reno-
vated the community hall, reroofed the
town library and built sidewalks. Work in

Five spots open in fall

GRANTS PASS — The Southwest
Oregon Resource Conservation & De-
velopment Council is recruiting five
people for its AmeriCorps program to
begin early in October.

The five participants will work in rural
areas to help plan and implement
natural resource enhancements and
community development, explained co-
ordinator Amy Wilson.

In this program, participants will
work for a full year, earning a stipend
of \$12,000 and an educational voucher
of \$4,725, she said. Funding for that
program already has been approved by

the Department of Agriculture, she
said.

This marks the second year for the
program in Grants Pass.

Applicants, who must apply by Sept.
11, should be college graduates, profes-
sional school graduates or enrolled in a
college or technical college. They also
should be community-oriented with
demonstrated skills in written or oral
communications, she said.

In addition, applicants must have
demonstrated an ability to facilitate
group discussion as well as mediate dif-
ferences of opinion, Wilson said.

Prospect included installing lighting and
covered bleachers at the high school and
community field, and building an arbore-
tum.

"They've helped communities, water-
sheds and wildlife," Fleeger said, adding,
"And I think we've helped the next gen-
eration of Americans along the way."

While Congress is still haggling over
AmeriCorps funding — a final decision on
the portion administered by the Forest
Service is expected late next month or
early in October — the agency is optimistic
that the program will continue next year,
said Mindy Martin, AmeriCorps program
director for the Rogue River forest.

Another group of 32 participants is ex-
pected to begin a 10-month tour on Nov.
1, she said. Those interested should con-
tact Martin at her office at 899-1812.

"We feel confident that it will happen,
although the funding hasn't been allocated
at this point," she said, noting that other
AmeriCorps programs for next fiscal year
already have been funded.

Keeping an eye on the program for the
past 10 months has been Tom Luthy, 27,
a member of the Eugene-based Northwest
Youth Corps, which has been providing
support for the local AmeriCorps team.

"With this age group you've got a real
idealistic group of people," Luthy said.
"Sometimes you may do a week of pruning
in the rain. It's hard, laborious work. The
key word is perseverance."

Working in the cold, drizzling Oregon
rain on the side of a mountain isn't a job
many would stick to, he said, noting that
some weren't able to endure. The local
crew began with about 40 members.

"These members who stayed with it
have been putting in long, hard days," he
said. "Most of them have goals they are

trying to achieve. And they are doing it."

Since joining AmeriCorps, Mather has
been certified to fight wildfires, a skill he
hopes to use in the summers.

"I got into a situation where I ended up
addicted to drugs and dropped out in the
10th grade," he said, noting he had been
attending South Medford High School. "I
ended up in treatment when I was 19."

He has been clean and sober for nearly
two years.

He took two programs offered through
SOSC as an AmeriCorps member, includ-
ing a geography course. He aced both.

"Getting back into school will be a whole
new routine," he said. "I'm looking for-
ward to it."

"The money for college is a big incentive
as well as an investment," he added. "I'm
confident I will end up paying it back
during my career."

Other members of the backcountry trail
crew agreed with Mather's assessment.

"It's definitely had its ups and downs,
but overall, it's been a good experience,"
said Tim Dodge, 22, of Cottage Grove.

A natural resources student at Oregon
State University for three years before
joining AmeriCorps, Dodge plans to re-
turn to college.

"I took a year off from my studies to
focus," Dodge explained.

Jennifer Tuman, 22, a 1991 graduate of
Crater High School, also will return to
college, studying marine biology.

For Tuman, who had been working at a
pharmacy and had studied at Rogue Com-
munity College, the program has given her
confidence.

"It's made me a stronger person, phys-
ically and mentally," she said. "I wasn't
ready for college. Now I am ready to study.
Definitely."

ARIZONA DAILY NEWS
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
AUGUST 26, 1995

2—ARIZONA DAILY SUN, Flagstaff, Arizona, Saturday, August 26, 1995

AmeriCorps volunteers can only help: official

By BLAKE MORLOCK

Sun Staff Reporter

The director of AmeriCorps' largest component visited Flagstaff Friday, defending the embattled program from criticisms raised by congressional Republicans.

"Some of the complaints are from Pluto," said Joel Berg, who runs the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Service program. He said Republicans are attacking the program because it displaces volunteers from other organizations, it pays them minimum wage and it costs too much to run.

Berg on Friday attacked the complaints during a meeting with community leaders at the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council.

He said unlike Republican claims, he has never heard of an AmeriCorps program taking over the work of other agencies. Republicans say this has prevented concerned citizens from volunteering.

"They act like volunteers are tripping over themselves to help the community and they have all day to work," Berg said.

On the assertion that it pays its members, Berg said, "When congresspeople work for free, then we'll stop paying AmeriCorps members minimum wage."

Berg also said that of his department's \$2.6 million budget. This year, he will spend \$30,000 on administrative costs, including his trip to Flagstaff.

Berg was flanked by two volunteers, Jerry Chavez and Usha Little.

As a member of the rural development wing of AmeriCorps, Chavez put together a deal to guarantee fire and emergency medical service for the Bellemont area. This was instrumental in landing a Wisconsin Tissue plant in the Flagstaff area, expected to bring in 75 to 100 new jobs. He also brought emergency medical services to Parks.

In addition, Chavez put together a cooperative agreement among 19 local, state and government agencies in northern Arizona that will streamline the process of sharing resources in emergencies.

Little said her AmeriCorps efforts in the Navajo Reservation town of Camero have improved the quality of life there. She said she set up a cultural preservation organization and has promoted tourism to improve the economy.

GFEC President Dave Spaur said Chavez helped in attracting Wisconsin Tissue to Flagstaff because Chavez had more staff power and a better budget.

Flagstaff Mayor Chris Bavasi said the city's faith in AmeriCorps is illustrated in the city budget.

"The proof in the city of Flagstaff's interest in this program is that we have invested heavily in this program," Bavasi said. "We think this program is very important."

THE MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON
AUGUST 27, 1995



Mail Tribune / Paul Fattig

ABOUT-FACE — AmeriCorps member Eddie Mather, a high-school dropout, says the work has given him a new outlook on life. He plans to use his education voucher to attend Southern Oregon State College this fall.

CALHOUN NEWS
BRUSSELS, ILLINOIS
JULY 12, 1995

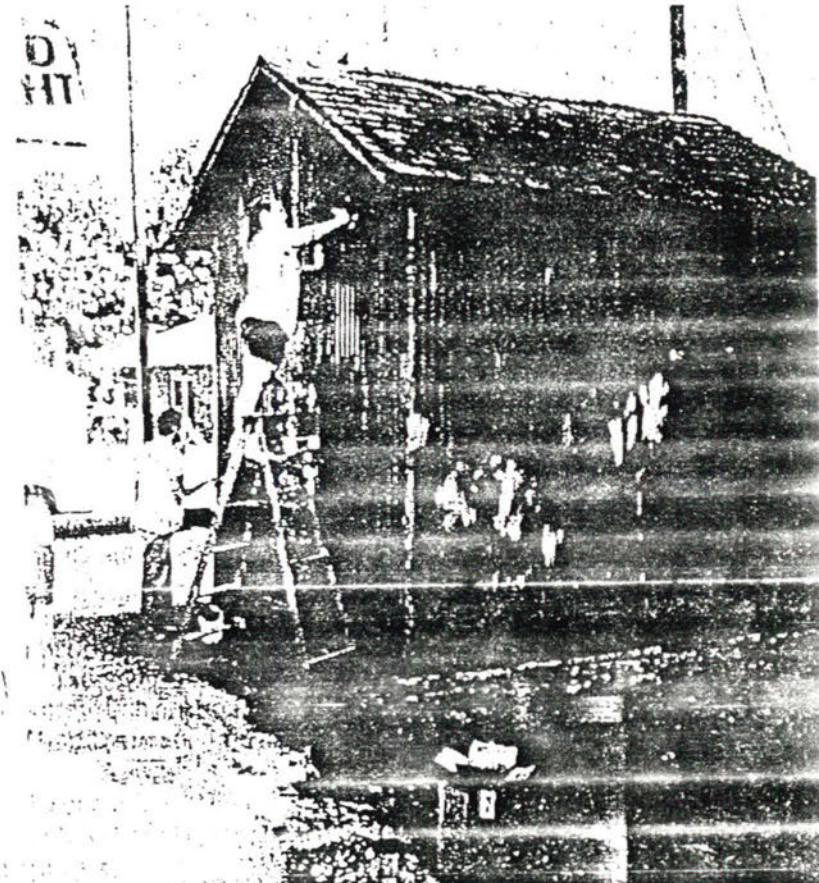
Brussels Historic Jail Renovated

The historic jail building in Brussels recently received a face-lift. Darlene Ivarson and Starr McDaniels, volunteers from the Ameri Corps Rural Development Team, provided the labor to refurbish the old building. A fresh coat of paint was applied to the exterior and the interior has a display of early prison life.

The jail will be open on weekends from noon to 5 p.m. for

visitors to stop by. The jail is located on Main Street by the Brussels Tavern, Wood Duck and Grandma's Attic antique shop.

Mayor Sarah A. Kinder is pleased with the upkeep of all the historic homes and buildings in Brussels. "A drive through quaint Brussels takes one back to the late 1800's and is a pleasant experience," commented Mayor Kinder.



Friendly people and bad roads

Citizens tell what they like and dislike about Barry

By TOM COULSON

According to Americorps, the people of Barry like its friendly helpful people most, and its roads and sidewalks least.

These are two of dozens of findings relayed to council last night by Darlene Ivarson and Starr McDaniles.

Ivarson and McDaniles, during May 11-June 9, delivered 541 questionnaires and had 351 returned - 65%. Of the returns, 310 were filled out.

These are some of the things the survey shows:

♦ One-half of respondents have lived in Barry 26 years or longer, and 90% expect to be living there five years from now.

♦ Although the largest single group of respondents was older than 70, the response was fairly uniformly distributed across age ranges.

♦ Fifty-two percent have high school diplomas, 23% some college, and 8% college degrees.

♦ Of 301 who answered a work question, 76 work in Barry, 115 elsewhere, 111 are retired.

♦ Of the 115 commuters, five work less than six miles away, 14 work 7-15 miles away, 40 work 16-30 miles away, 15 work 31-40 miles away, and 10 more than 40.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

"What three things do you like most about Barry?"

VFW wants liquor license

Barry VFW Commander Everett Dolbeare asked council last night about the possibility of a liquor license for the club, which has a clubhouse on Decatur 1 1/2 blocks from route 106.

Dolbeare said the club would like to sell only beer and only 3-4 nights a week.

He was told a first step would have to be getting the clubhouse rezoned commercial. It is residential, and the liquor ordinance prohibits licenses in that zone.

Mayor Ed Venicombe did not know whether a license is available, and city attorney Mike Hollahan said he would check.

Public works director Bob Dieker said he would let Dolbeare know when the zoning committee is to meet.

172 responded to this with a total of 519 comments. The top five:

- 206 - Friendly, helpful people.
- 85 - Small rural town setting.
- 39 - Businesses.
- 37 - Quiet, peaceful neighborhood.
- 26 - Library and churches.

Fourteen other factors were listed, including (in descending order) good schools; progressive and improving; low crime rate; police, fire and ambulance departments; security; excellent city services including pool; clean; parks; community spirit including festivals; meets most basic needs; low cost of living; close to major roads; good senior housing; and American Legion.

"What three things do you like least about Barry?"

259 responded to this with 322 comments. The top five:

- 58 - Roads and sidewalks.
- 35 - Some people get treated better than others.
- 30 - Too many police officers.
- 27 - Unresponsive government.
- 22 - Run down houses.

Twelve other factors received votes, including (in descending order) drugs and liquor problem, lack of jobs, dogs and cats roaming, not enough for young people to do, trucks parked around central park and over city, lack of available housing, children running the streets, education system, sewer system, too many city employees not doing their work, no zoning, too much low income housing.

"What do you feel is the biggest problem in Barry?"

363 responded to this, but many answers were similar to what they liked the least. The first two, however, were a little different. The top five:

22 - Too few activities for teenagers, young adults and senior citizens.

22 - Drugs and alcohol caused by too few activities.

22 - Streets and sidewalks need repair.

21 - Too many police officers.

17 - Lack of jobs.

A question about historic preservation was answered by 98 persons with 108 suggestions. The question:

"Are there any historical or geographical features you would like to see preserved in your area?"

The leading answers:

- 35 - Downtown buildings.
- 17 - Old homes.
- 11 - Cemetery.
- 11 - Park
- 6 - Churches.

Other responses included historical monument, library, stone bridge on Bainbridge, Bennett Springs, bluff area west of Barry, Indian mounds, school, restore top of bank building, forests, Watson property, museum, Bernie Keller farmhouse, bandstand and Mortimer Street House.

"Where do you shop?"

A big majority of respondents shop at home for groceries, gasoline and bank service. Quincy is the favorite source for clothing.

Market comparisons:

Groceries - Barry 246, Quincy 65, Pittsfield 29, other 28.

Clothing - Quincy 125, other 109, Pittsfield 37, Barry 38.

Gasoline - Barry 172, other 96, Quincy 22, Pittsfield 19.

Banking - Barry 247, other 48, Pittsfield 23, Quincy 11.

One-half of respondents believe Barry's downtown business will increase; 35% believe it will decrease.

Eighty percent want tourism to increase.

This was a "needs assessment survey" conducted by Two Rivers RC&D's Americorps rural development team.

Beginning May 11, Ivarson and McDaniles distributed forms with requests they be returned in three days.

On the third day, the team gathered surveys of persons who were home or had left them in the door to pick up.

If residents were not home, surveyors made one more attempt. After that signs were posted asking citizens to return forms to city hall.

"The 64.9% return was very good," Ivarson said. "Anything over 50% is good."

QUINCY HERALD WHIG
QUINCY, ILLINOIS
APRIL 28, 1995

Team maps rural part of county

Starr McDaniles and Darlene Ivarson attract some attention as they drive slowly through rural Adams County townships and study each building.

People ask if they're out looking for mushrooms or if they're lost and need help.

Sometimes the situation is reversed. "We get flagged down and asked for directions," Ivarson said.

Whether they can answer the question or not, they're working to make sure people get to the right location in emergency situations.

McDaniles and Ivarson are part of a five-member AmeriCorps team "mapping" each building and its address throughout Adams County. They're taking the first steps toward an enhanced 911 system that automatically supplies an address for the emergency site.

The crews first mapped existing addresses for homes and buildings in the county's 13 incorporated villages and some townships.

"It lays the groundwork to assign addresses to everybody in the county," said Mark Warren with Klingner & Associates. "All addresses will be street-style addresses like in Quincy."

"It's tedious and time-consuming. It requires a great deal of concentration," said crew member Bob Gillespy. "After a while my vision blurred from marking little houses on the map and looking ahead, then going back to check stuff."

AmeriCorps provides opportunity to help

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

As the little girl handed Samuel Shore a homemade get well card made from a folded paper plate, she asked, "Could you please give this to my papaw?"

Shore immediately took the card to her grandfather, a patient in the critical care ward at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home.

Shore is one of the 300 AmeriCorps volunteers working in Tennessee's urban and rural communities. As a 47-year-old man preparing to study for the ministry, Shore is almost twice as old as the average AmeriCorp participant.

Half of the AmeriCorps workers are 21 to 29 years old, with one quarter 20 years and under and the remainder 30 and over. Most have had some college or a bachelor's degree and more than half — 64 percent — are women.

"The only requirement for AmeriCorps is that they be at least 17 years old and an American citizen," said Carol White, Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service executive director.

What the AmeriCorps workers do depends on what the leadership of the community considers a priority, Ms. White said. This includes promoting tourism, attracting industry, improving housing or working in existing programs.

In Knoxville, AmeriCorps is reducing violence in inner cities by working with Head Start students who display violent tendencies at an early age. AmeriCorps workers in Nashville are developing health care programs for at-risk families and senior citizens.

"And in Memphis, AmeriCorps workers are working to break the cycle of child abuse," Ms. White said. "AmeriCorps workers all across the state are working in environmental education and economic development."

Like AmeriCorps members in other communities, Shore wears more than one hat. In addition to his work with families of critically ill patients at Mountain Home, he is updating the community services directory at the First Tennessee Development District Area Agency on Aging.

Shore is partnered with Robert Hamm, an AmeriCorps volunteer based in Johnson County. Hamm, 53, who also works at the VA intensive care unit waiting room, does some work for Habitat for Humanity and the Haven of Mercy.

Hamm became an AmeriCorps worker after his small business shut down and his 20-year job at Burlington Industries ended. He wanted to graduate from college, but said he also wanted to serve the community.

"I understood I could help others by helping myself," Hamm



Staff Photo by Eddie LeSueur

Samuel Shore, left, helps Mary Miller at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center

said. "This has been the most rewarding and fulfilling thing I've done since I was in the military."

Nationwide, AmeriCorps' 20,000 participants work in communities for \$6,200 in salary and living expenses and, if they complete a nine-month tour, are awarded \$4,725 for college.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees AmeriCorps, received \$575 million in funding this year. Like many other job training and education programs, AmeriCorps may be eliminated in the efforts to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

There are seven AmeriCorps workers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic and Community Development Council, all of whom are stationed in Upper East Tennessee, said Jeff Powell, council spokesman.

Powell, who is based in Nashville, said the workers are in this region because so many of the counties here are below the poverty level.

The USDA Rural Development Team is recruited from people who grew up in this area. According to an AmeriCorps brochure, planners hope this will empower communities to develop local leadership and to reverse the "rural brain drain."

Amy Crumley, a 22-year-old Jonesborough resident, says she'd been a 4-H volunteer and Future Farmers of America member since she was in fourth grade. As an AmeriCorp worker, she was a primary organizer of the recent Envirothon for high school students and the Conservation Field Day for elementary school students.

"I really enjoy doing things for other people," she said.

AmeriCorps volunteers like Ms. Crumley are required to work a total of 1,812 hours in order to receive the educational assistantship. This must take at least nine months but no more than one year.

Paperwork within the agency is kept to a minimum. Each AmeriCorps member is required

to submit a quarterly report stating the goals of each project and what is being done to meet those goals.

A service learning grant provided by the National Service Corp. allowed East Tennessee State University, Milligan College and Northeast State Community College to each offer a three-credit class called "Introduction to Community Service."

Billie Barlow, a former journalist from Charlottesville, Va., is working on a "Hidden Heroines" project for the ETSU Center for Appalachian Studies.

The project involves collecting oral histories from Upper East Tennessee women who somehow changed their communities for the better. Ms. Barlow said, and has also written a grant proposal for the cranberry project in Shady Valley.

"I was attracted to the national service movement," Ms. Barlow said. "I felt that a number of people could really make a difference."

September, 1995

Volume 14, Number 9

AmeriCorps update

>>>>>>>

Good programs don't just fade away!

By Amy Wilson (Niger, Mali)



Surviving an unprecedented political fray, AmeriCorps has been given a second year to prove its worth. If one had the opportunity to review them all, nationwide projects

would demonstrate some success in providing community service, building communities and fostering participant development. As with Peace Corps, some of the most stunning accomplishments are not easily quantified or measured.

The Camp Out . . . A Review

By Hud Minshew (Zaire)

All I can say was the contra dancing was good and dusty, the food was excellent, and the RPCV Africa contingent was loud and boisterous well into the wee hours. Please forgive us!!

Getting the truck out of the ditch the next morning brought us all back to our days on the continent. Word has it that Mr. Hobgood is The Waltzer of the 90's. Heart of the Valley RPCVs would like to thank the

Our five rural development members in southern Oregon assisted with the development of over 19 community projects characterized by a high level of local involvement and interagency cooperation. Our second generation volunteer (the son of RPCVs who met in Thailand) was a critical contributor to stream restoration projects throughout Curry County whose funding totaled over \$433,000!!

Currently AmeriCorps programs are recruiting people interested in community service. The Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation & Development Council is looking to fill five full-time positions related to community organizing and stream restoration. Please phone 476-5906 for details on this specific program; or phone the Oregon Community Service Commission for information on AmeriCorps programs in Oregon 800-826-4865.

Merrills for the use of their farm and for tolerating RPCVs without a cause.

The camp out was a good opportunity to travel around the world through conversation with other RPCVs. The arid climate and bright stars brought out some interesting theories on development and bringing the Peace Corps Experience home.

We also had the fortune of having three Americorps volunteers in our presence. They provided interesting insight into working in community development in the U.S. There is plenty of work to get done here, folks.



The Natchez Democrat/Kevin Cooper

AMERICORPS RALLY: Charleston, S.C., Police Chief Reuben Greenberg talks to a group of teens after speaking at the Americorps Rally on Saturday.

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI
APRIL 10, 1995

Teens hear messages about keeping community values

By **MICHAELA GIBSON**
The Natchez Democrat

A nationally known author and police chief urged people attending a Americorps Teen Rally to no longer accept excuses for crime.

Charleston, S.C., Police Chief Reuben Greenberg stressed the importance of a community-value system and accountability for criminals, instead of blaming society for creating criminals.

"Values are something all of us need to pay a little more attention to," Greenberg said. "We've created a system of no fault crime."

Greenberg, who wrote "Taking Back the Streets," said that communities, told the teens and adults attending the Americorps rally that the community was vital to reestablishing values and taking away excuses such as lack of education from criminals.

become a society of endless excuses," Greenberg said.

Greenberg and the other speakers talked to teens about the problems off violence, drug use and teen pregnancy at Saturday Americorps Teen Rally. Americorps volunteer Shelly Foutz-Lowe, the rally organizer, said she was pleased with the audience's response to the rally.

"The people here have been dynamic in their response," Foutz-Lowe said. She estimated about 120 teens and adults were on hand for the rally put together by Americorps volunteers from around Mississippi.

"The crowd may be small, but the results can be big," Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown told the audience gathered at the Natchez Convention Center.

"It was worth coming out for," said Keshia Harris, a student at

Natchez Middle School. "More people should have come."

The organizers brought in speakers from different disciplines to give the rally participants their viewpoint on the problems facing teens.

"As long as we've helped one individual, we're pleased," Betty Oliver, state coordinator for U.S. Department of Agriculture Americorps volunteers.

Foutz-Lowe said she hopes the teens who attended the rally will continue the dialogue begun at the rally. "It's important for them to go home and talk to their parents."

In addition to Greenberg, Americorps rally participants heard from WLBT anchor Maggie Wade, who talked about the importance of self-esteem.

Americorps volunteers from Louisiana and Arkansas also helped to put on the rally.

THE MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE
MANCHESTER, KENTUCKY
APRIL 20, 1995

AmeriCorps to help with home repairs

Dear Editor,

I am an AmeriCorps member working in your county on housing repair.

My job is to locate families in the community who need help affording repair work, and then finding a resource in the community to help them.

If you have needed repairs in your home and cannot afford to make these repairs yourself, write the following information on a blank sheet of paper and send it in

I need to know your name, address, phone number, county, number of people in the household, number of children under 18, number of

elderly or disabled in the household, entire household income, the specific types of repairs needed, and a brief statement giving me permission to discuss your situation with a loan/grant resource.

Send this information to AMERICORPS, 242 Daniel Boone Drive, Barbourville, KY 40906.

Please remember this is no guarantee of help.

All information will be reviewed and put on a list. All information received will be kept confidential.

Rebecca Davidson
AmeriCorps member

AmeriCorps crew helps sort it out

By SABRINA HAYES
Staff Writer

Cleaning out a warehouse and sorting clothes was an all day-job for some area AmeriCorps volunteers.

The members serve through the USDA's Rural Economic and Community Development department, usually helping with rural housing and community development.

But for one day, Rebecca Davidson said they went beyond that.

Davidson, the Barbourville AmeriCorps volunteer, said 10 of her colleagues participated in the Corporation for National Service Day April 25.

Nine of those members were from Somerset, Barbourville, Middlesboro, Hazard and Prestonsburg. The others were from Virginia.

The job of all of the members is to help poor people fix up their homes.

The group was scheduled to help Mountain Outreach repair houses throughout Whitley County, but Michelle Humfleet, the Cumberland Valley Area Development District volunteer in Laurel County, said the cold weather changed the plans.

Mountain Outreach is a student-based organization in Williamsburg that helps repair homes for the indigent in the area.

Instead of helping repair houses, the group helped Cedaridge Ministries clean and sort the clothes in the warehouse in Williamsburg.

The ministry helps people whose homes have been burned or who are in need.

Laura Duncan, who serves in the Bell County area, said the AmeriCorps motto is "getting things done for America."

"We, as AmeriCorps members, have the opportunity to improve ourselves and our communities. By taking the responsibility for one small part of our community, we hope to be an example to the community, to demonstrate just what can be done when we work together," Duncan said.

TIMES-TRIBUNE
BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY
MAY 5, 1995

MACHIAS VALLEY NEWS
MACHIAS, MAINE
APRIL 18, 1995

Cranberry project begins Down East

MACHIAS — The first year of a new cranberry research project for wild mountain cranberries in Washington County is under way, and will include taste-testing and a recipe and jam contest this fall.

According to Karen Bert of the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District office, the Cranberry Observation Project, or COP Project, needs information from all cranberry growers who are voluntarily observing patches of the red berries and are willing to do simple data collection.

The project was conceived by Reinald Nielsen of Whiting, who became interested in the hardy native berries after observing them on his property. After doing some private research, Nielsen realized that the berry patches require little of the intensive watering, spraying with pesticides and fertilizing that other berries need.

He recently approached the Conservation District with the idea of holding an informal meeting to test public interest in the potential low-input cash crop. In April, 33 people attended the initial meeting at Machias.

Nielsen has developed a packet

that contains an explanation of the project, data collection sheets, and background information on wild cranberries and lingonberries. The packets are available at the district office in the federal building in Machias.

This year, he will begin evaluating his own test planting of cuttings from six different patches.

Bert, an Americorps volunteer, said there are thousands of native cranberry patches that could be evaluated as Nielsen is doing in search of the ideal strain appropriate for commercial cultivation.

The data sheets will be collected by the district this fall. They will be used to create a baseline of information for the year 1996, when "best" plants may be located and set out for intensive cultivation. The information also will be used to establish guidelines for growing wild mountain cranberries.

This fall, the district will conduct informal taste testings and a recipe and jam contest.

Anyone interested in the COP Project may call Bert or District Manager Nathan Pennell at 255-3995, or write Box 121, Machias 04654.

AmeriCorps members plant trees in county

By **DAVID WAHLBERG**
Sun Staff Writer

A leader of President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service program visited the San Bernardino Mountains on Monday to tout the program and try to shield it from the Republican budget ax.

"It's a great investment," Joel Berg, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's portion of AmeriCorps, said after helping about 90 AmeriCorps members plant trees in the Heart Bar area.

"It promotes work instead of welfare. It says you don't get a dime unless you sweat."

AmeriCorps, often called the domestic Peace Corps, provides \$4,725 education grants to about 20,000 members who spend a year on community projects.

Locally, members have built hiking trails, designed nature centers and repaired fire-ravaged areas. Much of the work has been in the San Bernardino National Forest.

The program, which started last year, is facing budget cuts from Republican leaders, including Rep. Jerry Lewis of Redlands,

chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee.

Democrats wanted to boost AmeriCorps' initial \$370 million annual budget to \$570 million next year, increasing membership to 33,000 or more.

Lewis and other Republicans say it should be status quo until the program proves successful.

"It's relatively new," said Dave LaStrange, spokesman for Lewis. "We should see how it's working before it gets a huge infusion of taxpayer dollars."

Berg said AmeriCorps will save money by teaching members to fend for themselves. "It's all about responsibility."

Karen Gilbert, a sixth-grade teacher at Charles Hoffman Elementary School in Running Springs, said AmeriCorps members have worked hard on the nearby Children's Forest.

"They have been fantastic," she said.

AmeriCorps members have taught students to snowshoe and design nature signs, she said. "It would be such a shame to cut back on something like this that is so mutually beneficial."

THE CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 5, 1995

AmeriCorps' James Bradley To Assist With Home Loans On Reservation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces that AmeriCorps member James Bradley will be working in an outreach program on the Cherokee Indian Reservation through the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD). Mr. Bradley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Red Bradley of the Soco community.

AmeriCorps is a program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical services to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment after 1,700 hours of service.

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams at urban and rural sites nationwide: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.

Bradley will be working with the RECD Guaranteed Housing Loans Program which assists moderate-income Americans who do not have a down payment when qualifying for a mortgage. The USDA/AmeriCorps member's main goal during this time of service is to build an effective outreach program between RECD and the Eastern Cherokee Tribe. He will

also be working in Jackson, Swain, and Haywood Counties.

Many lending institutions are hesitant to make housing loans to members of the Tribe residing on the Qualla Boundary due to the Possessory Land Holding situation. Bradley will be working through the RECD Guaranteed Loan Program to encourage banks to make housing loans to Tribal members.

The RECD also makes low interest home repair loans and grants, which may only be used for needed structural repair or to remove health or safety hazards. Applicants must be over 62 years of age to qualify for a grant.

Anyone with questions about the RECD Guaranteed Housing Loan Program or home repair loans and grants, call Bradley at (704) 586-5549. You may also call your local lending institution for information on the Guaranteed Housing Loans program.

The AmeriCorps member will also be compiling a directory of available local resources for use on the Reservation. Anyone with information about other sources of funding for housing, about any possible housing grants, or about any Indian-owned businesses such as contractors, surveyors, plumbers, electricians, that could be included in the directory may call Bradley at the same number.

THE BARBOURVILLE MOUNTAIN ADVOCATE
BARBOURVILLE, KENTUCKY
MAY 11, 1995



Helping out

Rebecca Davidson, center, Barbourville, an Americorps representative, spent a day during the recent National Service Week in Williamsburg, helping Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach Program and Cedar Ridge Ministries. She is shown with Michele Humfleet, London, and Jamie Duncan, Harlan, working with the clothing store on the Cedar Ridge property.

LAS CRUCES SUN
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO
AUGUST 25, 1995

AmeriCorp personnel tour colonias

By Steve Ramirez

Las Cruces Sun-News

The national director for AmeriCorps toured throughout Dona Ana County, including the area's colonias, Thursday.

"Don't judge us by our words, judge us by our deeds," said Joel Berg, AmeriCorps national director of services within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "This is a program that's become enormously successful throughout the country. Not only do our members want to get involved in the communities they work in, they want to find ways to improve them, too. This program is a good way to bridge the gap between government and its people."

Berg is in the midst of conducting a whirlwind tour

through the Southwest. Wednesday afternoon, he toured the Sparks Colonia east of El Paso. "That was something to see," Berg said. "I got to meet a 95-year-old woman who had just gotten running water in her home for the first time. Getting to see the look on her face and her reactions are some of the rewards of this job."

Thursday, Berg, AmeriCorp volunteers Anna Rodriguez and Lourdes Vigueria, and John Thomas, state rural development director, toured the Gospel Rescue Mission in Las Cruces, a water improvement plant in Mesquite and a wastewater treatment plant in Anthony. Later, Berg traveled to Tucson, Ariz., before ending the day in Flagstaff, Ariz.

"It was partly through the help of AmeriCorps volunteers that the wastewater treatment plant in Anthony was able to get a (\$750,000) grant to improve the treatment plant," said Ernie Watson, spokesman for Rural Economic Community Development, the agency which provided funding. "AmeriCorp volunteers were able to help them fill out the necessary applications to get the funds."

AmeriCorps is a national service program created by President Clinton. About 20,000 citizens, who perform services that meet critical community needs receive money from AmeriCorps that can only be used for college, job training or paying back student loans.

Volunteers clean up at Meade Lake

By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News

MEADE — AmeriCorps volunteers joined 20 Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks employees Tuesday in the hot, sooty job of cutting down hundreds of fire-blackened trees at Meade State Fishing Lake.

Jim Meisenheimer, an AmeriCorps supervisor based in Salina, brought 11 of his volunteers to the lake to spend a week there helping to clear trees that were killed in a March 22 prairie fire.

The volunteers came from their posts in Salina, Emporia, Dodge City and Hutchinson and from the Kanopolis, Glen Elder and Webster reservoirs, Meisenheimer said.

AmeriCorps, he said, is "President Clinton's national service program" that began in September 1994.

The program is open to young people, age 17 or older, who have completed college, high school or earned a high school equivalency diploma, he said.

"In return for (AmeriCorps) community service, they receive an educational reward, to help pay off their student loans or to further their education," he said.

The volunteers receive modest stipends to pay living costs, plus a \$4,725 education award, for about nine months work, he said.

Fort Scott native Kyle Hedges, 23, was among the AmeriCorps volunteers at the lake Tuesday. With sweat dripping off his nose, and with his T-shirt and blue jeans blackened with soot, Hedges at 2 p.m. was dragging cut limbs to a point where state employees were feeding them into a chipper-shredder. Tractors were used to drag the main trunk sections to burn piles.

Hedges in December 1994 graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in fisheries biology and he hopes soon to land a job with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; he already has worked several summers for the agency.

He joined AmeriCorps in April, at the advice of his college counselor; AmeriCorps found him a position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dodge City, where he is helping with wetlands research.

"This is a good opportunity for me," Hedges said. "It certainly gives me some experience in my field."

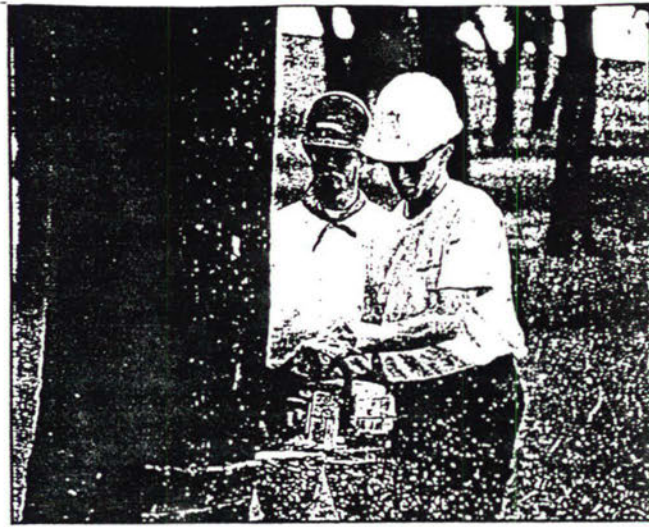


Photo by Scott Ladd

Kansas Wildlife and Parks officer Mike Mitchen, left, oversees John Droste, Dodge City AmeriCorps volunteer, as Droste cuts through a tree at Meade County Lake.

Mark Goldsberry, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks ranger who manages the 55-acre lake, its 30-acre park and 350-acre wildlife refuge, said the fire in March burned more than 360 acres in the park and refuge, located 14 miles southwest of Meade.

A windstorm had broken a tree limb, which downed a power line that started the blaze.

Goldsberry said the pace of the work crews Monday gave him confidence that all the lake's park areas will be open well before the July 4th holiday.

He was grateful for the Wildlife and Parks workers, who came in from as far away as Belleville to help for the week, as well as for the AmeriCorps workers, he said.

'It's great. With the extra bodies, we're going to cover a lot of ground we couldn't have covered otherwise.'

**— Mark Goldsberry,
ranger at Meade State Lake**

Fanned by 60-mph northwest winds, the wildfire roared through most of the park before it was brought under control by firefighters from Meade, Fowler, Seward County, Beaver, Okla., and Forgan, Okla.

Goldsberry said at least 500 mature trees, most of them cottonwoods that were 60 or more years old, were killed by the fire and must be removed. In turn, the parks department already has acquired 2,600 seedlings from Kansas State University Forestry Extension to be planted in the park and refuge this fall.

The new trees will include mulberry, ash, bur oak, black walnut, locust and cottonwood trees, he said.

Despite the fire damage, the lake's park and camping areas still have acres of healthy, stately trees for visitors to enjoy, with visitation averaging about 130,000 people per year, the park manager said.

"It's great," he said. "With the extra bodies, we're going to cover a lot of ground we couldn't have covered otherwise."

Volunteerism didn't end with the AmeriCorps. Area businesses, including Pizza Hut and Schmidt Packing, both of Meade, and National Beef Packing, Liberal, donated food for lunches and dinners for the volunteers for the week, said Willie Helms, park office assistant.

Helms doubled as a cook this week, along with Myrna and Jim Perona, Fort Dodge, who camp often at the lake and volunteered to help feed the tree-cutting crews, Helms said.

The AmeriCorps volunteers and Wildlife and Parks workers all are camping in tents at the lake for the week, Goldsberry said.

Meade County Lake was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, a national work program that is similar to AmeriCorps, he said.

Director of National Service for USDA Visits Winnfield on Thursday

Joel Berg, Director of National Service for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was in Winnfield on Thursday.

In his position as director, Berg is responsible for planning as well as managing the AmeriCorps national service program, overseeing 1,200 AmeriCorps members. Those volunteers are working in fields of environmental endanger-

ment, rural projects in 33 states and toward the prevention of hunger.

Berg made a flying tour through Louisiana, stopping in Winnsboro, going on to Macon Ridge Economic Development Corp., Winnfield, Alexandria, Crowley and Baton Rouge in two days.

"He is visiting all states with AmeriCorps projects," explained Alicia Trissler, AmeriCorps volun-

teer for Winn Parish.

While he was in Winnfield, Berg visited the Winn Parish Museum, with which Trissler is working.

Trissler's job in Winnfield is as a tourism specialist. She has worked with local organizers to prepare brochures and with the museum to train volunteers.

At present, she is working with officials to prepare grant proposals for a HeadStart Program and a program in folk art. At the museum, she also aids in meeting certification guidelines of the American Association of Museums.

"We are planning to make the museum the center of tourism in Winn Parish, a starting point for tourists," Miss Trissler explained to Berg.

AmeriCorps is the brainchild of U.S. President Bill Clinton. It's been called his version of the Peace Corps. In Louisiana, there are 21 USDA AmeriCorps members working with local officials to get jobs done in the areas of tourism, community planning, rural fire protection, ground water protection, timber bridge replacement, farm safety and USDA loan and grant programs.

One program about to begin in Winn Parish is the installation of ten more dry hydrants. Already 25 have been placed around the parish.



USDA Official Comes To Winnfield

Joel Berg, National Services Director for the United States Department of Agriculture was in Winnfield on Thursday during a nationwide tour of AmeriCorps workers. During his visit he toured the Winn Parish Museum with Mayor Deano Thornton and Alicia Trissler, local AmeriCorps volunteer working as tourism specialist for Winn Parish. Here Berg discusses local tourism and the museum with Mayor Deano Thornton. There is a full story of his visit on page one.

Corps marches against hunger

By Shay Totten
Free Press Staff Writer

Volunteers in a year-old program designed to feed and empower low-income Vermonters are gaining national attention for their work to help the rural poor.

Under the banner of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, roughly 40 volunteers have fanned out over the state's counties to set up community gardens, nutritional programs for the elderly, and summer hot lunch programs, among other programs.

Their work is being recognized by the U.S. Agriculture Department and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Two Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps members will travel Tuesday to a Washington, D.C., seminar on childhood nutrition hosted by the first lady. The USDA, which funds part of the anti-hunger project, may use Vermont as a model for how to get the rural poor involved in self-sustaining nutritional programs.

The fuel behind the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps is AmeriCorps volunteers, a program started in 1993 by President Clinton. AmeriCorps workers are paid about \$800 a month and after 1,700 hours of service they get \$4,725 for educational use.

"We have to get people into the self-sufficient mode and I think that's crucial among the low-income population," said Laurie Larson, leader of the the corps' Northwest Vermont team, which covers Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties. It's the corps' largest coverage area and has six volunteers.

Two of the volunteers are Jamie Does, 26, and Emily Jones, 21, both of Burlington.

See HUNGER, 5A

HUNGER: Prison garden yields 15 tons of food

Continued from Page 1A
The pair covers Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

The pair's first big project was an eight-week nutritional program they taught to furloughed prison inmates.

The program — which includes classes on nutrition and cooking — might be used statewide.

"That's a part of everything we do: sustainability," Does said. "And that is one of the aspects that drew me into AmeriCorps."

The pair also helped feed new life into a St. Albans community garden and an inmate garden at the Northwest State Correctional Facility, also in St. Albans.

Jones helped launch a St. Albans summer lunch program for several dozen low-income children. The city's recreation department will let kids in the program have free use of the pool and the lunches will be served in a nearby tent. Jones hopes that number will grow.

"This gives the kids an activity to come to other than the lunch. And, it helps take away the stigma for the parents," Jones said.

Does has spent much of his time working on the prison garden, which includes picking up donated plants from local greenhouses and farms.

Last year, the garden supplied 30,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to area food shelves and community kitchens and may produce more this year.

But, the sweat and service of volunteers like Does and Jones might not last for long. AmeriCorps funding, about \$850,000 in Vermont, may be wiped out under current proposals in Congress. AmeriCorps volunteers work in a variety of mediums

Feeding the hungry

One out of every seven meals served at community kitchens is going to a child under the age of 18. In 1994, 78,534 children were served a meal. More than 9,000 children rely on private emergency food services. More than half of the two million meals provided annually by food shelves and community kitchens go to children under the age of 18.



Source: Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

Free P.

ranging from the environment to literacy.

If the budget cuts are approved, the program will end Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year. Volunteers and program leaders are confident that the program's elimination will not end the anti-hunger projects.

"Our focus has been to work with the community so it can continue the project after we're gone," said Bari Gladstone, program director for Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps. "We help them with the agreement that they will take it over after we leave."

Vermont's hard work is paying off and may give federal officials fodder to keep the program, and similar ones, funded.

"The Vermont project is one of the most outstanding projects in the country. It seems to be leading the country in getting things done, not by giving more handouts but by building opportunity and responsibility among the people they are working with," said Joel Berg, USDA's national service director.

Lend a hand

■ The Vermont Anti-Hungers Corps is looking for AmeriCorps volunteers. The deadline is June 30.

AmeriCorps was created by President Clinton in 1993 to act as a domestic Peace Corps in which people receive a bi-weekly stipend and a lump sum after completing 1,700 hours of service. The lump sum can be put toward college tuition or other educational uses.

For information, call the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps office at (800) 360-2577 or 241-2577.

■ More than 100 of Vermont's AmeriCorps members and program staff will come together today and Tuesday at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. The meeting will be the first statewide AmeriCorps conference.

Participants will attend workshops on life after AmeriCorps and look at local AmeriCorps projects, among other things.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. today and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.



AmeriCorp volunteers were in Hamblen County recently for an anti-erosion project on the Ronald Ray farm in east Hamblen County. Shown here (from left to right in the foreground) are Paul McQuade, Amy Crumley, and Billie Barlow. Also shown are Janet Letterman and Stephen Trenner. (CT photo by Greg Kyle)

AmeriCorps Members Visit Hamblen Co. For Streambank Protection

AmeriCorps members of East Tennessee were in Hamblen County recently for a streambank protection project.

AmeriCorps is the national service program helping improve the quality of life for Americans through health education, environment improvement and rural development.

The project was sponsored by the Hamblen County Soil Conservation District, and was held on the Ronald Ray farm on Bent Creek in east Hamblen County.

Streambank sloughing and erosion can be caused by obstructing the flow toward a specific point or by cattle breaking off sod as they go to the water.

Not only is the soil lost forever, but the sediment smothers out the

aquatic wildlife living in the stream. To prevent soil erosion of the streambank and improve the water quality, the AmeriCorps members planted four different species of tree seedlings, broadcast seed and mulched the area.

To further protect the area, Ray will fence the streambank to prevent cattle from causing erosion.

For more information on streambank practices or other best management practices, call the Natural Resources Conservation Service at 586-5501.



Renyold Ferguson

AmeriCorp workers prepare the soil for a garden in Rush City.

Gardens A Matter Of Pride

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

It won't be long before the lot next to Jesse and Donna Haire's home in the Rush City neighborhood will be ripe with yellow peppers, plump red tomatoes, tasty green peas and summer squash. Marigolds and zinnias will bloom.

The gardeners who are tilling and planting this week are building a community garden. And backers of the project hope this community garden — and about a dozen like it around East St. Louis — also will grow a bumper crop of neighbor-

Crews Are Preparing Community Project

hood pride.

Crews of workers from AmeriCorp and neighbors are helping prepare the soil, build the wooden sides and walkway, and plant seeds and cuttings at the garden at 910 Sycamore.

Other folks also helped get the community garden project — called Harvesting Good Neighbor Relations — this far. MECCO/Operation New Spirit, a citywide

neighborhood organization, started the garden program about two years ago and has been expanding it since. At least four community gardens are new this spring. AmeriCorp joined as co-sponsor this season.

"Community gardens serve as a way of bringing neighbors and neighborhoods together for a common purpose . . . and of harvesting good neighbor relations," said Venessa Marion, administrator of MECCO/Operation New Spirit.

See GARDENS, Page 4

Gardens

From page one

Florine Johnson, an AmeriCorp worker, coordinates the tilling and planting and was busy on Sycamore this week. Johnson, 46, of Centreville, recently completed a master gardening course offered by the University of Illinois' Extension Service.

She joined AmeriCorp because she wanted "to give a year of community service." In March, she and others started surveying the land and plotting the designs of the gardens. They plan to use only organic fertilizers.

The garden at 910 Sycamore is in neighborhood near heavy industry, because of the lack of industrial and

experimenting with a raised bed garden, Johnson said.

Sheets of plastic were placed on top of the original neighborhood soil, and then covered with clean soil, so any possible contamination would be eliminated. The original soil has been sent to a lab for tests.

James Pace, 40, an AmeriCorp worker from East St. Louis, helped install wooden planks around the garden and till the soil. He recently completed the master gardening course and joined AmeriCorp "to try to beautify the community" and improve the environment. He said he wanted to get rid of the city's "eyesores" and the dangers they pose, including hiding crime.

"All over, there are lots where the weeds are taking over," he said. Besides, "once you start cleaning up the

for their community."

The garden on Sycamore is just outside the window of the Haire's house in Rush City, on land donated by the Haires. Most years, Donna Haire, has planted a smaller garden on the lot. "I love gardens and I like to see stuff grow," Donna Haire said.

She already has plans to freeze the tomatoes and make stew and chili for her husband and two daughters.

MECCO/New Spirit and AmeriCorp are sponsoring 11 gardens in the Winstanley, Olivette Park, Dayton, Wedgewood, Fairlawn and Lansdowne neighborhoods and the central business district. AmeriCorp also has about a half dozen more community gardens in Lovejoy and Washington Park and at State Community



Times-News photo — Ned Jilton II

A Sullivan Central team tests soil at the Envirothon at Sycamore Shoals State Park.

Envirothon tests nature knowledge

By LISA ELDRETH
Times-News Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTON — Sullivan Central senior Sara Everett examined a handful of soil at Wednesday's Envirothon competition before she helped her team come up with an answer.

The hands-on outdoor competition involved 15 teams from area high schools.

"I've just always liked nature and the environment," said Everett, a member of Central's ESP (Environmental Student Protectors) Club.

Envirothon tests students' knowledge in five areas: forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. This year's issue was groundwater.

Students spend 25 minutes in each area, answering written multiple choice questions and identifying plants, trees and other objects. Each team fills out one answer sheet.

The team from South Greene High School won first place and will compete in the state contest in May. Second place went to one of the two teams competing from Hampton High School. And the FFA Club team from Cloudland High School took third place.

"It's peaceful to be outside, and I'm concerned about the environment," said Jessica Stowell, a sophomore on Sullivan South's team. The team was made up of members of the school's Environmental Awareness Club.

The aquatics' questions were the toughest, competitors agreed. Sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority's Clean Water Initiative, the questions included mapping a watershed.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry sponsored the forestry questions, which included the identification of five different tree varie-

ties.

For the wildlife questions, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency had various items on display — such as traps, pelts, skulls and feathers — that students had to answer questions about.

"I think there is a problem with the environment, and people don't realize that," said Heather Seay, a junior at South. "I want to try to help rather than sit around and do nothing."

As a project, the club tests the water quality of streams near the school. Also, a recycling day is planned Saturday at South for area residents to bring paper and aluminum to the school between noon and 4 p.m.

"The club's purpose is to make people more aware of environmental issues," said senior Jason Phipps.

South's team also included Spicey Gould, a senior, and Amy Haase, a junior. Club adviser is biology teacher Dee Eiklor.

Recycling has been promoted by the ESP Club at Central for about five years — so much so that even the cafeteria grease is recycled, said English teacher Nancy Shackelford, club adviser.

Team members Tina Kyte, Sara Weaver, Jeffrey Kiser, Gabe Anderson and Everett, all seniors, spent time reviewing sample questions sent to schools about the Envirothon to help prepare them for the contest.

Billie Barlow, Americorps National Service member, helped recruit Envirothon teams. Barlow works with the Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, which has coordinated the local Envirothon for the past two years.

THE NEWS
KINGSTREE, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 14, 1995

Page 18 — Wednesday, June 14, 1995 — THE NEWS



A JOINT EFFORT enabled Williamsburg Academy to receive some new plants for the school campus. Williamsburg First National Bank donated the plants, Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District provided technical assistance, and local Americorps members supplied labor. Pictured from left to right are Americorps member Michael Busby, WA Headmaster Larry Berry, Alan Chandler of Williamsburg First National Bank, Americorps member Kendra Williams, June Holliday of Williamsburg First National Bank, and Willie Humphrey of the U.S. Forest Service.

Americorps helps Ute Mountain Utes

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY TIMES

Dale White, a recent AmeriCorps recruit, is doing an inventory of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation land south of the Colorado state line in New Mexico.

His project to assist the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in gathering information for their land use management plan, a part of Geological Information System.

White has lived and worked construction jobs in Durango for 20 years. After repeated construction-related injuries, he decided to pursue a college education in natural resources.

He identifies plants in the arid zone of northwestern New Mexico while helping the Mountain Ute tribe compile information for a land management plan.

"You have to know what you have before you can plan," White said.

He drives about 80 miles to the survey location from his Cortez office. Most days start with a stop at tribal headquarters in Towaoc to pick up any information and tools needed for the day.

Then he drives to a point east of Waterflow where a dirt road takes him past the power plant to the reservation's New Mexico land.

"I love this transitional zone where the desert changes to mountains," White said.

His job is to walk an area documenting everything he sees. This could be anything from manmade structures like water tanks, roads, and fences to signs of wildlife in the area. The ability to identify animal tracks and scat is helpful.

During the winter when there are no blooms, the identification process include checking the root and/or seed. If that doesn't produce an answer, a change of season will sometimes bring more clues. Mid-summer is ideal for plant identification.

He covers about two square miles a day depending on land formation and the percentage of



Special to the Daily Times
Dale White of Durango inventories Ute Mountain Ute land for land management uses.

plant coverage. He once spent two days in a small canyon because the terrain was very steep.

White stops every four or five feet to examine something at his feet; either a grass clump, bush, animal track, prairie dog hole or soil type.

He also makes a visual count on the average percentages of a particular plant at that site. The variables that determine how many plants of a particular species will be found in an area are moisture, slope of the land and aspect of the land to the sun.

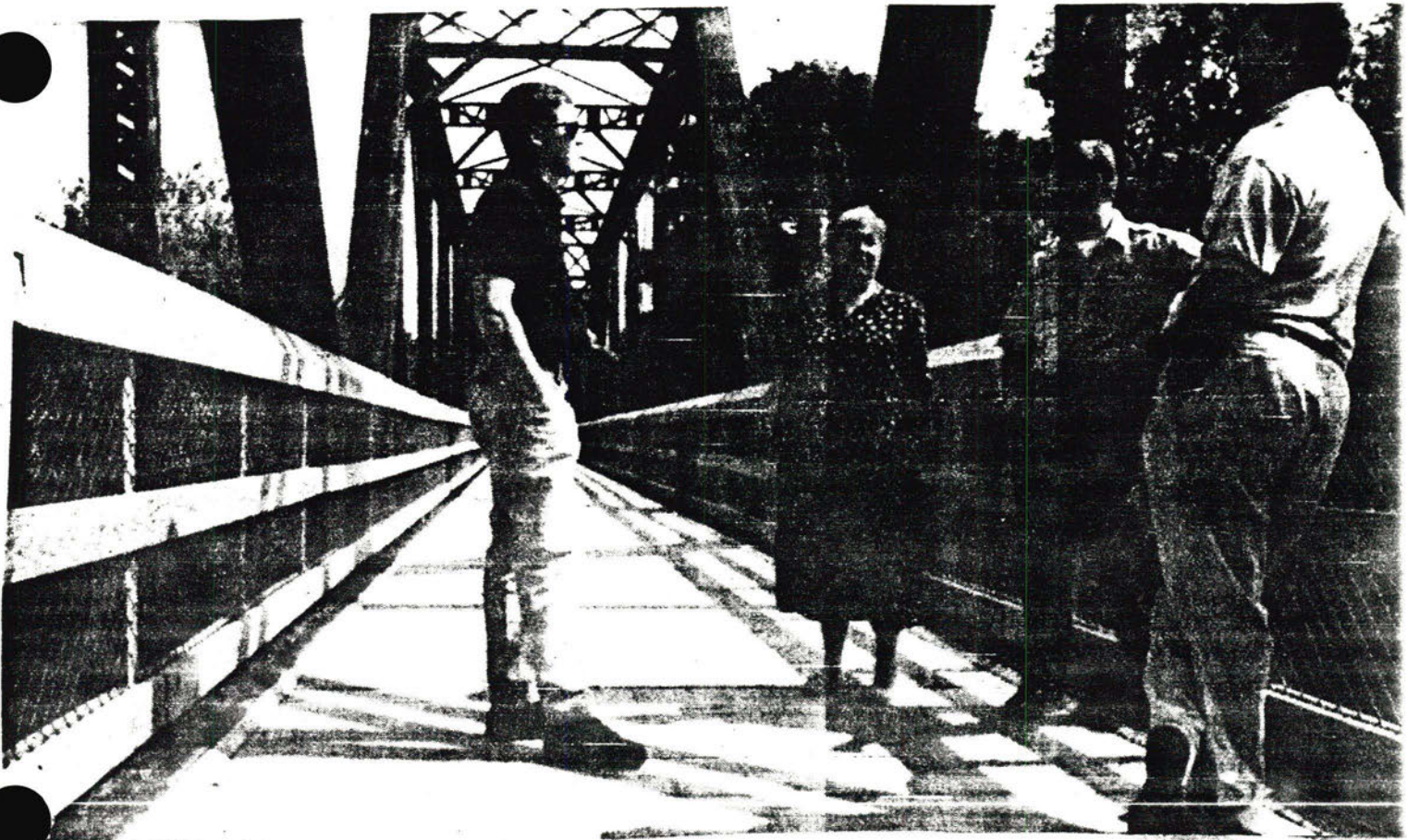
He'll return to the area later to check on the percentage of new plant growth, if AmeriCorps project time permits.

At the days end, White transfers his data onto a range site sheet that includes all his findings about the area. This will eventually be mapped into a GIS to aid the Utes in creating a long range land use management strategy.

White graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1990 with a bachelor of science degree in earth system science, a self-directed major. In 1991, he moved his family, wife Angie and three daughters, to Keene, N.H., where he worked towards a master's degree of science in natural resource management and administration which he received last year.

He and his family have since moved back to Durango.

THE DAILY TIMES
DURANGO, COLORADO
MAY 16, 1995



COMPLETE BRIDGE WORK— From left, Brian Bates, Americorp historian, Kathryn St. John, chairman of the Historical Staunton River Foundation, park manager Jim Zanarini and Doug Spencer, Americorp landscape architect, look over the work on the new pedestrian deck at the Staunton River railroad bridge at the Fort Hill Battlefield. The park, a joint private, public venture between Virginia, Virginia Power, ODEC and the Historical Staunton River Foundation. The park will grow by 80 acres when it officially opens June 10 and Virginia Power and ODEC turn over the additional acreage. The park will include an eight miles of a mile walking trail across the river to Randolph. The new pedestrian platform the bridge was built by park service personnel. (David Conner II photos)



Post 798

VFW takes over Newport Community Meal Site

by Ralph Heymsfeld

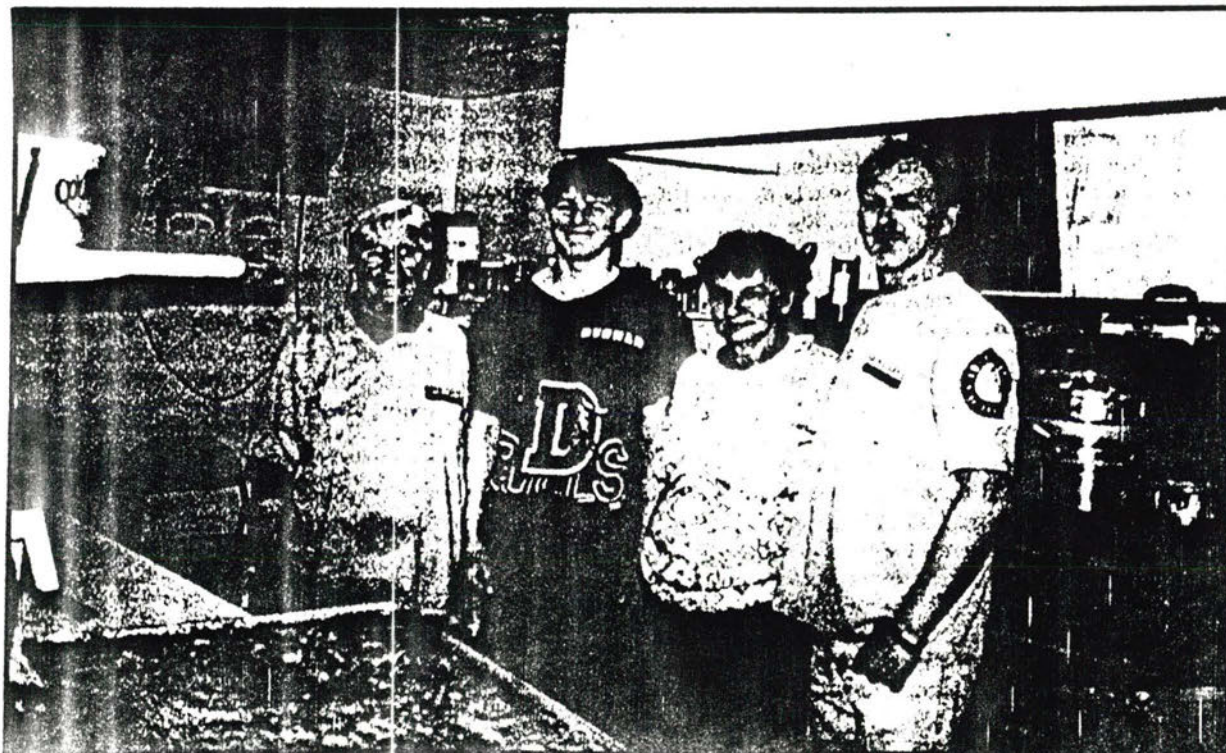
NEWPORT — The Newport Community Meal Site has found a new sponsor in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 798 in Newport. Founded eight years ago at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the meal site has operated from the VFW Hall under the supervision of North East Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) since 1990. Now the post has formally adopted the project, which helps meet the needs of hungry Vermonters in our area.

The meal site, which served 4,442 meals in 1994, is one of several community service projects that NEKCA has either privatized or is in the process of privatizing. Fearful of a substantial loss of federal funds, NEKCA officials say that they would like to see as many programs as possible supported by the communities in which they serve.

The changing of the guard at the meal site coincides with the first annual National Day of Service, April 25, which is the highlight of National Service Week, April 22-29. President Clinton has designated these dates as a time to honor service and citizenship, as well as an opportunity to expand services to the needy. The Northeast Kingdom Initiative Americorps program is celebrating National Service Week by participating in a series of events throughout the week, including the preparation of a special meal which was served at the Newport site on Monday. Some other activities in this area were marigold planting on Monday at Pine Knoll Nursing Home in Lyndonville and a canned food drive this past Friday at Lyndon State College.

Americorps, a newly formed nationwide program, is described by its members as a "stateside Peace Corps," dedicated to public service. The Northeast Kingdom Initiative is one of five Vermont teams. It is made up of 21 members who are focused on improving services in the area of education, human needs, public safety, and the environment.

Americorps has been working with the VFW



At the Newport Community Meal Site on April 24, Betty Chalfoux of Americorps, Steve Austin, one of two NC high school students who work at the site, Theresa Tessler of Vermont Associates, who also works at the site, and Frank Huard of Americorps helped prepare and serve a special meal as part of National Service Week.

Photo by Ralph Heymsfeld

post as "facilitators of the transition," according to Americorps worker Betty Chalfoux, who was on hand Monday. She said that her organization targeted the meal site as one of its major projects after an exhaustive survey of the area revealed the program was in danger of collapse.

"We found out that there wasn't really any group or organization whose mission included maintaining a soup kitchen," added Americorps worker Frank Huard. Americorps arranged for the post to take over the operation of the meal site.

The VFW has also donated \$100 to start a fund which they hope will enable the program to be self-supporting. Several fund-raising efforts are already under way. Raffle tickets costing \$10 apiece are on sale; a \$4,000 vacation will be awarded on August 20 at the Orleans County Fair. In addition, 310 letters requesting support have been mailed to area businesses and other organizations. Those interested in either volunteering or making a donation may call 888-8910 or 888-5702.

NEWPORT, VERMONT
APRIL 26, 1995

Agriculture director praises AmeriCorps during visit to region

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

People who condemn the AmeriCorps are speaking from ideology instead of reality, the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Service director said Tuesday.

"Challenge anyone with questions to come out and visit a site," said Joel Berg, USDA National Service director, during a discussion with nine AmeriCorps members at the USDA office in Jonesborough.

Berg toured AmeriCorps projects in Upper East Tennessee Wednesday, all projects covering anti-hunger, social services, environmental or rural development projects.

Berg, who developed the basic outline of the AmeriCorps program while working on President Clinton's election campaign, now manages the 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps members working in 33 states.

The national service initiative is intended to develop communities and protect the environment at a local level. AmeriCorps workers are provided a stipend, basic health insurance, a child care allowance and a \$4,725 education award for college or vocational training.

"The vast majority of our projects range from good to excellent," Berg said. "It's our first year, and we're already bigger than the Peace Corps was at its height."

AmeriCorps projects in this region include putting together a map of tourist attractions in Unicoi County, renovating the Sneedville jail, agricultural education work, attracting both industry and tourists to Claiborne County and working with families of critically ill patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home.

Because many of the AmeriCorps workers are in financially strapped rural communities, most projects require federal grants, loans or some type of funding, Berg said.

"We refer to the AmeriCorps



Joel Berg

workers as a 'funded nonmandate,'" Berg said, in reference to the recent conservative condemnation of unfunded federal mandates.

Berg does not feel Congress will eliminate AmeriCorps as it works to balance the budget because so many things about AmeriCorps pass what he calls the "Jesse Test."

"That means both Jesse Helms and Jesse Jackson support it," Berg said.

Clinton also has said he plans to veto efforts to severely cut funding to AmeriCorps and other job-training programs.

The total budget for AmeriCorps is \$370 million, Berg said, which breaks down to a total cost of \$20,000 per volunteer.

"This is the most cost-effective way for the federal government to serve people at the grass-roots level," Berg said. "For every \$1 of federal money, communities get back at least \$1.50."

Berg drove himself around in his Toyota on the tour of AmeriCorps projects in North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee.

"This is the best part — East Tennessee," Berg said. "And don't you believe I said the same thing in West Virginia."

JOHNSON CITY PRESS
JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE
MAY 24, 1995

SANTEE STRIPER
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA
APRIL 19, 1995

Santee is scene for Americorps

By Barry Wood
Editor

Volunteers from across the state met in Santee yesterday for a two-day conference of Americorps workers and administrators. This was not a sit-down meeting. While service projects went on throughout the little town on Lake Marion, National USDA Americorps Director Joel Berg took a break from cutting the grass around Town Hall to speak to this reporter.

"This program," said Berg of Americorps, "meets the Jesse test. From Helms to Jackson, politicians approve of what's being done."

"These folks are doing great stuff. They help with 911 implementation, housing improvement, enterprise communities and a host of other projects."

Americorps is a federal program begun by President Clinton in which people volunteer their services for up to two years. They work at community projects, and in exchange receive a monthly stipend, as well as up to \$9,400 for college tuition. Locally, Gloria Richardson is working, as an Americorps volunteer, with the Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community (EOCEC).

"This program," said Berg, "is about getting things done. It produces concrete results for the community. It brings together all aspects of the community and bridges divisions. It teaches personal responsibility and provides people with an opportunity. It's a common sense program that works."

Of South Carolina's Americorps programs, Berg was enthusiastic.

"Yours is among the best-functioning programs in the country. I urge you to look into it - see for yourself that it works."

Berg added a personal note on the late Josephine High, who was an Americorps worker with the EOCEC.

"I offer my deep regrets," he said, "for the passing of Josephine High. While I didn't know her personally, I understand that her work with Americorps was simply a continuation of her life's work."

Jim Wilson, project coordinator in South Carolina for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, told the *Observer* that Americorps is "a domestic peace corps." In fact, the program's \$500 million budget and 18,000 volunteers make it bigger than the Peace Corps ever was.

"Local counties come up with proposals," said Wilson, "for community improvement. Some 90 percent of it is physical work, and around 80 percent of our volunteers have college educations. They provide hands-on labor, as well as assessments, like grasslands inventories or stream coding. In return, these folks are able to work with professionals, to get exposure in a number of career possibilities. We rotate team leaders so that all are able to plan, organize and delegate."

"Workers learn to complete a project. They plan, and then produce tangible results. But most of all, they have developed a sincere desire for community service. All of them have their hearts in the right place."

The USDA Americorps meeting continues today at Santee State Park.

Pond hydrants contribute to rural protection

Louisiana's rural population and local government agencies have received good news about rural road maintenance and fire protection.

Jack McClanahan, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has announced the approval of \$998,984 in oil over-charge funds for the implementation of a statewide dry hydrant project to be coordinated by Trailblazer Inc. of Ruston. The project will demonstrate energy savings through improved rural fire protection and road maintenance with the installation of 2,000 dry hydrants throughout the state.

As primary contractor for the statewide dry hydrant project, Trailblazer brings three years of qualified experience to the project for their successful pilot program

completed in 1992. Approval of the current project resulted in the combined efforts of Trailblazer and DNR and in cooperation with the Northeast Delta, Capital, Twin Valley and Imperial Calcasieu RC&D councils and parish police juries.

Twin Valley is a non-profit organization supported by federal, state and foundation grants. The RC&D program is designed to help volunteers at a local level identify and work toward solving the problems unique to their individual communities. Twin Valley RC&D area serves eight parishes area including Caddo, DeSoto, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine and Vernon.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently

installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams.

Properly installed, dry hydrants can solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use. The multiple benefits awarded by dry hydrants include energy savings to consumers and road maintenance departments, and improving rural fire protection and lower fire insurance ratings.

Improved rural fire protection is achieved with the use of dry hydrants by providing water from existing sources.

Fire department tanker trucks can tap these water supplies to fight rural fires and reduce the amount of time a water tanker would spend travelling back and forth from the site of the fire to the originating

water source. This reduction in the amount of time taken to supply water to rural fire fighting efforts can reduce insurance rates in those areas.

Water is also a key ingredient to maintaining gravel roads.

Using water to compact new layers of dirt or gravel makes a smoother surface on which vehicles can travel and increases the mileage vehicles using the road can achieve.

Having water available for extraction on-site resulted in a 50 percent reduction of driving time for road maintenance trucks in the pilot project.

With water trucks averaging approximately four miles per gallon in fuel efficiency, the use of dry hydrants reflects substantial savings in fuel costs.



Dominic Beggan and Angela Norsworthy, from left, view a dry fire hydrant in Natchitoches Parish. Every parish in Louisiana will be given the opportunity to install 35 hydrants.

SANTEE STRIPER
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 23, 1995

EOCEC; Americorps:

Still Hard At Work And Making Progress

By E. Marie Jackson

After more than a year, Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community (EOCEC) and its Americorps representatives are still hard at work and making progress in the eastern part of our county.

Without fanfare or the spotlight, EOCEC still holds their monthly meetings and, along with Gloria Richardson and Vernell Smalls (Americorps representatives), are finding new and innovative ways to help area residents with all kinds of problems.

Some of their accomplishments include assisting the elderly with home improvement grants and low-interest loans, as well as helping other residents with home-ownership loans.

They have also worked closely with small business owners in eastern Orangeburg County, educating them about business loan programs.

EOCEC has joined forces with local police forces, U.S. Marshall's office, Office of Juvenile Justice, and school administrators to bring crime and drug prevention programs to area students.

Educational seminars have been hosted by the group on topics such as Wills and Trusts; Home Weatherization; Business and Industrial Loan Programs; Emergency Services; Drug and Crime Prevention; and Steps To Building Your Credit.

Countless hours of volunteer services have been provided to Vance Senior Citizen Centers, as well as Orangeburg School District Three.

Also to be included in their lists of accomplishments is performance of national service to the community in the town of Santee with such projects as Beautification, Daycare, Landscaping, Santee Town Hall, and Litter Pick Up.

In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of the EOCEC office, Richardson and Smalls host a community awareness radio broadcast weekly to inform the public of issues affecting their everyday lives.

As envisioned by the founders of EOCEC, the group is well on its way to carrying out their mission, which is:

The citizens of the Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community plan to increase job opportunities and quality of life for all eastern Orangeburg County citizens so residents can enjoy a standard of living that is above the poverty line and have the chance to realize their dreams.

"My term as an Americorps member has been fulfilling and rewarding," Richardson said. "I've had the opportunity to work in the different capacities to bring the communities together. It gives me a great sense of fulfillment knowing that I've helped someone who really needed help and would have otherwise been forgotten."

Smalls also expressed her sincere appreciation for being able to be there for so many people in need. "The EOCEC has been a fulfilling experience for me. After coming on board for four months after the death of Josephine High, I have learned a lot. I feel that I have helped or at least tried to help my community."

THE SAN JUAN RECORD
SAN JUAN,
MAY 17, 1995

Food bank in Blanding gets new coat

The Americorps team painted the town of Blanding - at least that is how the team members felt as they painted the inside walls and ceiling of the newly acquired San Juan County Food Bank building.

The new food distribution center will open later this month, primarily through the efforts of Americorps team member Henry Silentman. Silentman wrote the proposal to establish a food bank to serve San Juan County's needy population.

Food will come from donations and purchased from the Utah Food Bank and lo-

cal food stores. Needy families will be given a nutritionally balanced seven-day food supply.

Henry Silentman coordinated the inside paint party. Fellow Americorps team members Andrea Dyar, Sam Sellers, Eldon Miller, Anna Prawl, and Nancy Steele; their Americorps supervisor, Kresha Eastman and her son, Klint; and Allison Williams, a local VISTA volunteer working with students at Albert R. Lyman Middle School, all participated in the project.

Local Boy Scouts may clean the grounds as a possible Eagle Scout project.

TIMES INDEPENDENT
MOAB, COLORADO
MAY 4, 1995

Value-added agriculture products forum set

Alternative farming and marketing methods will be the topic of discussion at a meeting entitled "Gardeners' and Growers' Value-Added Agricultural Products Forum."

The meeting, sponsored by AmeriCorps, will be held on Thursday, May 4, at 4 p.m. in the Moab City Hall Council Chamber located at 115 West 200 South in Moab.

With today's farming practices, much more is harvested from each acre of ground. This is both good and bad.

The good part is that there is a plentiful supply of farm products available for the consumer.

The bad part is prices are so low it takes a larger harvest to meet farm expenses.

This causes the farmer to work harder to produce enough to make a go of it, thereby driving the prices even lower.

Even though more is produced, the overabundance creates a hardship for the farmer.

What are the answers? Two

answers are alternative and value-added agriculture.

Alternative agriculture is the production of non-food, non-feed products from farm and forest materials.

Value-added agriculture is the practice of adding value to a product by marketing it in innovative ways.

A good example of this is Agriboard Industries' manufacturing of panels made from residual wheat straw which is used for building houses.

Their system uses 65%-less dimensional frame lumber than traditional wood construction. This gives not only an environmental advantage, but an economical advantage as well.

With prime farmland being sold to developers, small farms are becoming more commonplace and cost effective.

These topics will be discussed at Thursday's meeting. For more information contact Jackie at 259-4100 or Henry at 801-587-2271.

AmeriCorps forest project shows what can be done

At the top of Morton Street in Ashland is a unique neighborhood of big beautiful homes with grand views, where residents can relax on their decks and watch the shadows play on the eastern hillsides and follow the spring squalls as they sweep through the valley. It's also one of Ashland's neighborhoods in the forest interface - known for both its beauty and potential fire danger. Last week a crew of young people in the AmeriCorps program braved wet, steep slopes and wrestled with downed logs, dying trees and poison oak to help make this area less of a fire danger.

The city of Ashland owns about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land, so the four acres of city land cleaned up by the Forest Service and AmeriCorps crew will not have a major impact on our city's vulnerability to fire. But the clean-up does illustrate the value of this national service program. AmeriCorps/USDA has three broad programs: Empowerment and Anti-Hunger, Rural Development, and Public Land and Environment. The work done in the Ashland watershed was part of the latter program, and the work is dispatched out of the Applegate Ranger District. Members of this hard-working and enthusiastic team live at the Star Gulch facility and are paid the equivalent of about \$1,200 a month for living expenses and tuition credits. In addition to watershed work, the crews protect wetlands, restore recreation areas, increase handicap accessibility, and much more.

The AmeriCorps program has been criticized by Rep. Newt Gingrich and others as being too expensive, but important work is being done and the long-range benefits are great in learned job skills and educational incentives. Investments in education pay big dividends, as we have witnessed with the GI Bill.

The local project also serves as an example of what can be done to reduce fire danger even on steep slopes with decades of accumulation of dead fuel. The slash was piled up and covered with tarps for burning next fall, and enough dead and dying trees were hauled out of the area to generate \$2,000 for the city's forest land clean-up fund.

So private forest land owners take note. Even difficult property can be managed to reduce the danger of forest fires. You won't be able to get an AmeriCorp team for private projects, but a lot of good ideas and direction are available through the Ashland Fire Department and the local Forest Service ranger station.

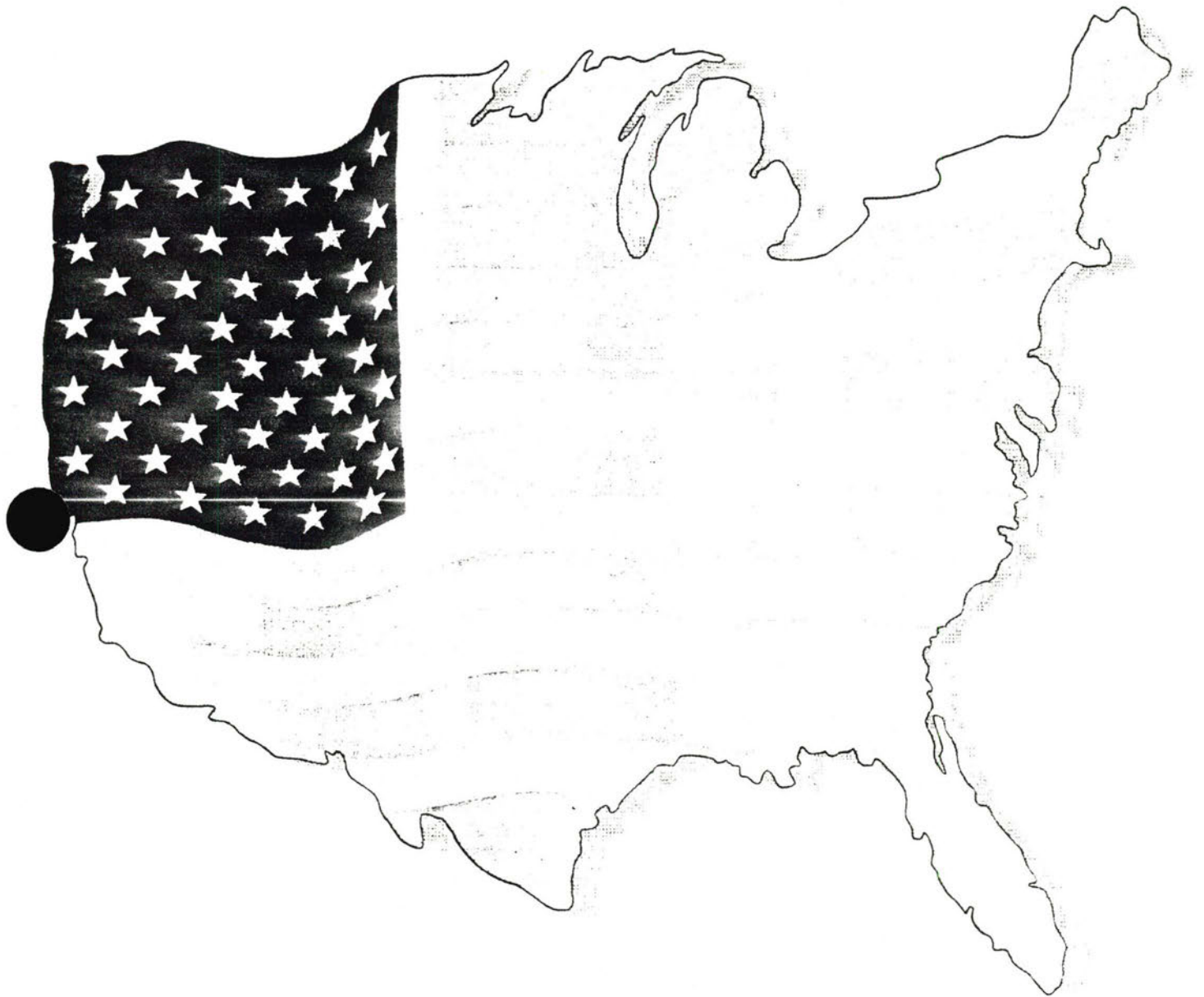


UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

OTHER DOCUMENTATION

LOUISIANA YEAR-END REPORT

USDA AmeriCorps



"Getting Things Done"
1994-95



USDA/AmeriCorps

Soil Conservation Service
Louisiana

USDA/Americorps invites you to . . .

Attend an orientation and interview for the USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Projects in Louisiana at the Holiday Inn, 2716 North MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana, on August 26, 1994.

We have reviewed your referral and/or application form, and we are very interested in talking to you about a USDA/Americorps position.

Registration for the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the orientation session will begin at 10:00 a.m.

We will provide lunch, and you will be invited to participate in interviews after lunch.

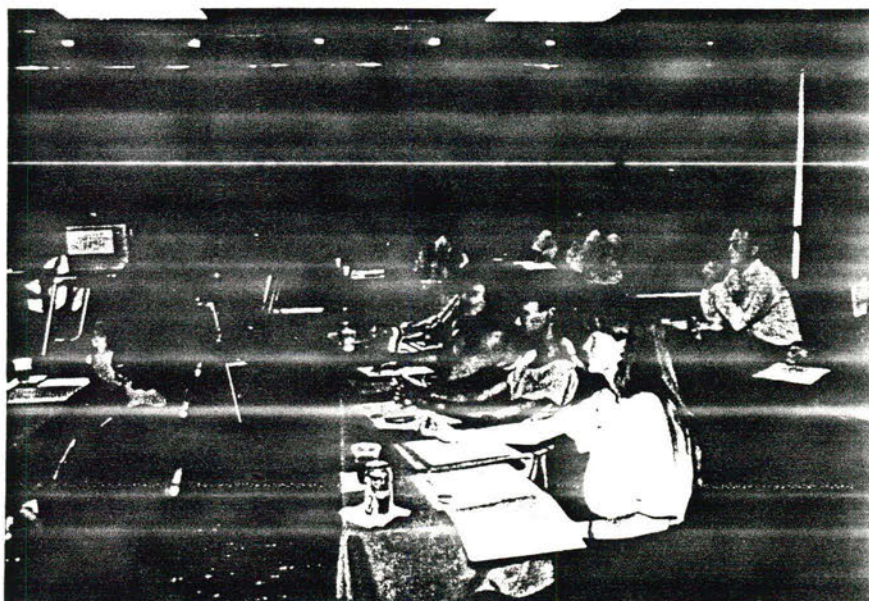
Please confirm your attendance on the attached postage-paid card, and return this card to me as soon as possible. Someone will also be calling you to confirm your attendance and answer any questions.

An application form and draft agenda are attached for your use. Please complete the application form and bring it with you to the orientation.

I am looking forward to meeting you and talking about the AmeriCorps program!

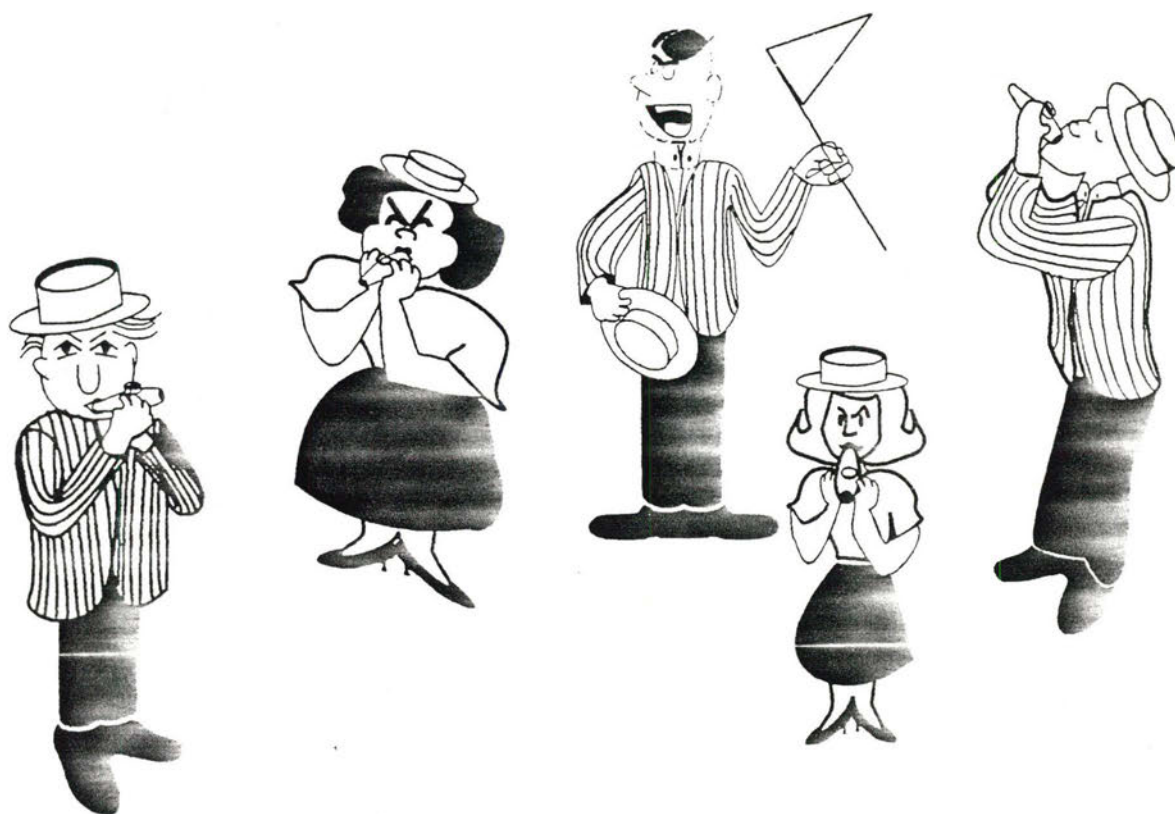
Billy R. Moore
Agency Project Director

Attachments



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AMERICORPS KICK-OFF IN NEW ORLEANS



AMERICORPS PLEDGE

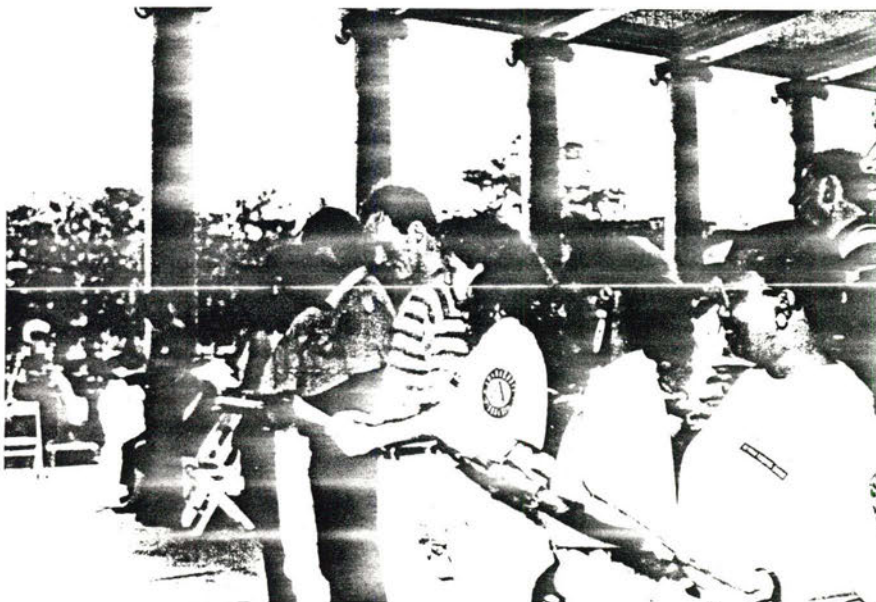
I will get things done for America--to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps Member. And I'm going to get things done.



AmeriCorps passes muster

Clinton to swear in first service recruits

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press writer

ABERDEEN, Md. — President Clinton, worshipping in a military chapel here Sunday, thanked the first recruits to his national service program for fulfilling "our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings."

The president and Hillary Rodham Clinton attended services at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a weapons facility in central Maryland. The visit was designed to promote the president's AmeriCorps initiative, a sweeping collection of old and new community service programs offering college education to its workers.

The program formally commences today, when Clinton plans to swear in nearly 15,000 AmeriCorps recruits, capping his 2-year-old campaign for the service.

Clinton spoke from the pulpit to a congregation of about 300.

"This is a special service that reaffirms our relationship to our God, and our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings," he said.

With health care reform in jeopardy and his popularity wan-

ing in the polls, the president returned from his summer vacation hammering on the all-American themes of family values, personal responsibility and public service.

"Service to others is something everyone can do, and something everyone should do because of our relationship to our God, our responsibility to others, and our responsibility to ourselves," he said Sunday.

The national service program, which fulfils a cornerstone pledge of Clinton's presidential campaign, is a \$360 million effort to put 20,000 mostly young Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety.

The workers will receive minimum-wage pay, free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The \$4,725 can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans. They can work up to two years.

If Congress extends the program, the White House hopes to spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Attending church with Clinton were about 30 members of the National Civilian Community Corp., a branch of AmeriCorps that trained East Coast recruits at the Aberdeen base to fight forest fires in the West.

Clinton shook their hands on the way out of church.



TOP PHOTO

RECD AmeriCorps Team
Front Row: Lee Wooldridge, Marjorie Bethea, Zelma Powell, Sandi Eley, Naomi Boley, Bobbie Ignont.
Back Row: Wydette Williams & Henry Rosenthal.

BOTTOM PHOTO

AmeriCorps Kickoff in New Orleans on Sept. 12, 1994.
Front Row: Judy Ned, Alicia Trissler, Robin Torrence.
Back Row: Hope Beggan, Dominic Beggan, Tressa Lantz, Aminul Mahfuz, Angie Norsworthy, Carl Collins, Christie LeBleu, Susie Mullins.



Welcome to USDA/AmeriCorps

When President Lincoln signed into law the act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture on May 15, 1862, he did so with a vision of USDA as the "People's Department." With the purpose as stated by Congress, "to acquire among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture...and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants," one clerk, four assistants and a gardener set out to bring their services to the farmers of America.¹

As America has changed in over one hundred years since, so has the USDA, which now reaches the lives of 260 million Americans. Today, the Department continues to provide assistance to the nation's 2 million farmers while helping 69 million rural residents, protecting the environment, ensuring better nutrition for women and infants, managing 191 million acres of national forest and grassland, and ensuring healthy school lunches for 25 million children.²

As a new member of AmeriCorps® — you are joining an entity which is based on a principle of American society that is as old as the republic itself: the idea that, not only does the democracy have the duty to protect and nourish the well-being of its citizens, but that citizens have an equal duty to protect and nourish the well-being of democracy.

It is most fitting then, that the "People's Department" is leading the effort to bring the President's national service program to fruition. USDA/ AmeriCorps members will be planting the seeds in America for a future built upon volunteerism and community. Working together, we have the opportunity to help Americans more than ever before. As President Clinton stated:

"Working together we can ensure that the world we leave to the future holds the same promise and opportunity as the one we inherited from the past."

President Clinton, April 14, 1994

Welcome to USDA/AmeriCorps.

¹ *Century of Service*, Gladys L. Baker et al. pg. 1, (1963)

² "A New Attitude" 1993 Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, pgs. iii-vii.

USDA/AmeriCorps New Member Orientation

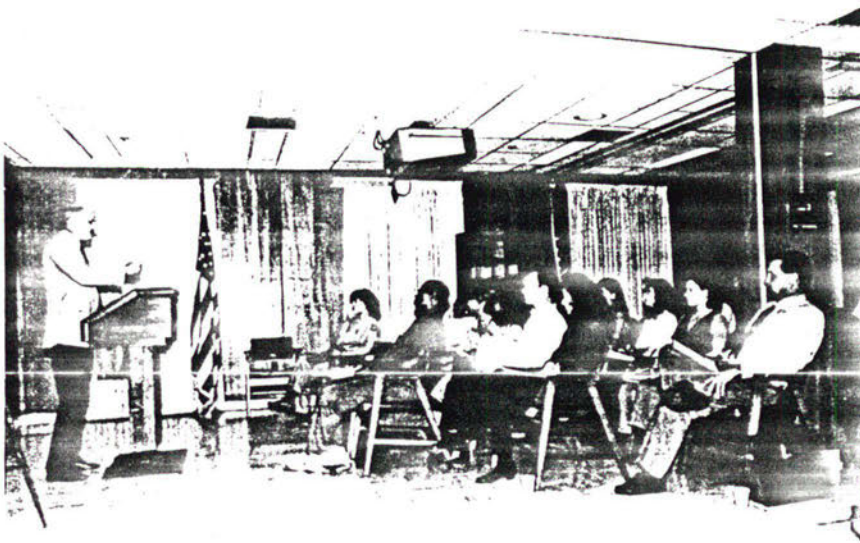
Mission

The purpose of the AmeriCorps program is to "get things done"™ using the concept of national service as a vehicle. It offers opportunities to Americans to serve their country and earn education awards in return. It is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation.

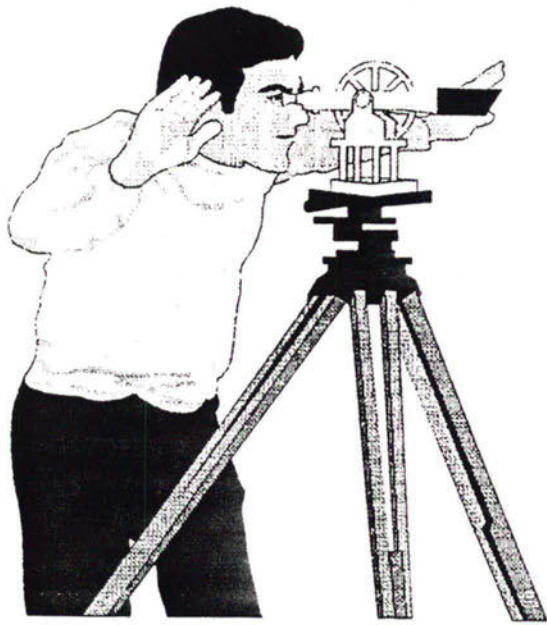
AmeriCorps Ethic

The AmeriCorps Ethic is:

- *Getting things done.* Our primary goal is to improve communities by meeting their educational, nutritional, human, and environmental needs.
- *Strengthening communities.* AmeriCorps brings together individuals from different backgrounds and incomes, with different missions and cultures, in the common effort to improve our communities.
- *Encouraging responsibility.* AmeriCorps encourages members to explore and exercise their responsibilities toward their communities, themselves and their families — in their service experience and throughout their lives.
- *Expanding opportunity.* AmeriCorps members receive awards to further their education or pay back student loans, as well as valuable job experience, specialized training, and life skills.



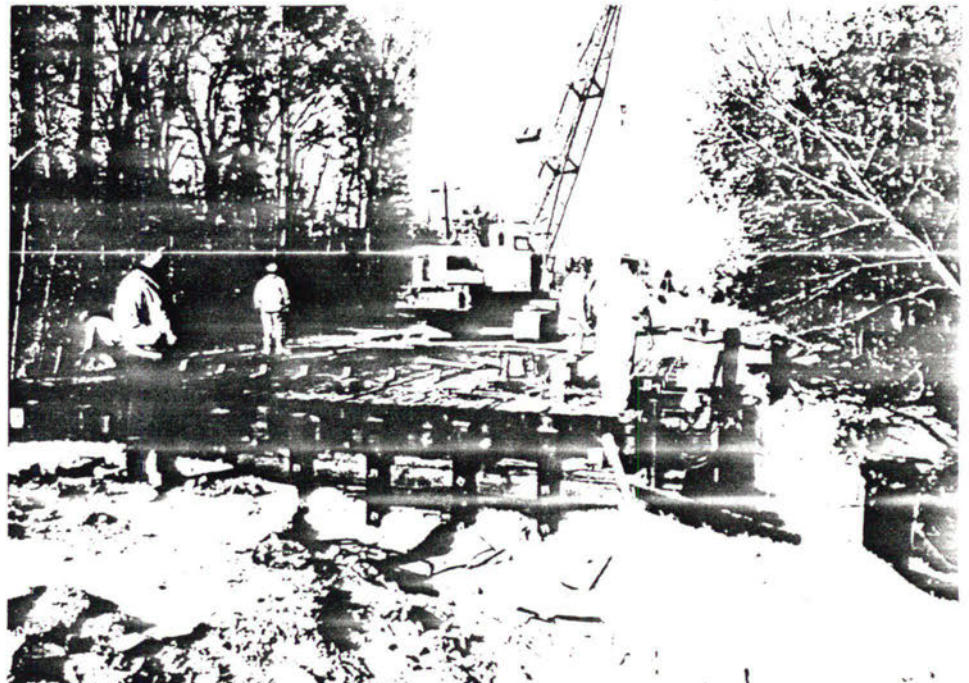
Don Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist, addresses the new AmeriCorps members during orientation activities held at the U.S. Forest Service office in Pineville.



TIMBER BRIDGE PROJECT

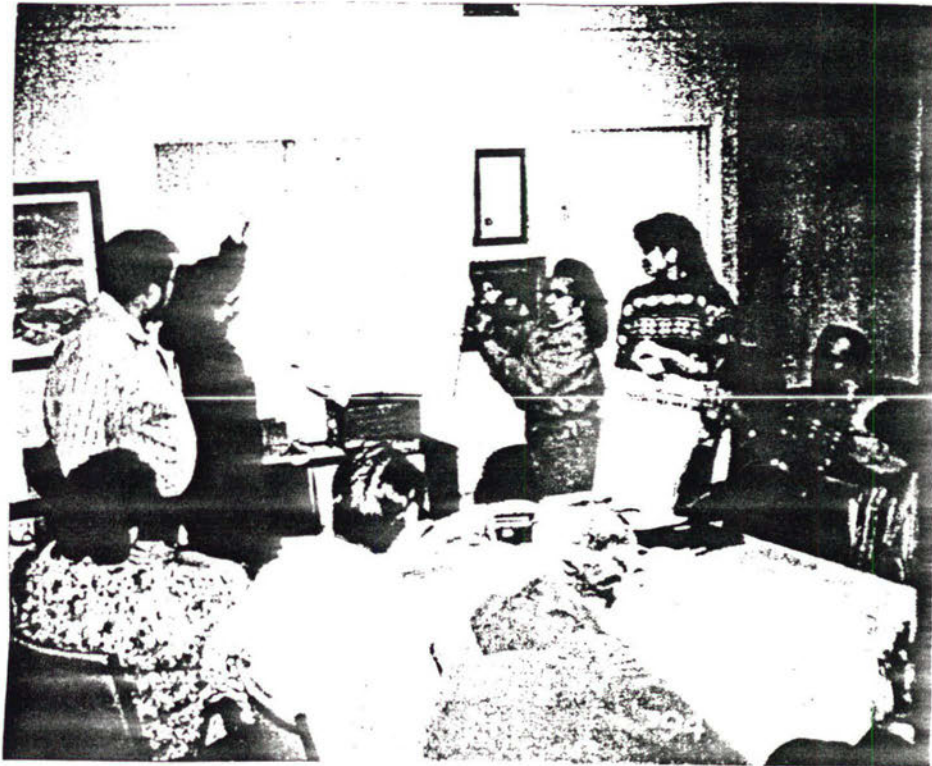


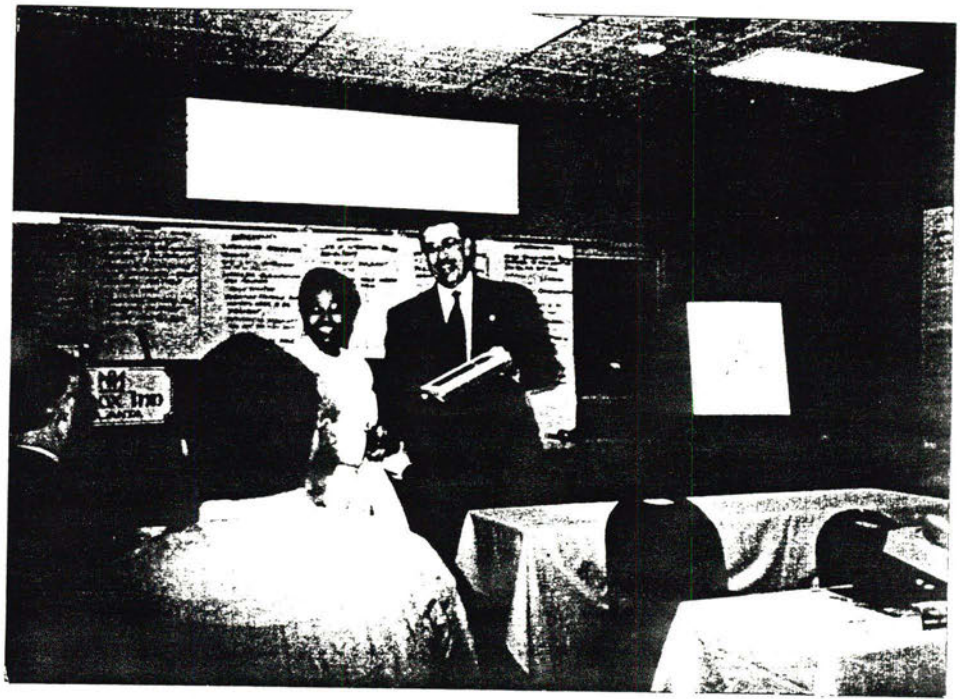
Aminul Mahfuz is working in a 17-parish area to assist local communities to provide the technical assistance necessary to promote timber bridges as one solution to transportation problems in economically depressed areas.





TOURISM & COMMUNITY PLANNING





Article Printed In The
WINN PARISH ENTERPRISE
October 19, 1994



Alicia Trissler is serving as liason for promotion of tourism in Winn Parish. She is with Americorps and will be working closely with the museum, chamber of commerce and other groups. She is seen here with Bill Poe, director of volunteers at the museum and George Harrel.

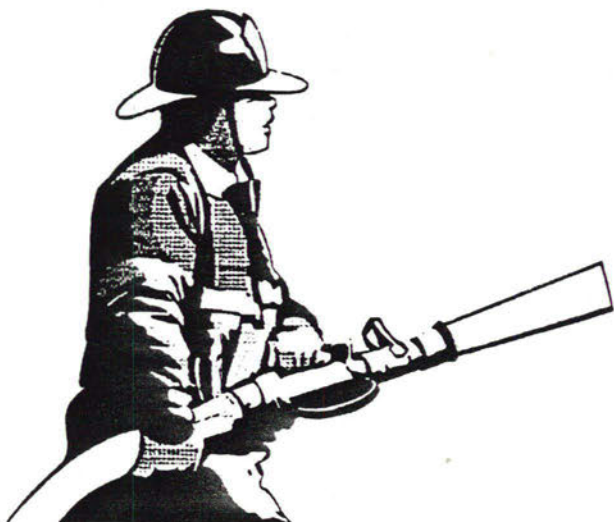


FARM*A*SYST PROGRAM



Farm*A*Syst is a voluntary program designed to educate rural residents on well water about potential sources of groundwater contamination. AmeriCorps members Carl Collins, Christie LeBleu, and Sobrena Lewis introduced this program to approximately 700 people in nine Louisiana parishes.





DRY FIRE HYDRANTS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Participants

Trailblazer RC&D: Angela Norrworthy

Twin Valley RC&D: Tressa Lantz

Capital RC&D: Robin Torrence

Imperial Calcasieu

RC&D: Dominic Beggan

