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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

Divider Title: _____ A

FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH (14)
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (21)
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED (1,540)
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING (325)
5. (a) **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES:**

Community service objectives have been met. The objective of the Central Arkansas Resource Conservation And Development Council is to implement the DAD (Dealing With Adolescent Development) Program in the City of Holly Grove, Arkansas. Holly Grove, is located in Monroe County, this Delta Community is agriculture based and is a community of 845 residents , in which 60% are African Americans. Because of the problems that many African American youths are facing. The DAD Program has been implemented in Holly Grove, Arkansas to offer alternative living to African American Males between the ages of 8 and 16 years of age, with or without fathers in the home. The program focuses on Respect, Responsibility and Restraint as a means to address the ongoing problems in the lives of many African American Males.

The DAD Program offers the following programs to participants: DAD Awareness; DAD Tutorial Programs; DAD Outings; and DAD Parents/School Contacts. These programs have been designed to meet the special needs of these young men in the Delta Community and surrounding areas of Holly Grove, Arkansas.

As an AmeriCorps participant, my responsibility as Project Coordinator has been to develop the DAD Program, which includes setting up budget for 3 year operation, and seeking funding for program. A Dad Committee has been set up that will oversee program and will hire needed personnel to operate program

Success of the DAD Program will be measured by the number of youths that graduate from program; the number of youth that are tutored the first year, and remain in school; and the number of youth whose lives demonstrate measurable differences.

- (b) **PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES:**

Community service objectives have been met. Through Labor Education at the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock. As an AmeriCorps participant I have completed four skills

(10) N/A

DAD

Dealing With Adolescent Development

KICKOFF CEREMONY

TIME: 11:00 - 1:00 P. M.

DATE: JULY 20, 1995

**PLACE: FOSTER -BRANCH
COMMUNITY CENTER
HOLLY GROVE, AR**

"Where There Is No Vision The People Perish"

COMMUNITY INVITED

501-462-8300

Holly Grove, Arkansas is located in Monroe County, 75 miles east of Little Rock in the heart of the Delta. The economy of Holly Grove depends primarily on agriculture. The population of this Delta Community is 840, sixty percent of which are African American.

Statistics of the region indicate that one in four African American Males never complete high school. The Dad program was established in 1995 under the Central Arkansas Resource Conservation And Development (RC&D) Council on behalf of the City Of Holly Grove, Arkansas.

The Goal of the DAD Program, working through a coalition of minority males serving as advisors and mentors, was designed to save these young men from the ongoing devastation that is an ever present reality in many communities in the United States. The primary focus of the Dad Program will be on (1) Respect (2) Responsibility and (3) Restraint.

The Dad Program work with socially disadvantaged youth between the ages of 8 and 16 years of age with or without fathers in the homes.

DAD PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- DAD COUNSELING: School Retention, Drug Prevention, and Health.
- DAD TUTORIAL: Assistance With School Work (after school and Saturdays) and Scholarship Awards.
- DAD YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Supervised Programs (after school) Sports, etc.
- DAD AWARENESS: Programs Dealing With Total Person(Spiritual, Nutrition and Motivational Speakers).
- DAD OUTINGS: Special Activities(Field Trips, Art Galleries, Museums, etc.)
- DAD PARENTS/SCHOOL CONTACT: Working Relationship Between Parents, Dad Counselors, and School

DAD COMMITTEE:

- Harry Mayo
- Janice Everett
- Louise Sands
- Ulysses J. Williams
- Fred Abram

FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
ARKANSAS

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH
10
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER
10
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED
4,528
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING
498
5. SORRY DEE

LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.

777 WALNUT GROVE ROAD, BOX 27

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

901 753-1400

Date: July 7, 1995**TO: Mr. Bruce Leggett
AmeriCorps Program Coordinator****FROM: Ray Bryant, Executive Director
LMDD Center****SUBJECT: FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS****AmeriCorps Program**

Enclosed is the fourth quarter report for Cedric Brown, AmeriCorps Employee provided to the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center by the NRCS of Arkansas.

We continue to be satisfied with Cedric's performance and the work he is doing will most helpful in our future work in the Delta region.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.

777 WALNUT GROVE ROAD, BOX 27

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

901 753-1400

AMERICORPS PROGRAM REPORT

Third Quarter - 1994-1995

1. One (1)
2. One (1)
3. 1700 hours of direct service
4. A total of 384 hours of training was provided by the LMDDC and from cluster meetings and conferences.
5. Much of the time for this past quarter was spent on various training and meeting events, including familiarization with NRCS field work in the Marion area. The remainder of the time was spent with a continuation of the collection of tourism information being used by the LMDD Center to develop its tourism activities. Time was spent on developing data charts from data received from various sources for the states of Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana. These data deal with income, poverty, education, and other socioeconomic areas. Specifically: AmeriCorp employee worked on all of these data.
6. In addition to the work outlined above, the AmeriCorps employee has been involved in library dedication at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. President Clinton addressed the dedication and paid special tribute to the AmeriCorps employees. Already, with incomplete information, calls are being received requesting information and data for various reasons. All of the work accomplished in item 5 above will lead to the LMDD Center being able to respond more completely when asked for information about the 219 county/parish Lower Mississippi Delta region.
7. It is expected that the collection of various data will continue throughout the work period and the AmeriCorp employee will spend the majority of his time on this work. No specific data sets are programmed for any time frame simply because it is unpredictable how the information sources will respond to the Center's request for the data. It is the goal of the Center to have four to five sets of data completed along with the tourism data by the end of the approved AmeriCorp work period.

AmeriCorps Third Qtr. Report
Page 2

The AmeriCorp employee will catalog and transfer much of this data to computer files for maintenance for future use. He is expected to have continuing work in developing tourism information for the seven Delta states as the Tourism Coordinator works toward completion of the LMDD Center's overall tourism program.

8. The problem discussed in the first report continues but the LMDD Center has found other sources and has had some success in receiving data. The Center staff, including the AmeriCorps employee, will continue our follow-up with calls, other letters and personal contacts to assure improved responses.

9. Still, no NRCS, USDA or CNCS training, other than the kinds that have been conducted to date, can assist with this project being more successful. All data and up-to-date information received by the LMDD Center is cataloged and will be of benefit to the Region's users. The data collection project can be more fully successful as participation increases.

10. The Center will issued its first newsletter in May 1995 and will next quarter publicize the data collection work in this medium. It is expected that some news sources will pick this up and develop publicity for the work being done. Radio interviews have been held with members of the LMDD Center Board of Directors and some of them mentioned this work in their interviews.

11. No new creative documentation is being used at this time.

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: *CEDIC BROWN*

Project location: *Memphis, TN.*

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

*B.S. Degree - Industrial Technology Management / or Electronic Engineering Engineer
Co-op - United States Forest Service - Aspen, Co.*

What are your present education and career goals?

To go to graduate school

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?

I've become more business mind in Community Service.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

The importance that it plays in our lives.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

there is much need in rural communities for services.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

Enhanced my ability to be more diverse in working with people

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?

it's a great opportunity.



Volume 1 Issue 1 -- May 1995

TENNESSEE TO OPEN FIRST 200 MILES OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER BICYCLE TRAIL

Tennessee is taking the lead for the Delta on capturing the enthusiasts of what is fast becoming one of our nation's most popular sports and vacation activities - bicycling!

SERVING AS A MODEL

In October of this year, the five counties bordering the Mississippi River in Tennessee will officially inaugurate the Mississippi River Trail-Tennessee. It's a 200-mile bicycle route along scenic paved back roads from Memphis to Reelfoot Lake. The trail, which received federal funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1990, will open with ribbon cutting ceremonies and an inaugural bicycle ride with festivities all along the route.

It is being marketed nationally as well as regionally.

Strong support from the City of Memphis has been pivotal to the success of this consortium of rural counties with a major metropolitan center and Memphis is initiating the formation of a not-for-profit "Mississippi River Trail Association" to manage and market the trail.

The Lower Mississippi Delta Center has acted as principal trail development coordinator, focusing on route identification, signage, map development, historical and cultural interpretation and marketing.



More than 300 cyclists expected for Inaugural Ride

DELTA REGION BICYCLING TRAIL

Using the Tennessee trail as a model, the LMDDC is advocating the extension of the route into the seven states of the Delta region from St. Genevieve, Missouri to New Orleans. The center has carried out preliminary route research and is investigating the potential for marketing the expanded route through an enlarged Mississippi River Trail Association.

Communities along the Mississippi River Trail should be encouraged to develop downtown trails, with the goal of a user-friendly system which provides long-distance bicycling with safe and easy bicycle access to the wealth of historical and cultural amenities in Delta communities.

ACTION

The success of the Delta Region Mississippi River Trail will depend on the concomitant support of all states in the region, the counties and parishes through which the trail will pass, as well as regional bicyclists and bicycle clubs.

TRAVEL'S IMPACT

- ***Makes up 6% of GDP
- *** Ranks as third largest retailer in revenue
- *** Has added jobs at 43% rate in 10 years, twice rate of overall employment
- ***Among top 3 industries in 37 states

Source: USA Today

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

RAY BRYANT

Rewards for developing tourist attractions can be big for some communities within the Lower Mississippi Delta. This is one way the LMDD Center is recommending that some of the Delta region capitalize and try to gain a share in the big dollars spent every year by vacationers and other travelers to this area.

This first issue of a new LMDD Center newsletter is highlighting some success stories of communities that are feeling positive economic results because they dared to commercialize some of the attractions that they had taken for granted for so many years.

Another highlight of the issue is the new Mississippi River Trail that is being established for cyclists along the river in West Tennessee. The LMDD Center, working with the City of Memphis and the six West Tennessee Counties along the river is planning for an inaugural ride along the new trail in the fall of this year. Based on the bikers committee that is working on the trail, this one ride will attract from 400 to 2000 bikers from around the country and possibly abroad. It will bring economic opportunities for businesses along the trail in each of the six counties that are included in the corridor. This segment of the MRT will hopefully become a pilot for the establishment of the MRT in the other Delta states in the future.

DELTA CENTER ANNOUNCES GRANT MONEY FOR ORGANIZATIONS IN NEED OF PROPOSAL WRITING

According to Ray Bryant, Executive Director of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Center, the Board of Directors of the center has approved a total of \$10,000 to be spent to provide needy organizations funds to employ professionals to assist with preparation of grant applications.

Bryant explained that the writing of grant proposals is sometimes difficult for even professionals in this field and that many organizations do not have the knowledge of grant-writing or the manpower to devote the hours it takes to do the task.

Bryant said any group or organization within the 219-parish county/parish region in need of this type of assistance, should write to the LMDD Center,

present an overview of the proposed project and provide details about the organization, its role and functions that would tie to recommendations found in the

LMDD Commission's final report. Call 901-753-1400.

ENTERPRISE CORPORATION OPENS HEADQUARTERS

GREENVILLE, MS — The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD), a nonprofit organization aimed at aggressively rebuilding the Delta region, recently announced the opening of its new headquarters in Greenville, Mississippi's historic E.E. Bass School.

The ECD offers a comprehensive business assistance program using private funds provided by private foundations.

The goal of the Enterprise Corporation is to foster new investment, increase business capacity and to create more jobs and better ones throughout regions of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The ECD offers innovative assistance in three areas critical to business success: business finance, management assistance and access to expanded markets.

The organization is building a \$20-million capital fund offering companies access to flexible loans, lines of credit and other business financial products. It also provides hands-on technical assistance.

The ECD is forming partnerships with the region's banks, community colleges and other business assistance providers.

For information, call 601-944-1100.

LMDDC NEWS

**LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL
7777 WALNUT GROVE RD., BOX 27
MEMPHIS, TN 38120
Ph. 901-753-1400**

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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Memphis, TN
Permit No. 3299**

Inside This Issue

- * **BIKE TRAIL FOR DELTA**
- * **TOURISM SUCCESS STORIES**
- * **FUNDS FOR GRANT WRITING**

FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (JUNE 30, 1995)
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING
5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
This is the most important item in the quarterly report. Responses should be concise, quantifiable, measurable and show how much has been done towards the service objectives.
6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Expand on #5 above using narratives, quotes and stories to show how your project has begun meeting your community service objectives. Also specify, other important services you have performed that "get things done" in your community. Tell what progress you have made in boosting the personal development of the Members or helping local communities build their long-term infrastructures.
7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER
We assume that the amount of work accomplished in subsequent quarters will exceed progress made during the program start up. What will you accomplish in the last quarter that you were not able to to date?
8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES
Please be candid in specifying any challenges, problems, or disappointments you have faced, as well as what steps you, your Members, NRCS, USDA, and/or the Corporation for National Service can take to either rectify the problems or at least ensure they do not reoccur in the future.
9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS
Specify precisely what kind of staff or Member training, or other technical assistance can be provided by NRCS, USDA, CNCS or other sources to improve your project.
10. MEDIA COVERAGE
Please provide all newspaper or magazine clippings, videotapes or TV news reports, and cassettes of radio news reports.
11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION
Look for other ways to creatively demonstrate the progress of your projects, such as:
 - * before and after photographs and videotapes
 - * excerpts from journal entries written by Members
 - * letters of support from satisfied individuals or groups

HARRISON LOCKE
ALFDC
AMERICORPS NRCS
ARKANSAS

5. Met with 15 members demonstrating integrated farming systems. Other members(20) have incorporated alternative crops in their farming system. Demonstrated to 15 members the mechanics and maintenance of alternative cropping system. Next progress report will report dollar value of harvest. Introduced poultry litter to 15 members as an alternative fertilizer.

6. Twenty of our existing members have become totally independent producers in alternative crops. Five new members have been enrolled into the program for next year as a result of successes from existing members.

7. Will work directly with producers (35) on harvesting techniques and marketing strategies of alternative crops. Will begin instructional phase of fall crop plantings.

8. Having to work over such a large area to meet request and needs for program. Insufficient funds to adequately expand the program. Old and outdated equipment.

9. Training is needed in advanced alternative cropping technologies.

FROM : ARKANSAS LAND & FARM DEV CORP PHONE NO. : 7343578
 RECEIVED 12/12 11:26 1995 BY 0329624
 09/29/95 08:12 02028800630 PAGE 2 (PRINTED PAGE 2)
 COMB-ASSISTANCE *** ARKANSAS

P83

1996 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: *Harrison Locke* Project location: *AL7D-7460, Ar.*

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

BSE Degree - Ag. Education. Taught 20- Agri. to 6 and farmed for 30 yrs. ON OWN farm. IN cotton plant, Ar.

What are your present education and career goals? *None.*

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experiences? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

I have time to work with this kind of organization, and share my experience with

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?

I have had a chance to meet people from various places, and exchange ideas

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

Learn more about natural resources (Preserve.)

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

There are numerous needs in these communities, and a willingness to serve.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

It is very important to work with people with different backgrounds.

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?

Hurry and get started.

jody

FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

Jody Pagan

1. -
2. -
3. 1700 hours
4. 200
5. All 75 Counties have been reviewed for endangered species of federal concern. Maps containing species locations, legends, species summary sheets, and natural areas have been completed for each county. Thirty-three (33) additional reports on species of federal concern have been completed and mailed to the respective counties. This represents 95 percent of the goal. Reports have also been provided to Biologist at Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
6. Communities may now use these reports (endangered and threatened species information) in preparing assessments to meet permit requirements for needed community improvements involving construction.
7. Five (5) additional reports are in varying stages of completion and still have to be quality control(QC) checked. These reports will be QC'd and mailed to the respective counties over the next month. Two remaining presentations were conducted at Clay and Woodruff Counties during this quarter.
11. Conducted field surveys for Yellow Lady Slipper in Montgomery County and Corkwood in Jackson, Clay, Greene, and Woodruff Counties, Arkansas.

FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

**WILLIE CHAPPLE
MARION, ARKANSAS**

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH. 1
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (JUNE 30, 1995). 1
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED. 1700
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. 200 HRS

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES.

Partial funding was secured for the Marion Lake Road project. The initial request of \$65,000 was secured, however, after a more detailed investigation by Sorrell Engineering, the funds secured are inadequate to complete the project. State Representative Ben McGee was contacted and is looking for an additional \$15,000 to complete the project.

I am continuing to work with RECD on processing applications for home repair and connection to rural water systems. So far, 63 applications have been turned in. 45% of the applications have been scheduled for appointments, and 15% have their houses all ready repaired or in the process of being repaired. I am also working with East Arkansas Planning and Development to secure home weatherization funds for 5 applicants who did not qualify through RECD.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. The following water projects were completed during the quarter 1995: 1. Bulk Lake Road, 2. Gilmore East, and 3. Gilmore West. These water lines will provide water for 23 homes and 47 persons.
7. PRIMARY CHALLENGES. The challenges have been working with other agencies and companies that do not have the same tasks as members of AmeriCorps. It takes time to work through the system.
8. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS. Computer training and media relations training is needed.
9. MEDIA COVERAGE. Television and news media coverage when the project began. Three television stations and local newspaper. Coverage was local, state wide and the surrounding.
10. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION. We have pictures and slides before and during the start of the project.

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: *Willie Chapple*

Project location: *Marion, AR*

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

Education: B.S. degree, Agriculture Economics June 94, Arkansas Army National Guard 6 yrs as a ballistic computer operator May 85-Present. AmeriCorps Participant Sept. 94-Present., FmHA Summer 92, Prescott, AR.

What are your present education and career goals? *Presently, I am pursuing a master's degree from Arkansas State University. My career goal is one day owning my own business.*

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally? *This experience has had a tremendous impact on me. It allowed me to actually get out into the environment of poverty and actually help people that were effected by lack of resources. It also gave me a sense of pride knowing that while helping people, it restored their pride, their dignity, and hope for a better community and future.*

What have you learned about natural resources through this program? *I have learned that natural resources are vital tools of this land in order for us to survive. In order to continue to benefit from nature's supply, we must protect and preserve those resources in order to maintain life form.*

What have you learned about community service through this experience? *I have learned that it is more people than I imagined that need some type of help or assistance in order to live up to the standards. Community service is an on going process and more people need to get involved.*

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

I have always known that regardless of color, creed, race, or sex that if we all work together toward a goal, despite of our diversities, we can accomplish anything as a whole.

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps? *I would tell them that working with NRCS AmeriCorps will be one of the most remarkable task that they will ever do, because it gives you a chance to reach out and*

FD08 B0PY

*3rd Quarter Progress Report
Willie Chapple
Marion, Arkansas*

The following water projects were completed during the third quarter 1995:

- 1. Buck Lake Road*
- 2. Gilmore East*
- 3. Gilmore West*

Partial funding was secured for the Marion Lake Road Project. The initial request was secured, however, after a more detailed investigation by Sorrell Engineering the funds secured are inadequate to complete the project. State Representative Ben McGee was contacted and is looking for additional funds to complete the project.

I continue to work with RECDS on processing applications for home repair and connection to rural water systems. I am also working with East Arkansas Planning and Development to secure home weatherization funds for applicants who may not qualify through RECDS.

Three weeks of this quarter was spent on military duty.

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: Jody Pagan

Project location: Little Rock

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

B.S. Biology/Minor in Climatology for USF A Monticello, VA.
HVAC service tech.
Horticulture worker during college.

What are your present education and career goals?

To acquire a M.S. in Botany. To have a mentally challenging job in the Field Taxonomy.

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experiences? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

My career goals have changed. I want to apply what I have learned in the Endangered Species Project and Wetland Inventory Project to a career in the field Biological Research.

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?

Volunteering for this position was an experience that I will never forget. I feel it is the best career move I could have made at this point in my life.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

I have learned that there are many people doing great things for the environment. And while working in the AmeriCorps program I have been able to contribute to the cause.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

Community service is a tool to accomplish things that would otherwise be overlooked. It was a very fulfilling experience.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

If a person keeps an open mind, working with people from different backgrounds can be a learn experience. Coming from South Arkansas it seemed that everyone was different than me and since I have learned

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps? many interesting things.

I would have to tell them that AmeriCorps will ~~things~~.
Would whatever you allow it to AmeriCorps volunteers are exposed:
not after. Wasn't adults only dream or.

JANA COLEMAN
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
AMERICORPS - USDA
HELENA, ARKANSAS

TRI-COUNTY OUTREACH PROJECT

#3 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE. I completed 347 hours of direct service between April 1, 1995, and June 30, 1995. This makes a total number of 1395 hours worked since September 12, 1994. The rest of the time I was on leave without pay for doctors appointments and maternity leave.

#4 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. During the third quarter, the total number of training hours completed was 64. This brings my overall training time to 216 hours.

#5 PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES. My project objective is to improve the standard of living for people in small towns and rural communities within Monroe, Phillips, and Lee counties. I am doing this by meeting with county and city governments such as county judges, mayors, and city councilmen. I also meet with community organizations and civic groups. Together, we try to identify their community needs and find the most appropriate way to address those problems.

I worked primarily in three towns during the third quarter:

*FARGO, AR (Monroe County). I have drafted two city ordinances to be heard before the Fargo City Council on July 6, 1995. Both ordinances pertain to unkept properties. One refers to weed control regulations and the other concerns unfit housing.

*HOLLY GROVE, AR (Monroe County). I have compiled a package to be presented to the Holly Grove City Council on July 20, 1995, concerning the lighting situation in the town. If approved, the town will obtain eight additional street lights and upgrade nine existing lights to sodium.

*MARVELL, AR (Phillips County). I have assisted with the organization of a city-wide clean-up that was held April 17-21, 1995, and the organization of a beautification committee to continue this as a yearly event. I also assisted with the completion of and acted as a partner for a Forest Service grant in which the City of Marvell was awarded \$12,000. Currently, we are applying for state funding for a "fun park".

#6 PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I have met my community service objectives in the following ways:

*FARGO, AR. Since I first began working with Fargo, their goal has been to become more like an organized town and an overall more desirable community to live in. As reported last quarter, they have obtained city lights, street signs, and garbage pick-up. This quarter we are trying to improve the existing conditions. By passing these two city ordinances, the City of Fargo would be able to condemn houses, buildings, and structures that are deemed hazardous. Also, the city would be able to mow overgrown lots that are considered unsightly and unsanitary and charge the property owner for that service. We are on the agenda for the month of July and have a considerable amount of support from area residents.

*HOLLY GROVE, AR. I have been working with the Crime and Drug Committee in Holly Grove on a lighting recommendation to be presented to the Holly Grove City Council in July. If approved, the town will install eight street lights in the parts of town where they are virtually nonexistent as well as upgrade nine low wattage white lights to the preferred sodium lights. This is all in an effort to cut down on crime and loitering in the community.

*MARVELL, AR. The "Paint the Town Clean" project organized in Marvell was a huge success. There were daily duties planned during the clean-up week and most were directed towards improving the environment i.e. planted flowers, picked up trash, and cleaned out ditches. Volunteers came out of the woodwork to clean, paint, and fix up their community and even formed a committee to continue their efforts year after year.

The City of Marvell received funding through the Forest Service in order to improve the social, economic, and natural environment of the town. Ten interchangeable trash bins and planters will be installed as permanent fixtures in the downtown area. Two handicap accessible ramps will be built and the existing sidewalks will be repaired. Also, 33 culverts will be added in residential areas where poor drainage exists. The total value of the "City of Marvell Enhancement Project" is \$24,000 and the start date is July 1, 1995.

We are in the process of applying for state funding for a "fun park" to be built in a very poor part of town. The park would provide a safe play area for the Marvell children. A Park Planning Committee made up of five residents has been formed to assist with decisions pertaining to the park. The grant is not yet complete and award announcements will be made after my AmeriCorps term of service ends.

#7 PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER. My personal goal this past year has been to allow the community leaders and residents to work side-by-side with me on all projects in order to enable them to continue any unfinished efforts. By having them help me, they will be able to help themselves long after I am out of the picture.

During the last quarter, I will continue to meet with my communities regarding their concerns, fears, and problems and assist them in any way possible. I will not hesitate to take on a new project in any town as I feel strongly that by involving the residents, especially in the form of committees, any work not completed by September 12, 1995, may still be carried out. Lastly, I plan to make available to city officials reference materials, grant resources publications, and community organization information that I have collected.

#8 PRIMARY CHALLENGES. The realization that sometimes-small towns are reluctant to change has been my primary challenge. In communities where everyone has known each other a lifetime or is kin to one another, town leaders and residents alike are hesitant to step on each others toes. Even when a small handful of people can see change is for the better, it is still frightening to them. As an AmeriCorps participant I try to provide encouragement and offer success stories of neighboring towns that have faced the same types of problems.

#9 PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS. I feel that I have received ample training in all areas and on all subjects that I have inquired about.

#10 MEDIA COVERAGE. The following are documentation of media coverage for my AmeriCorps projects as well as for the AmeriCorps program. Included are two newspaper articles on Director Joel Berg's visit to Holly Grove, an article on Marvell's city-wide clean-up, and a press release on the Forest Service grant awarded to Marvell.

#11 OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION. Additional information included are the actual lighting recommendation for the City of Holly Grove and pictures taken during the clean-up in Marvell.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 1995

CONTACT: BARBIE WA SHBURN
(501) 829-2573

CITY OF MARVELL, ARKANSAS RECEIVES AMERICORPS GRANT

MARVELL, AR.-- The City of Marvell, Arkansas, in partnership with the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, has received funding through the Rural Forestry Assistance (Rural Development) AmeriCorps Program.

The mission of the AmeriCorps Program is to engage a diverse group of Americans in working partnerships with communities to provide real and measurable service to meet environmental and human needs while building an ethic of service, responsibility, and citizenship.

The "City of Marvell Enhancement Project" is designed to improve the social, economic, and natural environment of the town. "As part of the project, trash bins and planters will be installed as permanent fixtures in the downtown area. Accessible ramps will be built and the existing sidewalks will be made accessible. New culverts will be installed in residential areas where they are virtually nonexistent or non-serviceable," stated Barbie Wa Shburn, Assistant to the Mayor Clark Hall

As part of the project, the East Arkansas RC&D Council will begin revisions on an Area Plan. In the plan revisions, committees will be selected and public meeting held for each county in the district. The following concerns have been identified in Phillips County: Soil Conservation and Land Treatment; Infrastructure; Use, Quality, and Quantity in Irrigation Water; Flood Protection and Drainage of Agricultural and Urban Land; Recreation and Tourism; Rural Fire Protection; and Recycling & Waste Management.

The "City of Marvell Enhancement Project" will address waste management, infrastructure, flood protection, and drainage concerns.

Besides the City of Marvell and the East Arkansas RC&D Council, additional partners include the USDA Forest Service, Phillips County Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Getting Things Done" is the motto of the AmeriCorps Program. With assistance from this grant and the partners involved, the City of Marvell is doing just that.

###

LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

APRIL 20, 1990

Mayor Lura Tyler and City Councilmen:

The Crime and Drug Committee, on behalf of the city of Holly Grove, respectfully requests the following lighting changes. We feel that the switch from mercury vapor lights, or white lights, to the high pressure sodium lights will greatly reduce the crime in our community as well as prevent loitering in certain areas. Therefore, we are asking Mayor Tyler, upon the recommendation of the City Council, to write a formal letter of request including our information and findings to Clifton Avant, District Manager of Arkansas Power and Light, P.O. Box 100, Helena, AR 72342.

The City of Holly Grove currently has a total of 136 city lights with the majority of these lights being 100 watt white lights. We realize to change completely over to sodium lighting would increase the city's average bill of \$635.23 per month to approximately \$1050.00 per month. This would result in a yearly increase of \$4800.00., an expense that is not feasible at this time.

After evaluating the lighting situation in Holly Grove, the Crime and Drug Committee was able to determine what streets in town need to be more adequately lit. Our suggestions include changing nine lights from mercury vapor to sodium and installing seven additional sodium lights where there is currently no lighting at all. We approximate the additional cost per month to be around \$93.00.

Information attached includes street addresses for lighting changes, current rates for white and sodium lights, the city's current lighting status, and how we determined the costs. We sincerely appreciate the time and consideration given to this matter.

CRIME AND DRUG COMMITTEE
CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

The following are rates for white lights and sodium lights as quoted by Arkansas Power and Light.

WHITE LIGHTS

100 watt at \$4.04 per light per month
175 watt at \$5.88 per light per month
250 watt at \$7.55 per light per month

SODIUM LIGHTS

150 watt at \$7.61 per light per month
250 watt at \$9.78 per light per month

The following is the current lighting status for the city of Holly Grove.

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14	175 watts	\$5.88	white
11	250 watts	\$7.55	white
7	150 watts	\$7.61	sodium

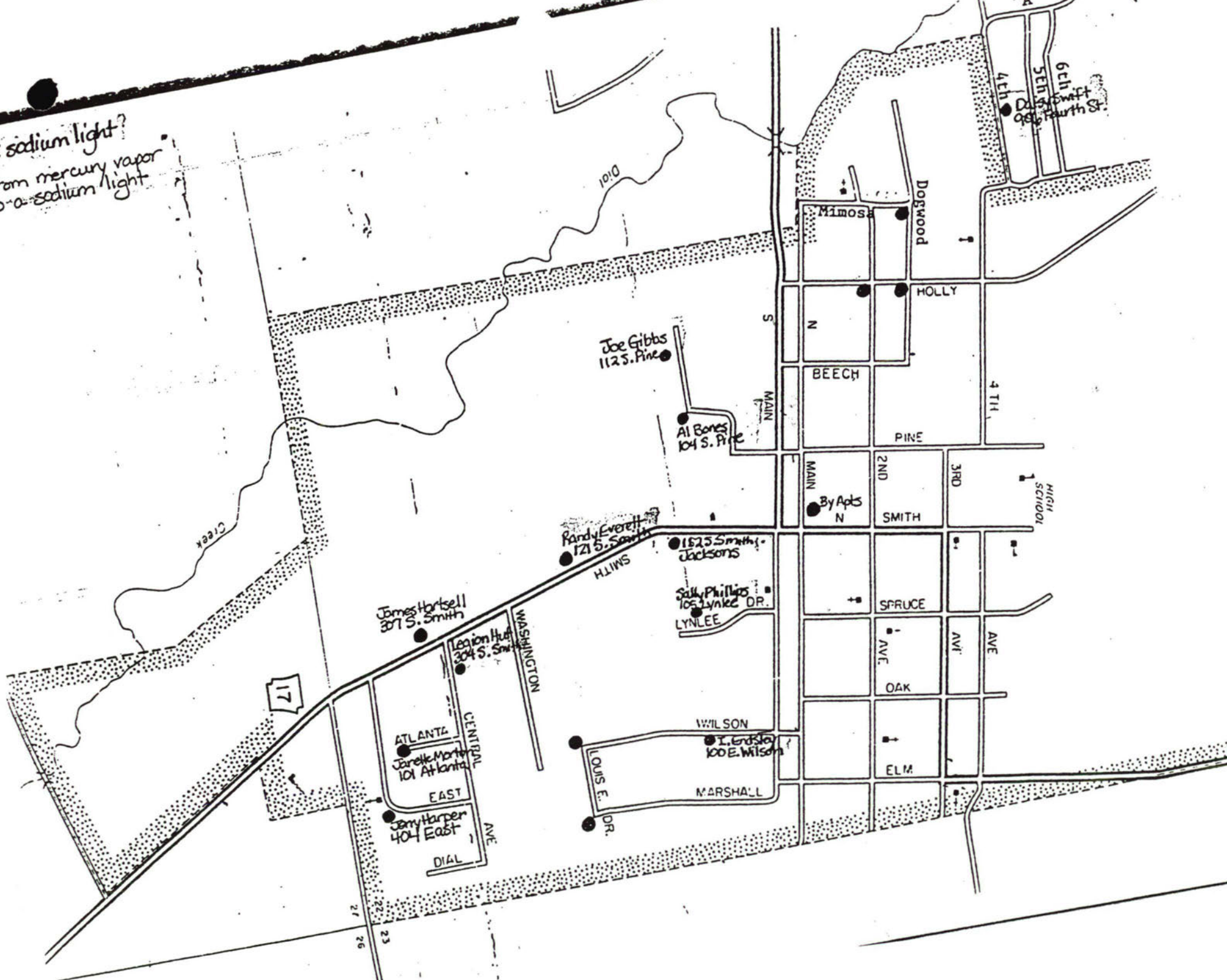
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These prices were subject to change upon their quote and do not include taxes.

LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

STREET ADDRESS & LOCATION	CHANGE MERCURY VAPOR TO SODIUM	ADD POLE & SODIUM
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*112 South Smith By the Jackson Home		x
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*Corner of Louise & Wilson By the John Skinner Home	x	
*100 East Wilson By the I.W. Endsley Home		x
*105 Lynlee By the Sally Phillips Home		x
*Corner of Second & Holly	x	
*Corner of Dogwood & Mimosa	x	
*Corner of Dogwood & Holly	x	
*305 North Pine In Alley by Apartments	move up light	
*112 South Pine By the Joe Gibbs Home		x
*104 South Pine By the Al Bones Home		x
*906 Fourth Street By the Daisy Swift Lot		x

pole & sodium light?
nge from mercury vapor
hit to a sodium light



LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

Bob Chastain
Frances Spurlock

Bill Brown

Brenda Clemon

Benee Spurlock

James Nolen

Willie Stokes

Helen Jackson

Lewis Sands

Maryne Strong

Sherry Martin

Janette Martin

Carl Hill

Jan Moore

Harvey Canby

Vicki Hartree

Brook Hauler

James Edwards

Attie Adams

Rosemary Cartwright

Billy Cartwright

Gatsy Edwards

Floyd Christians

Brenda Dunaway

Nathan Ray Magan Jr.

Susan Raie Morgan

Mildred Champion

~~Paula Davidson~~

~~Loyd Davidson~~

~~Larry Tolman~~

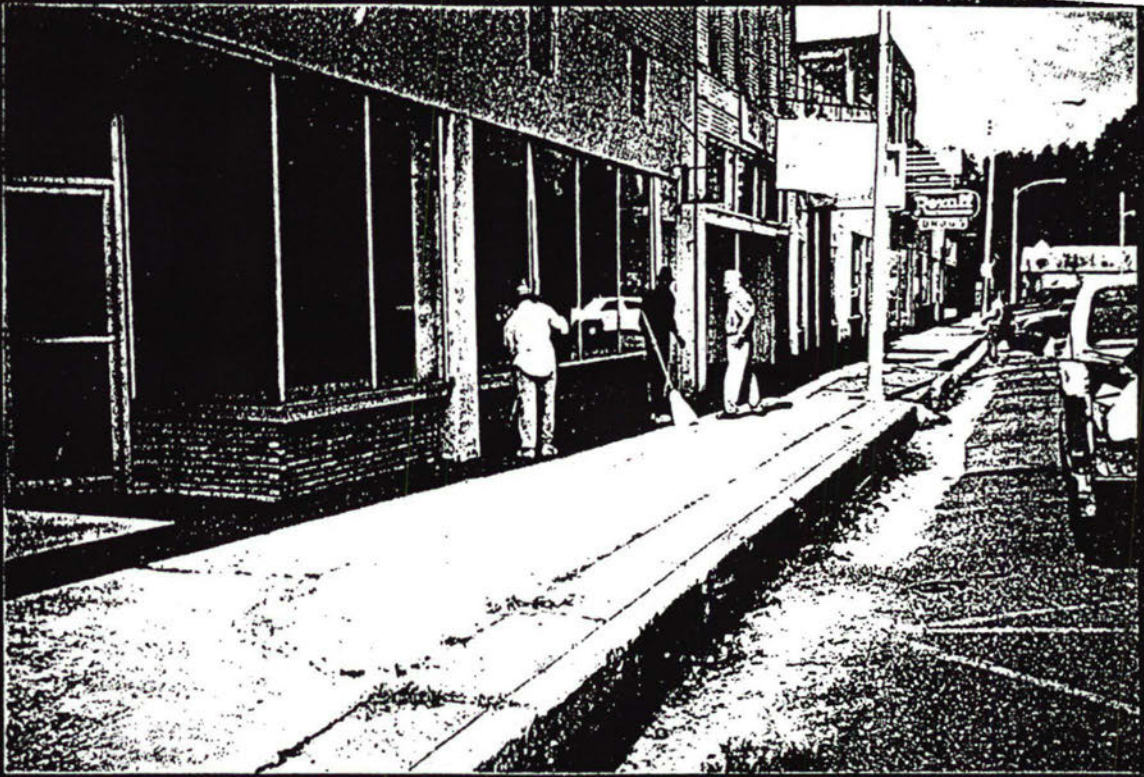
~~Bessie Davidson~~

~~Jay Scott~~

~~Lil Scott~~

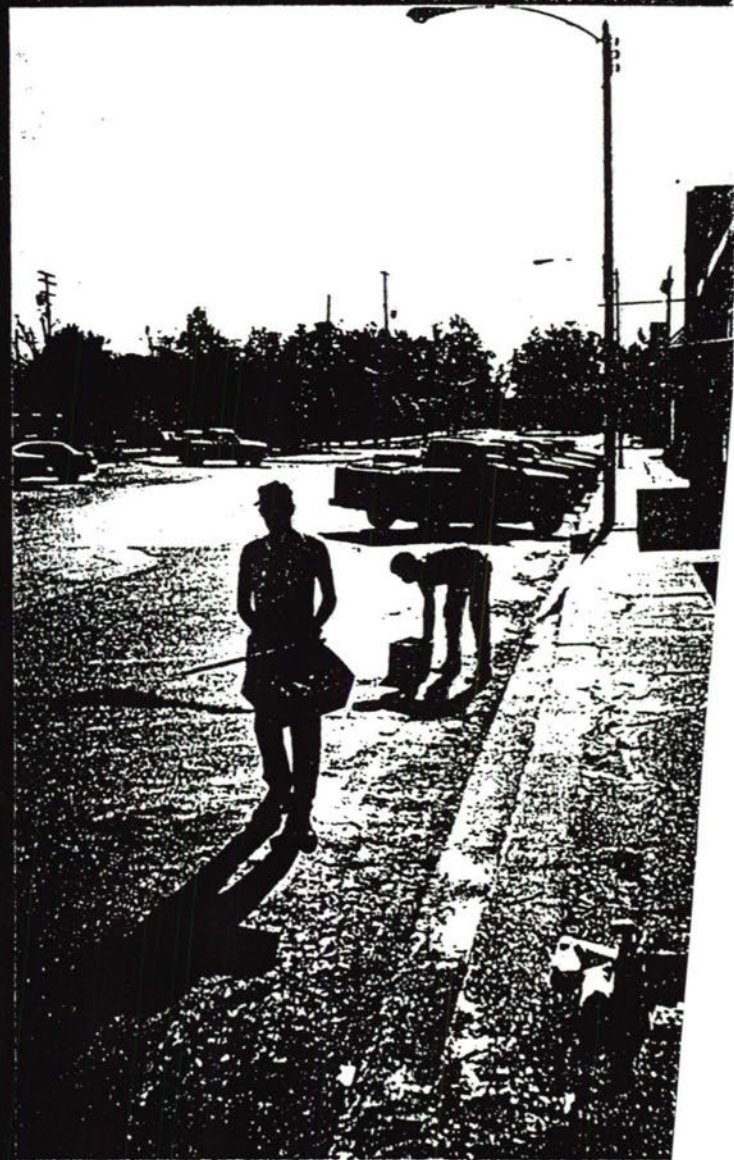
~~James E. Scott~~

~~Elodie Webb~~



"PAINT THE TOWN CLEAN"

City-wide clean-up
Marvell, Arkansas



Jana
002/002

FILE COPY

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: Jana Coleman Project location: Phillips County NRCS
Helena, Arkansas

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):
I graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio-Television and worked at a broadcasting corporation before coming on board with AmeriCorps. While I had been involved with a large number of clubs and organizations, my volunteer service had been limited.

What are your present education and career goals?
I am so pleased with the projects I have been working on that I would like to continue another year with the AmeriCorps program. At this time, I do not plan to further my education but to apply the educational award to my student loan.

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience? Yes No

If yes, please explain:
I am no longer interested in working in the communications industry, but in grant writing. I would like to apply for federal and state funding for rural communities at some occupational level.

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?
My AmeriCorps position has given me an opportunity to work for a reason other than a monetary one. By making a difference in other people's lives I can go home at the end of the day feeling richer within.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?
I have found out that very few people know about or are concerned about natural resources in their area. I would like to see an educational program geared to people of all ages on the natural resources and environment that surrounds them.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?
Volunteerism is very catchy! When people see individuals working to improve the community, more times than not, they will join in the effort or at least try to contribute somewhat.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?
Working with a diverse group of citizens on community projects is the only way to go. It allows a wide variety of ideas and input as well as broadens the support from the community.

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?
GO FOR IT! The AmeriCorps program enables individuals to get an education---in the classroom as well as in the real world.

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March 30, 1995

AmeriCorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

Eight AmeriCorps participants along with other officials met last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. The meeting was held in the Holly Grove City Hall.

Area AmeriCorps workers were joined by Berg, Allen Pigg of the U. S. Forestry Service in Georgia; Cedric Bradford, state conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service; Don Jernigan, publicist with USDA-NRCS; Monroe County Judge Tom Catlett; and Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler.

The Arkansas AmeriCorps participants have been working on rural development projects in eastern Arkansas. In Holly Grove, the work has focused on appraisals of homes located in the 100 year floodplain. At a fair market value, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is buying up the properties frequently flooded by the overflow waters of Dial Creek. Once the buy-out is completed, residents may relocate to a new, yet to be built, housing complex at the intersection of Highways 17 and 86. Some relocated residents will be allowed to build houses on two or three nearby areas. Property clearance from the floodplain will begin when other factors are in place. Individual home appraisals will move the relocation project along.

Lisa Cobb of the Eastern Arkansas RC and D Council has been instrumental in helping with appraisals. Audria Coleman, Renee Spurlock, and Jana Coleman have been involved surveying residents in the floodplain and offering practical assistance about relocation.

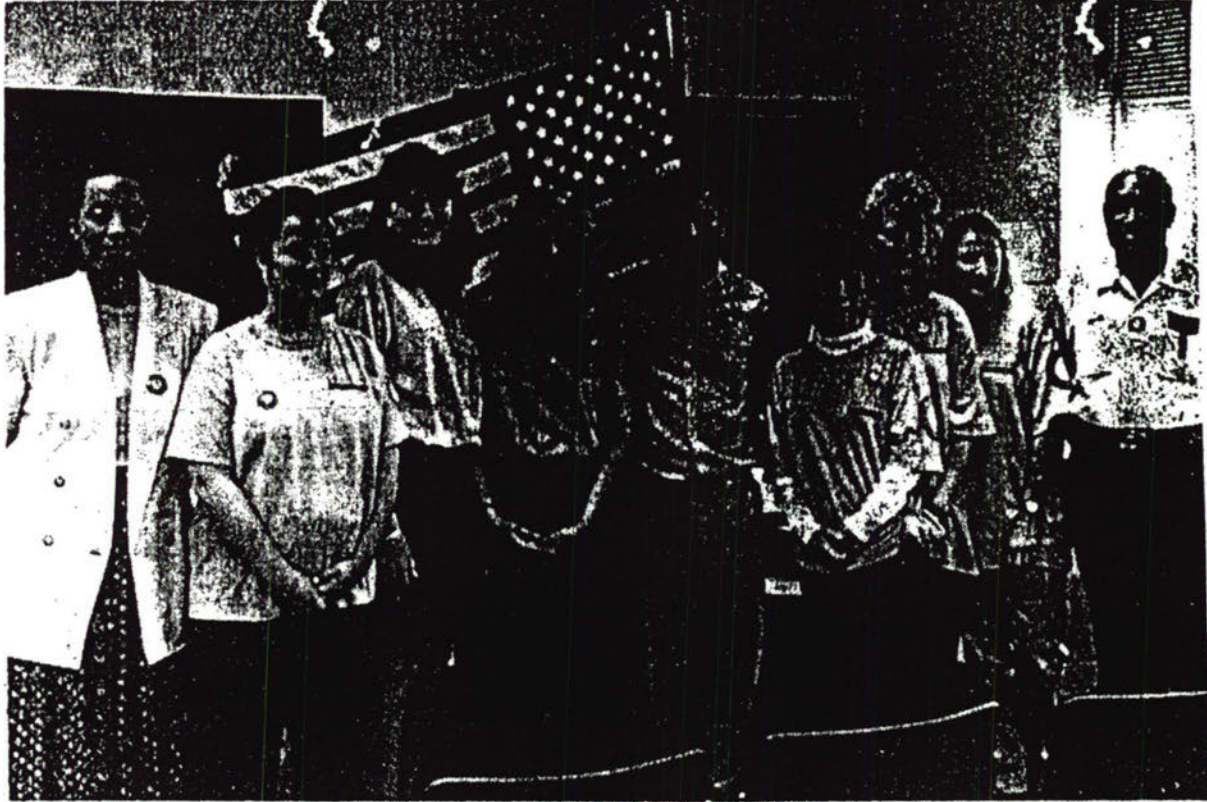
In addition to the work of the buyout, AmeriCorps is involved in many other projects. In Holly Grove, AmeriCorps workers have assisted local planning committees, worked with the city to

bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

In other areas, the work of AmeriCorps varies greatly. Debra Carmen of the Central Arkansas RC and D Council has been working with a pellet stove project which involves cooking with pellets made from compacted sawdust. She has also worked with finding markets for poultry litter, and installing dry hydrants in rural areas. Loyda Stith of Batesville has been working on recycling projects and educating land owners about the value of wetlands. Harrison Locke of Fargo has been working with marketing of alternative crops and supervising ASU students learning about vegetable crops. Vivian Jones of North Little Rock has been working with an adolescent development program targeted towards the African-American male.

Director Joel Berg commented that the various works of AmeriCorps model the "national service" priority of President Bill Clinton. Berg stated that AmeriCorps is the way to change America through "local residents and empowering local communities to change themselves." Approximately 20,000 AmeriCorps workers are at work across the nation. The program provides for cost of living expenses and provides payment for higher education. Berg calls the program the "G. I. bill without the G. I." Berg commended the work of the AmeriCorps members present.

Following the meeting, the AmeriCorps members hosted a reception for all in attendance.



AMERICORPS MEETING IN HOLLY GROVE: Eight AmeriCorps participants and other officials met in Holly Grove last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. Each of the participants told of specific areas of work in which they were involved. In some way, they have all been involved in the work at Holly Grove. AmeriCorps participants include from left: Vivian Jones of North Little Rock; Loyda Stith of Batesville; Audna Coleman of Holly Grove; Debra Carme of Little Rock; Joel Berg, AmeriCorps director of Washington, D.C.; Renee Spurlock of Holly Grove; Jana Coleman of Holly Grove; Lisa Cobb of Jonesboro; and Harrison Locke of Fargo.

AmeriCorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

The Brinkley Argus
Brinkley, Arkansas

Sunday, April 2, 1995

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In Marvell

Volunteerism alive and well

Volunteerism—and the good such a concept can accomplish—is alive and well in Marvell and residents are inviting visitors to see what they have done.

If you happened to visit the small South Phillips County town

a couple of months ago, you would have found it in an unkempt condition—vacant lots high with weeds, trash on streets and in ditches, and a municipality suffering from “woe-begotten attitude.”

Not any more. A large step to-

ward recovering the city’s vitality, its vim and vigor, was made this week when dozens of volunteers, armed with lawn mowers, hedge cutters, rakes, hoes and buckets of soap and water fanned out in the various neighborhoods, determined to get their municipality back in shape.

It was “Clean-up, Paint Up, Fix-up Week” in Marvell—and volunteers clearly emphasized the “Clean-up” portion of the motto.

“It was a real community effort and I’m proud of each and every person that participated in the activities,” said Barbie Washburn, administrative assistant to Mayor Clark Hall, who spearheaded the effort. “There are still a lot of things to do—but the volunteers have made a great start.”

The most visible sign of clean-up work was on the city’s Main Street, where volunteers mounted ladders to wash all of the store windows.

One store owner, seeing his and his neighbor’s windows being washed, brought out paint bucket and brush and put “paint-up” back in the motto—by painting the door of his business.

Even children did their part. Students in Mrs. Bevy Campbell’s grade school class swarmed over ditches near the school, clearing them of debris, limbs and other trash.

Other volunteers spruced up the yard of the Marvell Library, trimmed hedges, and unclogged drainage outlets.

A number of vacant lots were mowed, loads of fallen limbs and trash were hauled away and volunteers even washed and scrapped Main Street.

And, perhaps in an effort to remind them of what had been accomplished during the week, volunteers took special care in planting flowers at BGACDC Manor, at City Hall, and at the Police Station.



Window cleaners

These ladies were among the dozen or so volunteers who took it on themselves this week to “Clean-up, Fix-up, Paint-up” Marvell. Here, they’re cleaning windows of downtown businesses, but they also planted flowers, picked up trash, and cleaned out ditches.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 1995

CONTACT: BARBIE WA SHBURN
(501) 829-2573

CITY OF MARVELL, ARKANSAS RECEIVES AMERICORPS GRANT

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FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

APRIL 20, 1990

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CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

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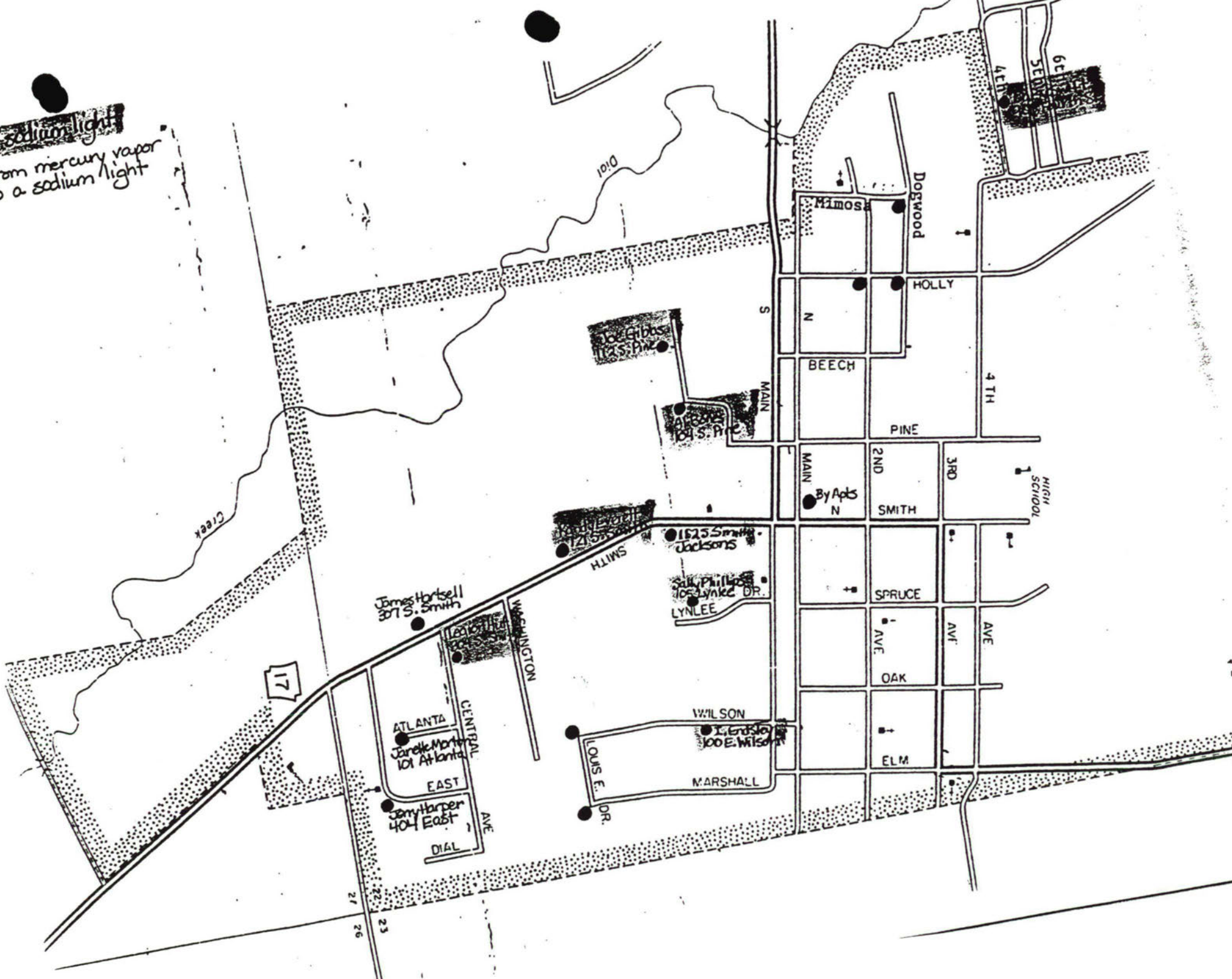
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*104 South Pine By the Al Bones Home		x
*906 Fourth Street By the Daisy Swift Lot		x

change from mercury vapor
to a sodium light



James Hartsell
307 S. Smith

ATLANTA
Janelle Martin
101 Atlanta

Jamie Harper
404 East

Joe Gibbons
103 S. Pine

104 S. Pine

1525 Smith
Jacksn

Sally Phillips
105 Lynlee Dr.

Wilson
L. Endsley
100 E. Wilson

By Apts
N

6411
SE 11th

Dogwood

Mimosa

HOLLY

BEECH

PINE

4TH

MAIN

2ND

SMITH

SPRUCE

OAK

ELM

3RD

AVE

AVE

AVE

HIGH SCHOOL

17

27
26
23

LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

Bob Chastain
Frances Spurlock

Bill Brown

Brenda Clemon

Benee Spurlock

James Nolen

Willie Stokes

Helen Jackson

Lewis Bonds

Maxine Strong

Sherry Martin

Janette Martin

Carl Hill

Jan Now

Harvey Cauley

Vicki Hartree

Bryson Haulcy

James Edwards

Atty Adams

Rosemary Cartwright

Billy Cartwright

Gatsy Edwards

Floyd Christian

Brenda Dunaway

Nathan Ray Morgan Jr.

Susan Raie Morgan

Mildred Chapman

~~Paula Davidson~~

~~Roy Davidson~~

~~Larry Tolman~~

~~Bessie Davidson~~

~~Jay Scott~~

~~Lil Scott~~

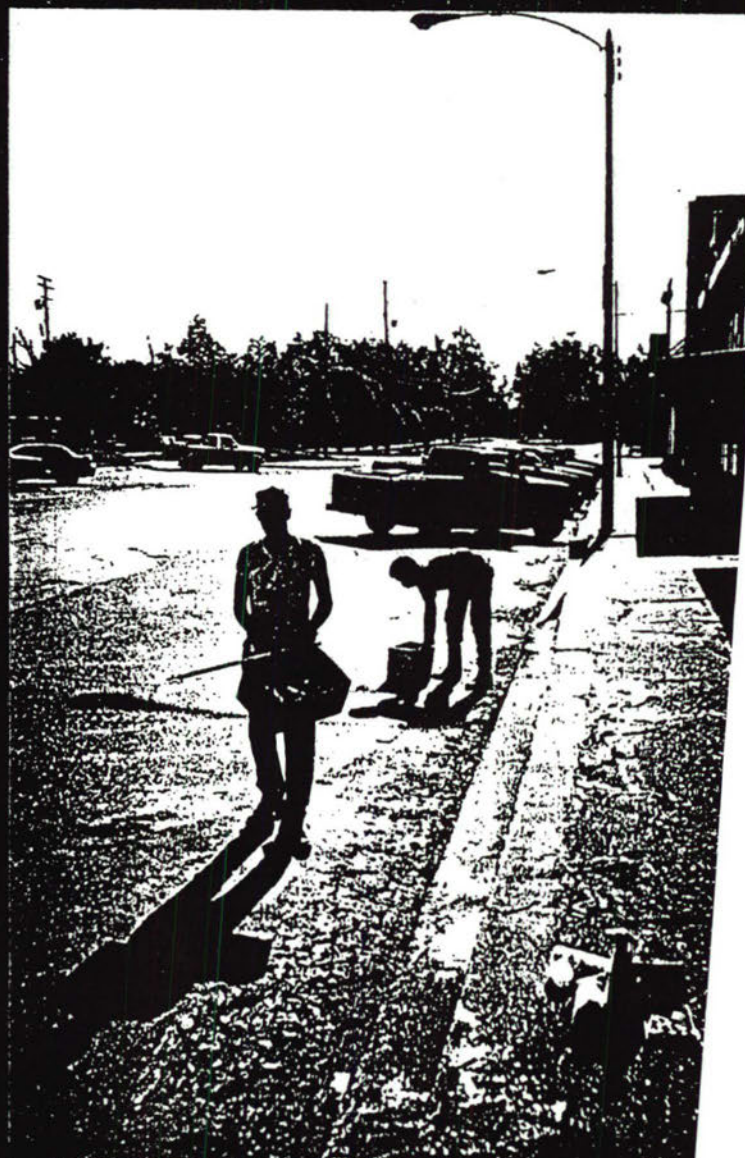
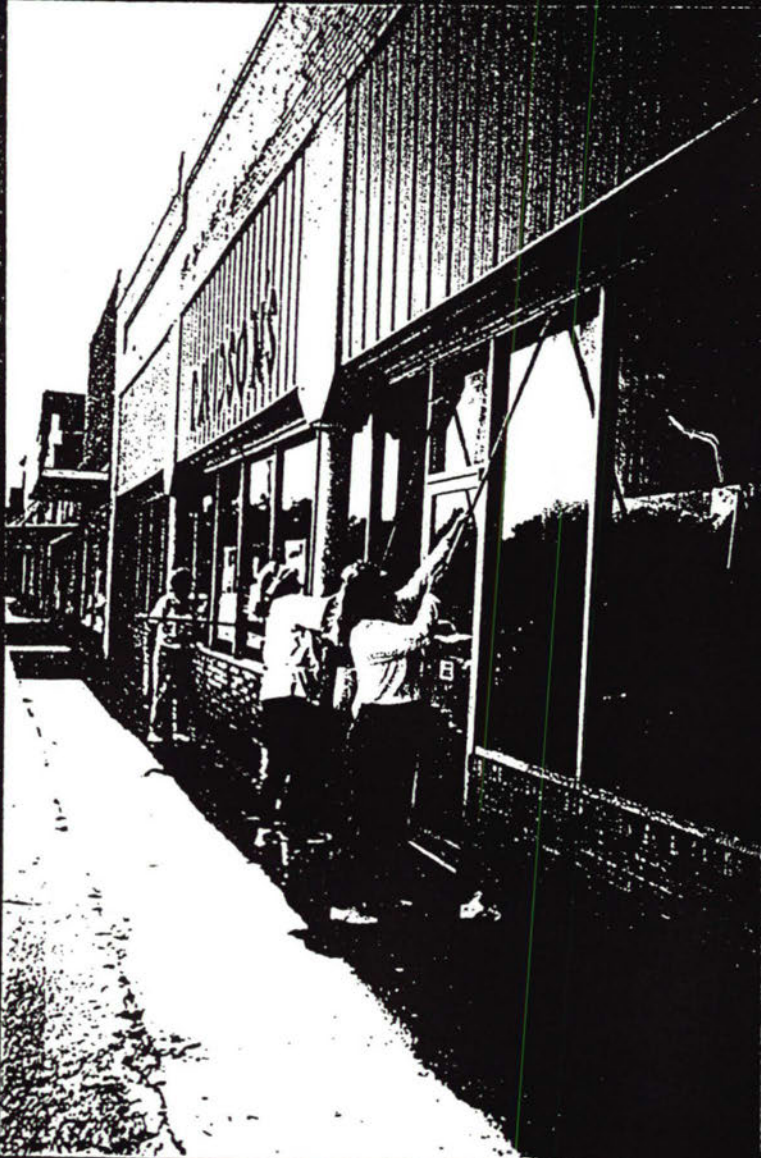
~~James E. Scott~~

~~Eloris Webb~~



"PAINT THE TOWN CLEAN"

City-wide clean-up
Marvell, Arkansas



FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

PERTINA WHITE**TIME PERIOD:****DUE DATE:**

1. There were 14 members enrolled at the time of launch.
2. There were 19 members enrolled at end of the quarter.
3. There were 1700 hours of service performed.
4. There were 120 hours of training.

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY OBJECTIVE:

Several minority farmers have incorporated vegetables into their farm operation. The per acre income from the vegetables should be much higher than the per acre income from the traditional crop (soybeans). Therefore net income should increase. In addition five minority youths have loans to grow vegetables for their project. These youth are potential future farmers who should know that vegetable crops are profitable on small farms.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I assisted minority and limited resource farmers with their crop production practices. Since practically all of the minority and limited resource farmers grow traditional crops, many questions were asked about soybeans, cotton, rice. Therefore, I provided some information on crops but my emphasis was on vegetable crop.

To help farmers increase their yields I took soil samples on several farms and discussed the soil test recommendations with them. I obtained Extension Service recommendations on vegetable crops and traditional crops. This information was reviewed and given to farmers during my visits to their farms. During the farm visits I demonstrated the correct way to cut sweet potato slips, I checked the spacing on sweet potatoes, I examined a rice field for weed control and made recommendations, and I checked a bollweevil trap to determine if the farmer needed to make an insecticide application. Many other observation and recommendations were made during the farm visit.

I also assisted 3 Jefferson County youths with youth project loan applications. I developed their farm plans (projected income and expenses) and assisted them in getting additional forms that accompany the applications. After the loans were approved I visited the youths in the field and made vegetable production recommendations. I also arranged a group meeting with the youths to review their records and to advised them on record keeping procedures.

7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER:

If the Americorp project is funded then the next quarter I will be providing intense assistance with vegetables and other crop production practices. During this quarter farmers will be actively involved with field work. Therefore, the assistance and training will be provided in the areas of pest control which includes identifying insects and disease that may cause problems and controlling weeds. Pesticides recommendations will be made as well as agricultural practices. Limited resource farmers and youth project loan participants will be provided with information and training on crop production and record keeping.

8. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS:

The training in which I have received has been very informative and I can not think of any other training that will be needed at this time.

9. PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

The biggest disappointment I have encountered is when the National Office request information and give you a short turn around period to respond.

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: Pertina White

Project location: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

Before graduating from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Economics. I worked as a summer intern with Rural Economic Community Development and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

What are your present education and career goals?

My present education goal is to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to work on my Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience? Yes _____ No x

If yes, please explain:

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?

The experience has been very challenging for me and I have learned many different things. I have realized how important the AmeriCorp Program is and that I feel very honored to be serving my community.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

I have learned that natural resources are very essential to everyone or at least should be.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

I have learned that community service is very essential in a community. It will be very hard for a community to survive without having people to care about what is happening in that community.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

Working with people of different backgrounds has helped me understand people better. I realize that no matter what people basically are the same.

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?

I would tell them that AmeriCorp is a good program for someone who enjoys working in the community with different people of different backgrounds.

Loyda I. Stith- NRCS, Batesville, Arkansas
FOURTH QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

Time Period:

Project- Woodland Owners Association

1. Number of members-1
2. Number of members at the end of quarter-1
3. Total of hours of direct service- 1700 hours
4. Total of hours in training- 210 hours
5. Progress Towards Meeting Community Service:

At this time the Ozarks Woodland Owners Association is a fact. The association now exist and it have a constitution, by laws, elected officers and 150 members.

6. Primary accomplishments:

By now the main objective of my project is done, The woodland owners association is been created and working by itself. I belive "I got things done".

7. Project outcomes for the next Quarter:

During the next quarter we'll be working to get some funds to hire a professional forester that willbe working with the association. Also another news letter will be out to inform the members about the progress of the association.

8. Primary Challenges:

During this quarter I had a baby and took live without pay. I wasnt able to participate of certain activities related to my project. Other than that everything is beeng going fine.

9. Other creative documentation:

- a. News article: "Forestry landowners form association"
- b. Newsletter: "Woodland Owners association formed"
- c. Letters of support from satisfied individuals
 1. Joseph Wooldridge
 2. Thomas Roberson

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRCS AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: Loyda I. Stith Project location: NRCS, Batesville, Arkansas

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

Hispanic, BA in Agricultural Science: Animal Industry, My work experiences are the one that I'm getting now with the AmeriCorps program.

What are your present education and career goals?

I plan to get my masters degree (Reproduction of farm animals)

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience? Yes * No

If yes, please explain:

I been encourage to progress, and to go against all odds.

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally?

I have change a lot , I used to be shy and afraid to talk english because I'm hispanic, but now I have alot of friends and can talk to everybody.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

The natural resources are very important and we have to learn how to manage them for the future of the planet .

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

There is a lot of people who have the resources, but they dont know how to manage them. With the right information and a little bit of help they can progress .

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds?

Is very interesting and educational especially for me beeing hispanic, people have different culture, and a different language. I love it!

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?

I will say "Go for it" and enjoy the job to the max. Dont limit yourself to one project, lern all you can because is a good experince and it count for the future.

B A T E S V I L L E • G U A R D I A N

Agriculture

Forestry landowners form association

A group of forestry landowners met May 2 to form a woodland owners association.

This association, which will be identified as the "Ozark Woodland Owners Association," elected the following officers: Robert Craig, president; Larry Bennett, vice president; and Edgar Schoenike, secretary-treasurer.

To date, organizational efforts that have led to the development of this association were being conducted by a program development group comprised of numerous woodland landowners around the area and a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from the Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service.)

The Ozark Foothills RC&D Council received a small grant from monies administered by Winrock International for the purpose of encouraging the development of a woodland owners association for this area. This money is being used for postage, supplies and printing costs for such things as the associa-

JIM REID

Conservation Corner

tion newsletter.

A constitution for this association was adopted at the May 2 meeting. The constitution identifies the objectives of the organization as follows:

- To promote and improve the welfare and professional status of its members.
- To encourage professional improvement through all available educational opportunities.
- To increase interest in forestry as a career.
- To provide for exchange of ideas, methods and techniques for woodland improvement.
- To promote cooperation among all forestry personnel.
- To improve lines of communication among forest landowners, forest industries, the general public, and various local, state and federal agencies with forestry-related programs.
- To improve marketing skills of forest landowners.

The formation of this association follows a field day conducted in late March at the Bryant brothers' cabin on Salado Creek. This field day was attended by approximately 75 people.

The speaker addressed the issue of how woodland owners could benefit by developing an association and working together to promote better woodland management and marketing.

Approximately 150 woodland owners have expressed a desire to become association members.

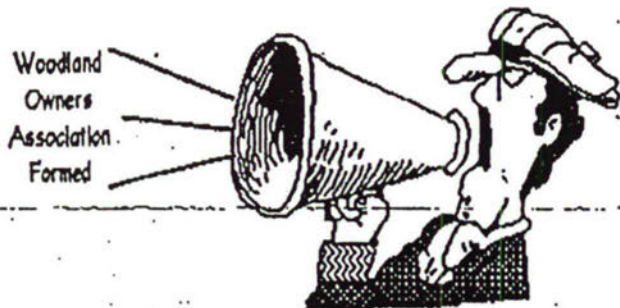
The second field trip of the year being planned for late June. For more information, contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 698-1017.

Days

Ozark Woodland Owners Association



June 1995



A woodland owners association now exists in the North Central Arkansas Ozarks.

On May 2, a group of woodland owners met in Batesville and adopted a constitution that forms the "Ozark Woodland Owners Association." Officers were elected to serve the first term of this new association. Robert Craig will serve as president; Larry Bennett as Vice-President; and Edgar Schoenike as Secretary-Treasurer.

Approximately 150 woodland owners have expressed a desire to become a member of this association and will receive a member's certificate as soon as they can be prepared. If you have indicated to us that you wish to be a member but have not received a certificate by mid-July, please let us know. All others who would like to join this association can do so by calling the NRCS office at 501-698-1017.

Ideas

Now the **WORK** begins! How do you develop a successful woodland

newsletter content, speakers, field days, workshops, tours and other training opportunities.

Please take time to write and give us your ideas and opinions. We have an opportunity that may not repeat itself, so we must do it right the first time.

Sawmill Tour



Your association has scheduled a tour for June 28, 1995, of the Jerry Moore sawmill in Kensett, AR. This will provide an excellent opportunity to understand how important it is to manage your woodland resources for quality.

This tour will leave the Post Office Bldg. in Batesville at 12:30 p.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Reservations can be made by calling the NRCS office at 698-1017.

Working With Nature in a Woodlot

Many bird species nest in tree cavities. You can help them by drilling an occasional two-inch diameter hole in some of the woodlot trees, drilled under a large limb at a slight upward angle to keep water out. Also, leave a few dead trees standing. Such steps are favorite nesting places for many species.



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Young Wooldridge

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Joseph Wooldridge, PC
PARTNER

A. Cameron Paulden
1927-1984

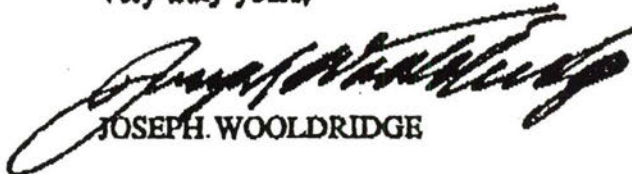
April 20, 1995

Independence/Izard Woodland Development
Ozark Foothills RC&D Project Council, Inc.
Room 108, Federal Building
490 College Street
Batesville, AR 72501

Gentlemen:

Thank you very kindly for the news letter under date of April 1995, regarding Woodland Owners Association. I appreciate your courtesy in forwarding this newsletter, and I have read with interest that we are setting up the Constitution and By-Laws in connection with the association. I am interested in becoming a member of this association in order that I may keep up with what is going on with timber land in that area.

Very truly yours,



JOSEPH WOOLDRIDGE

JW/ds

ROBERSON REALTY & INSURANCE

P.O. Box 329

Hwy. 167 North

Pleasant Plains, AR 72568

Tommy Roberson
Broker/Agent

(501) 345-2929

June 1, 1995

Ozark Woodland Owners Association
Federal Building
Room 114
490 College Street
Batesville, AR 72501

I am still excited about the formation of the Woodland Owners Association. At this time, I really do not know enough about timber to make many suggestions about training or information to be presented.

I am interested in learning about proper management of timber, to help a tract develop to its fullest potential.

I would like to know more about dealing with timber buyers.

I would like to learn how to estimate board footage of a tract and the different grades of timber from that tract.

I do plan to attend the workshop at Moore's on June 28. I will take my own vehicle and plan to arrive there at about 1:30.

I hope the support and enthusiasm will continue to grow for the association.

Sincerely,



Thomas Roberson

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCH.
14
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (MAR 31).
19
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED.
1700
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING.
144
5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES.
 - A. Gathered secondary data from the following sources:
 1. Census of Agriculture
 2. Louisiana CES Budgets
 3. Tennessee CES Budgets
 4. Mississippi CES Budgets
 - B. Identified producers, processors, distributors, brokers and other relevant agents:
 1. Identified approximately 150 producers
 2. Identified approximately 300 processors
 3. Identified approximately 46 distributors
 4. Identified approximately 46 brokers
 - C. Sent out questionnaires to the producers, processors, distributors, and brokers identified above:
 1. Producers 150
 2. Processors 300
 3. Distributors 46
 4. Brokers 46
 - D. Direct Community Service Connected to above:
 1. Presently serve on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Vegetable Growers & Marketing Cooperative Association.
 2. Currently serve as a member of Southeast Arkansas Vegetable Growers Cooperative.

JUN.30 '95 11:20 GREERS FERRY RES OFC

P.03

3. Continue to be an active member of Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation in October 1994.
4. Have been in direct contact with about 40 farmers in Southeast Arkansas. During these visits, we discussed various aspects of their operations and farm management practices. I take advantage of the opportunities to share my knowledge with them and also learn from them.
5. Have helped SEARK Vegetable Growers Cooperative obtain a pea sheller from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in order for the members to use it to shell peas.
6. Worked with Mr. Mendenhall in identifying farmers to be interviewed.
7. Continue to recruit students in agriculture for UAPB.
8. My work with farmers will have some short-term and long-term benefits.
9. Spoke to a few people about how to become an Americorps volunteer.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER:

- a. I played a key role in help SEARK Vegetable Growers Cooperative obtain a pea sheller. Having obtained a pea sheller, a positive atmosphere has emerged for farmers who can now expand their production of peas which will help improve their incomes.
- b. Information and data obtained from farmers, processors, distributors, brokers and other agents are helping improve farmers perception of a brighter future. Their attitude toward adopting alternative crops is becoming more positive.

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P.04

7. PROJECTED OUTCOME FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

My projected outcomes for the third quarter will relate to objective goals 1 and 2 of the initial project proposal which involve obtaining information and data on the production of crops that have potential for processing and obtaining information and data on the demand for the potential processed products from crops with potential for profitability. The projected outcome will be accomplished by preparing, streamlining, coding, and entering the collected data into the computer for processing, analysis and interpretation.

I will be sharing any information and data with farmers that will help them improve their operations.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

A major challenge has been getting distributors, brokers and processors to complete the questionnaires we sent out in order to obtain primary data and information. We have had to do follow-up by telephone and a second mailing in some cases. It usually consumes more time that one expects.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

I would like additional training on writing grants and proposals. It would be helpful to me and the farmers and cooperatives.

10. MEDIA COVERAGE

We have planned to publicize our efforts through the local newspaper the "Pine Bluff Commercial" on the project. We expect to do an interview with a report within a week or so.

11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION

Find below excerpts from my journal during the quarter:

1. Visiting other cities like Memphis TN, Baton Rouge LA, New Orleans LA, and Jackson MS gave me an opportunity to work with different people to help farmers improve their well-being.
2. Visiting and learning about what the extension agents do to help farmers learn how to keep records of what they are doing so that they can increase their potential of growing more crops.

JUN 30 '95 11:21 GREENS FERRY RES OFC
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COMM-ASSISTANCE --- ARKANSAS

P.05

002/002

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

Those of you serving in NRC's AmeriCorps this first year are pioneers in this experience. We would like to learn from you about some of the impacts of this program on the members. Would you take a few minutes to answer the questions below? This is a voluntary opportunity to share your personal story of the AmeriCorps service experience. This information will be helpful in the development of future projects and in explaining the value of AmeriCorps to policymakers. (Names will not be used without permission).

Name: Marvin Johnson Project location: University Arkansas Pine Bluff

Briefly describe your background (education, work and service experiences, etc.):

I Have a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Economics, I'm in the Army Reserve and I also work at Wal Mart full-time.

What are your present education and career goals? To get a Masters' degree and work in the state so that not only I want to help farmers in the state but to also help my wife in her job, which is to help children that are having problems at home.

Have they changed at all as a result of your AmeriCorps experience? Yes No x
 If yes, please explain:

How would you describe the impact of this AmeriCorps experience on you personally? My Americorps experience has helped me mature further, equipped me with very good professional working skills, improved my knowledge of looking at a problem from different points of view and enable me to travel and meet many productive people.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program? I have learned that natural resources are scarce, important, and should be managed properly, should be protected so that future generations can also benefit from their availability. Concern for the environment is at an all time high and we have a responsibility to handle these resources with respect and care.

What have you learned about community service through this experience? That it takes hard work and dedication to get things done. Communities should pull together and work out the problems to help clean up neighborhoods, fight crime, and keep their kids in school. Community service is a very important and rewarding activity. It contributes to a better society. It indicates to others that one cares.

What have you learned about working with people of different backgrounds? It has been a good experience working with the different people with different backgrounds and gaining the experience of learning from them as well as them learning from me.

What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRC's AmeriCorps? I would tell him/her that it would be a great and rewarding experience. They would learn a lot and then continue on with their education or possible job contact would be at hand after completion of the project.

JUN 30 '95 11:21

PAGE.005

JANA COLEMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
USDA AMERICORPS
HELENA, ARKANSAS

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT
TRI-COUNTY OUTREACH PROJECT

#3 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE. I worked 320 hours between July 3, 1995 and August 31, 1995 and have completed my 1700 hours of direct service for AmeriCorps.

#4 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. During the fourth quarter, I spent 48 hours in training. This brings my overall training time to 264 hours.

#5 PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES. The two projects from the last quarter that I am most proud of have been the City of Marvell's application for the 1995 Arkansas Community Development Awards Program and their application for the 1995 Arkansas Volunteer Community of the Year Award. The project that has been the most fun is the dinner theater that residents in Marvell and I have been working on to provide the remaining matching funds for the USDA Forest Service Grant the town has been awarded.

#6 PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Marvell entered their 1994 Christmas Parade in the 1995 Arkansas Community Development Awards Program because they felt that it was a project that truly recognized and promoted community initiative, cooperation, and commitment along with individual contribution and leadership within their town. When our application made it to the final round of competition, we had to show our project, the Christmas Parade, to several out of town judges within a one hour visit to our town.

Because the parade was already over, we choose to let them see the parade as a slide show from pictures taken at the parade and with the assistance of the NRCS Public Affairs Office, we had a display board as well. Marvell City Hall was decorated for the holidays and local residents who were on hand to show their support wore Christmas attire. The Christmas Parade Chairman gave a parade summary at the presentation and four volunteers spoke on key criteria for which the project was being judged.

We have already been notified that we have placed in the contest and have won prize money. We will not know the final details until the awards luncheon on Sept. 19.

As an AmeriCorps Volunteer, I nominated the City of Marvell for the 1995 Volunteer Community of the Year Award. In the application and written report, I highlighted three projects that required a vast number of volunteers within the past year. These projects include the 1994 Christmas Parade, a Pancake Supper and a City Wide Clean Up.

The 1994 Christmas Parade was a community event that provided an opportunity for diverse groups in Marvell to work together to help restore civic pride as well as addressed an economical need by exposing newcomers to the downtown business area which has increased trade.

The Pancake Supper was a fund raiser put on by Marvell residents to provide matching funds for a USDA Forest Service Rural Development Grant. When the town was awarded \$12,000, they lacked the 50/50 matching funds. The city was able to provide \$8,000 with in-kind services and \$700 from the city budget, but the Pancake Supper contributed enough money to allow the town to receive the fully funded grant.

During Marvell's first ever, "Clean-Up, Paint Up, Fix-Up Week" volunteers put in endless hours of hard work into the tidying and sprucing up of the town. By washing windows, cleaning out ditches, picking up trash, painting store fronts, mowing vacant lots, and planting flowers, the group worked to bring the municipality up to par.

The application for this award has already been submitted even though the deadline is not until next month.

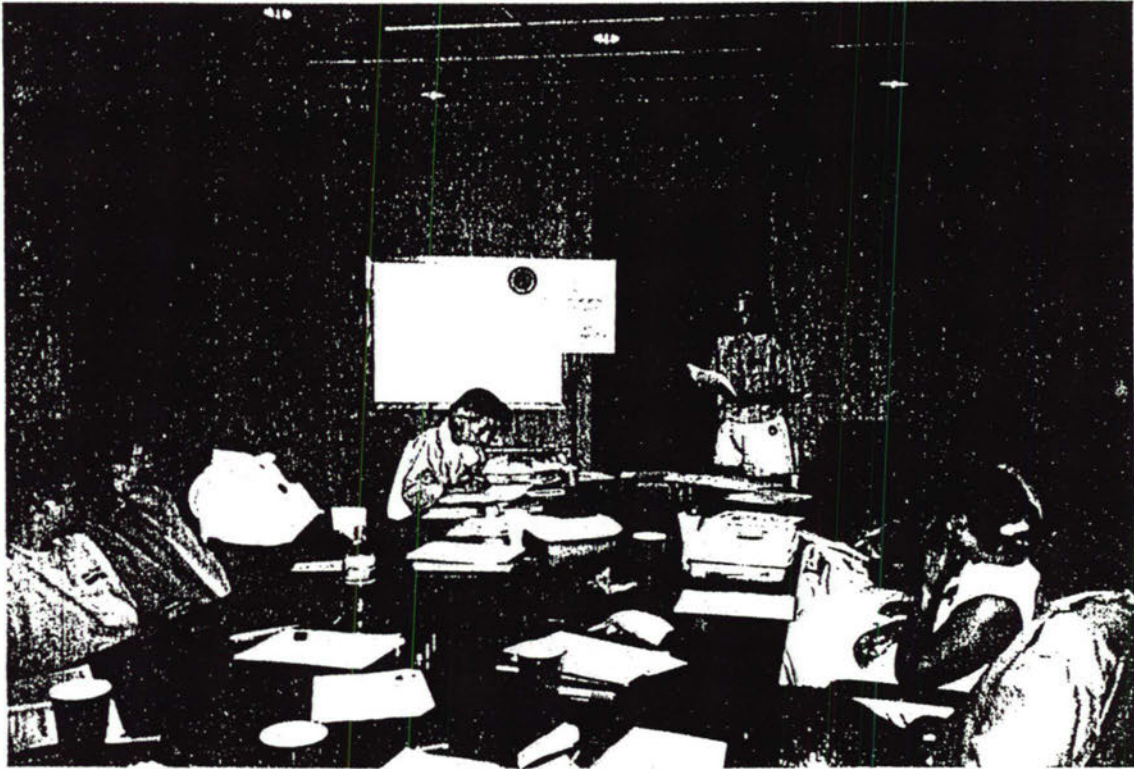
The final project I am assisting with in the City of Marvell is the second, and last, fund raiser to help with the city's part for the USDA Forest Service Grant. Tickets are going to be sold for a dinner theater. Local stores are going to provide the food, people have volunteered to help with dinner preparations, and individuals of all ages have committed to participate in the drama production. This project is at the early stages, but is planned for the end of October or first of November.

#9 PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. I believe all USDA AmeriCorps participants in the State of Arkansas have been offered numerous training opportunities. The state offices have always been eager to provide technical assistance. The best example I can give, is the display board used by the City of Marvell during the competition. An individual with the Public Affairs office designed the display and provided computer print outs that were used.

#10 MEDIA COVERAGE. I have enclosed five newspaper articles pertaining to my position with AmeriCorps. Each of these stories were printed in small town newspapers that effected the immediate area. However, it should be noted that two of the articles appeared in the Central Delta Messenger, a paper that goes out free of charge to post office box holders and rural route addresses in fifteen different towns.

#11 OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION. Also, enclosed are pictures taken at the City of Marvell's presentation for the 1995 Arkansas Community Development Program as well as pictures taken at the AmeriCorps Rural Development Corps End of Service Meeting. A letter from the Mayor of Marvell demonstrates the town's appreciation for assistance from the AmeriCorps program with the USDA Forest Service Grant.

AmeriCorps Rural Development Corps
End of Service Meeting



AmeriCorps participants from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service discuss the Mission Statement the group adopted January 4, 1995 and determine mission accomplished.



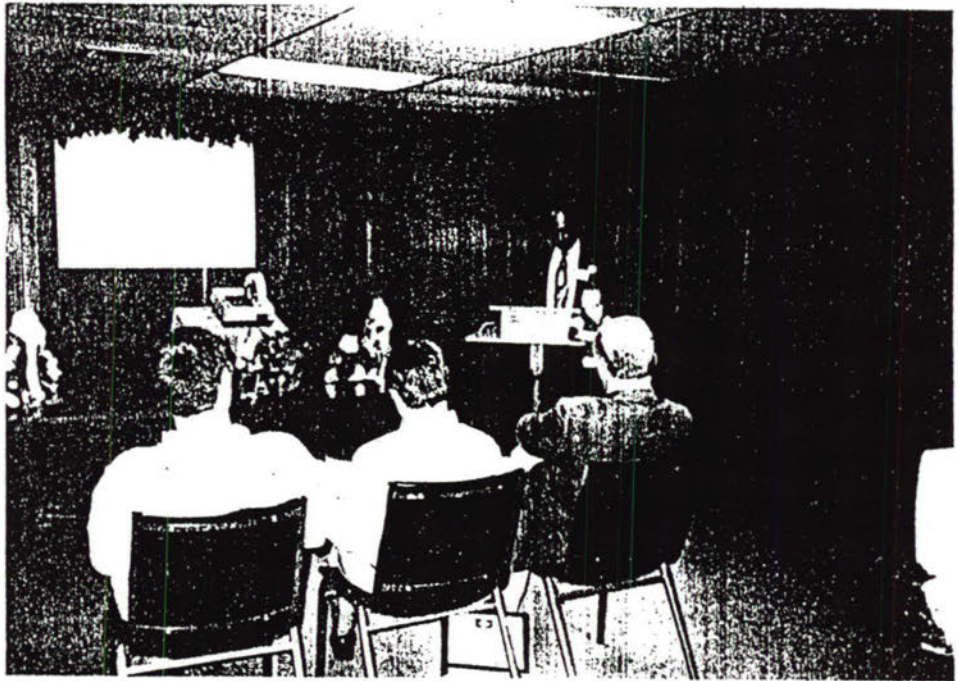
AmeriCorps members complete the exit forms for Nationals.

DEVELOPMENT AWARDS PROGRAM
CITY OF MARVELL



Marvell Mayor Clark Hall talks with the out of state judge who scored the community on their diverse group participation.

Superintendent of Marvell Public School explains how the Christmas parade involves the entire staff and enrollment of the school system.



Committee members for the Christmas Parade listen as Shelton Guest tells how the parade is organized.

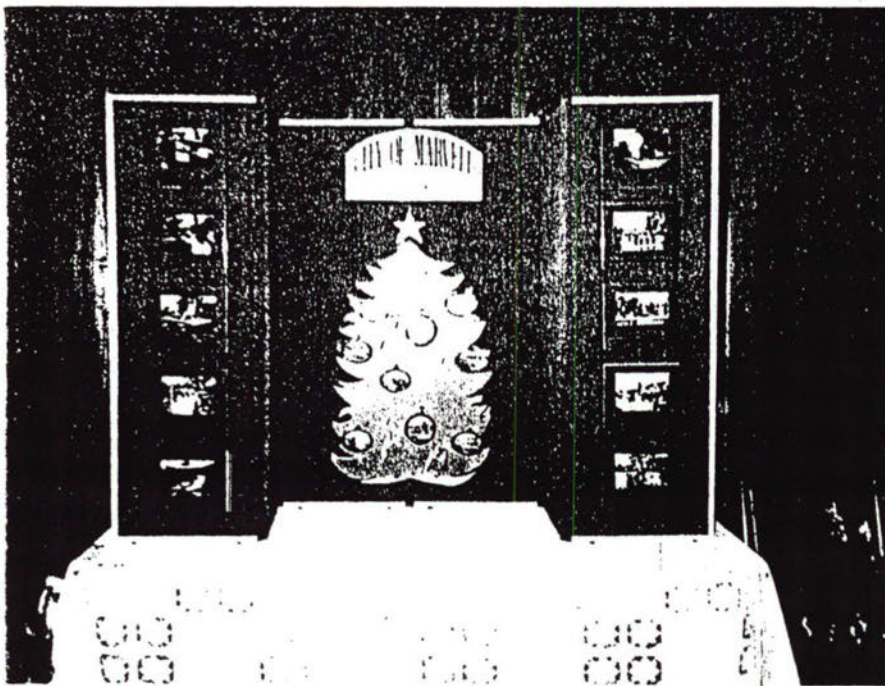
1995 ARKANSAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AWARDS PROGRAM
CITY OF MARVELL



Local beauty queens greet supporters and hand out agendas at the project presentation.



Marvell City Hall was decorated for the Christmas Holiday in order to demonstrate Marvell's Christmas spirit.



A display board of the 1994 Christmas Parade served as a focal point for the presentation. The display was put together by the NRCS State Public Affairs Office and myself.