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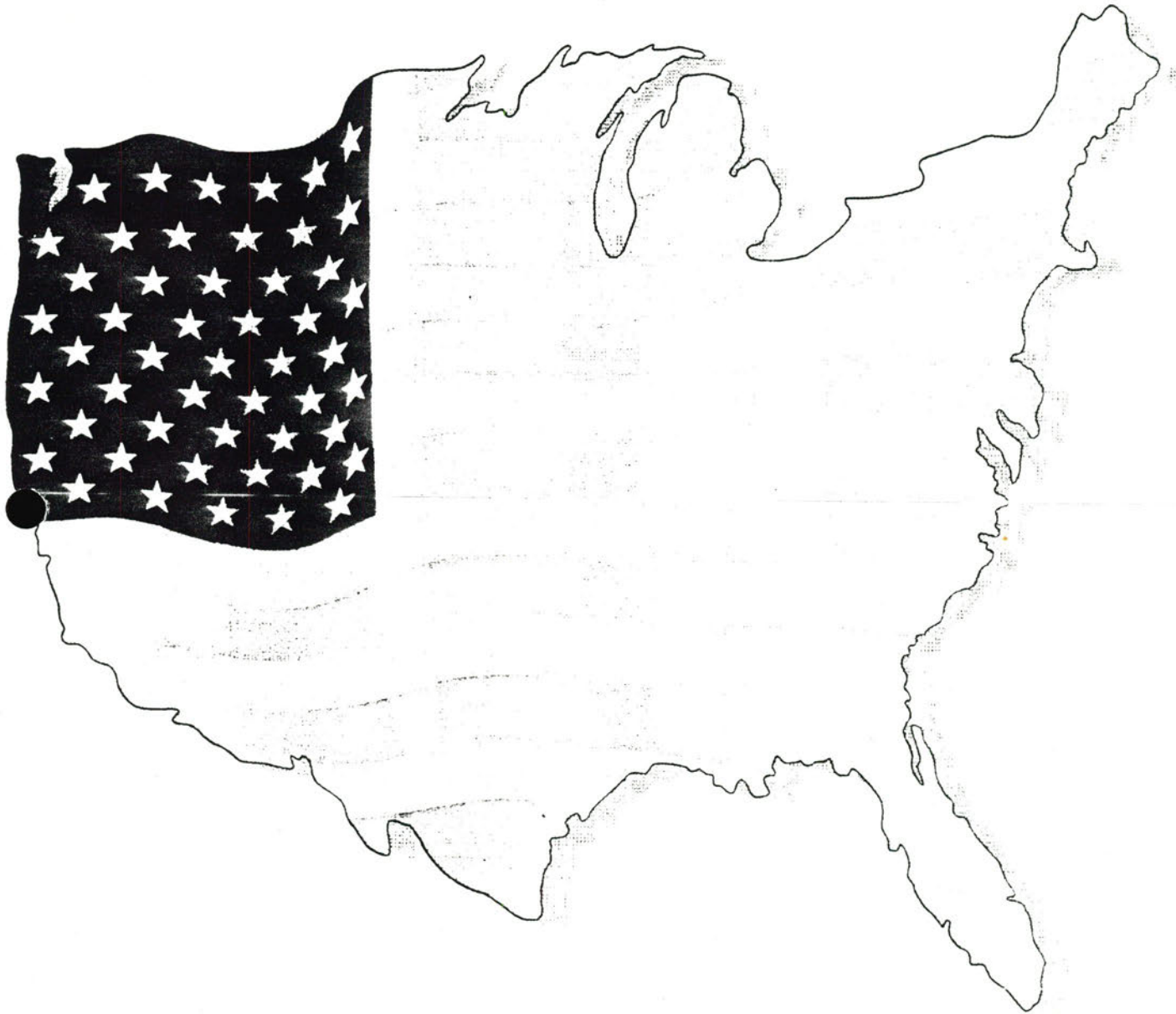


UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

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!

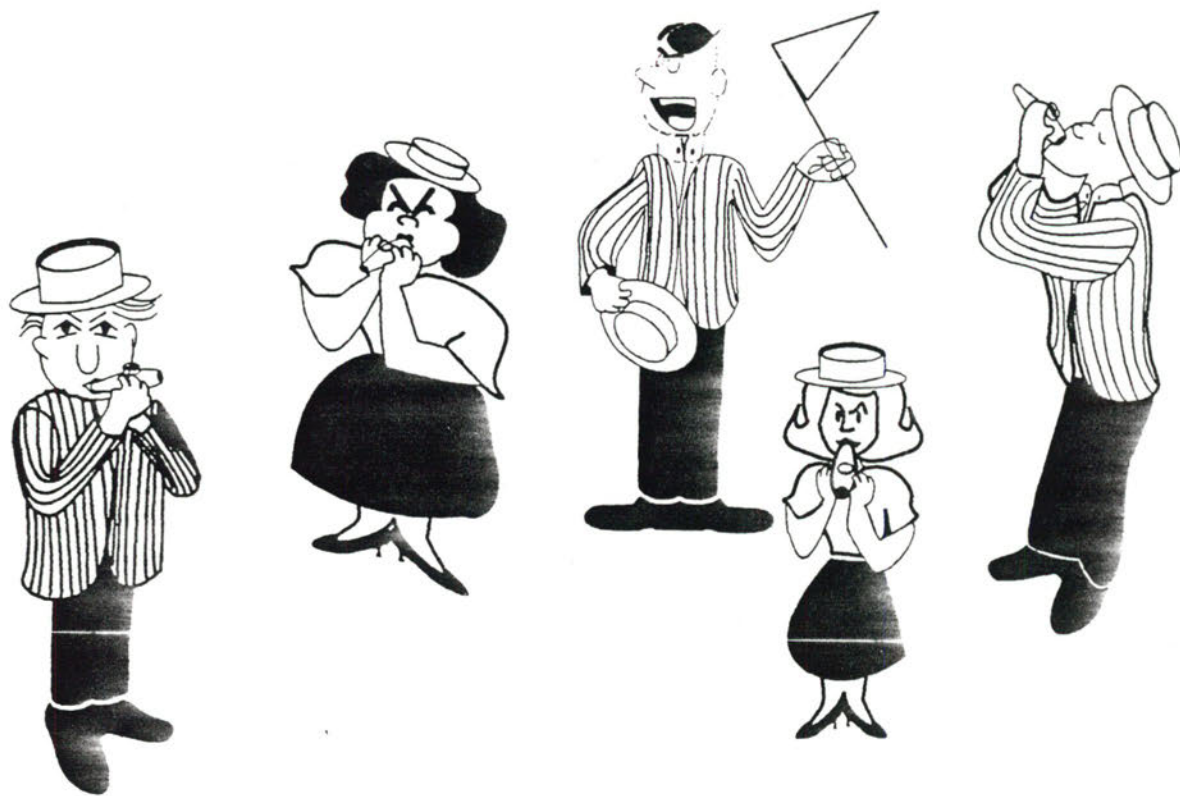
Billy R. Moore
Agency Project Director

Attachments



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AMERICORPS KICK-OFF IN NEW ORLEANS



AMERICORPS PLEDGE

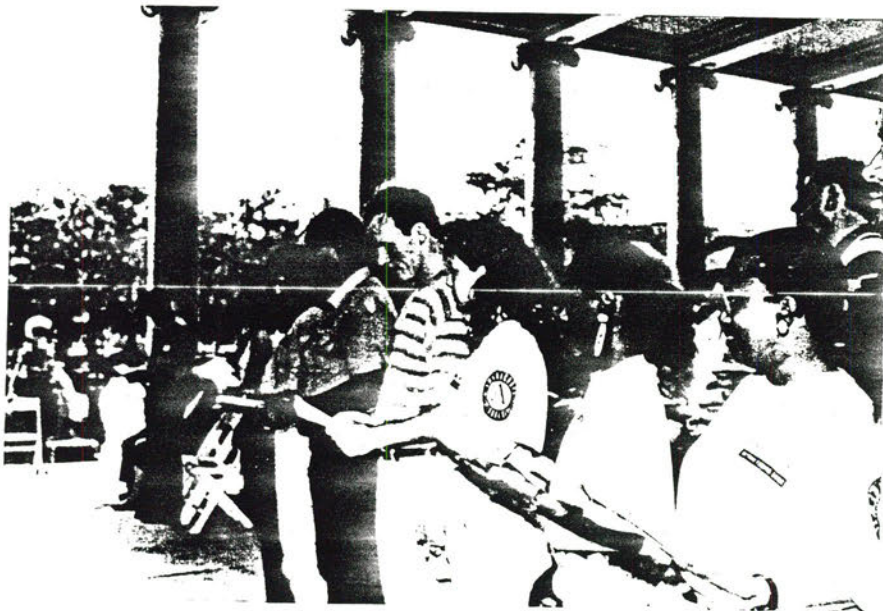
I will get things done for America--to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

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

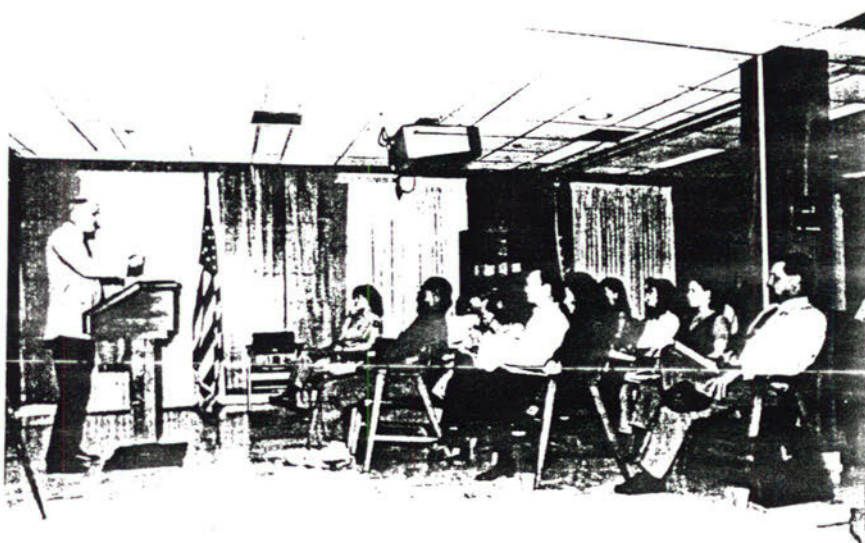
Mission

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.

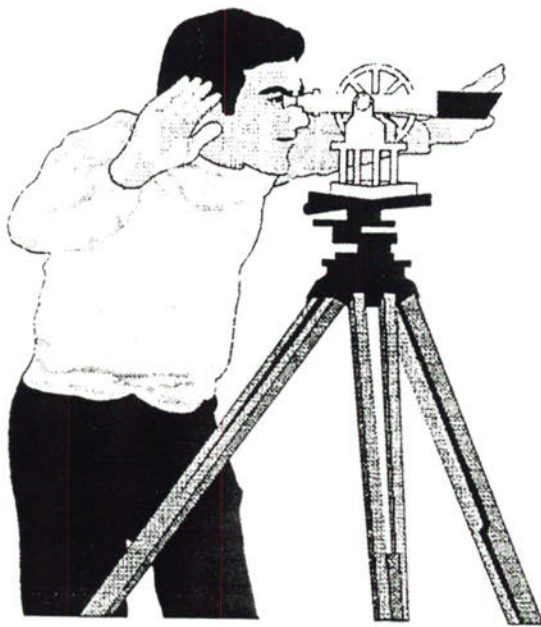
AmeriCorps Ethic

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.



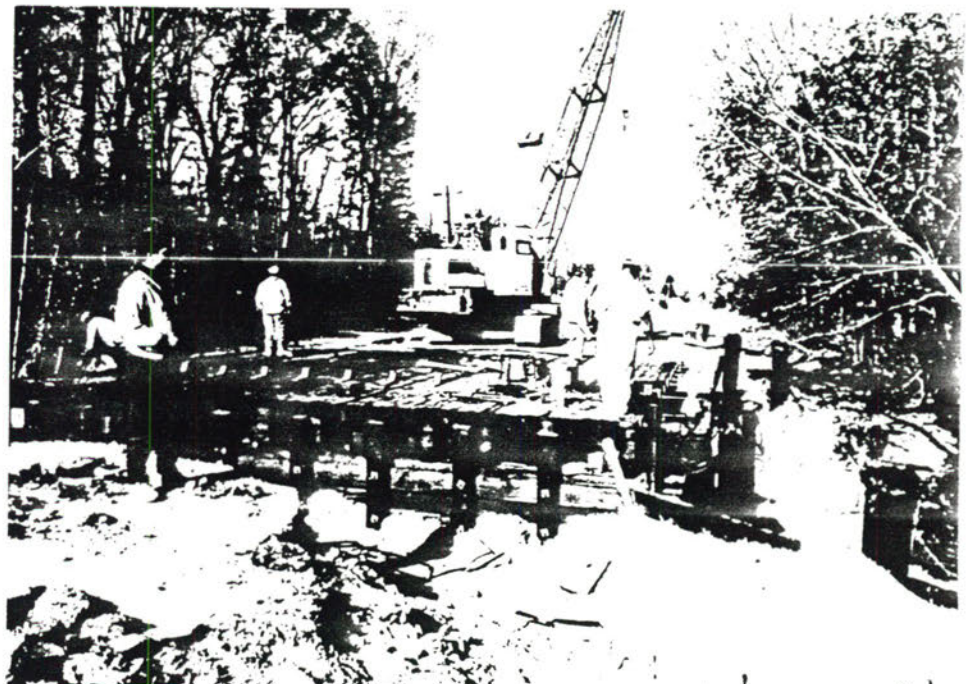
Don Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist, addresses the new AmeriCorps members during orientation activities held at the U.S. Forest Service office in Pineville.



TIMBER BRIDGE PROJECT

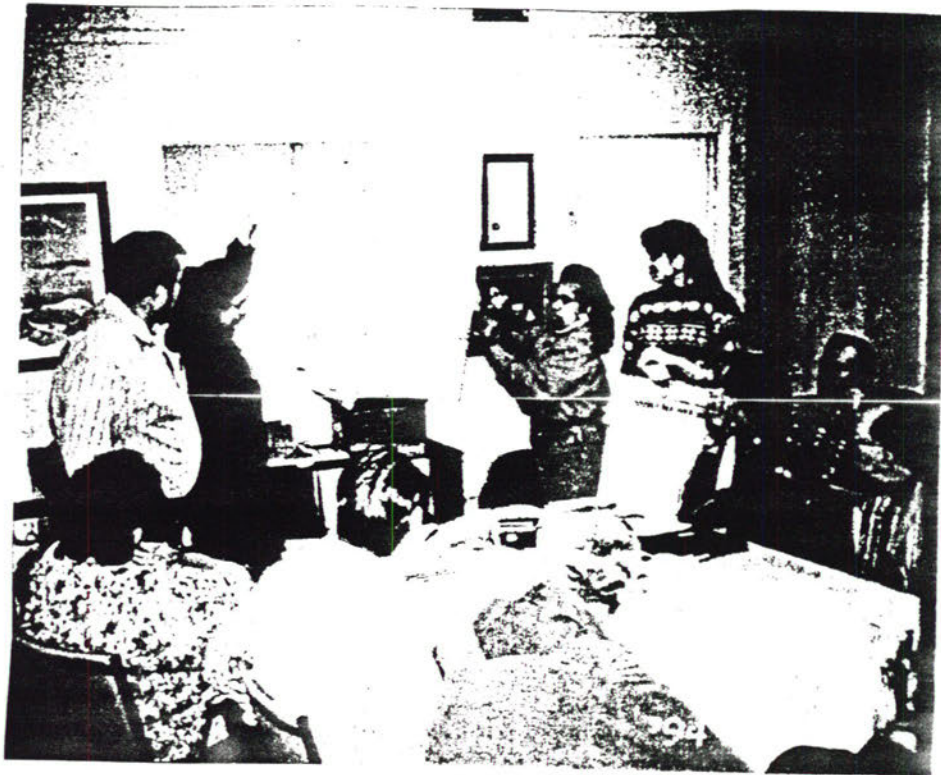


Aminul Mahfuz is working in a 17-parish area to assist local communities to provide the technical assistance necessary to promote timber bridges as one solution to transportation problems in economically depressed areas.



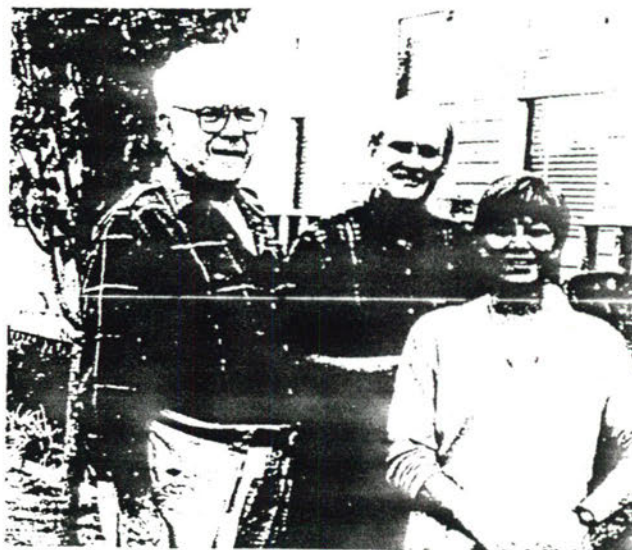


TOURISM & COMMUNITY PLANNING

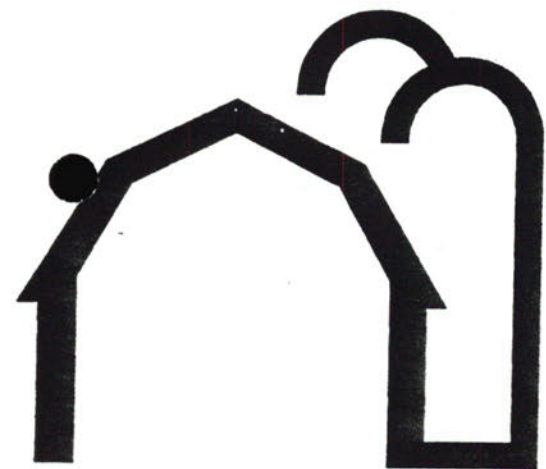




Article Printed In The
WINN PARISH ENTERPRISE
October 19, 1994



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.

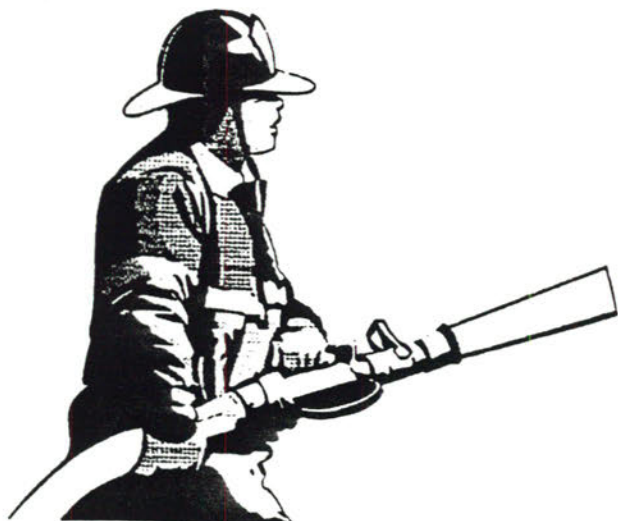


FARM*A*SYST PROGRAM



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

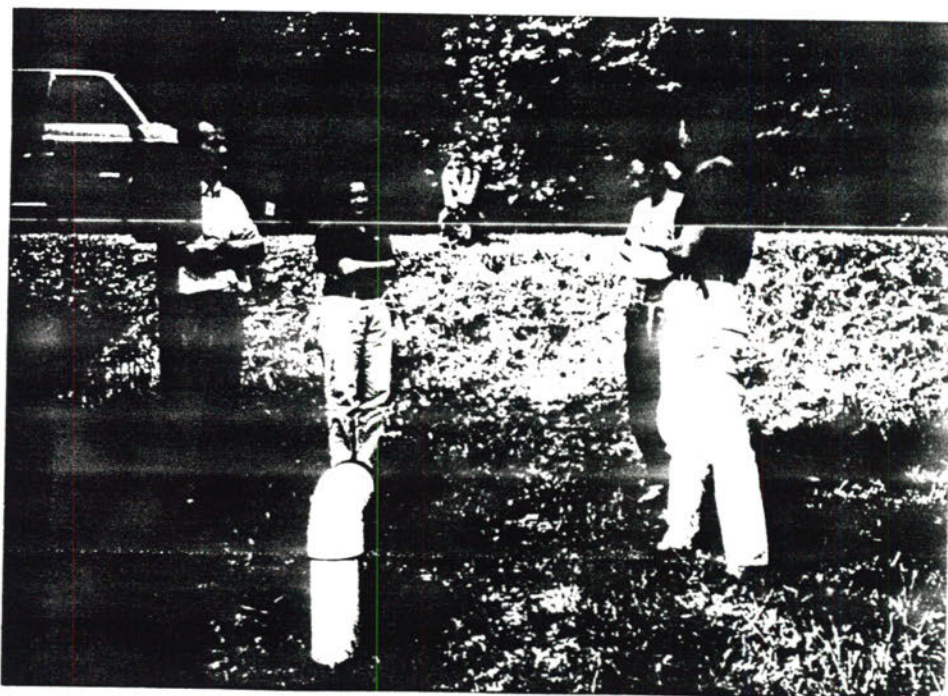
Trailblazer RC&D: Angela Norrworthy

Twin Valley RC&D: Tressa Lantz

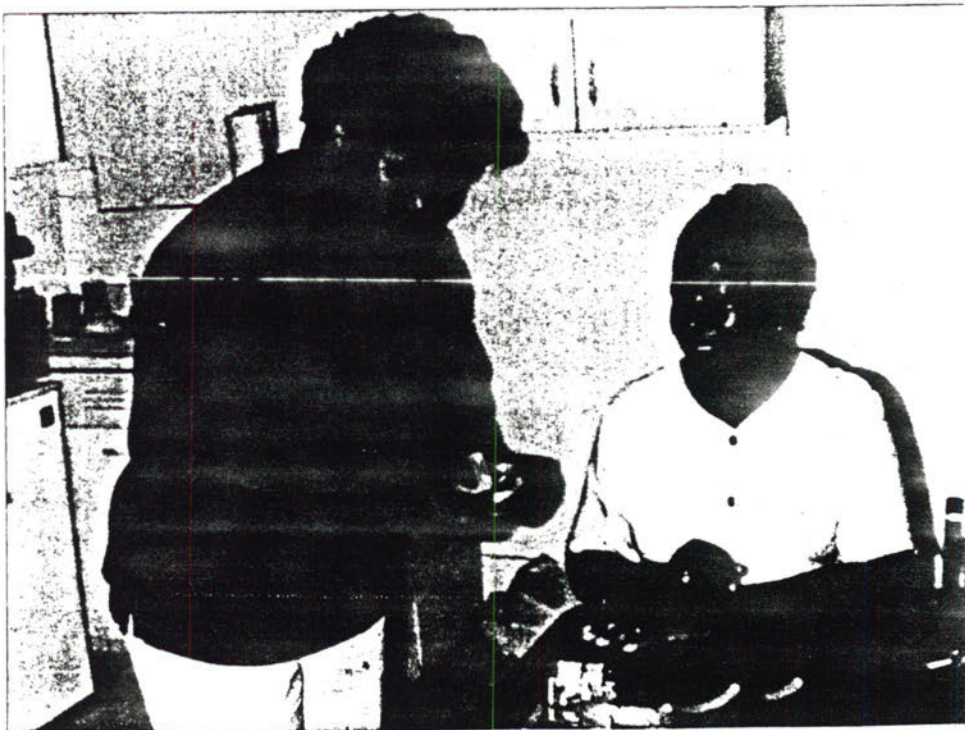
Capital RC&D: Robin Torrence

Imperial Calcasieu

RC&D: Dominic Beggan

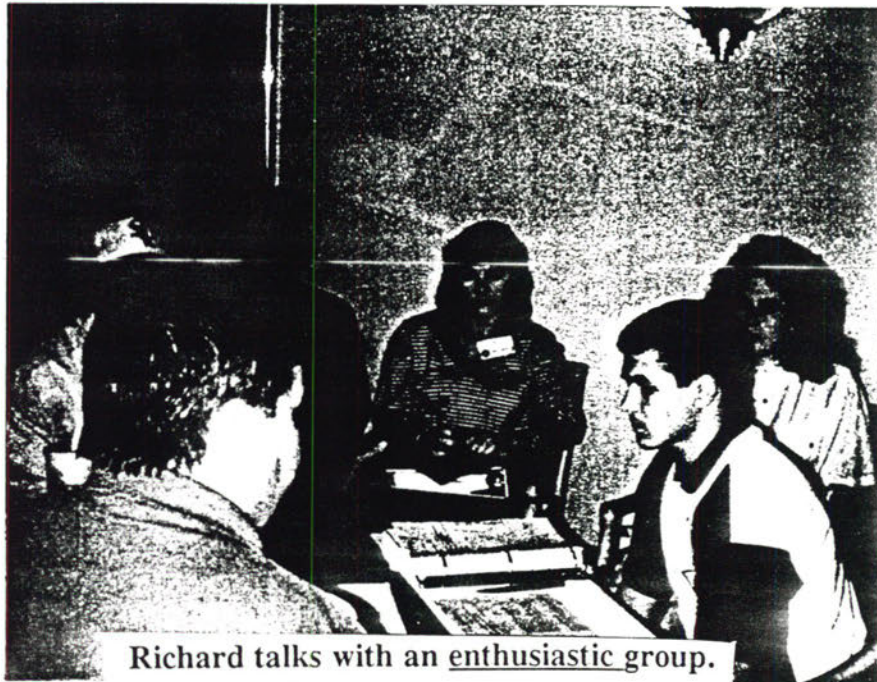


RURAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





Marjorie Bethea talks to a local 4-H Club.



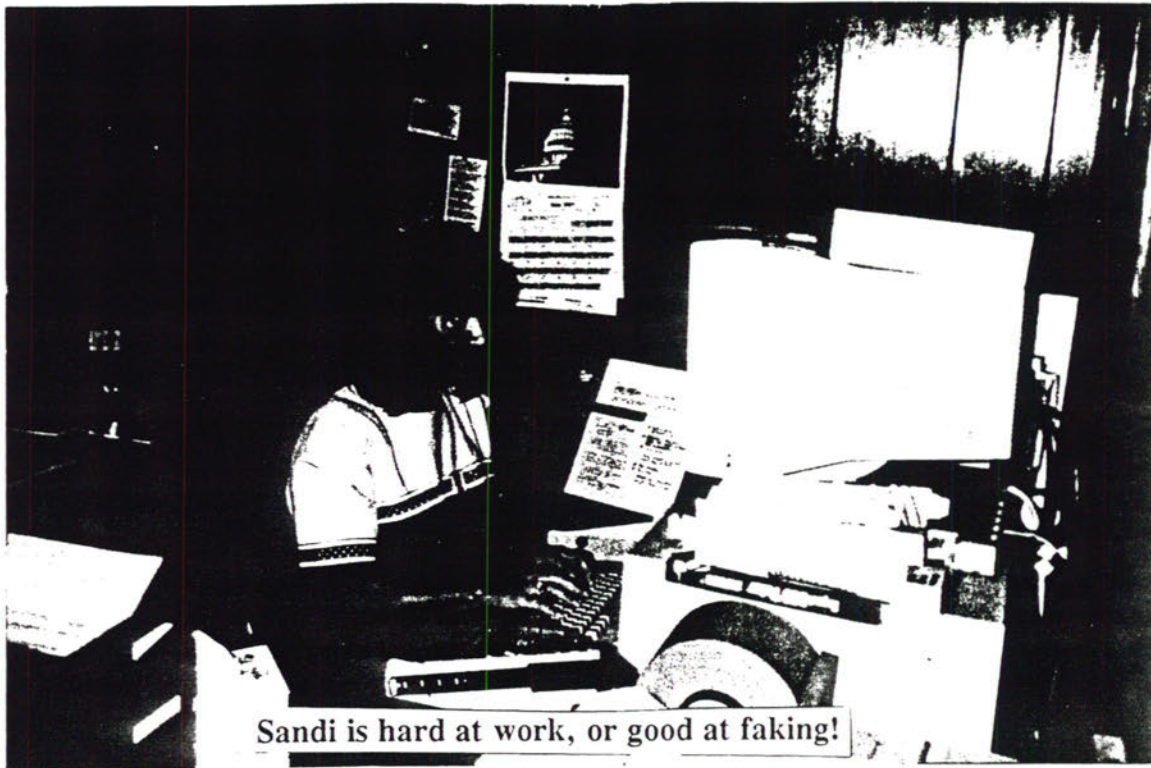
Richard talks with an enthusiastic group.



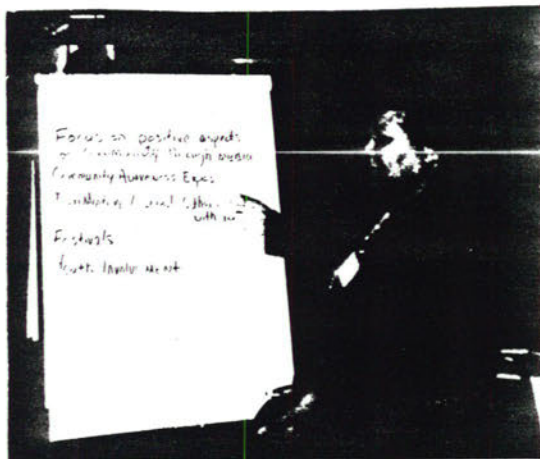
Clean up your desk, Zelma!



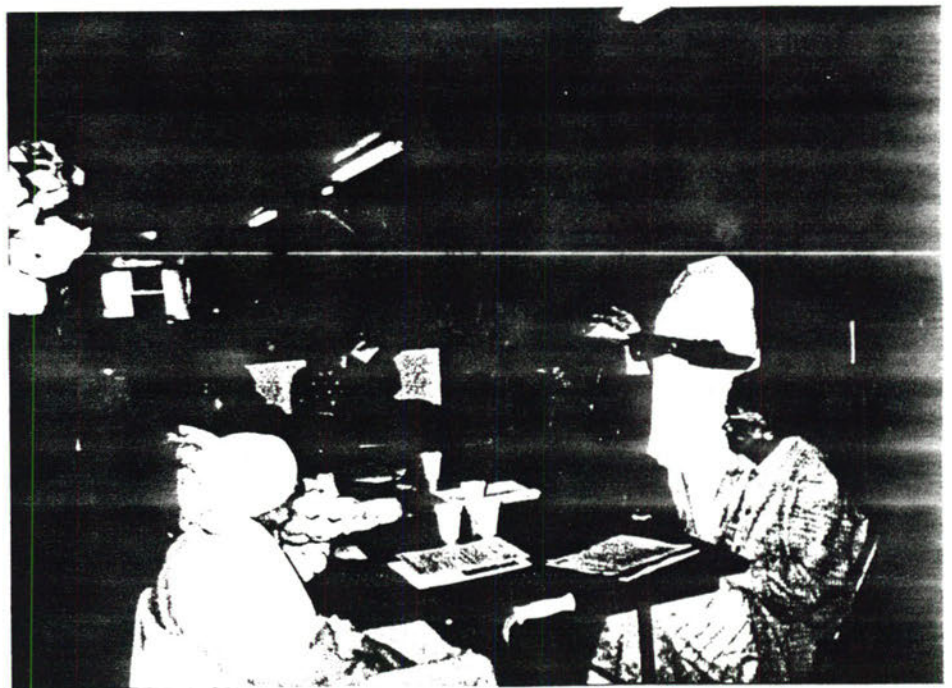
Wooldridge with a 504 Grant Applicant and Joel



Sandi is hard at work, or good at faking!

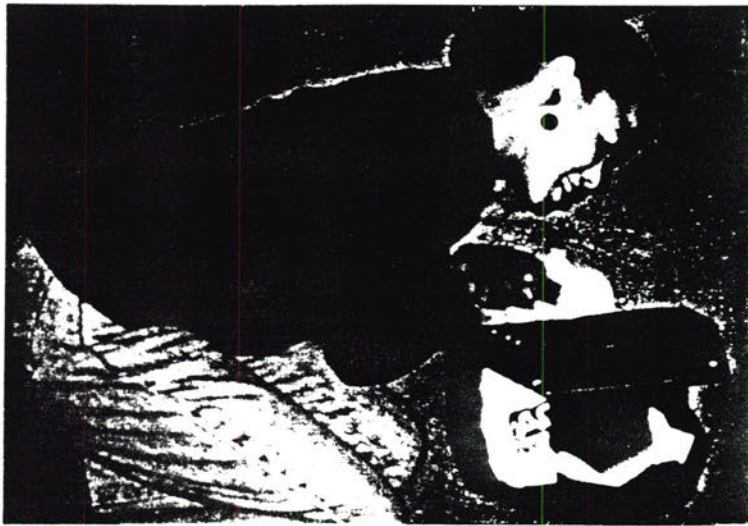


Naomi Boley points out
her ideas for communities.



Bobbie Ignont with the Council on Aging.

TRAINING SESSIONS

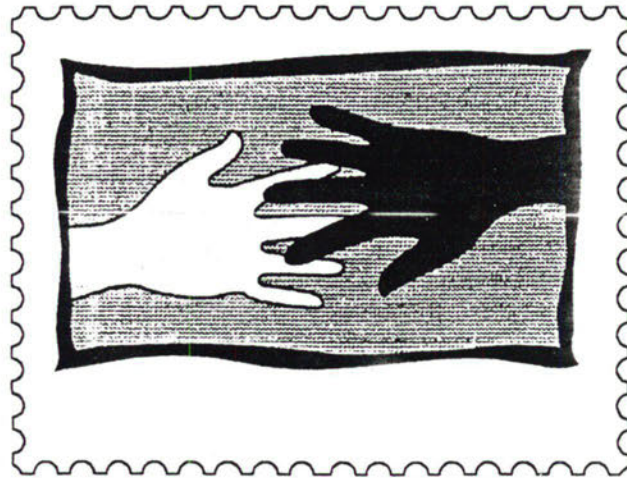


Grant Writing
Defensive Driving
Photography

First Aid/CPR
Self-Esteem
Ethics

Sexual Harassment Prevention
Effective Presentations
HIV/Aids Awareness

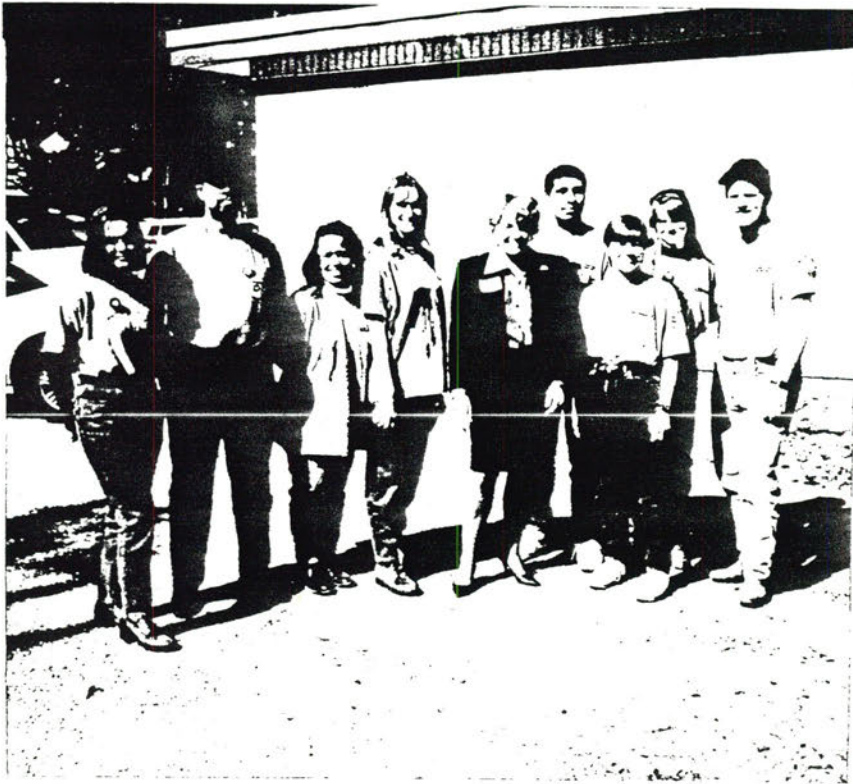
COMMUNITY



SERVICE

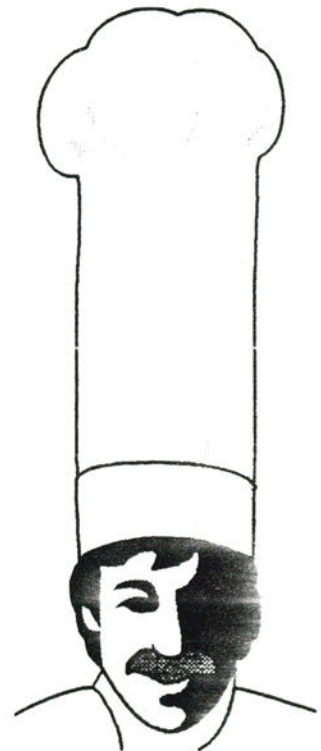


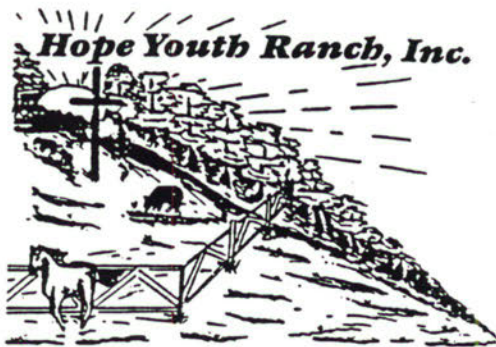
GRAND OPENING HOPE YOUTH RANCH



Angela Norsworthy, Carl Collins, Judy Ned, Susie Mullins,
Lt. Governor Melinda Schwegmann, Aminul Mahfuz, Alicia
Trissler, Tressa Lantz, Dominic Beggan.

February 21
Organized by Angela Norsworthy





HOPE YOUTH RANCH MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Carlos Irizarry, M.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

V. Lynn Martinez, President
Minden, La.

Buddy Calcutt
Farmerville, La.

James Keith Aulds, Vice President
Farmerville, La.

John Hamby
Ruston, La.

Delores Winder
Shreveport, La.

HOPE YOUTH RANCH, INC.

The Board of Directors and Staff of Hope Youth Ranch would like to give special thanks and acknowledge the generous contributions of the following:

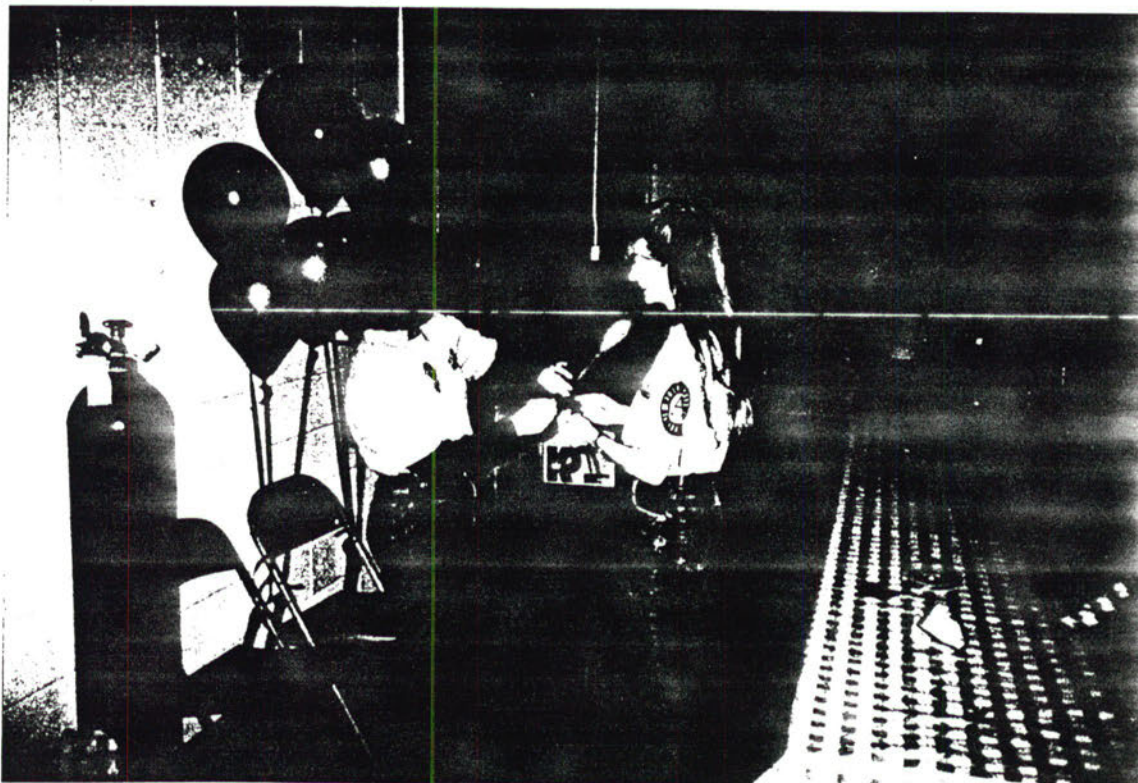
Schumpert Medical Center	Minden and South Webster Chamber of Commerce
TG's Nursery/Landscape Lawn Care	Minden Bank & Trust, Co.
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Minden	Specialty Oil of Shreveport
Conoco Food Service	Glaze and Gardener Landscaping
Minden Market	Remington Suites
Harvest Foods	LL Brenton Lumber Co.
OJ Super Foods	Oak Hill Bar-B-Q Sauce
Cathey Construction	Anonymous Contributors
Town & Country Nursing Center	The Extra Mile
Americorps	Hill Country Youth Ranch

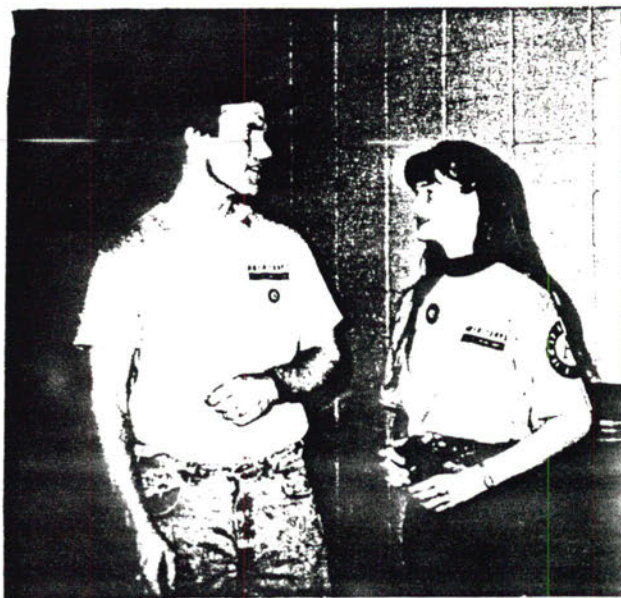
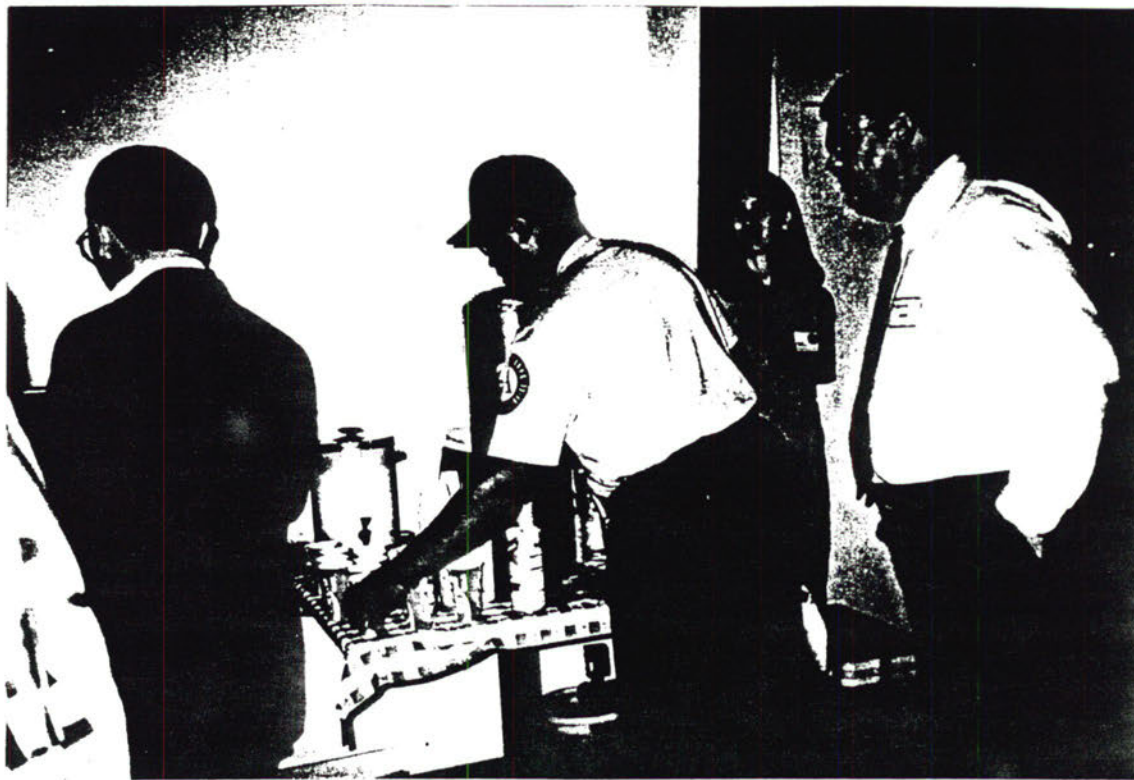
GRAND OPENING

FEBRUARY 21, 1995

*For I know the plans I have for you,
"declares the Lord," Plans to prosper
you and not to harm you. Plans to give
you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

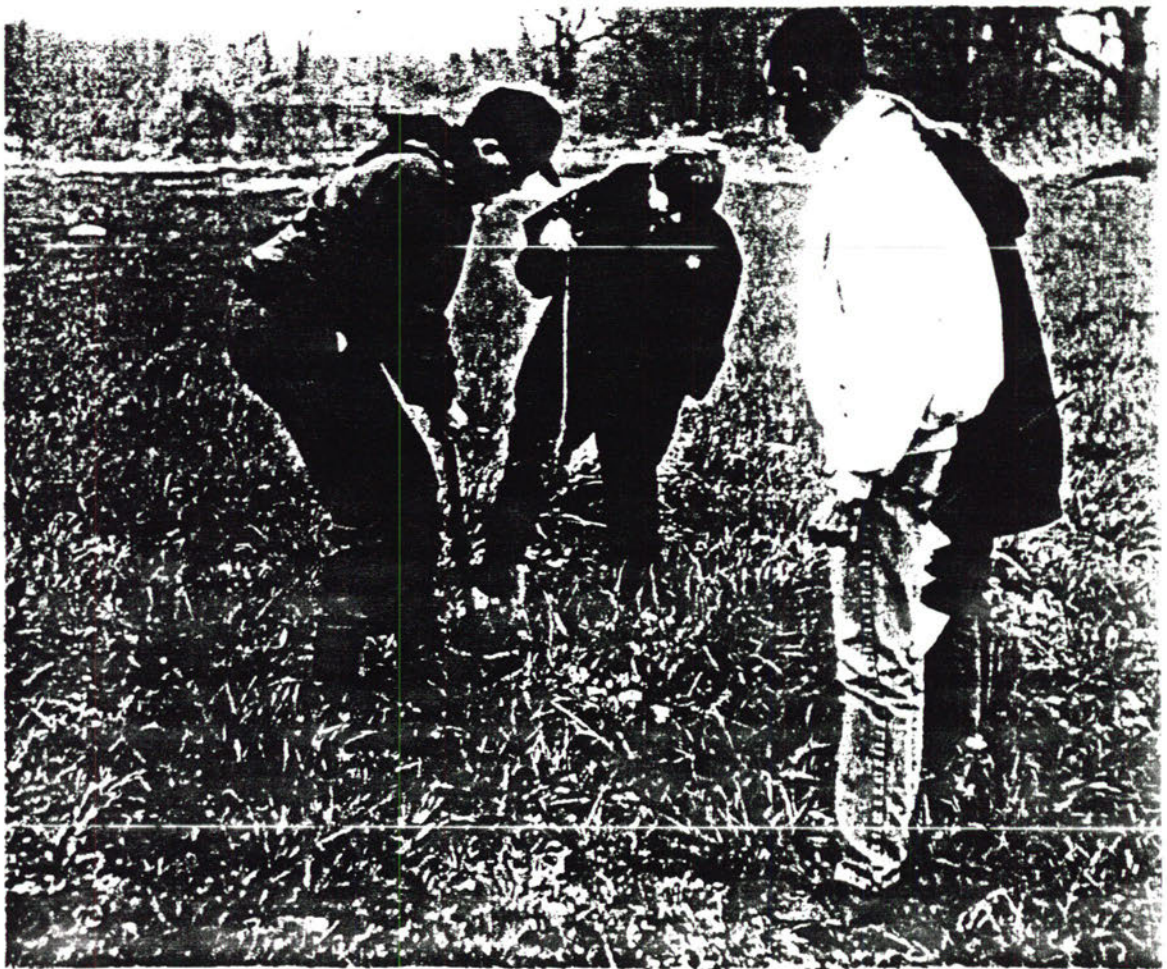




AmeriCorps members volunteer their services at the opening of the Hope Youth Ranch near Minden. Duties include decorating, greeting guests, preparing & serving lunch, and leading tours of the facilities.

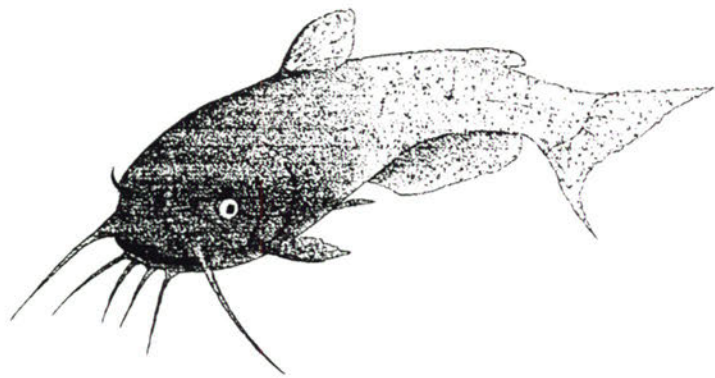


TREE PLANTING IN TALLULAH

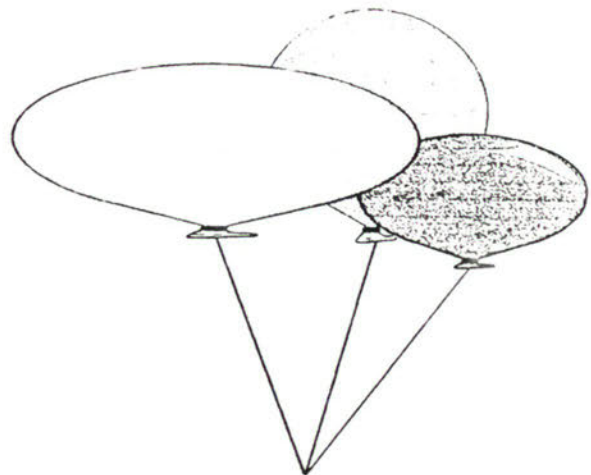
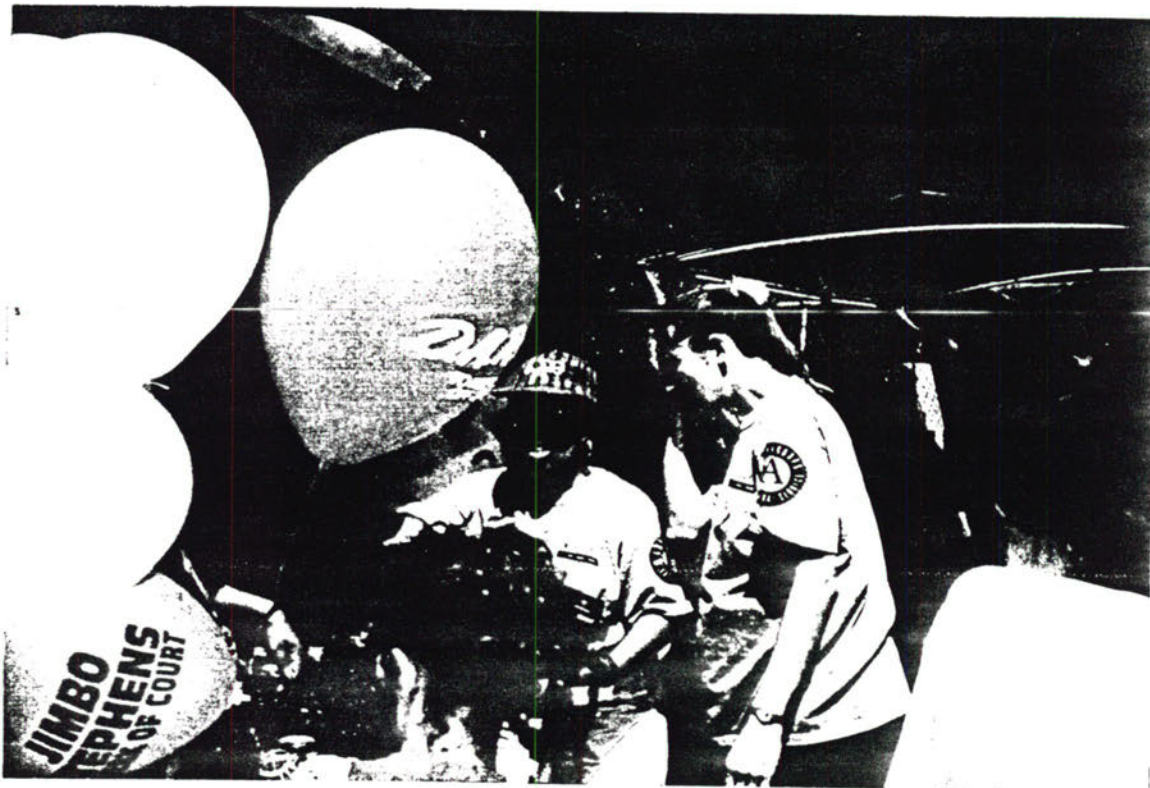


Carl Collins, Alicia Trissler, and Anthony Bridgewater (District Conservationist, Tallulah).

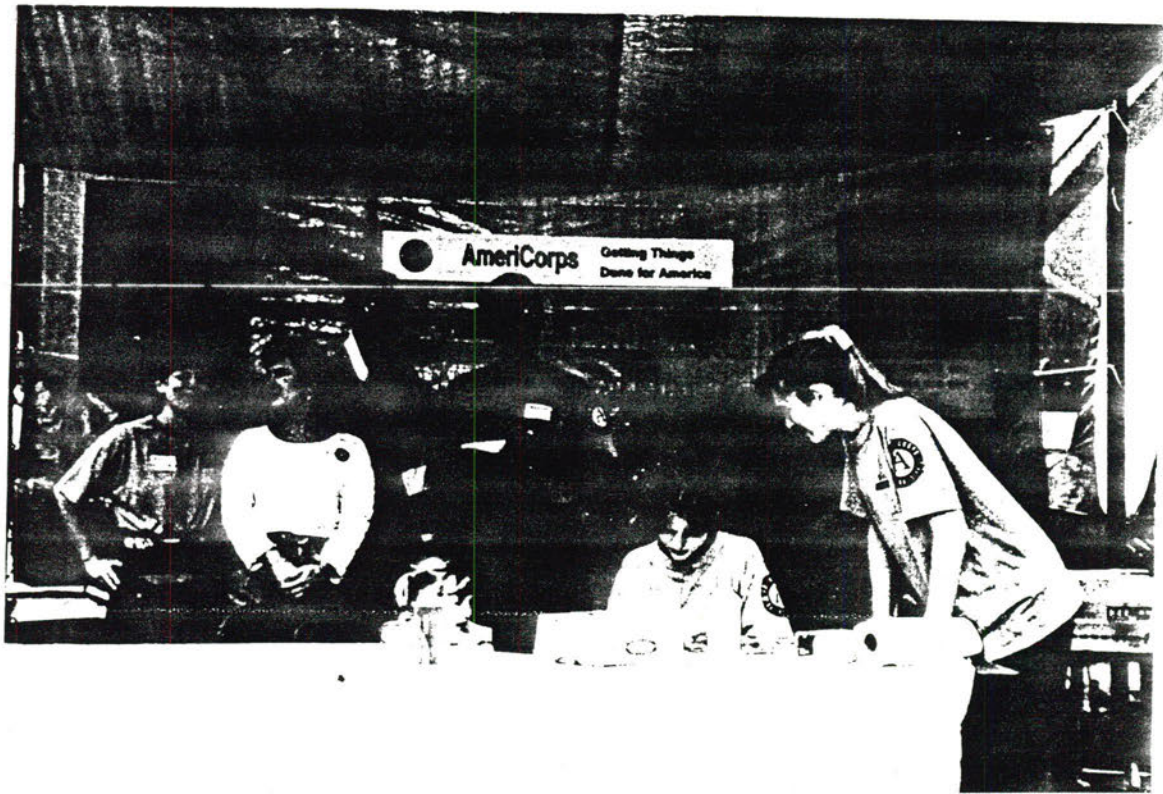
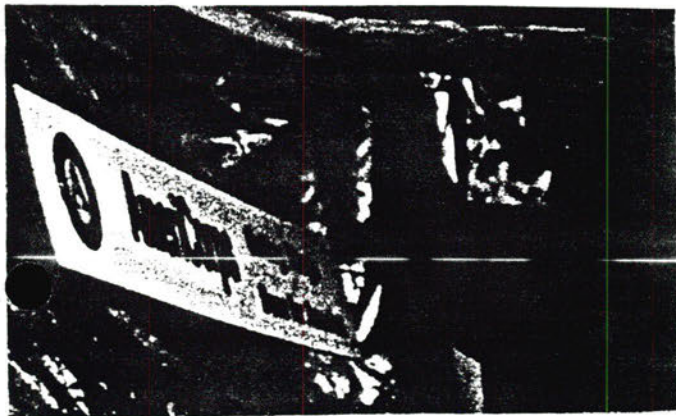
*March 3
Organized by Carl Collins*



FRANKLIN PARISH CATFISH FESTIVAL



April 8
Organized by:
Judy Ned & Sandi Eley

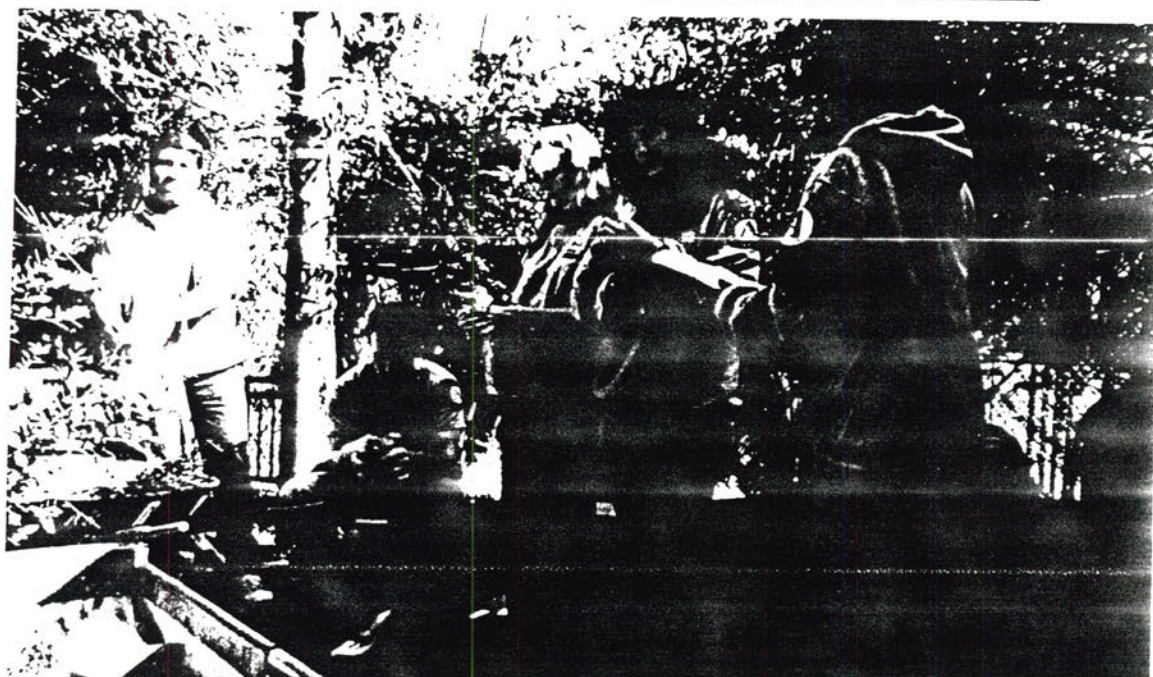
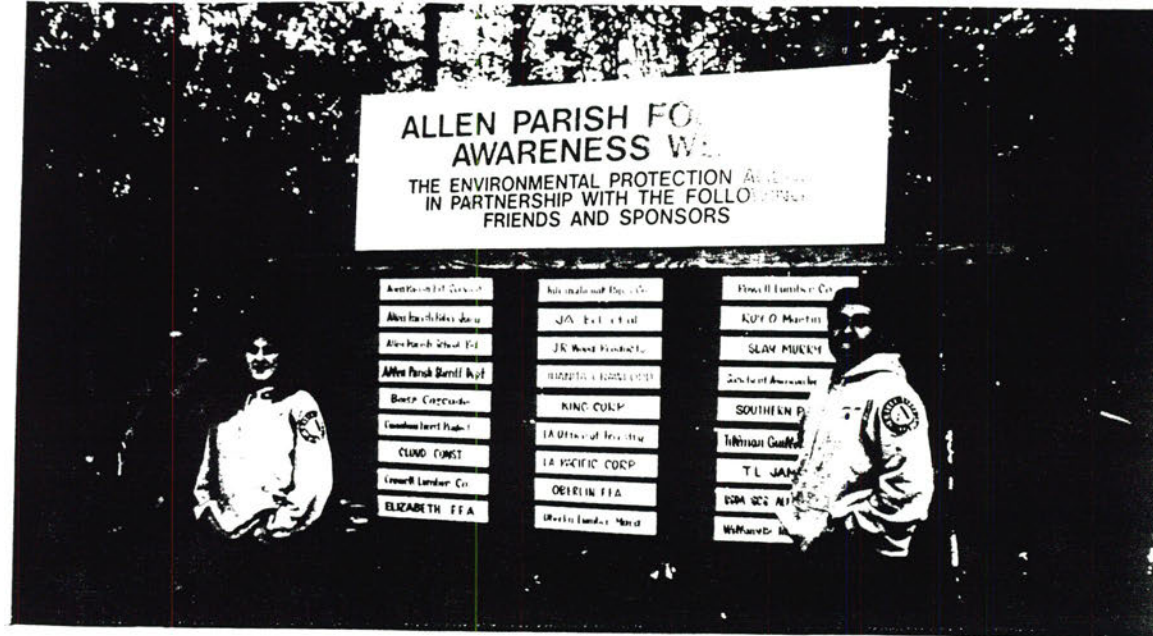




APRIL 25 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



Organized by Dominic Beggan & Angela Norrsworthy



DRY HYDRANTS KICK-OFF

The Statewide Dry Hydrants Program

April 28, 1995

Winnfield, LA.

Alexandria Daily Town Talk

Briefs

Dry hydrant field day

WINNFIELD — The kick off meeting for the statewide Dry Hydrants Program will be next Friday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The field day will be held in the Forestry Building located at the Winn Parish Fairgrounds.

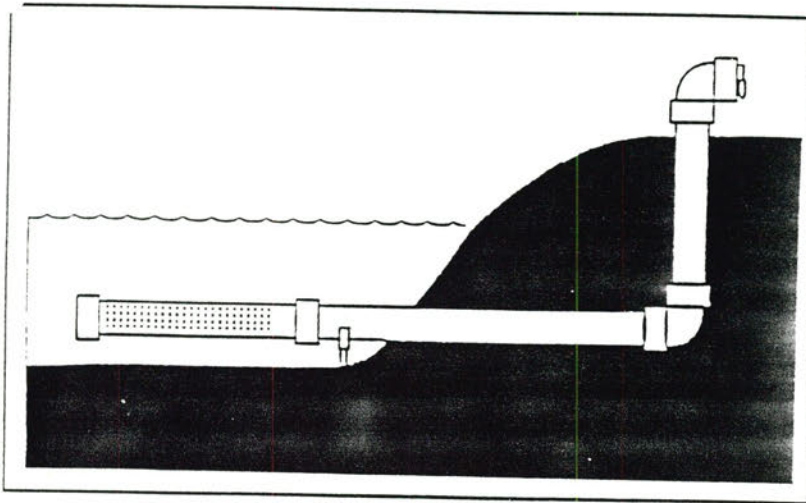
The field day is a chance for local officials to gain a better understanding about the installation and importance of dry hydrants in rural Louisiana.

Parish project coordinators, fire protection personnel, police jurors, road supervisors and others have been invited to attend.

Trailblazer RC&D of Ruston was awarded a \$998,984 contract from the Department of Natural Resources to install 2,015 dry hydrants throughout the state. They are the primary contractor for the project, which is estimated to cost \$1.8 million. The additional money will come from in-kind donations.

Dry hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds or streams. They solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use.

They may improve rural fire protection by reducing the time a water tanker would spend traveling. The reduction could reduce insurance rates in those areas.



Organized by Angela Norrsworthy



Trailblazers head project

\$998,000 to fund dry hydrants in Louisiana

Staff Report

Louisiana's rural population and local government agencies have received good news about rural road maintenance and fire protection with the announcement of the approval of \$998,984 for the implementation of a statewide dry hydrant project.

The announcement came from Jack McClanahan, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, for the funds which are oil overcharge money.

The dry hydrant project will be coordinated by Trailblazer Inc. of Ruston and will improve the state's rural fire

protection system through the installation of 2,000 dry hydrants all over the state.

As primary contractor for the project, Trailblazer brings three years of experience to the effort, following the organization's successful pilot program that was completed in 1992.

According to Trailblazer officials, approval for this current project came about through the combined efforts of Trailblazer, DNR, area RC&D councils as well as parish police juries.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds or streams.

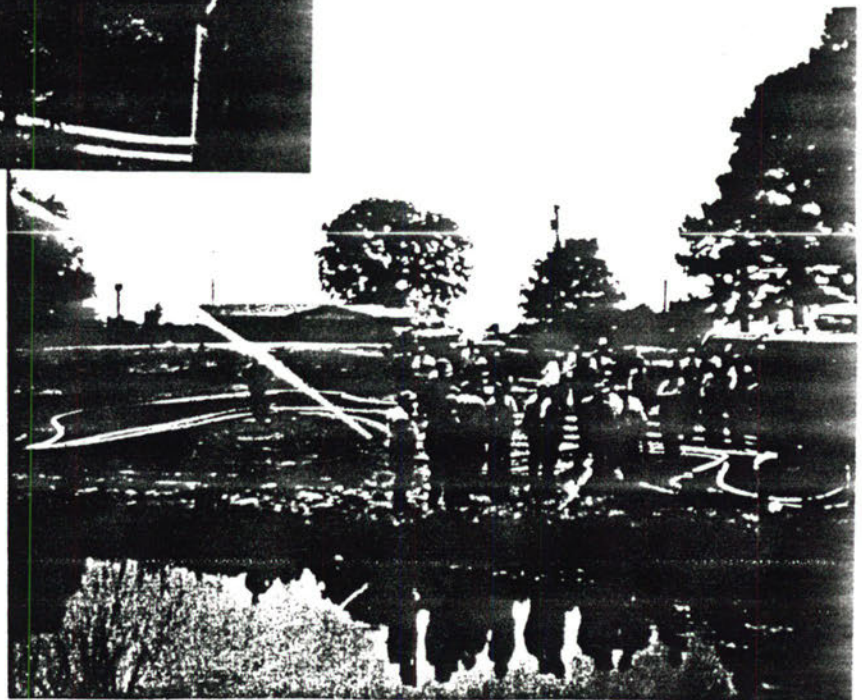
Properly installed, dry hydrants can

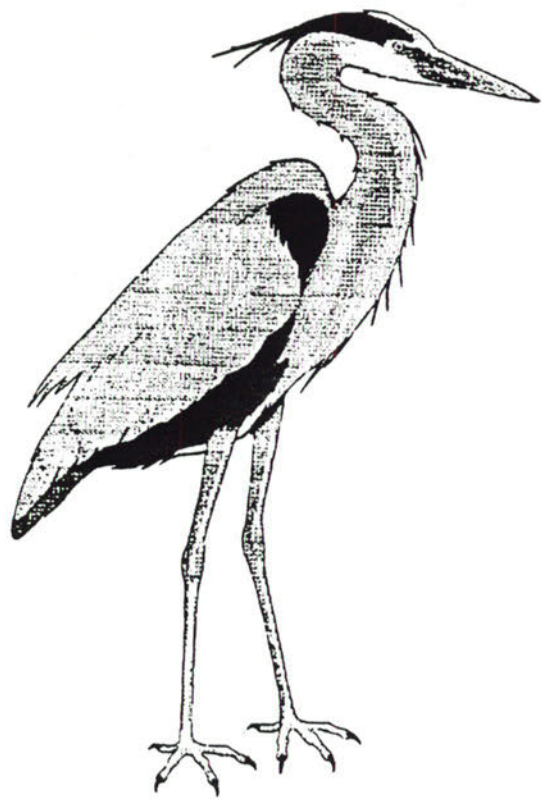
solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use.

Trailblazer Coordinator P. Ellzey Simmons pointed out that the multiple benefits awarded by dry hydrants include energy savings to consumers and road maintenance departments and improving rural fire protection and lower of fire insurance ratings.

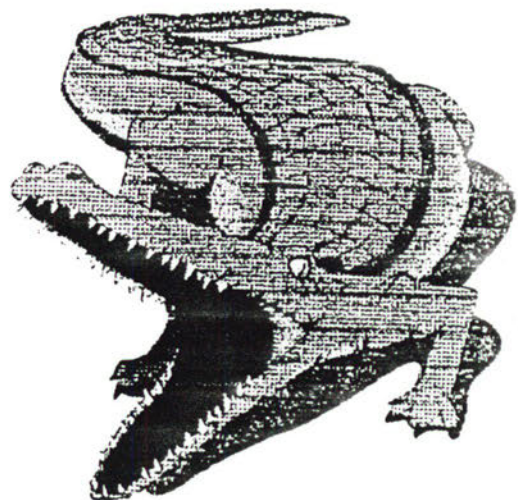
Tanker trucks can tap these water supplies to fight rural fires and reduce the amount of time to supply water for rural fire-fighting efforts.

Water is also key to helping to maintain the numerous gravel roads in some rural parishes, Simmons said.





COASTAL RESTORATION IN GALLIANO





USDA/AmeriCorps ***Getting Things Done*** at the **Plant Materials Center**

Galliano, Louisiana

Schedule of Service

Monday, May 8

3:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.

Travel Day
PMC Orientation & Tour
Reflections on Service

Tuesday, May 9

7:30 a.m.

Load Plants
Marshhay Cordgrass Layout

Wednesday, May 10

7:30 a.m.

Travel to Timbalier Island
Initiate Planting

Thursday, May 11

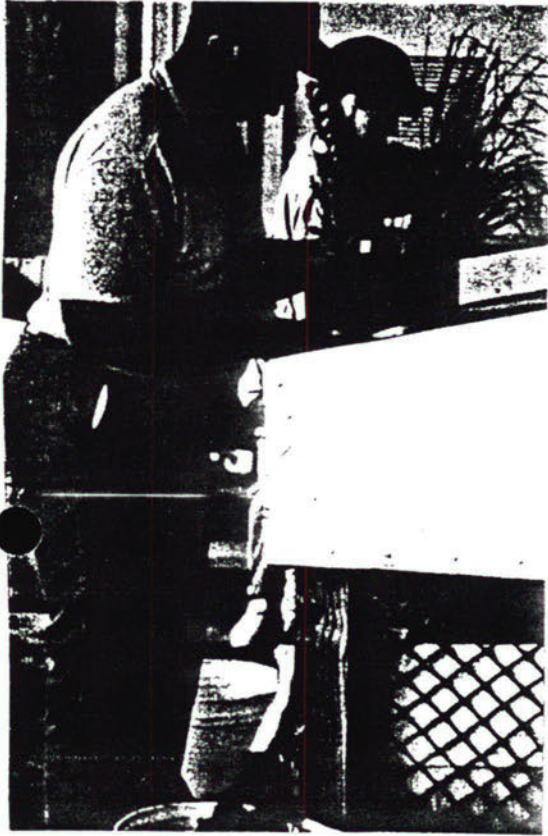
7:30 a.m.

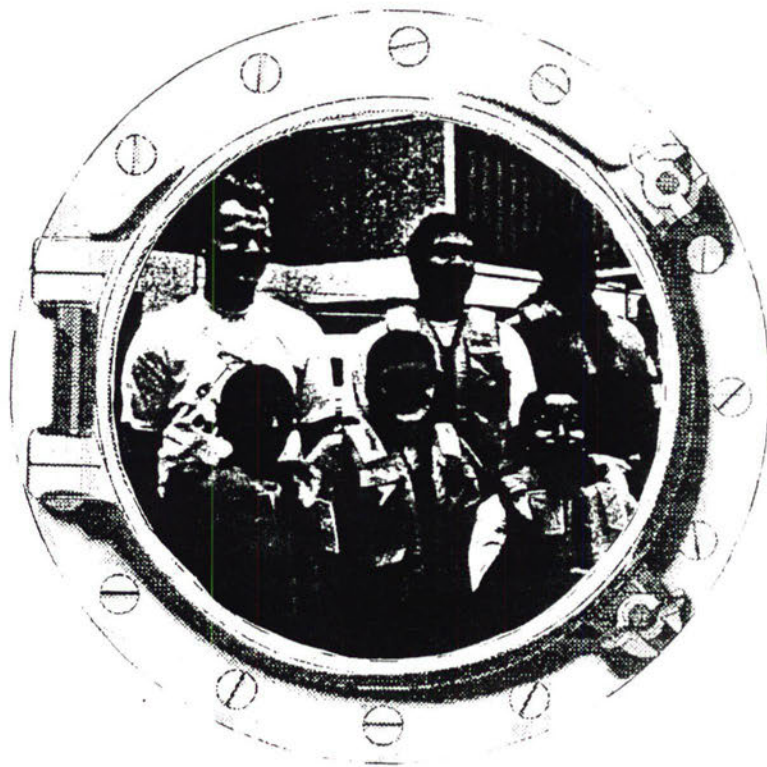
Spartina alterniflora
Seeding Establishment

Friday, May 12

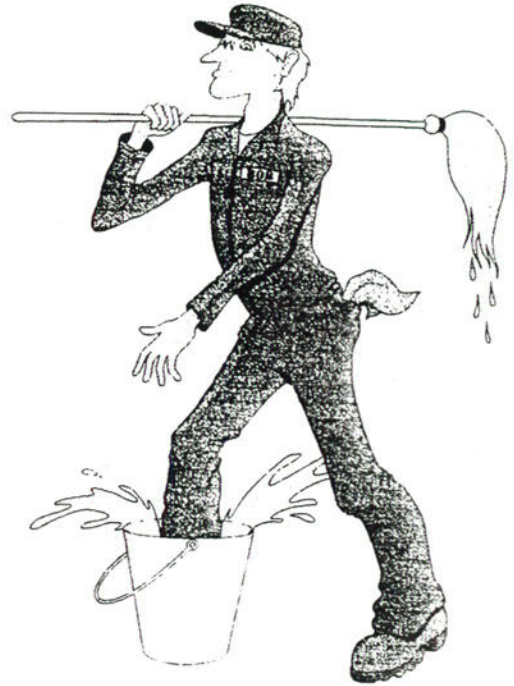
7:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m.

Group Discussions
Closing
Travel day





FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS IN NEW ORLEANS



Front Row: Dominic Beggan, Mrs. LaChappelle (flood victim), Kim Kitterlin, Naomi Boley, Sandi Eley. **Back Row:** Henry Rosenthal, Wydette Williams, Carl Collins.

May 30 - June 2
Organized by Robin Torrence
Team Leader: Henry Rosenthal

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MELINDA SCHWEGMANN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
AND
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE,
RECREATION AND TOURISM

P. O. BOX 44243
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
(504) 342-7009
FAX (504) 342-1949

July 7, 1995

Mr. Richard B. Hoffpauir
RECD
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Mr. Hoffpauir:

On behalf of the Louisiana Serve Commission and AmeriCorps, I would like to extend my thanks for your assistance with helping the victims of floods in the New Orleans area. Your contribution to the flood recovery efforts was invaluable.

I trust your experience with helping all those in need was as rewarding for you as it was to the victims you assisted. You are truly an example of AmeriCorps' pledge of "getting things done."

Thank you for your continued dedicated service to our country and state.

Very sincerely,

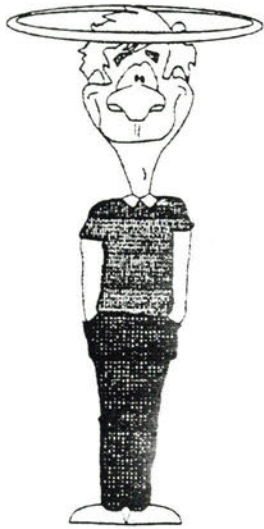


MELINDA SCHWEGMANN
Lieutenant Governor





Helen Alexis
223 Hickory Ave
Lafayette, La 70123



Mr. Austin J. Carmichael
State Director EMHA
3727 Government St
Alexandria, La. 71302

Dear Mr. Carmichael,

No words can ever express how grateful I am for the wonderful help I received from Richard Hoffbauer and his workers. To know that there are people who care when others can not help themselves is something you can never forget. They were like Guardian Angels.

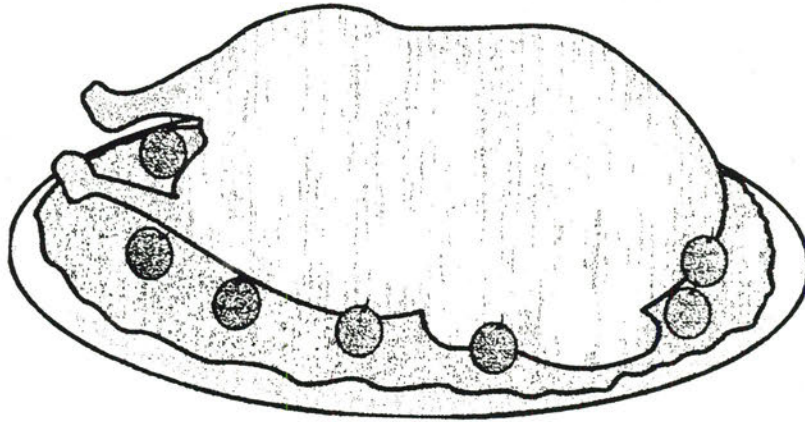
Again thank you from my heart and may God Bless each one of you

Thank you
Ruth Terence
Nancy Rosenthal
Carl D. Collins
Katherine Kettler
Dominac Beggs
Wendette Williams
Sandie L.
Marie K.
Richard

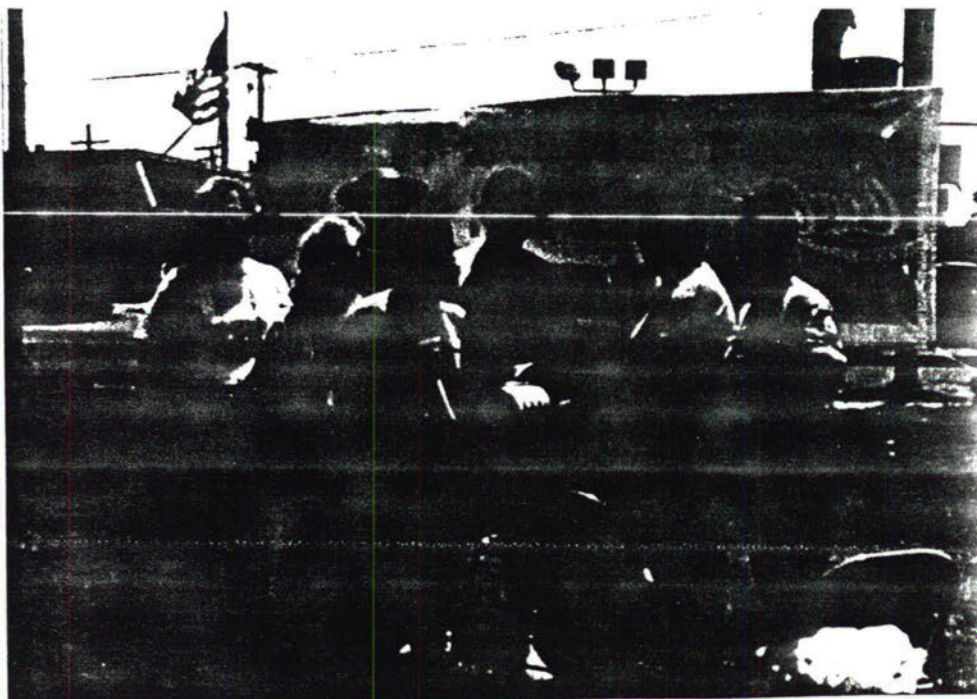
Thank
You

Helen Alexis

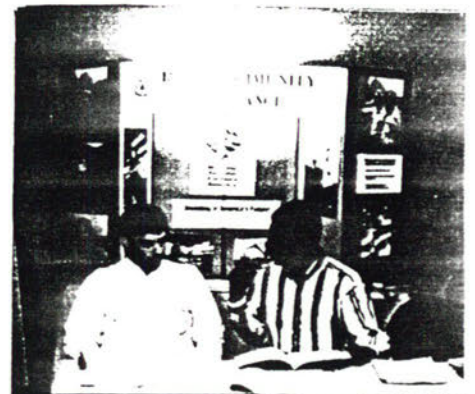
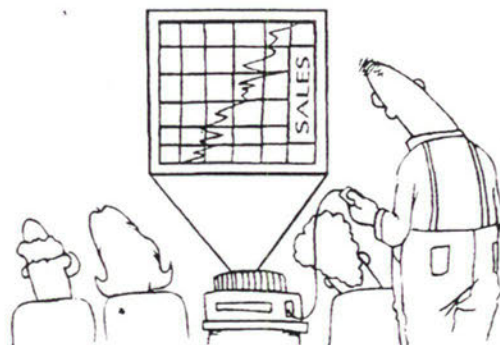
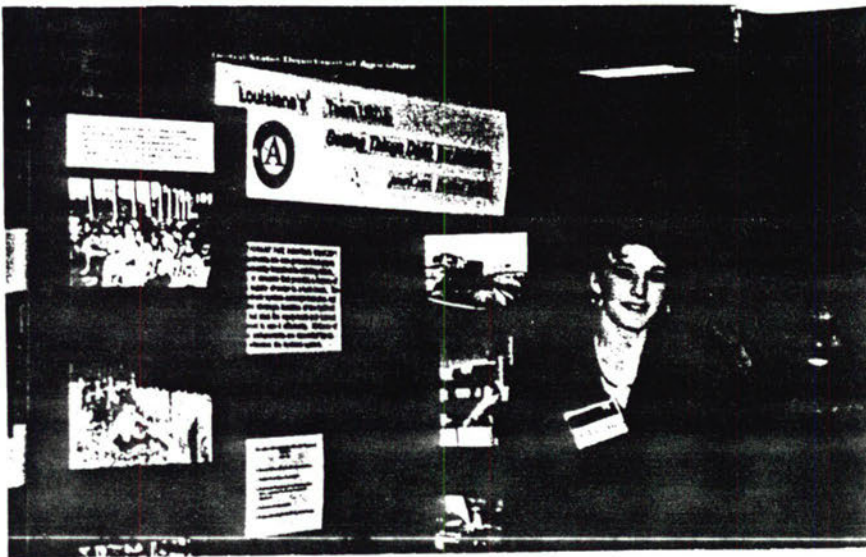
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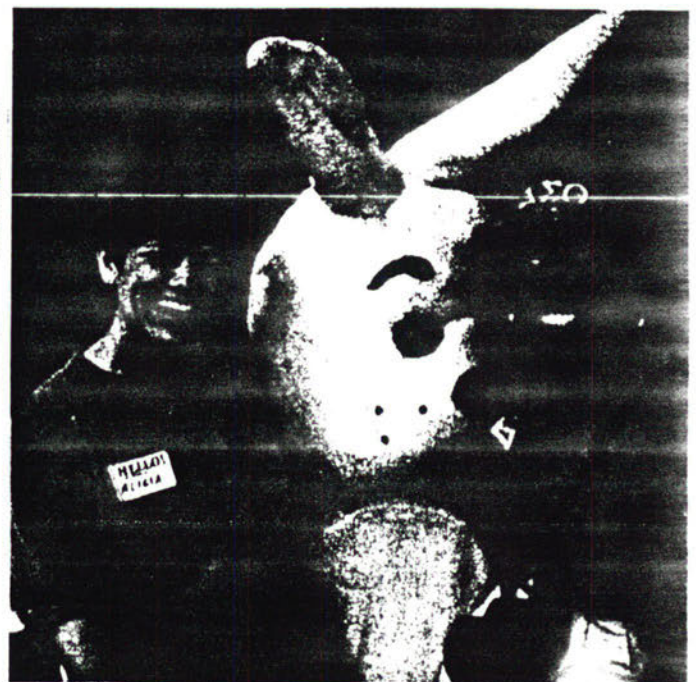
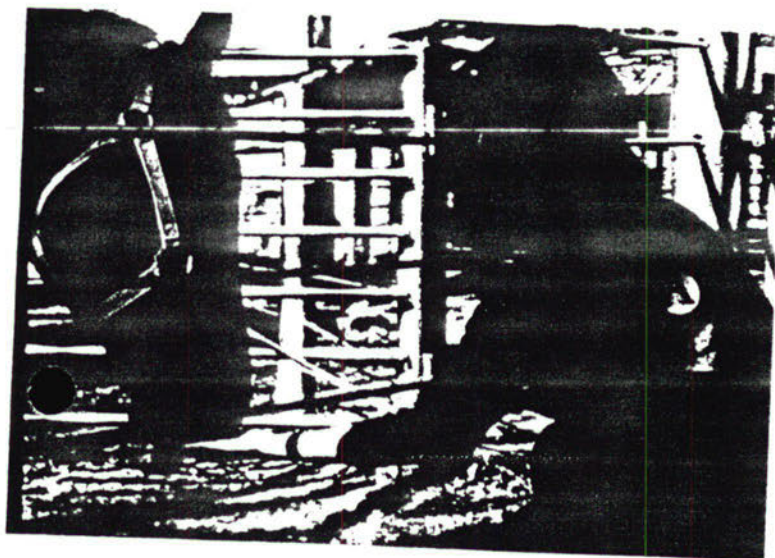
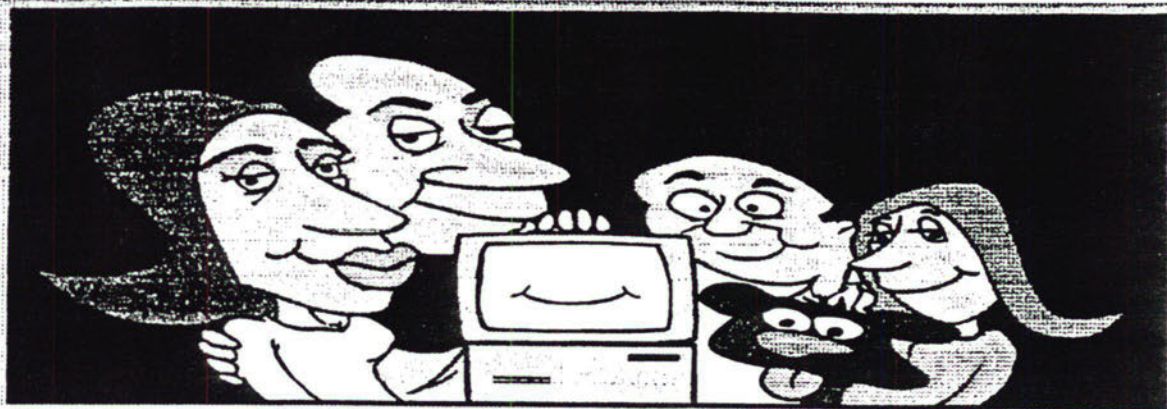
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Concordia Council on Aging
Ferriday, Louisiana



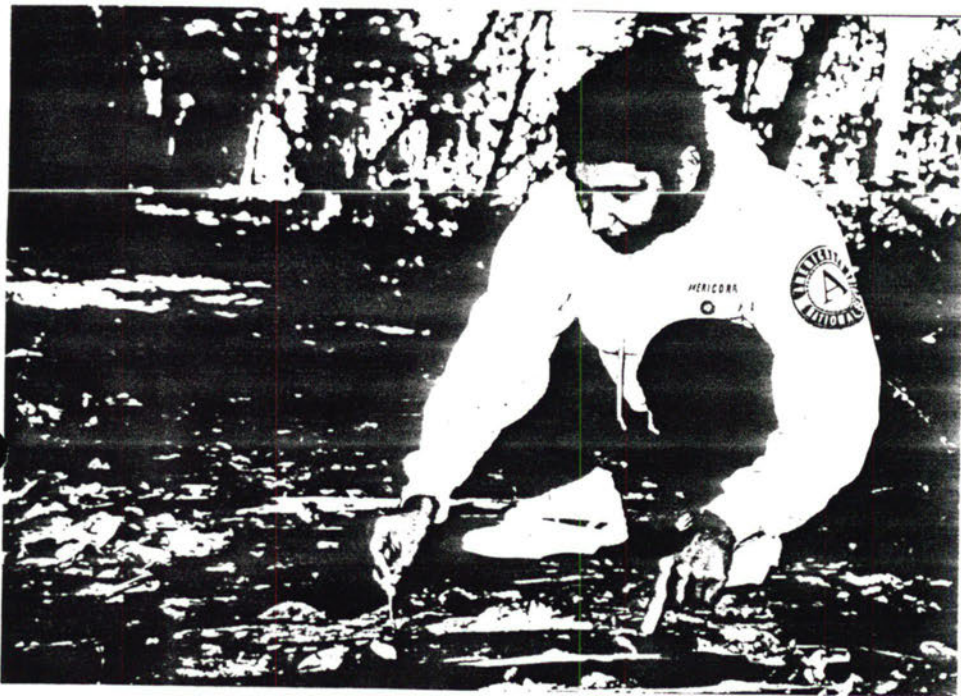
PUBLIC AWARENESS

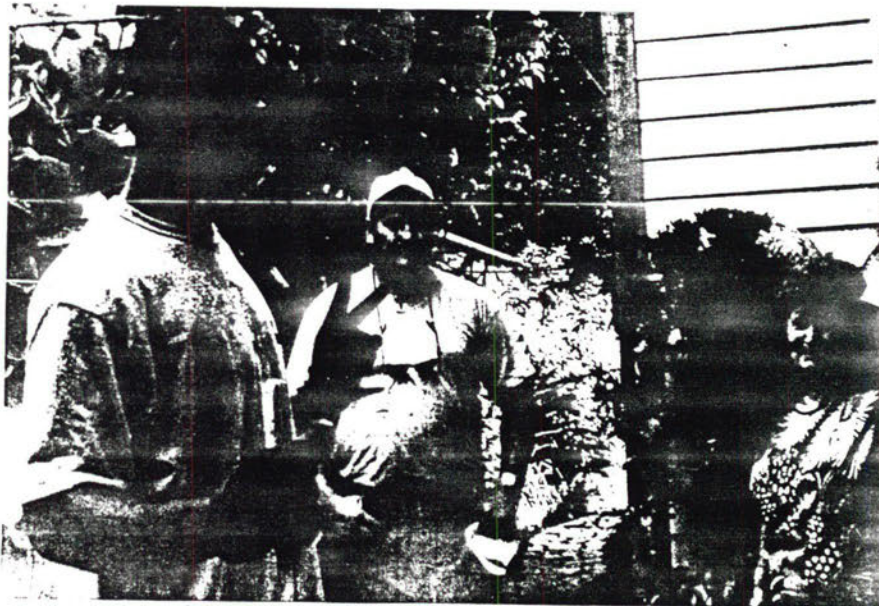
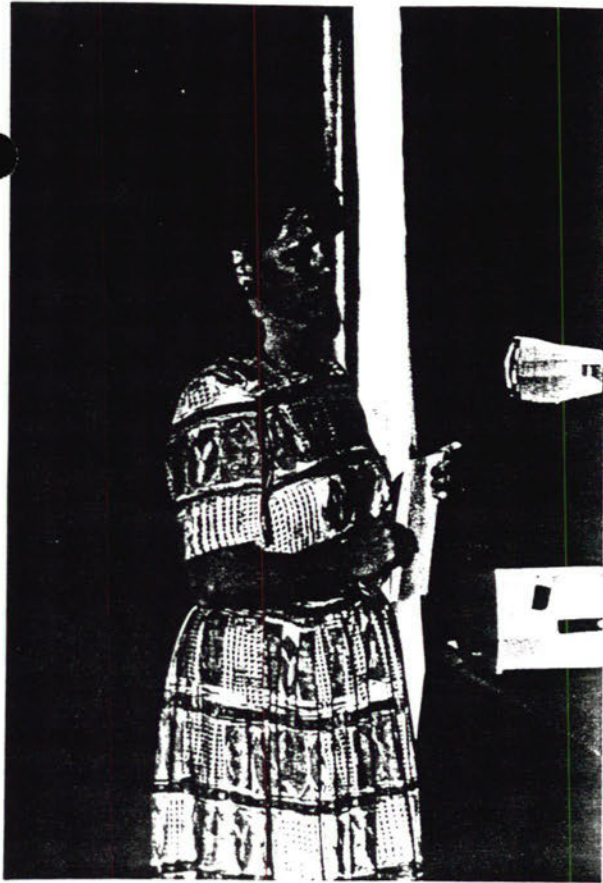


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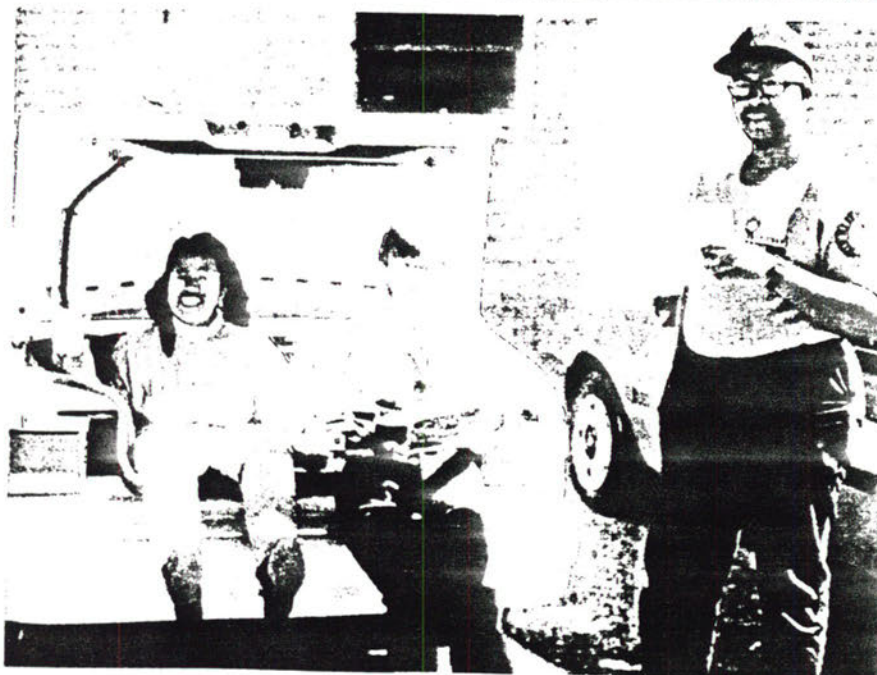












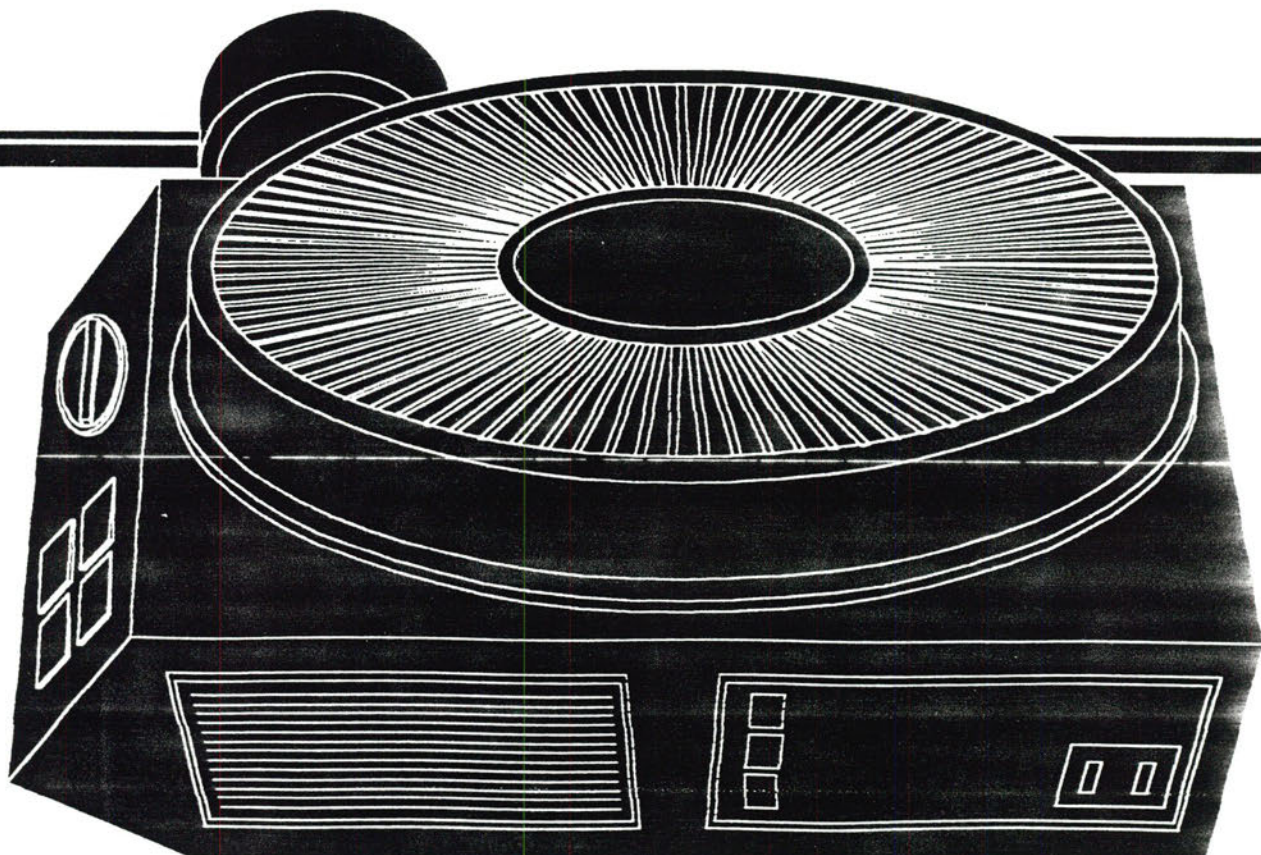
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Farmers Can Assess Groundwater Threat

System Viewed As Valuable Tool to Reduce Contamination

By Robert J. Moreau and Jennifer B. Armand

FARMERS ACROSS LOUISIANA NOW HAVE THE opportunity to learn more about how their farming practices may affect drinking water supplies. They

can also help to determine the benefits of a federal program aimed at preventing pollution from agricultural activities.

The Farmstead

Assessment System (Farm A Syst) has been accepted in many states as a valuable and welcomed tool to help farmers identify and reduce the risk of groundwater contamination. The program was developed and expanded nationally as part of a cooperative effort by three federal agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Cooperative Extension Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

As part of the Louisiana Farm A Syst pilot program, farmers in the nine Louisiana parishes of Acadia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Lafayette, Madison, Natchitoches, Sabine, Tensas, and Vermilion are now being given the opportunity to take a closer look at their farming practices from an environmental protection point of view.

The program assists participating farmers in quantitatively evaluating groundwater contamination risk from their farming practices. It also helps to reduce this risk by providing guidance on actions, called best management practices, that can aid in pre-

venting pollution.

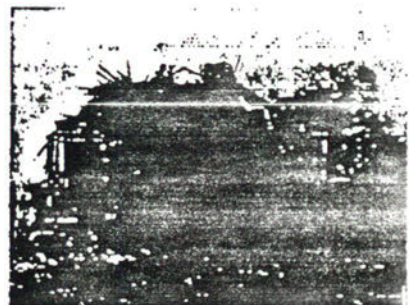
During the risk assessment process, the farmer, either alone or with the help of his parish agent, is asked to fill out a series of worksheets on various topics. These include the condition and location of wells, pesticide and fertilizer storage and handling, petroleum product storage, hazardous waste management, wastewater treatment, livestock waste management, the soil characteristics of the farm, and other subjects.

As part of the pilot implementation of Farm A Syst in Louisiana, Extension Associate Bill Carney and others from the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service will conduct farmer workshops held in conjunction with other agricultural meetings and will schedule one-on-one sessions with farmers to help them assess their farm.

The NRCS is offering support to the Farm A Syst implementation in Louisiana through its district conservationist agents. Meanwhile, three volunteers from AMERICORPS, President Clinton's national service program, who are also participating in the

Louisiana Farm A Syst project have set a goal to conduct 30 personal visits each with farmers to assist them with the farmstead risk assessment.

Significantly, Louisiana's participation in the national risk assessment and farmstead pollution pre-



vention project has an interesting twist. In addition to identifying potential sources of groundwater contamination on farms, information gathered from participating Louisiana farmers will be used by researchers at the University of Wisconsin in Madison to provide an understanding of the benefits and costs associated with the Farm A Syst program.

One of the benefits that will be evaluated is the money spent by farmers to reduce pollution risks to groundwater once these risks are identified through the Farm A Syst worksheets. In other words, money spent to correct a potential environmental problem is viewed as a benefit to the farmer, since contaminated groundwater would be viewed as a liability. This may be thought of as a farmer's "willingness to pay" to reduce his risk of contaminating groundwater resources.

Other benefits that will be examined, but are not



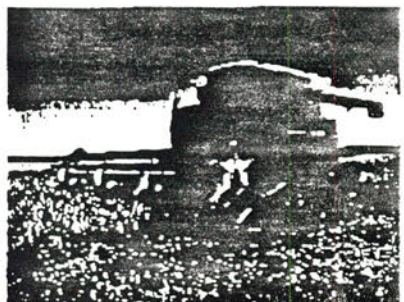
measured in economic terms, are increased knowledge of environmental protection and changes in perceptions of how farming activities can affect

groundwater supplies. To obtain this information, participating farmers will complete a set of surveys, issued before and after they assess the condition of their farm, that will determine how much they have learned about environmental issues by participating in the program.

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation has volunteered to serve as a third-party clearinghouse entity responsible for collecting the surveys and ensuring confidentiality.

Costs of the program will be measured in terms of the funds utilized by national, state, and local government agencies to develop, implement, and administer the program. These figures will be gathered from the participating agencies.

This benefit/cost study is the first of its kind for any Farm A Syst program in the country and will provide



"The Farmstead Assessment System has been accepted in many states as a valuable and welcomed tool to help farmers identify and reduce the risk of groundwater contamination."

Louisiana with national recognition for its role in this important research. Other states may choose to use the study to evaluate the effectiveness of their Farm A Syst programs.

A final report on the results of the Louisiana Farm A Syst benefit/cost study is anticipated in August 1995.

Extension Service, NRCS, and AMERICORP'S volunteers are currently distributing the Farm A Syst packets, including pollution risk assessment worksheets and evaluation surveys, and have a tentative goal to issue 1,300 of the packets by April 30, 1995.

Farmers interested in participating in the Louisiana Farm A Syst program are asked to contact Bill Carney of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service in Baton Rouge at (504) 388-6998, or Billy Moore of the NRCS in Alexandria at (318) 473-7768.

For more information on the benefit/cost study itself, individuals may contact Gary Jackson, National Farm A Syst Program Director, at (608) 265-2775, or Professor John Strasma of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Department of Agricultural Economics, at (608) 262-6974. ■

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