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REV. W.C. TIMS
President

CALVIN R. KING
Executive Director

May 1, 1995

Joel Burg
USDA Rm 538-A
14 Independence SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Joel,

I am sending my second quarterly report directly to you, as I was instructed by Shirley Tucker, State Coordinator AmeriCorps USDA

If you have any question feel free to call me at 1-800-264-1141.

Thank You,

Eugene McKinney
AmeriCorps Member

Attachment: Diskette that contain quarterly report: Dos WP 5.1.

AmeriCorps*USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report was completed: April 19 , 1995

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of person completing this report: Eugene McKinney

Position of person completing this report: AmeriCorp Member

Operating Site ID # (Please refer to attached list): (501) 734-1141

Telephone number: (501) 734-3570

Fax number: (501) 734-3570

e-mail address (if available): _____

Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: Arkansas Land And Farm Development Corporation
2. Program name: AmeriCorps (USDA)
3. Corporation grantee name: USDA/RECDS
4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:
- ☐ First Quarter (10/1—12/31) ☒ Second Quarter (1/1—3/31) ☐ Third Quarter (4/1—6/30) ☐ Fourth Quarter (7/1—9/30)
5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? October 18, 1994
6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service
Full-time	1	792
Part-time	0	0

7. Please provide estimates of the following:
- (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 0
- (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 0

Operating Site ID #:

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter (In detail, describe your greatest activities, project milestones, and most important things gotten done this quarter.)

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter :

- 1) Accomplishments that related to the designated East Arkansas Enterprise Community.
 One, organized the executive committee meetings in proceeding forward to revise the East Arkansas Empowerment Zone plan to an Enterprise Community plan.
 Two , organize the East Arkansas Enterprise Community Committee and the Mississippi County Enterprise Community Committee along with Patricia Montoya of HHS and other federal and State Agencies to collabarate on the agencies committment to the designated enterprise communities. And to the discuss HHS and DHS specific roles in working with the two EC's.
 Three , organized a special luncheon meeting inwhich Stephen Weatherford , Secretary 's Representative of HUD Southwest, would meet with Executive Committee members from both EC's, Mike Dunaway, State Director and Shirley Tucker, State Rural Dev. Coordinator both of Rural Economic and Community Development Services , John Munday, (acting) State Coordinator of HUD , and other HUD represntatives.
 Four, organizing and assisting in the benchmarking process for the East Arkansas Enterprise Community.
- 2) Provided TA to city of Widener to identify and locate resources (grants and loans) that would be available to fund the removal of abfestus in the water line. The community's population is approximately 2200 residents that could be seriously affected. The St. Francis County Health Department will be taking samples of the water so that it may be tested for any other contaminates.
- 3) Organized the collaboration of local government (Palestine), private industry (ARKLA GAS) and a community development organization (ALFDC) to put together a plan that would supply natural gas to about 25 residents of the annexed community. This collaboration will also provide the elements needed to possibly attract a business development locating in the area which would provide aproximately 25 to 35 jobs.
- 4) Provided technical assistance to the city of Madison in the task of locating funds to finance new sewer waste pumps that would replace an existing system that has already shut down because of water damage and other hazards. This hazardous situation will affect a community population of about 2300 residents, if this situation occurs the grant to fund this task is now pending at the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission.

Unique successes or "great stories" (strictly for the unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

- * The city of Palestine has been approved to received funding from ARKLA GAS to install a natural gas line from the city to the annexed community of Palestine. This project will provide about 25 residents with natural gas. Also it could lead to the development of a new business locating there, which would provide approximately 25 to 35 jobs for the local people.

- * A great story about the AmeriCorp Members. We the members of the BEST AMERICORPS CLUSTER GROUP IN AMERICA have taken on the challenges of AmeriCorp with enthusiasm, courage, and commitment so that we can provide ourselves and services to the people .
We believed in ourselves so strongly that we developed a motto that represent our special cluster.

MOTTO

As AmeriCorps members united in our cultural differences , we pledge ourselves to improve the quality of life in our communities through mutual support , respect , service , motivation , and cooperation .

Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:
(Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

- * All activities and projects have been accomplishments that lead toward the achievements of the direct service goals. These achievements have been accomplished by providing technical assistance, information, organizing meetings, the revision of the East Arkansas Empowerment Zone plan all relate to the service objectives and its completion.

(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

- * Attend the monthly AmeriCorps Cluster Meetings which provides training in the areas of defensive driving , grant writing, and building relationships with other members.
- * A workshop on "Building Organizational Capacity" was provided to help develop skills needed in the organization structure. This was a two day seminar. Also it taught the fundamentals of strategic planning.
- * A 5- day training workshop was provided by USDA AmeriCorps on Rural Development Training which taught community development skills , organizational skills , and self evaluation skills.
- * Attend a 2-day workshop with other community development organizations. I learned community development skills and how to relate to the community in which one works to find out what their needs are.
- * The organization provided training the areas of strategic planing , loan application assistance for potential borrowers, and organizational skills.

(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

3) Community Building / Strengthening Objectives

- Organize community meetings to inform them that I am an Americorp member and I am here to help.
- Objective : To find out what the community needs
- Measurement : A sign sheet is provided at each meeting to record the attendance.
A special problem sheet is provided to record their input.
- Open forum : To allow discussion on specific topics.

Results : This helps to establish a relationship with the community and it allows the people to have input on what they believe their needs are .Also it will helps us to analyze the community to see if any special training is need.

Operating Site ID #

Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter: (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

Primary Challenges

- Local leaders who ask for assistance and after the service is provided , they never complete the project .
- Solution : Continue to encourage and motivate the local leader to move forward .
- Trying to find resources to fund projects that communities need.

Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:

Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.

Activities this Quarter: (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

- * We received the AmeriCorps ID buttons , an AmeriCorp and a T-shirt.
- * During black history month the AmeriCorp Vista people and the AmeriCorp USDA person(me) , presented a tribute about Dr.Martin Luther King Jr. to the Partee Elementary School in Brinkley , AR. I partrayed Dr. King and performed the " I Have A Dream Speech ". And I was asked to become a mentor to one of the students.

Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)

* None

SECOND QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
RENEE SPURLOCK, AMERICORPS MEMBER, HOLLY GROVE

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

Renee Spurlock: 904.2 hours (start date: 9/12/94)

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

Renee Spurlock: 155 hours

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- A. Assisted the Churches of Holly Grove in organizing a Christmas Special on the Mall for the community.
- B. Introduced the DAD'S Program to the community and formed a committee.
- C. Formed a Jr. 4-H Club for children who are 9-14 years old in Holly Grove.
- D. The committee's that were formed two years ago have been reactivated. New committee's have been formed to better address the needs of the community. The Holly Grove Update was created by the AmeriCorps member and the Holly Grove High School FBLA.
- E. Assisted the Holly Grove Fire Department in determining their needs and locating funds in order to update their department.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A. The citizens of Holly Grove enjoyed the Live Nativity Scene and Singing on the Mall that was made possible by the Churches of Holly Grove. We hope to make this an annual event.
- B. The community feels like the DAD'S Program would really help the young boys in our area. A DAD'S Committee has been formed in order to secure funds.
- C. The Jr. 4-H Club meets twice a month and various activities are being planned for these children.
- D. Each committee meets regularly once a month. The members are very excited about accomplishing their goals they have set in order to meet the needs of their community. The AmeriCorps member scheduled a

meeting with the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission to discuss the possibility of an Industrial Park for Holly Grove. The Corps of Engineers were unable to help the city on draining Dials Creek, so a letter has been sent asking the National Guard for assistance with this problem. The AmeriCorps member is working on a City Wide Clean-Up which will be promoted to help the citizens take pride in their community and clean-up unsightly sites that aren't meeting the criteria of City Ordinances. Contact has been made to owners of vacant buildings in the downtown area to see if these buildings would be available for future development, that is if funding can be found. One owner will donate three buildings to the city if something constructive is developed to use these buildings for. In order to help the citizens keep up with various projects the Holly Grove Update is available once a month.

- E. The AmeriCorps member scheduled a meeting with the Holly Grove Fire Department and the Arkansas Forestry Commission to learn about their assistance to rural communities in the purchase of fire equipment. Also assistance was given to the department to learn what they must do in order to qualify for the Act 833 money to update the equipment. At this time several firemen have updated or received training and they meet regularly, which was not happening before.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

- A. A primary challenge for AmeriCorps and the Churches of Holly Grove will be having an Easter Special on the Mall for the citizens and to expand the Christmas Special for this year.
- B. Assist in securing a grant in order to activate the DAD'S Program.
- C. The Jr. 4-H Club is looking forward to helping with the City Wide Clean-Up, Rabies Clinic in Holly Grove, growing giant watermelons and pumpkins to enter in the fair, and building Purple Martin Bird Houses to alleviate some of the mosquito problems in the city.
- D. Other challenges will include: Reactivate The Holly Grove Industrial Development Corporation that was formed on March 21, 1960 for future ventures and economic growth in the City of Holly Grove, getting assistance to clean-up Dials Creek in order for it to drain which will help with the flooding

problem, set a date and have a successful City Wide Clean-Up which includes all the citizens in Holly Grove, enforce the City Ordinances on unsightly sites that does not meet the criteria, and start rejuvenating the downtown area. If results are seen by the citizens then hopefully they will take more pride in their community.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Computer workshops and any type of training to help get the community involved and keep them involved.

DATA FILED IN
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
AMERICAN CORPS-LEDA
HELENA, ARKANSAS

SECOND QUARTER REPORT
TRI-COUNTY OUTREACH

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE. Between December 1, 1994, and February 28, 1995, I worked 512 hours. This makes the total number of hours worked 976.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING. I obtained 72 hours of training during the second quarter. This brings my overall training hours to 152.

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 the 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.

It was originally thought that providing funding sources to the city and county governments would be the answer to the problems. And while I continue to inform officials and leaders of federal, state, and local grant money available to them, their greatest need is often one of assistance or guidance and direction.

In Monroe County, I have been meeting on a regular basis with the Mayors and City Councilmen of Fargo, Brinkley, Clarendon, Roe, and Holly Grove. I have been talking to these individuals about their community concerns and informing them of ways to improve their situations. In Phillips County, I have been working with the Mayor and City Employees of Marvell, the Barton-Lexa Fire Department, and the Phillips County Office of Civil Defense.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. The following are what I consider to be the important community services that I have provided.

For the City of Fargo, population 140, they decided in January that they wanted to make their community more like an organized town. So far this year, they have obtained city lights, street signs, and garbage pick-up. Their next project is to build a community center.

For the City of Holly Grove, I have helped the Crime and Drug Committee locate the parts of town that are poorly lit. We have written a letter of recommendation to their City Council asking for sodium lighting in those areas in an effort to cut down on crime and loitering. Included in the letter is a list of addresses for each location, a city map, price quotes, and the expected increase in the monthly bill.

For the City of Marvell, we recently completed the COPS-MORE application. This is a federally funded program that will provide additional equipment to their police department, if awarded. Currently, we are in the process of setting up committees to assist with the areas of concern voiced by the citizens earlier this year at a town meeting. We are also in the process of organizing a city wide clean-up that will involve, both, the public and private schools and all community groups and churches.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER. For the next quarter, I will continue to work in Monroe and Phillips counties. I hope to bring a closure to some of the on-going projects in the communities I'm currently helping. However, I realize that due to circumstances beyond my control, this may not be a possibility.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES. My primary concern at this time is the magnitude of help needed by each community that I have visited. The towns are experiencing not only a large number of problems, but problems of a very time consuming nature. Therefore, I am spending a lot more time in each community than originally planned. It may be that the initial project area was too large and that the number of towns and/or counties need to be reduced.

PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS. Currently, I have been receiving adequate training and technical assistance in the various areas concerning my project. This is in large part due to my affiliation and supervision from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Central Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council. They keep me informed on meetings and programs that are related to my communities. For example, I recently attended a Floodplain Management Workshop conducted by the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission and was able to take back that information to two different towns that I've been working with.

MEDIA COVERAGE. The following are documentation of media coverage for my AmeriCorps project. There are two newspaper articles as they appeared in the Monroe County Sun, Clarendon, Arkansas, and an excerpt from AmeriCorps Online, the AmeriCorps-USDA newsletter.

Second Quarter AmeriCorps Report
VIVIAN JONES

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 (416 1st quarter) (440 2nd quarter)**
4. **TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING (226)**

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 the presence of 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, writing proposals for funding, and administering first year operation as an AmeriCorps Participant.

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 am presently working on skills enhancement in the workplace. As part of team teaching, and as a team instructor I

am conducting workshops that will enhance the existing skills of supervisors in the Delta Community of Marvell, Arkansas a community of 1,545 residents. Workplace skills enhancements workshops are conducted at the Boys Girls Adults Community Development Center (BGACDC) to supervisors whereby enabling them to become more effective supervisors in the work place.

Because of new technology and the continuance changes in the work place, labor education has been offered as one solution to meet these new changes and challenges. Skills training has been administered to supervisors in the areas of Daycare/School, Housing/Manor, and Food/Service. Workshop have focused on supervisor and employee relations, productivity, and effective supervising in the work place.

Success of the work shops will be measured by the productive changes in supervisor and employee relations and measurable overall productivity in the workplace.

**(c) PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE
OBJECTIVES:**

Community service objectives have been met. As an AmeriCorps participant, I am presently working with the Central Arkansas Planning and Developing District in Lonoke, Arkansas, developing a transportation survey or study on the city of Brinkley, Arkansas. Brinkley in Monroe County is in the Northeast portion of the state, population is 4,234.

The purpose of the transportation study is to assist the city of Brinkley in identifying the types and extent of transportation problems that exist in their city street system. The study reflects the growth that has occurred in the city of Brinkley in the last decade.

The transportation study/survey entails a profile of the city of Brinkley, the educational system, housing, major industries, business, state and local highways. Upon completion of data on traffic, transportation, accidents on major highways and solutions, information will be sent to the Department of Transportation in Little Rock for further study and recommendations.

Success of the transportation study/survey will be measured in teams of the collected data, actual surveys taking at major highways and streets, using graphs, diagrams, maps, and created charts and research of traffic patterns. Also the number of accepted recommendations on highway and street improvements, that are accepted by the advisory committee of Brinkley, Arkansas.

- (6) It is hoped that progress will continue in the above mentioned projects.
- (7) As an AmeriCorps participant I have not encountered any challenges, problems, or disappointments that were not resolved.
- (8) The above mentioned hours have been designated as training hours toward projects

(9) N/A

(10) Creative Documentation included

THIRD QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

TIME PERIOD: April 1 - June 30, 1995

DUE DATE: June 30, 1995

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 AT DEPT 424

JUL 12 1995

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COMM-ASSISTANCE *** ARKANSAS

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1998 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- FarCo, Ar.*

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

DSE Degree - Agr. Education. Taught 20-Agr. to 6 and farmed for 30 yrs. ON OWN farm. IN cotton plant, etc.

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

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

JUL 5 '95 9:43

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jody

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A

Jody Pagan

Time Period: April 1, 1995 - June 30, 1995

Date: June 30, 1995

1. -
2. -
3. 1256 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.

Wilson
storScott Henderson
Assistant Director

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission



June 16, 1995

RECEIVED

JUN 19 1995

NATURAL
HERITAGE
COMMISSION

Mr. Jody Pagan
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
1500 Tower Building
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Jody:

It has been a pleasure working with you on the various fish and wildlife coordination activities, and more particularly, your efforts to organize endangered species data for Arkansas.

Your participation in the AmeriCorps Program seems to have gone by much too quickly. Your conscientious attitude is certainly appreciated as well as your hard work on the County-by-County endangered species notebooks which contain extremely valuable information for our fish and wildlife review and evaluation process of the many development proposals which occur in our State.

The opportunity to work cooperatively with you, Bob Price of the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Cindy Osborne of the AR Natural Heritage Commission is very much appreciated. I am hopeful this community service will be of some help toward your environmental career goals. I wish you much success and keep up the good work. Feel free to call me if I can assist you in any way.

Best Wishes,

Craig K. Uyeda, Chief
River Basins Section

CU:ac

cc: Bob Price
Cindy Osborne
Karen Yaich

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 Chemistry for NEFA mentored, etc.
HVAC service tech.

Harbormaster 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 experience? 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 many interesting things.
What would you tell someone who expresses interest in applying for NRCS AmeriCorps?
I would have to tell them that AmeriCorps will yield whatever you allow it to. AmeriCorps volunteers are exposed to things and activities that other would only dream of.

THIRD QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
WILLIE CHAPPLE
MARION, ARKANSAS

TIME PERIOD: APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 1995

DUE DATE: JUNE 30, 1995

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. 1413
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 89 - Present. AmeriCorps Participant Sept. 94 - Present., FmHA Summer 92. Prescott, AZ.

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 parts 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 rewarding task that they will ever do, because it gives you a chance to reach out and help people that are badly in need of help or service.*

JUL 10 1995 14:03
JUL 10 1995 14:03
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.

THIRD QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 1995
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

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

THIRD QUARTER REPORT
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.

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 citizens in various projects, worked with the city to

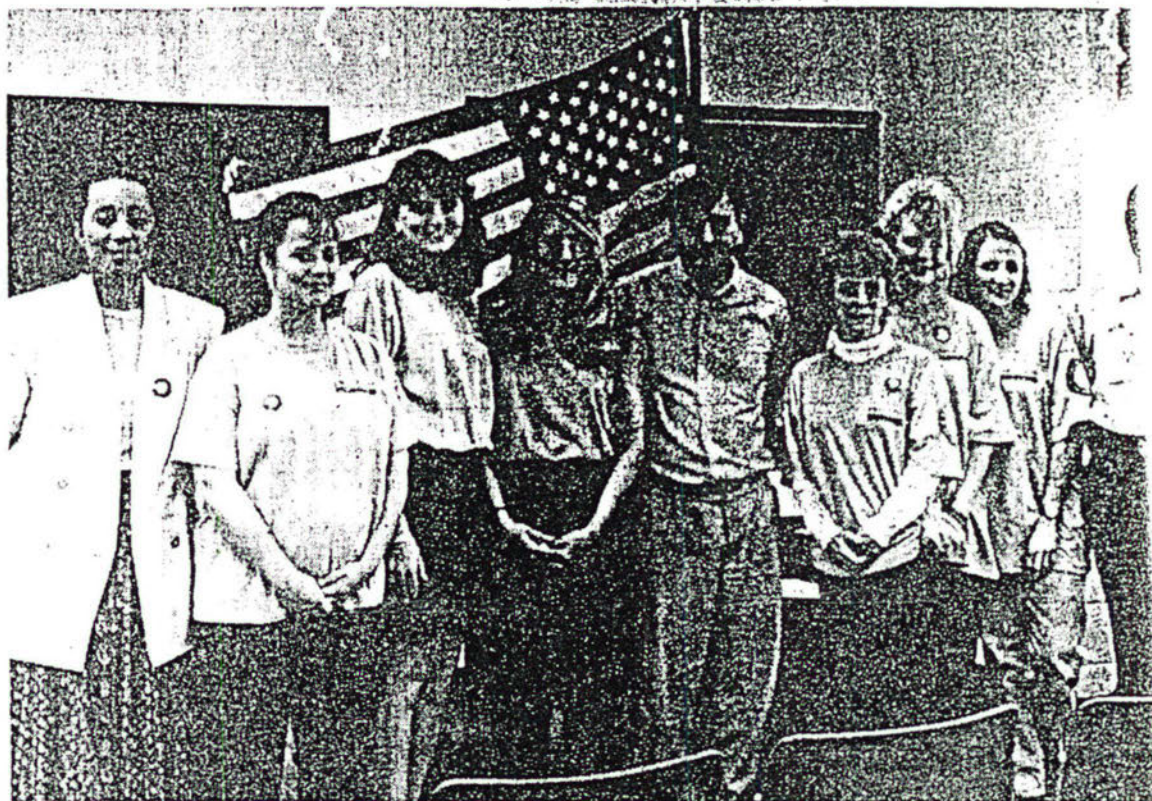
bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

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 meal for all in attendance.



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

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.

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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 fire depart-

ment 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.

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

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.

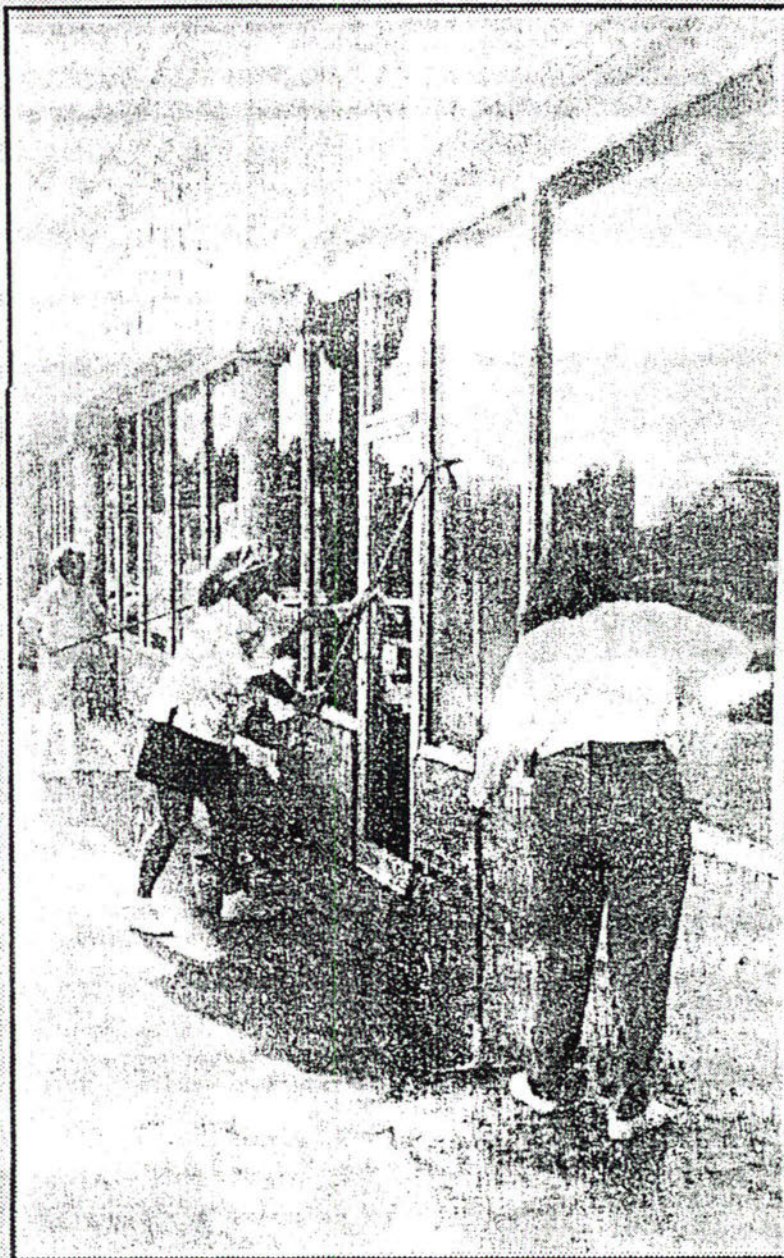
One store owner, seeing his and his neighbor’s windows being washed, brought out paint bucket and brush and put “paint-up” back in the motto—by painting the door of his business.

Even children did their part. Students in Mrs. Betsy 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

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.

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LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

APRIL 20, 1995

Mayor Lula 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.

<u>NUMBER OF</u> <u>LIGHTS</u>	<u>WATTAGE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>
104	100 watts	\$4.04	white
14	175 watts	\$5.88	white
11	250 watts	\$7.55	white
7	150 watts	\$7.61	sodium

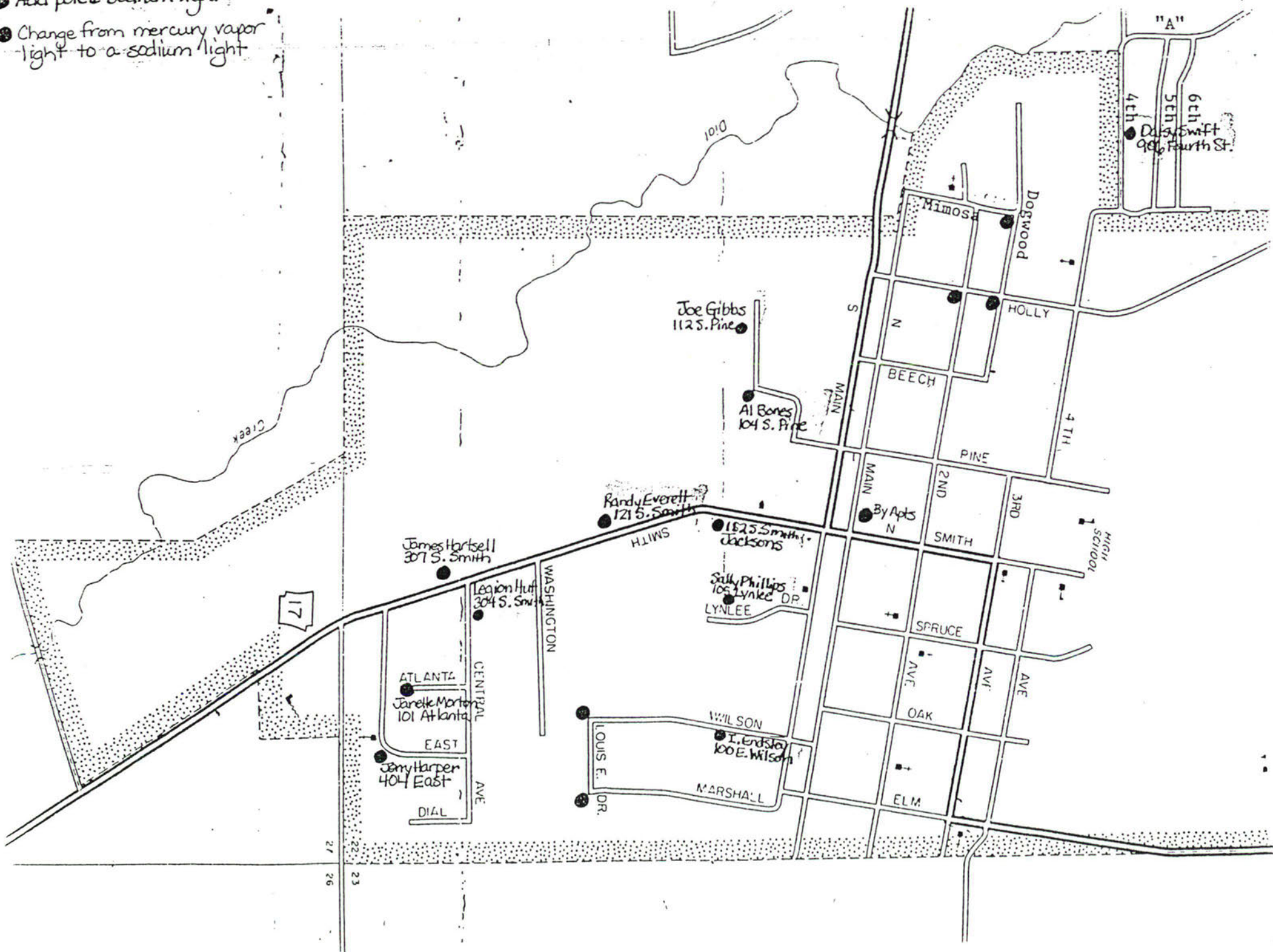
Assuming that the nine lights we want to change over to 150 watt sodium are currently 100 watt white lights, the cost of \$4.04 per light per month would increase to \$7.61 per light per month. The price difference would result in an increase of \$32.13 each month. The eight 150 watt sodium lights that we would like to see added to the city would cost an additional \$60.88 per month. This combined total would be \$93.01 per month.

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

LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

<u>STREET ADDRESS & LOCATION</u>	<u>CHANGE MERCURY VAPOR TO SODIUM</u>	<u>ADD POLE & SODIUM</u>
*304 South Smith Behind the Legion Hut		X
*307 South Smith By the James Hartsell Home	X	
*101 Atlanta By the Janette Morton Home	X	
*404 East Between J. Hoppers & Church	X	
*121 South Smith By the Randy Everett Home		X
*112 South Smith By the Jackson Home		X
*Corner of Marshall & Louise By the Ralph Abramson Home	X	
*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

- Change from mercury vapor light to a sodium light



LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

Pat Chastain
Frances Spurlock

Bill Brown

Brenda Clemon

Renee Spurlock

James Nolen

Willie Stokes

Helen Jackson

Lewis Sands

Maryne Strong

Sherry Martin

Janette Martin

Carl Hill

John May

Harvey Cauley

Vicki Hartree

Brook Hauger

Patricia Hauger

James Edwards

Alto Adams

Rosemary Cartwright

Billy Cartwright

Gatsy Edwards

Floyd Christians

Brenda Dunaway

Nathan Raymagon Jr.

Juan Raie Morgan

Mildred Champion

~~Paula Davidson~~

~~Loyd Davidson~~

~~Larry Coleman~~

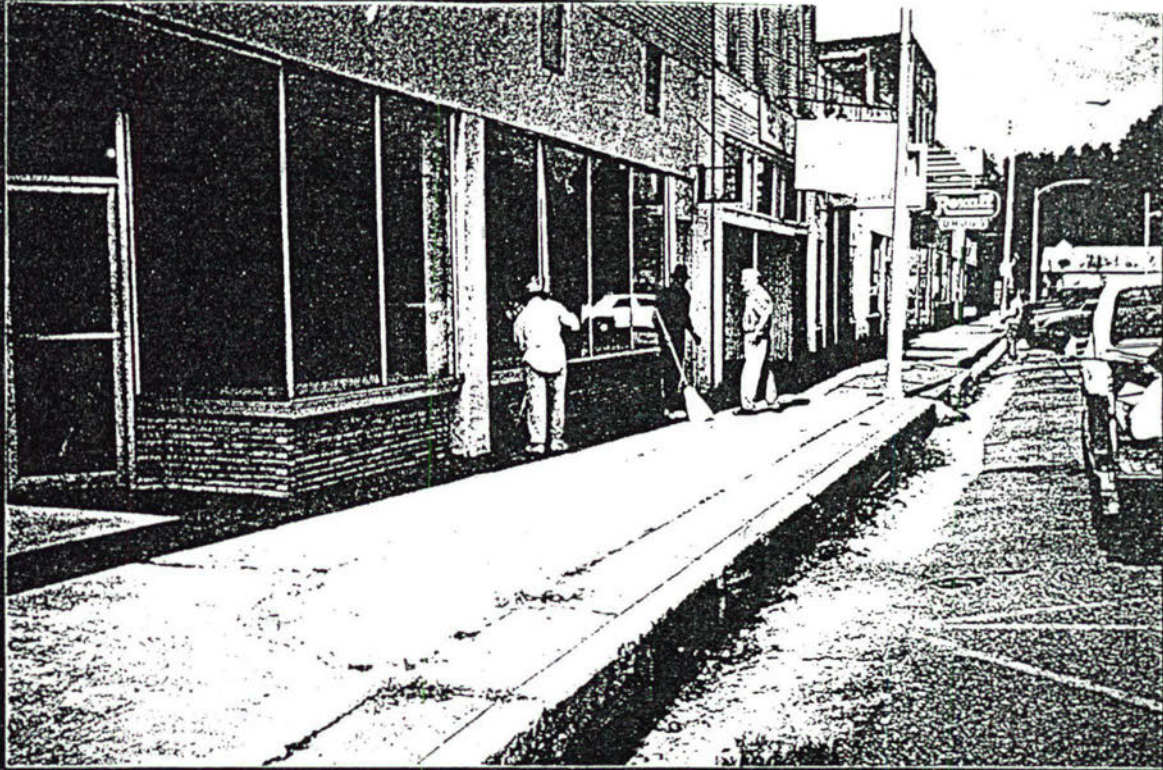
~~Bessie Davidson~~

~~Jay Scott~~

~~Lil Scott~~

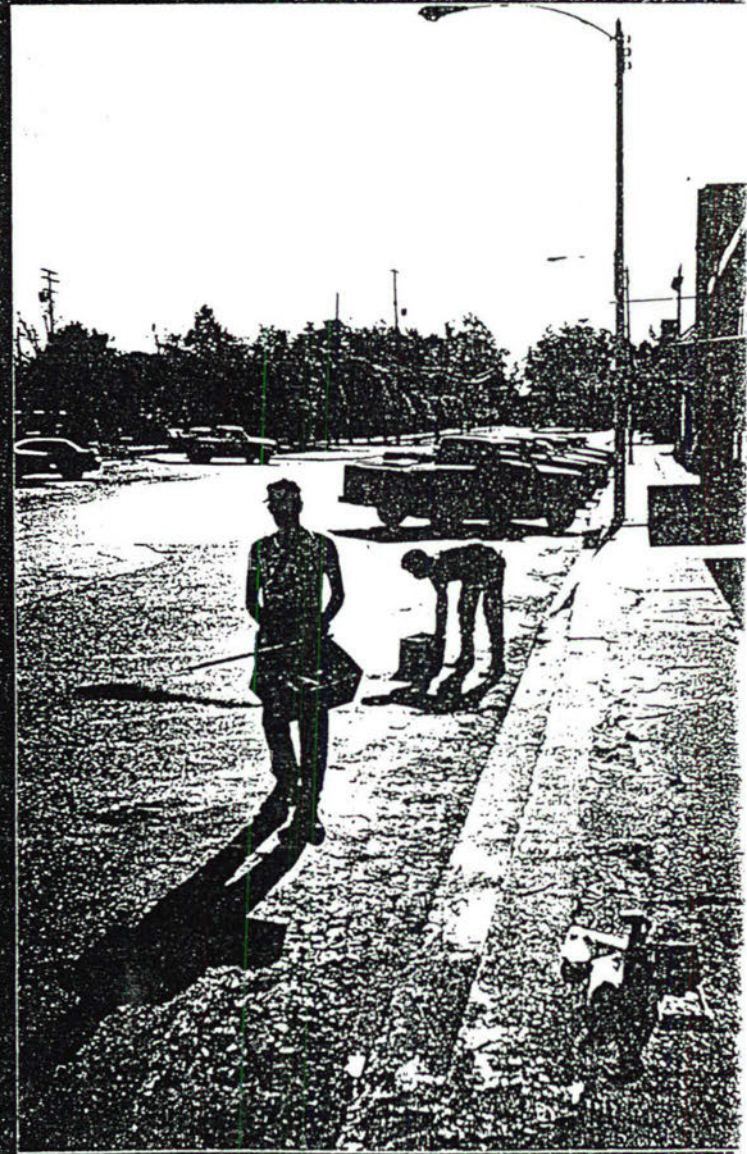
~~James E. Scott~~

~~Clasie Webb~~



"PAINT THE TOWN CLEAN"

City-wide clean-up
Marvell, Arkansas



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 x 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.

1995 AmeriCorps Members' Stories

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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.

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 nonserviceable," stated Barbie Wa Shburn, Assistant to the Mayor Clark Hall

As part of the project, the East Arkansas RC&D Council will began 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.

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LOWER MISSISSIPPI DELTA DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.

7777 WALNUT GROVE ROAD, BOX 27

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

901 753-1400

Date: July 7, 1995

TO: Mr. Bruce Leggitt
AmeriCorps Program Coordinator

FROM: Ray Bryant, Executive Director
LMDD Center



SUBJECT: Third Quarter Progress Report - AmeriCorps Program

Enclosed is the third 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.

7777 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. 1428 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.

08/20/95 10:08

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Central AR RC&D

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COMM-ASSISTANCE *** ARKANSAS

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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: Cedric 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 Services.

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?

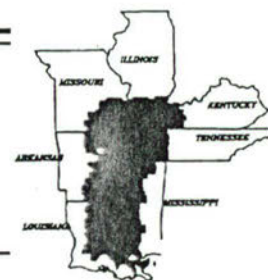
There is much need in Rural communities for services.

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.

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.

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

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

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Memphis, TN
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Inside This Issue

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

Pertina

THIRD QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
PERTINA WHITE

TIME PERIOD: April 1 - June 30, 1995

DUE DATE: June 30, 1995

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 1464 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

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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
Third Quarter Americorps report

Time Period: April 1 - June 30, 1995

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- 1,145 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

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 16

To Bruce Leggitt	From Loyda I. Stith
Dept./Agency Central ARK. RECD	Phone # 648-1017
Fax # 758-7052	Fax # 793-7829
NSN 7540-01-317-7000	5099-101
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

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 intersting and educational especialy 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

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 70 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.

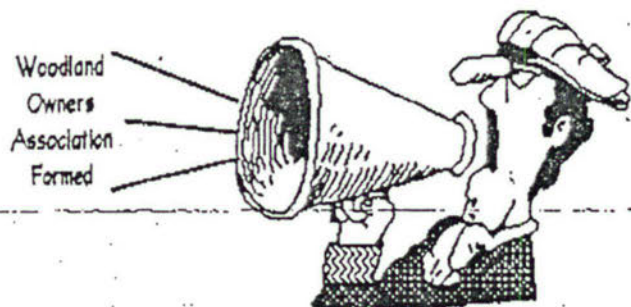
Days

Ozark Woodland Owners Association



FORESTS FOR ARKANSAS' FUTURE

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 things are favorite nesting places for many species.



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Telephone 805-327-9661 • Facsimile 805-324-0409

Joseph Wooldridge, PC
PARTNER

A. Cameron Paulden
1927-1984

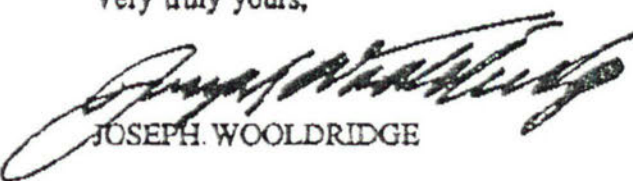
April 20, 1995

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.

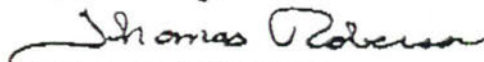
I would like to know more about dealing with timber buyers.

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

JUN.30 '95 11:19 GREERS FERRY RES OFC

P.02

THIRD 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 (MAR 31).
19
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED.
1522
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 THIRD 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.

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

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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CONY-ASSISTANCE 400 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 y

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.

Information Bulletin No. 1036

Subject: File Transmission

File named SESSION will be transmitted 6/26/95 containing two members for the *CSFLIB.

MODULE	TYPE	DATE	REP #
CSFDUMP	P	05/08/95	7
CSFPTF	P	05/08/95	7

- County Release 106 must be installed before placing the above members into the *CSFLIB.
- To install the above members, type the following on any command line:

```
TOLIBR SESSION,FL,,REPLACE,*CSFLIB
```

- To verify the members loaded successfully, type the following on any command line:

```
LISTLIBR CSFDUMP,PROC,*CSFLIB,USER,NOPAGE,,DIRINFO  
LISTLIBR CSFPTF,PROC,*CSFLIB,USER,NOPAGE,,DIRINFO
```

- If TOLIBR is successful, the following message will be received:

```
SYS-7522 *CSFLIB-given members in this library are IBM  
Select option 3
```

- If TOLIBR is not successful, the following message will be received:

```
SYS-7509 *CSFLIB-Specified members not in this library  
Select option 3
```

Offices needing assistance should contact their Automation Coordinator.

3rd 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

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: Vivian Ann Jones

Project location: Lonoke, Ar. and Little Rock, Ar.
Holly Grove, Ar.

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

B. S. Degree Social Studies (I've taught school for 20 years, worked as a Nurse for 5 years
Liscened Nurse(Have worked in voter registration, Community Activicist, Gov't Programs)
I have three adult children, one an Attorney and two in Medicine.

What are your present education and career goals?

My present goals are to return to the World School of Ministeries. My present
education: is mentioned above: I plan to continue to work in the community and
to give of myself to make a difference in the world through service.

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

If yes, please explain:

AmeriCorps has redefined my life long goals for me. I realized more than ever that
there is so much work to be done in the world, and we have all been called to make a
a difference. AmeriCorps has kept me reaching to accomplish those goals of service
to my fellowman and have enabled me to move forward.

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

AmeriCorps has kept me focused on my purpose in life and that is to serve and to make
a difference in our world in some small way. I have received lots of experience and
and training that I did not have prior to AmeriCorps. I'm grateful for having had the
opportunity to be a part of a National Service Effort to make a difference.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

I've learned through AmeriCorps that there is a sincere effort to make a difference in
our natural resource, and to protect the enviroment. I've learned that conbinding efforts
we can make a difference in saving the resources that have been intrusted to us.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

I've learned that it is all of our responsibilities to give back to the community and
and work toward helping people to help themselves and showing others that they are
part of the purpose of life also. I've learned the spirit of empowering people to
to help themselves and to recognize their self worth.

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

It is a challenge to work with people of different backgrounds, it is educational,
as well as providing growth and understanding between people. I've learned new
tools and skills as how to work in challengingsituations and with challenging people.
I feel it has added to my growth and acceptance of differences as a person.

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

I would tell them that a year of National Service will add to their personal growth
and would be giving back or planting a seed in tomorrow, in all of our future

DAD

Dealing With Adolescent Development

KICKOFF CEREMONY

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

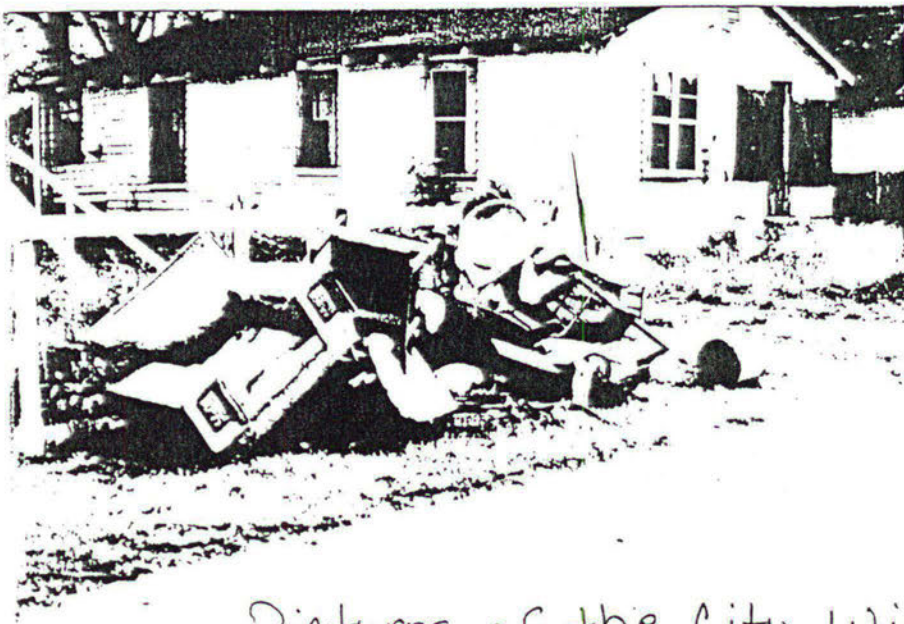
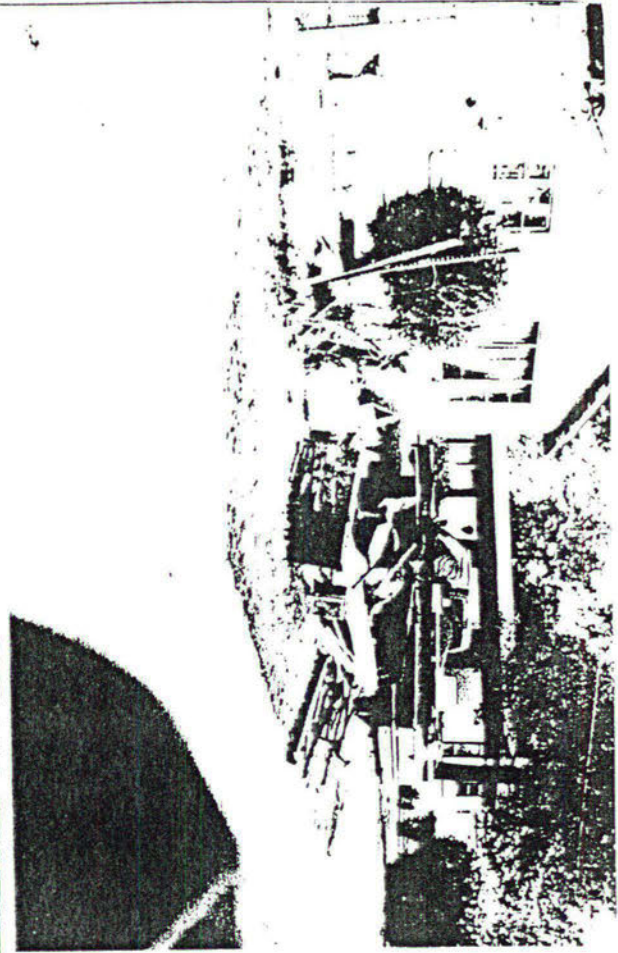
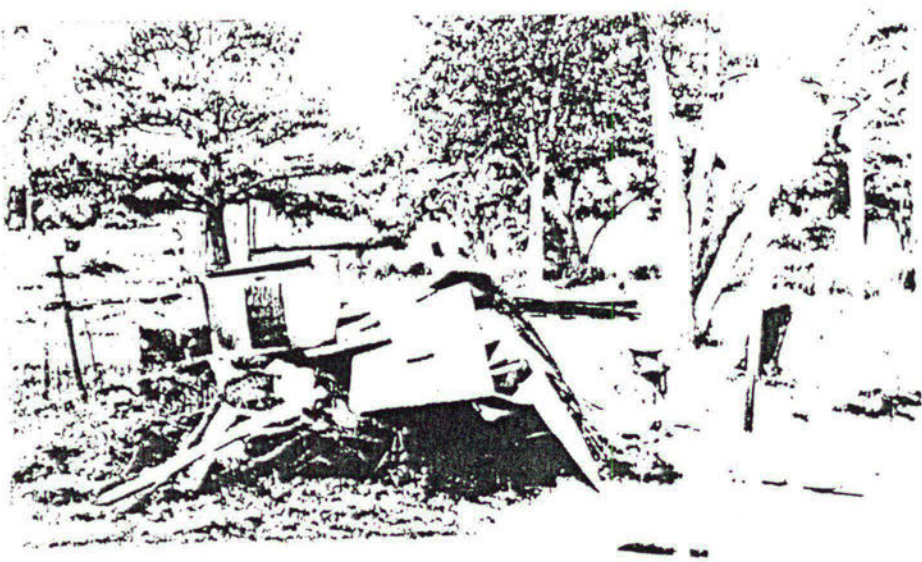
DATE: JULY 20, 1995

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

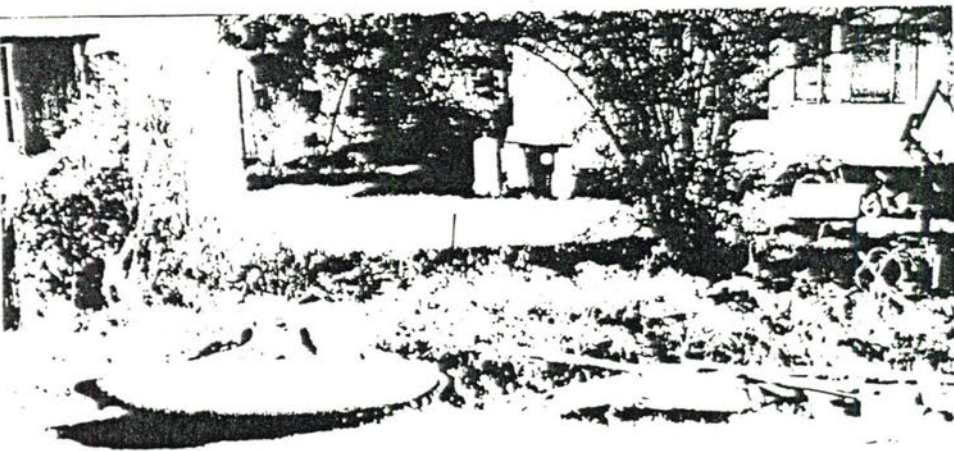
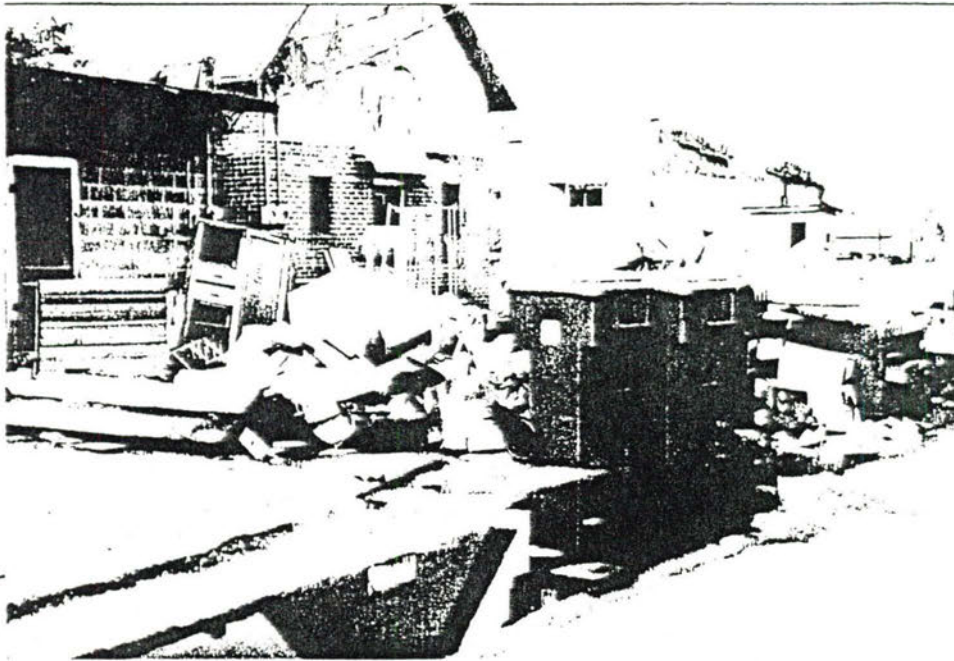
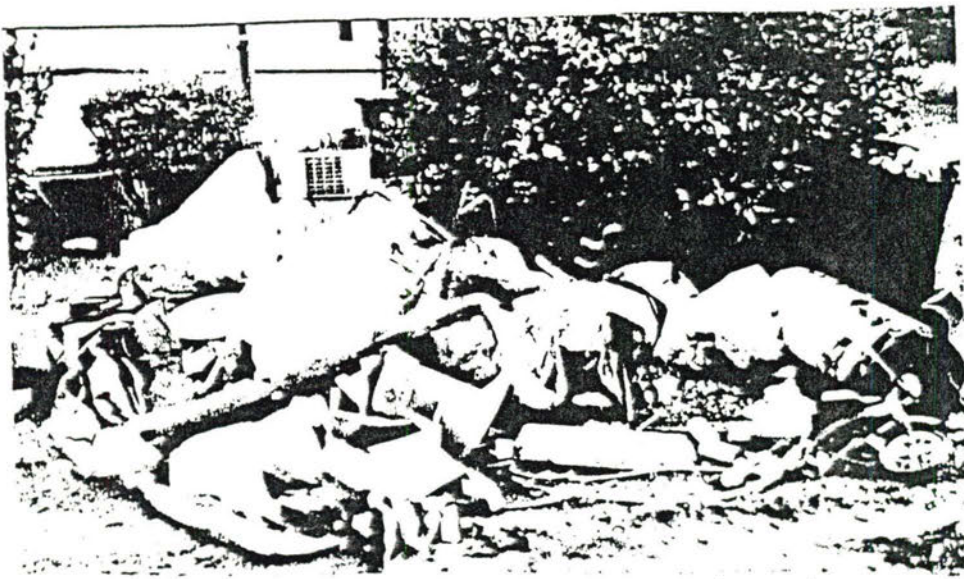
"Where There Is No Vision The People Perish"

COMMUNITY INVITED

501-462-8300



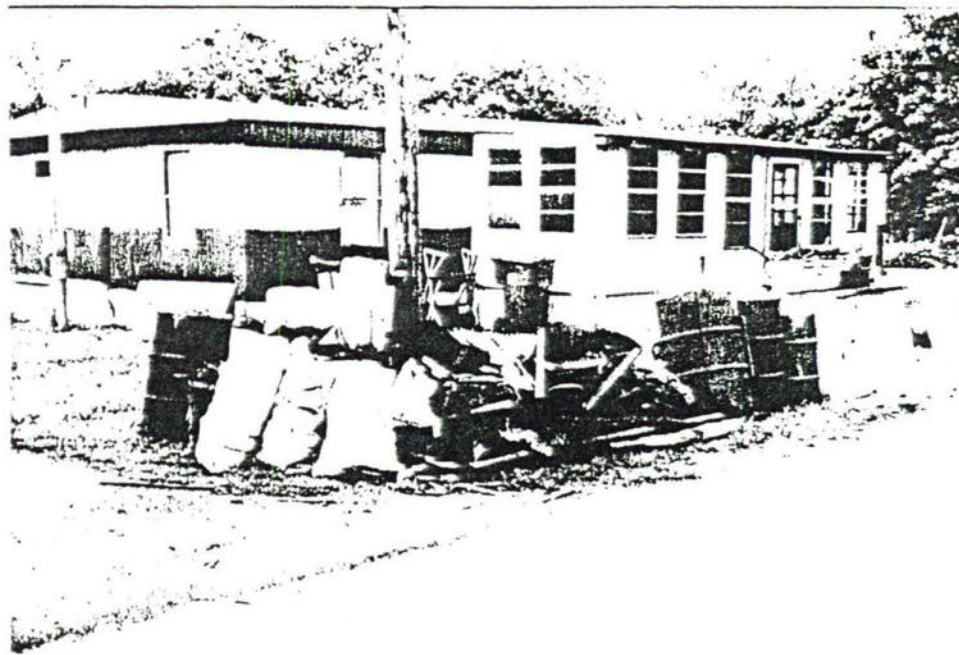
Pictures of the City wide Clean up.



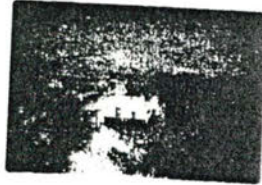
Pictures of the City wide Clean up



Pictures of
the city wide
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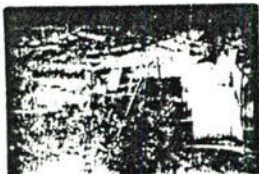
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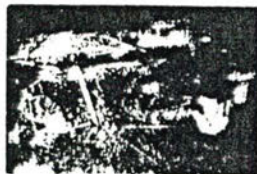
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Slides City wide clean up

Monroe County Sun 4-27-95

Fire Service Policies for Outside City Limits Adopted

An ordinance adopting policies for fire department services outside the city limits of Holly Grove was passed by the Holly Grove City Council Thursday night. The ordinance authorizes the department to respond to emergency calls within a five mile radius of the city limits. Fires occurring a greater distance will be responded to at the discretion of the fire department.

The ordinance limits the response of the department outside the city limits. The department may respond when it is determined that responding is necessary to protect life, or residential, commercial, or agricultural property. The department may only respond to vehicular fires outside the city limits when it is a life threatening accident or a traffic hazard is involved.

Although the ordinance authorizes response to certain emergency calls outside the city limits, fire protection services are not guaranteed to those persons.

Following an hour and one-half executive session, the council voted to pay vacation pay to police officers. They will pay back pay owed to any current officer. Mayor Lula Tyler stated that the council discussed sick leave pay and holiday pay, but no decision was reached.

A motion was passed to accept the proposal from Layne-Arkansas for abandonment of the old water well. The 625 ft. well was drilled in 1929 by the Layne-Arkansas Company. The \$1,500 cost to abandon the well includes pulling the pumping equipment out of the well, backfilling and sealing the well according to health

department standards, and includes the trade-in of old equipment. The Arkansas Department of health mandated that the old well be abandoned properly.

The council approved Resolution #177 authorizing Mayor Tyler to proceed with application for an Arkansas Community and Economic Development Grant. If awarded, the grant would be used to fund a senior citizen project.

Alderman Moses Burton commented that many of the sidewalks need work or extensions. He was asked to make a priority list of needs. Alderman Pat Chastain commended the efforts of Floyd Christian in cleaning up the city.

A motion was passed to accept the resignation of Larry Robinson as housing authority chairman. A new chairman was not discussed.

Americorps member Renee Spurlock reported that she, Mayor Tyler and Judge Tom Catlett had attended a dedication ceremony in Jonesboro at which President Clinton was in attendance. She stated that she is working with FmHA on the second housing project and continuing to work on the FEMA buyout.

Spurlock stated that it appears 12 slots of the Americorps program in this region will be approved for continuation. If the funding is not approved by Congress, her employment with Americorps will end in July.

The monthly meeting time for the council was changed to 8:00 p.m. throughout the remainder of daylight savings time.

All council members were present for the meeting. The council will meet again on May 18.

Dental Students to Invade Holly Grove Public Schools

A trip to the dentist can be a scary experience, but it might be fun for youngsters in Holly Grove Public Schools this next week.

Holly Grove students will get free dental care and education from dental hygiene seniors at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences. The UAMS student are teaming up with the Arkansas Army National Guard, the state Health Department, and the Holly Grove School District to provide dental services to students.

Approximately 30 UAMS dental students and other dental team members will establish a dental clinic in the Holly Grove Elementary gymnasium the week of April 17-21. Students will be housed at various locations at Maddox Bay and Maddox Bay Landing. The school and local organizations in Holly Grove are providing meals.

The project is designed to give the seniors hands-on experience working with children and under time pressure. The dental students will explain proper dental care, examine the children, clean teeth and apply sealant to prevent cavities.

For those who need teeth pulled or cavities filled, dentists supplied by the National Guard will be on hand to offer assistance. Guard members will also transport necessary dental equipment and set up mobile dental units.

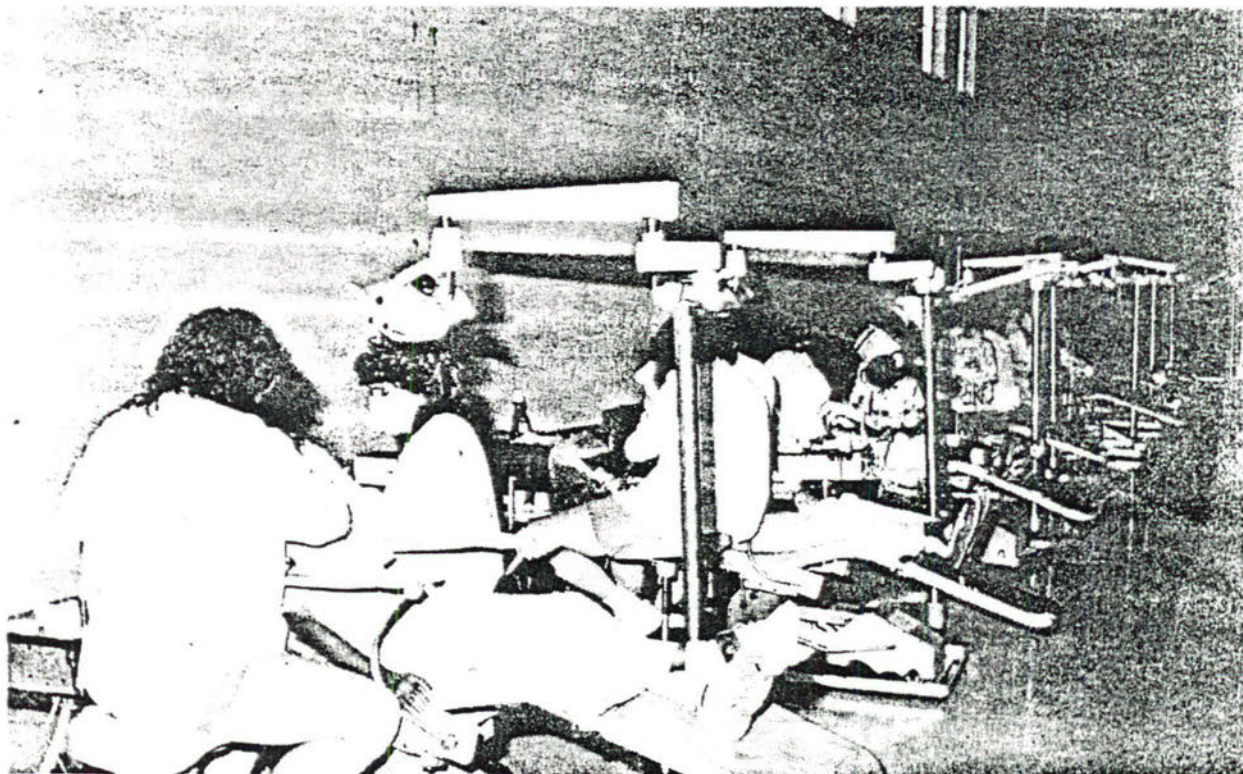
Major General James A. Ryan, adjutant general of the Arkansas Guard, explained the purpose of the exercise. "Everyone knows the Guard has a federal mission in times of national emergency and a state mission in times of natural disasters, but we also feel we have a responsibility to the local communities who support our units."

The week-long event in Holly Grove will culminate Friday, April 21, with the arrival of UH1 Huey Helicopters at the school bringing top military officials, CEC of healthcare industries, and other dignitaries.

Monroe County Sun 4-13-95

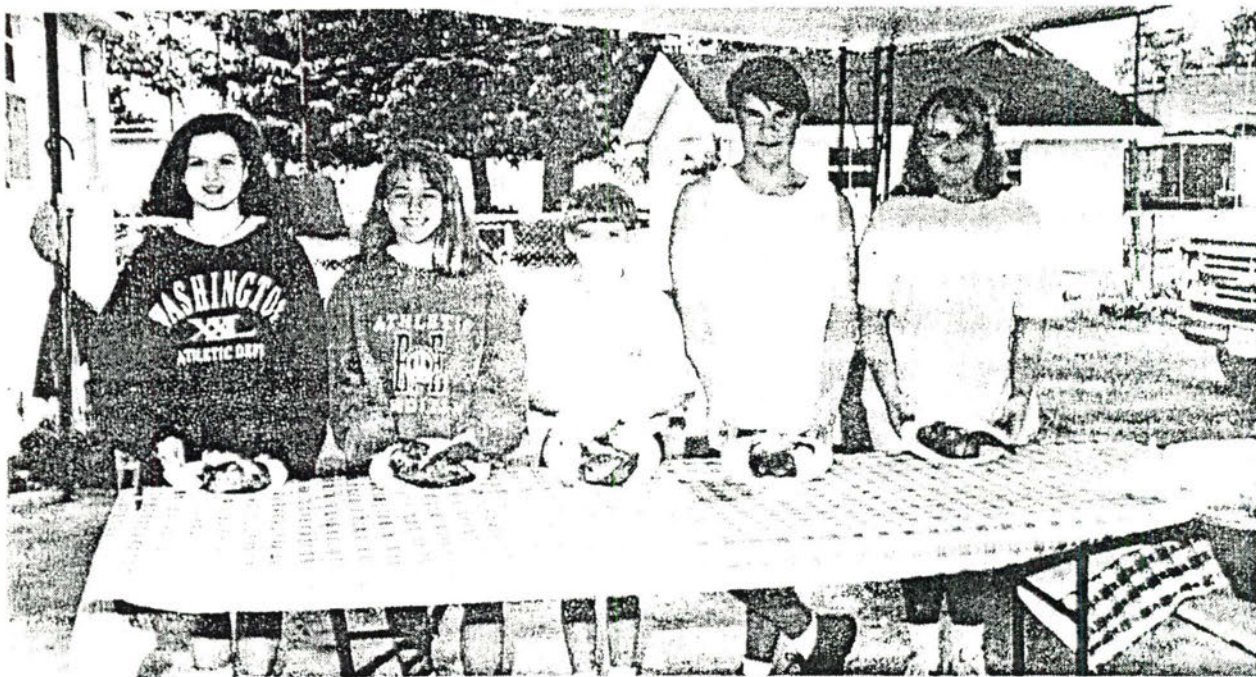


FRIENDLY, FAMILIAR FACE: At the conclusion of the dental services week at Holly Grove Schools, several dignitaries across the state visited the school. Students were particularly delighted to see Dr. Sandra Nichols, Director of Arkansas Department of Health. Nichols practiced medicine in Holly Grove before moving to Little Rock. Pictured from left are: Walter Tate, dental assistant and member of the 204th Medical Battallion; seventh grade student, Karita Wiley; Dr. Dick Lewallen of Trumann, dentist and member of the 204th; and Dr. Nichols.



MINI DENTAL CLINIC: Fifteen portable dental stations were set up in the Holly Grove Elementary gymnasium last week as the National Guard teamed up with UAMS to provide dental care to Holly Grove students. A total of 213 students were provided with dental care and sealants were placed on

Monroe County Sun. 5-11-95



4-H BARBECUE PARTICIPANTS: 4-H held their first poultry barbecue contest Saturday, May 6, in Clarendon. Participants were judged on the following criteria: starting the fire, cooking and controlling fire, getting the poultry done and taste of barbecue sauce. The cooperative extension service along with co-sponsors provided needed items for the event. Kroger of Brinkley donated all the chicken that was barbecued and Fred's of Clarendon donated barbecue utensil sets as prizes for the winners. The five winners will be competing at the district barbecue Saturday, May 27, at the 4-H center in Ferndale. Winners include from left: Abbe Gordon of Clarendon, junior first place; Ashley Spurlock of Holly Grove, junior second place; Shaw Spurlock of Holly Grove, junior third place; Richard Edwards of Holly Grove, senior first place; and Tiffany Mayo, senior second place.

Monroe County Sun 5-4-95

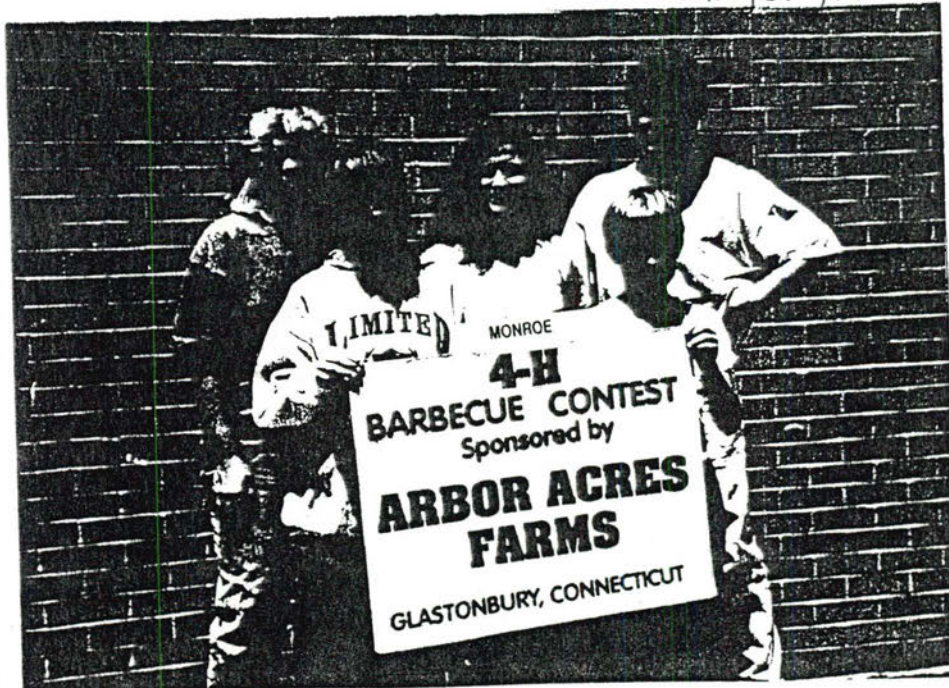
Second Clean-Up Day in H.-Grove

A second clean-up day has been scheduled for Holly Grove by BFI for Saturday, May 6, starting at 8:00 a.m. All items, large or small, will be hauled away if placed at curbside.

The first clean-up day was scheduled for Saturday, April 29. BFI was not prepared for the large quantity of items needing hauling away. Therefore, they have agreed to return for a second Saturday and have promised to complete the task this time.

Americorps Member Renee Spurlock will be assisting the company in locating homes with items needing to be picked up. For more information about the clean-up day contact Renee Spurlock or Mayor Lula Tyler.

May 20, 1995



4-H'ers compete in district Broiler BBQ

By Eugenia Hockett,
CEA-Home Economics

More than 1,000 Arkansas 4-H members participated in competitive 4-H Broiler BBQ's across the state with 12 finalists competing at the Arkansas Poultry Festival. The State Festival was held June 9 and 10 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The state contestants each received charcoal BBQ smokers and cash awards provided by Arbor Acres farms from Glastonbury, Connecticut and the Arkansas Poultry Federation. 4-Her's begin participation at the local club level and proceed to the county district contests.

Participants at the Ferndale District Contest BBQ'd chickens provided by Tyson Foods Pine Bluff Complex.

District participants represented 4-H clubs in Arkansas, Ashley, Calhoun, Cleburn, Cleveland, Conway, Cross, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Jefferson, Lonoke, Monroe, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, and Yell counties.

Lavant Randall of Calhoun County placed first and John Evans of Cleburne County placed second in the District Sr. Division. Lavrinda Rainey of Conway County placed first in the Jr. Division at District. These participants represented the Ferndale District at the State Contest.

Other participants from Monroe County competing in the district cook-off were Tiffani Mayo, Richard Edwards, Ashley Spurlock, and Shaw Spurlock of Holly Grove, and Abbe Gordon of Clarendon.

Tiffani and Richard both received Sr. Division blue ribbons for their BBQ, Shaw received a Jr. Division red ribbon, and Abbe and Ashley received Jr. Division white ribbons.

The district and state contests were conducted by Jerry Wooley, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Poultry Service, and Danny Williams with G & M Animal Health Distributors of Springdale, Arkansas who served as Co-Chairmen of the activities.

4-H is the youth development program of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and is open to all boys and girls, nine to nineteen years of age, regardless of race, color, national origin or disability.

ections

MONROE COU

CLARENDON, ARKANSAS, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995



RECEIVES OVER \$84,000: Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler was proud to bring home two checks for the city totaling over \$84,000.00. Mr. Harold Jones, chairman of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation District, presented a check in the amount of \$59,481.00 to Tyler during the commission meeting on Wednesday, May 17. Chairman Jones presented an additional check to Tyler on behalf of Governor Jim Guy Tucker in the amount of \$25,000. The funding provided by Gov. Tucker will assist the city in the purchase of property to provide quality affordable housing to socially disadvantaged residents who live within the Dials Creek floodplain area. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is working with the city in implementing a buyout of property owners within the floodplain of Dials Creek. The funding provided by the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission will be used with local match money provided by FEMA in order to provide quality affordable housing to the current residents in Holly Grove who live within the Dials Creek floodplain. Pictured from left are: Americorps member Renee Spurlock, Mayor Lula Tyler, and city clerk Carol Self.



Man's view of space grows ever sharper, but mysteries remain
— Page 3A



Hutchinson, Dickey: Mr. Inside, Mr. Outside of Arkansas Republicans
— Page 13A



For Father's Day, a seven-step program to making better dads
— Perspective, 1J

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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LITTLE ROCK, JUNE 18, 1995

264 PAGES

20 SECTIONS

\$1.25 ★

■ **ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ**, who once denounced his superiors for human rights abuses and was the Peruvian army's third-highest general when he left the country in 1993, returned from exile in Argentina to take advantage of a broad amnesty law passed last week.

■ **Evelyn Daniels**, 27, who was under house arrest in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on drug charges, pawned for \$5 the \$1,700 electronic monitoring device designed to keep tabs on her, police said, adding that she told pawnshop clerks the device was an answering machine.

Weather

In Arkansas, AmeriCorps fits Clinton's vision

BY GRANT TENHILLE
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

AmeriCorps member Renee Spurlock is moving Holly Grove residents out of danger.

Approximately 60 homes in the east Arkansas town of 700 are inside the flood plain of the White River. During periods of heavy rain, water seeps into the ground floor of some homes. If a 100-year flood were to sweep down the White River, it would take most of those homes with it to the Mississippi.

So Spurlock, 35, a Holly Grove resident, is coordinating a program under the Federal Emergency Management Authority to buy the flood threatened property and find the 135 residents of the area new lots on which to build.

She has spent the past 10 months educating landowners about the buyout program, surveying the area, researching ownership of every piece of property and finally going door-to-door answering questions, providing en-

couragement and soothing fears. "AmeriCorps has really helped this town," Spurlock said.

Spurlock is one of approximately 250 AmeriCorps volunteers in Arkansas working for dozens of private, nonprofit and government agencies across the state. Their accomplishments may be the best defense of President Clinton's modern-day Peace Corps.

Their jobs include feeding the hungry, teaching Little Rock Hispanics job skills, educating mi-

grant farm workers on the dangers of pesticides and helping rural fire departments find money for training.

On Sept. 21, 1993, Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating AmeriCorps. The creation of a national service corps had been a high priority for Clinton during the 1992 campaign.

Clinton envisioned a domestic version of the Peace Corps, created by President John F. Kennedy in the early '60s, a group that

would perform volunteer work in communities across the United States in exchange for government grants to pay for college education.

On Sept. 12, 1994, Clinton administered the oath, via satellite, to 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers across the country.

Republicans in Congress, led by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., attempted to kill the program earlier this month by slashing the 1996 budget for

See AMERICORPS, Page 11A

DAD (Dealing With Adolescent Development)

"Where There Is No Vision The People Perish"

**City Hall
P. O. Box 430
Holly Grove, Arkansas 72069
501-462-8300**

- Respect**
- Responsibility**
- Restraint**

**Project Coordinator
Vivian A. Jones**

Monroe County
Sun May 25, 1995

Holly Grove Council votes to build storage shed

After several months of discussion, the Holly Grove City Council voted last Thursday night to have an equipment storage building constructed. The 30 x 60 foot building will be on a concrete slab and the building itself will be metal. The construction of the building is estimated just over \$14,000. Money for the project will be taken from the sewer construction account.

A motion was made and passed to continue renting a backhoe for the city. The current backhoe is in need of repairs and the aldermen stated they would like to study the 1996 budget and possibly include the purchase of a new backhoe next year.

Renee Spurlock, Americorps member, gave a report of committee activity. She stated that the beautification committee had taken a lead role in the annual city-wide clean up efforts, especially in helping the elderly. Mayor Lula Tyler commended Spurlock, and Alderman Pat Chastain for their efforts in making the annual clean up very successful. Tyler also stated that the city garbage collector, BFI, greatly underestimated the participation from local residents. She stated the company had to return a second Saturday to complete the task.

Spurlock also reported on the FEMA buyout project. Appraisals of property should be completed this week. A plat of the area along Dials Creek now must be done. A flood history for the area is also being collected. Grant money has been received to help the city with the buyout of property.

Tyler stated that the remodeling of the Holly Grove Health Clinic is nearly complete. The inside of the clinic has been totally remodeled. An open house is expected in June.

City maintenance employee

Floyd Christain stated that the city tractor has been having problems with an oil leak. A motion was passed to take the tractor to the John Deere dealership in Marvell for repairs.

The council granted a building permit to the Power House of Prayer Church of God in Christ to renovate their building on Dr. Stone Street. The church wants to bring the building to proper standards and do some renovations.

The council passed an ordinance abolishing the office of town marshall. All duties of the office will be transferred to the police department. The city marshall office was basically defunct but was still on the books.

A request was made to plant a tree in the downtown mall area in memory of Glenn Spurlock. Action was tabled until the city beautification committee can identify a proper location for the tree.

No action was taken, but Mayor Tyler asked the council to be considering the continuation of the one cent sales and use tax. The tax goes off in November. Tyler said the tax must be designated and she believes the city has need to continue the tax. The current tax is designated for streets.

The council passed a motion to pay Henry Stephens 4 1/2 hours overtime for helping BFI with the clean up operations on the second Saturday they were in town for the annual clean up.

Frankie Strortz approached the council about garbage pick-up to his home on Indian Bay. He was told this was not a city responsibility and was directed to talk with his justice of the peace, Billy Joe Morris or the county judge.

All council members were present for the meeting. The council meets again June 15.

Youth group

Building permits discussed by Holly Grove Council

Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler emphasized at Thursday night's council meeting that building permits are required before any construction work is done on property within the Holly Grove city limits. Tyler stated, "If we don't follow the guidelines, our federal money could be stopped."

Due to much of Holly Grove being within the 100 year flood plain, the regulations are somewhat strict. Any new construction in residential areas requires the services of a surveyor. Construction in non-residential areas requires the contracting of an engineer.

The matters were raised before the council because two residents had requested building permits. The council granted permits to both Terry Meredith and Raymond Abramson.

Renee Spurlock stated that work on the FEMA project continues. She related to the council that she toured an area in Russellville that is similar to Dials Creek. The area had been converted to outdoor recreational uses such as hiking trails and nature exhibits. An engineer is working on a plan of development for Holly Grove.

Alderman Chastain expressed a concern about garbage carts being left on the street. Mayor Tyler later commented that if resi-

dents would move their carts away from the street after garbage pick-up this would be helpful. Rolling the carts away from the street would prevent hazardous conditions when large equipment needs extra footage and would also aid in the beautification of the city. Tyler added that she encourages the use of plastic bags within the carts even though this is not required by BFI.

The council passed a motion for the city backhoe to only be used by city personnel for the purpose of city business with the exception of grave digging. The city had received a request for private rental of the backhoe.

The council approved the planting of a tree in memory of Glen Spurlock on the east end of the mall area. A resolution had been passed in 1981 that the downtown mall area remain in the same order as originally established. The ordinance made specific reference to the benches, gazebo, historical plaque, and fixtures. Tyler interpreted that ordinance as referring to that area of the mall located in front of the downtown buildings and that a magnolia tree planted on the opposite end of the mall would not conflict with the resolution. The council agreed.

Tyler reported that the road to
(Continued on Page 5A)

New youth basketball program

A basketball youth program has been started. New Bethlehem M. B. Church is helping to sponsor the team. Rev. Willie Gilmore pastors the church and desired to start activities for youth in Brinkley and Clarendon. Elder Gilmore learned that other churches in surrounding areas were also starting basketball programs. Gilmore has agreed to coach the team. Clark Ray Body is serving as assistant coach.

The team played its first game Monday against the Cougars of West Helena. The game was held on the basketball court of the Fifth Street Housing Project in Clarendon. The Bethlehem Believer's Junior team consists of boys ages 11-14. The team lost 27 to 55.

The Bethlehem Senior team (ages 15-18) played West Helena in the second game and it was a close match. The boys demonstrated good jump shots, three pointers, and lay-ups. The final score was Bethlehem 112 to the Cougars' 114.

The coaches of the teams hope not only to offer an opportunity to play ball, but to teach the kids values, sportsmanship, and team togetherness.

The program is open to anyone interested in playing basketball between the ages of 11 to 18. For more information call 747-3628 or 734-2468.

Building permits...

(Continued from Page 1)

the city park has been completed. She commended Judge Tom Catlett for his assistance and Larry Taylor for helping to locate gas lines.

The mayor announced that a fireworks show has been planned for July 1st at the football field. The show will be under the direction of a Little Rock firm which will handle all of the shooting arrangements.

Tyler announced that the two city JTPA workers were doing an outstanding job. Beverly Sain and Rankey Hayes are working as JTPA employees this summer in Holly Grove.

The council passed a motion to purchase a spectra photometer for the water and sewer department. The purchase has received approval by FHA.

All council members were present for the meeting. Approximately 12 persons were gathered in the audience.

Fire Department commended

Stuttgart Fire Chief Edward Lynch sent a letter of appreciation to Mayor Rheta Griffith and Clarendon Fire Chief James Thompson. The Clarendon Fire Department recently assisted the Stuttgart Fire Department in a downtown fire. Stuttgart and Clarendon have a mutual aid agreement to assist one another in times of emergency.

Chief Lynch stated, "The members of the Stuttgart Fire Department wish to express their sincere appreciation to you and your fire department for your assistance on June 5, 1995. As you know, we were fully involved with a fire in our downtown district. Your assistance at the scene or on standby enabled our fire fighters to be able to concentrate on the task at hand and offered fire protection to the citizens of Stuttgart. Again, thank you."

Bethlehem Youth Basketball Schedule

Fri., June 23—Clarendon vs. Marvell (A)
Sat., June 24—Clarendon vs. Dewitt (A)
Mon., June 26—Clarendon vs. Holly Grove (A)
Fri., July 7—Clarendon vs. Helena (H)
Tues., July 11—Clarendon vs. Altheimer (A)
Fri., July 14—Clarendon vs. Marvell (H)
Tues., July 18—Clarendon vs. Dewitt (H)
Wed., July 19—Clarendon vs. Holly Grove (H)
Thurs., July 27—Tournaments Begin
ALL REGULAR SEASON GAMES START AT 6:30 P.M.



IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF MONROE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK
CLARENDON, ARKANSAS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

NO. E-94-53

SHEILA MORROW AND
GARY MORROW

DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner in Chancery will, pursuant to the orders of the Chancery Court of Monroe County, Arkansas, rendered on the 14th day of June, 1994, in a cause therein pending wherein Merchants and Planters Bank,

**FOR FRESH
TASTE,
NOTHING
TOPS IT.**





ATTEND TRAINING SESSION: Americorps members from three states attended the Delta Service Corps Super Training June 26-29 at the National Guard Center Camp Robinson, North Little Rock. Americorps members assisting the City of Holly Grove include from left: Jana Coleman, Lisa Cobb, and Renee Spurlock.

AmeriCorps members attend training session

An Americorps training session was held June 26-29 at the National Guard Center at Camp Robinson, North Little Rock. Over 200 people from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi were in attendance. Workshops during the session included conducting meetings, working with diverse cultures, promoting volunteerism within communities, adult literacy, and various other subjects related to community life.

Jana Coleman, Lisa Cobb, and Renee Spurlock, Americorps volunteers assisting the City of Holly Grove attended the meeting. The three have worked closely with Holly Grove and surrounding areas in Monroe County.

Coleman has assisted Fargo with getting garbage pick-up service and is in the process of obtaining city street lights. She has worked with Holly Grove in securing sodium lights in the poorly lighted areas of town in an effort

to reduce crime. She is available to help other communities in Monroe County as well.

Cobb is a licensed real estate appraiser. She has been writing appraisals for the homes in the 100 year flood plain in Holly Grove for the FEMA buy-out project. Although she has spent a great amount of time in Holly Grove, she is officially stationed at Jonesboro.

Spurlock has been working with committees in Holly Grove to improve the community in various areas. Target areas have been beautification, economic development, education, and housing. She has assisted Mayor Lula Tyler with the FEMA buy-out project.

Other Americorps participants working in Monroe County that attended the workshop are James Thompson, Eugene McKinney and Harrison Locke. Locke and Harrison are specifically assigned to work with Arkansas Farm and Land Development Corporation.

County 4-H'ers Place In District 4-H O'Rama

By Eugenia Hockett,
CEA Home Economics

Five Monroe County 4-H'ers competed against 4-H'ers from 16 counties in the Southeast District 4-H O'Rama held June 28 on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Abbe Gordon of Clarendon placed third in the junior health division with her illustrated talk entitled "Brainstorming: The Truth About Your Brain and Drugs."

Tiffani Mayo of Holly Grove placed fourth in the senior human development division with her illustrated talk entitled "Getting Along With Others."

Barry Cole of Clarendon placed fifth in the senior crop identification division; David Good of Clarendon placed fifth in the bicycle competitive event; and Ashley Spurlock of Holly Grove received a participation ribbon in the junior bicycle competitive event.

Since Tiffani, Barry and David all placed in senior categories, they will represent Monroe County in these events at the State 4-H O'Rama to be held on the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus July 26-28.

Adults accompanying the group to Pine Bluff were Leonard Cole, Eugenia Hockett, County Extension Agent-Home Economics, and Debby Gordon, 4-H Program Assistant.



DISTRICT WINNERS: Four H'ers from 16 counties participated in the southeast District O'Rama held at Pine Bluff recently. Members competed in the areas of illustrated talks, bicycle competition, and crop identification. Monroe County 4-H'ers and their sponsors include from left: David Good, Barry Cole, Leonard Cole, Tiffani Mayo, Debby Gordon, Eugenia Hockett, and Ashley Spurlock.

HOLLY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Everybody is Somebody"

P.O. BOX 489

HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS 72069

BOARD MEMBERS

Patilla Tyler, President
Bobby Doss, Vice President
Earmon Hardaway, Secretary
Robert Artis
Moses Burton

PAMELA BROWN
Superintendent
462-3397

HARRY MAYO
High School Principal
462-8856

CORNELIUS BARNES
Elementary Principal
462-3910

March 17, 1995

Mr. Bruce Leggitt
Central Arkansas RC&D
NBA Building-Suite 205
4000 McCain Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116

Dear Mr. Leggitt:

Renee Spurlock, Audria Coleman, and Jana Coleman, members of the AmeriCorps-USDA, are very active in and concerned about our community.

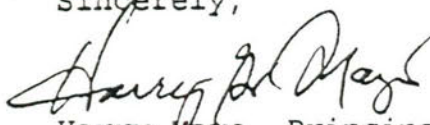
They serve on various projects whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the Holly Grove community. Two good examples are the Crime and Drug Committee and the Education Development Committee. One goal of the Crime and Drug Committee is to organize Neighborhood Watch Programs throughout the city.

As members of the City Beautification, Recreation and Tourism Committee, Ms. Spurlock and Ms. J. Coleman have the task of implementing ideas that will encourage tourism in our city thereby improving our sagging economy.

Vivian Jones is a member of the AmeriCorps-USDA Program who is working on the DAD (Dealing With Adolescent Development) Program. The goals of the DAD Program are to bring job opportunities to the city and to provide the African American youth of the city with programs to help them deal with problems they currently face. As a member of the DAD program, I plan to personally work with about thirty of these at risk African American males.

I have observed both concern and dedication to purpose in Ms. A. Coleman, Ms. J. Coleman, Mrs. Jones and Ms. Spurlock. As a fellow member serving on several committees with them, I have seen their devotion and hard work.

Sincerely,



Harry Mayo, Principal
Holly Grove High School

Mayor
LULA TYLER

City of Holly Grove

P. O. BOX 430
HOLLY GROVE, AR 72069

501-462-3422

March 22, 1995

Aldermen
MOSES BURTON
PATRICIA CHASTAIN
DON DEARING
J. T. RICHARDSON

Paula Cole Jones
Director, Americorp
USDA-NRCS

Dear Ms. Jones:

The City of Holly Grove is very proud to have Americorps workers in our town. They have shown a great interest in improving the living conditions for all of our citizens. They have shown much enthusiasm and motivation in working with our community.

The City has undertaken several projects and the Americorp workers have been very instrumental in keeping the projects out front. They have been very active in the FEMA buy-out and also in reactivating committees that will determine the growth of the City. Also they have been very beneficial in locating funding sources for our projects.

All of the citizens, especially the senior citizens, look forward to reading The Holly Grove Update that is prepared monthly by the Americorps workers. This effort has also brought the City closer together.

It is a pleasure to have Americorps workers in our community. They have been most helpful and cooperative in our endeavor to motivate our residents to become an active part of our community. I hope to see the Americorps program extended here in Holly Grove for at least another year to allow for the completion of the projects that have already been started and to further educate the public in order that the programs that have been initiated by the Americorps workers will continue to be successful.

Respectfully,

Lula Tyler
Lula Tyler
Mayor

program. AmeriCorps member, Vivian Jones, is working on getting the program funded for Holly Grove.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

On January 12, 1995, a meeting was held with Mayor Lula Tyler; Audria Coleman, AmeriCorps-USDA; Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA; Larry Sharp, US Army Corps of Engineers-Memphis District; and Dewey Powell, US Army Corps of Engineers-Memphis District. This meeting was held to discuss the results of a study done by the Corps of Engineers to determine the feasibility and economic justification of a project to alleviate flooding caused by Dials Creek.

Former Mayor Hill requested the preceding project two years ago as a spin-off of a study from The Soil Conservation Service. The Corps was unhappy to report that the costs incurred for the project would not exceed the benefits. The Corps conducted four different plans and unfortunately the benefit to cost ratio is less than 1.0 for all four alternative plans.

The four different studies included:

1. 6-Ft. Channel Conventional Method
2. 10-Ft. Channel Conventional Method
3. 10-Ft. Channel Instream Method
4. 10-Ft. Channel Explosive/Instream Method

It was suggested that the City of Holly Grove work in conjunction with the SCS office and get a permit from The Corps. The permit would allow the citizens to remove sediment and debris by using their own personal sources such as backhoes and explosives.

RC&D

(From Bruce Leggitt, Coordinator of Central Arkansas RC&D)

The Central Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council has in the past played mainly a coordinating role in the Holly Grove initiative. More recently RC&D has assumed a more active role on activities within Holly Grove.

RC&D has been the mechanism which allowed AmeriCorps-USDA participants to be placed in Holly Grove with emphasis on stimulating committee activity, and assisting in the FEMA buy-out.

RC&D is currently locating funds to purchase property in Holly Grove for housing construction. RC&D has secured a contractor (Phillips Construction) to construct 24 multi-family units on this property. Phillips has submitted a pre-application to FmHA for funds to construct these units.

As I know it, the history of the buy-out is tied to frequent and intense flooding within the Dial Creek 100 year floodplain. A FEMA declaration of 50-50 was declared to purchase properties with the floodplain. The city was somewhat reluctant to sign the application due to two reasons: (1) - residents affected by the Buy-Out had no place to move within Holly Grove, therefore adding to the out migration problem; (2) - the city would be unable to come up with the matching funds.

Housing being provided through the RC&D Council solved the first problem. A request to FEMA for a 75-25 declaration was submitted. The request was not approved. The city decided to sign the application after some assurance that the matching funds would be located.

FEMA

On January 25, 1995 a meeting was held at City Hall in Holly Grove, AR with the following attendees: Rodney Larson-Executive Director Central Arkansas Planning and Development; Bruce Leggitt-Coordinator Resource Conservation and Development; David Meador-Soil and Water Commission; Ray Linder-Natural Resources Conservation Services; Terry Gray-Federal Emergency Management Agency; Lula Tyler-Mayor of Holly Grove; and Audria Coleman-AmeriCorps-USDA.

This meeting was held to let everyone who is involved in administering the Buy-Out that FEMA needs all business regarding the buy-out taken care of by March 1, 1995. This is the time FEMA would like to start the issuance of the money to buy the people in the flood area out.

The counteroffers were mailed from Rodney Larson's office on January 17, 1995 via certified mail. The Americorps worker and the mayor were asked to notify every resident on the list to see if they are or are not interested in the Buy-Out and answer any questions they may have. If there is someone that wants to get into the Buy-Out at this time, they have to return their letter immediately. All letters will have to be in by February 10, 1995 enabling Rodney Larson to give an accurate figure to The Soil and Water Commission regarding the amount they will be asked to donate for the cities match. The Soil and Water Commission will meet on February 15, 1995 to decide whether or not they will give the money needed to complete the buy-out. According to David Meador, it doesn't seem like it will be a problem.

FEMA will be able to give up to \$227,000 for the Buy-Out, however the

city will have to come up with that much money as well. As it stands, the city needs \$59,000 and that is the amount The Soil and Water Commission hopes to donate.

If there are any residents living in the flood zone that would like to move their house or trailer to an already developed piece of land, FEMA will pay for the move.

As the properties are acquired, FEMA will pay until \$150,000 has been used, then other matched funds will be used, leaving the states matched funds until the very end of the Buy-Out.

Bruce Leggitt is going to talk to Debbie Moreland, Real Estate Broker, on the legalities of the buying of the homes.

HEALTH CARE

A meeting was held at the City Hall on February 6th with Mayor Lula Tyler, Mid Delta Health Systems, Inc. Executive Director Al Sliger, and Americorps-USDA Member Renee Spurlock. The Health Care Clinic at Holly Grove does not meet the standards of the Health Department. At this time it was decided to get an appraisal of the building currently being used. Also various buildings around town will be viewed to see if any could be used, if it is determined that it is too costly for the current building to be brought up to standards.

HAPPENINGS

Regina Bennett and J.T. Richardson have changed to Sodium Lights.

AmeriCorps-USDA member Jana Coleman will assist the committees with information on sodium lights, restoring the Bent Rail and adopting a corner.

THE HOLLY GROVE UPDATE

Prepared by Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA Member and
Holly Grove High School FBLA

Issue 1

February 1995

COMMITTEES WILL MEET ON THE
2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH !!

MONROE COUNTY JUDGE

On January 5, 1995, a meeting was held at the County Judge's office with Judge Tom Catlett, Bruce Leggit-Coordinator for RC&D Council, Mayor Lula Tyler and Audria Coleman-AmeriCorps-USDA Member to introduce the mayor to the different projects being sponsored by the RC&D Council, Monroe County and various other agencies. The projects are as follows:

RC&D (RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL)

RC&D is made up of eight counties in Central Arkansas. Each county has two council members. They are a 501-C3 non-profit organization. The officers are as follows: Noel Deer, Chairman; Judge Tom Catlett, Vice-Chairman; and Debbie Morton, Secretary and Treasurer. A RC&D Council meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 1995 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Little Rock.

FEMA BUY-OUT

FEMA (Federal Emergency Mitigation Agency) made a 50/50 declaration for \$250,000: 50% FEMA; 12% State Office of Emergency Services; and 38% City of Holly Grove. This would leave a balance of \$90,000 for the city; \$45,000 can be in-kind (AmeriCorp Workers, County, and City Services). The Mayor never agreed to the Buy-Out because the city could not come up with the cash money.

A letter was written to FEMA requesting a 75-25 declaration instead of a 50-50 declaration. FEMA has not answered the request, and it is doubtful that this would be approved. Even if it is not approved, Larry White, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, feels like his Commission can come up with the money. He will go in front of his commission on February 22, 1995. If he receives the money, it can only go toward the Buy-Out.

HOUSING COMPLEX

There have been 7 1/2 acres located on the corner of Hwy. 17 and Hwy 86. The Judge has been working with Representative Cunningham and together they have drafted up a letter to the Governor for the State to buy this land. The Governor has agreed to have the

funds allocated as soon as the Buy-Out is finalized.

Phillips Construction was recommended for this project. They have been secured for the job. They are in the process of putting the application together. The land and the Housing Complex will be owned by Phillips Construction. They will use 2-3 acres from the project and the rest of the land will be owned by the RC&D Council. The Council will donate the lots to people to build houses and that will be used as their down payment. It was mentioned that 1-2 acres be used to build a nursing home. This would have to be approved by the Council before anything is done. Phillips Construction will be totally in charge of building this complex. They will use their own architects and engineers. The city will not be involved.

AMERICORPS-USDA

The AmeriCorps-USDA program is funded by a corporation called the National Corporation for Community Services which was organized by President Clinton. There are three Corporations that house AmeriCorps-USDA members: Rural Development Corp (Under the USDA); Public Land and Environmental Corp; and AntiHunger Corp. The AmeriCorps-USDA workers are in the process of putting together an application for eight workers under the Public Land and Environmental Corp. These workers will help tear down houses after the buy-out, clean up the mall, landscaping, etc. They do not have to have a college degree, however if they don't have a high school diploma they will have to get

their G.E.D. Their salary will be \$7500 annually, as well as a scholarship to be used toward a college education.

NEW FLOOD PLAIN MAP

A letter has been sent to FEMA requesting that the new Flood Plain Map be used and disregard the old map. It will take 9-10 months. This determines whether the residents are in the 100 or 500 year Flood Zone. Many residents that are now considered to be in the 500 year Flood Zone are still having to pay their insurance as if they still lived in the 100 year Flood Zone, and will be legally required to do so until the map is changed.

STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RC&D made an application to this agency to get a new police car for Holly Grove. Deborah Mitchell, who no longer works for the Commission, was quite sure that this grant would be funded. However, it was turned down, but Deborah works for a new agency and will re-submit another application at no cost to the city.

GROUND ELEVATION

If a resident wants their ground elevation they will have to have their land elevation surveyed by a surveyor or engineer. Delta Surveyor of Brinkley could be used. Dennis Jones can not give the elevation for a new structure.

DADS PROGRAM

The Kellogg Foundation has funded a DADS program in Marvell. They have shown a willingness to fund another

THE HOLLY GROVE UPDATE

Prepared by Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA Member and
Holly Grove High School FBLA

Issue 2

March 1995

COMMITTEES WILL MEET ON THE
2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH !!

USDA/AmeriCorps

USDA/AmeriCorps President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts fostering citizen responsibility, and building their communities. The United States Department of Agriculture plays a key role in the overall AmeriCorps program.

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.

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.

The program's participants are not AmeriCorps employees, we are AmeriCorps Members. We do not receive salaries, we receive living allowances. AmeriCorps members are not hired, we are enrolled in AmeriCorps. We do not work at jobs, we perform community service.

We are enrolled in the USDA Rural Development Program. This program is geared for recent college graduates and upon completion of the 1700 hours the members will receive an educational award worth \$4,725. This can be used for college, job training, or repayment of student loans.

Renee Spurlock and Audria Coleman perform community services in the Holly Grove area and Jana Coleman assists the counties of Phillips, Lee, and Monroe.

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 fire depart-

ment 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.

Public Meeting In Holly Grove

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at Holly Grove City Hall for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing the community needs of the City of Holly Grove, determining whether an Application for Community and Economic Development Program funds should be developed and if so, for what community need. Also, comments on proposed project activities will be discussed, especially those with possible impacts on the community, should the project receive funding.

Community and Economic Development Program monies are federal funds received by the State of Arkansas and administered by the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. These funds will be made available to cities and counties according to need and can be used for housing rehabilitation, community facilities, or economic development, but must address one of the following objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low and moderate income families,
2. Aid in the prevention of slum and blight, or
3. Meet other community needs which pose a serious, immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where no other funding is available to meet such needs.

All residents of Holly Grove are encouraged to attend the hearing and participate in the community development process. The City of Holly Grove will provide technical assistance in developing proposals by groups representing low and moderate income persons.

The Mid-Delta Health Clinic in Holly Grove closed Monday, April 17, for renovations. The clinic will be closed for four to six weeks while the interior of the clinic is totally remodeled.

Renovations will include new flooring and ceilings and expansion of the waiting room area. All radiology equipment will also be upgraded. In order to meet standards set by OSHA and the ADA (American Disabilities Act), wheelchair accessible ramps and restrooms will also be added to the clinic.

Butch Kelly of Holly Grove and his crew of local contractors will be in charge of all renovations made.

Al Sliger, Executive Director of Mid-Delta Health Systems, Inc. stated that the renovation project was coordinated by Dr. Herd Stone and the Holly Grove medical trust committee.

The Holly Grove clinic is planned to re-open in June if all renovations are completed on time.

During the next six weeks, Mid-Delta will provide free transportation to and from the Clarendon clinic for Holly Grove residents and residents of surrounding communities. Mid-Delta transit vans will make daily pick ups at Medi-Mart pharmacy in Holly Grove at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. For more information on transportation to the clinic, contact Mid-Delta Health Center in Clarendon at 747-3381.

Monroe County Sun

4-6-95



HONORED FOR SERVICE: Jimmy Stephens, former operator of the Holly Grove Waterworks Department, was honored for twenty years of service Monday, April 3. Stephens resigned his position due to health reasons. To help the family with expenses related to his illness, a benefit basketball game and other fund raisers have been held for Stephens. He was presented with a check totaling \$1,390 during Monday's reception. Highlighting the program was Brenda Coleman's solo, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." Pictured from left are: Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler, Jimmy Stephens, and his wife, Sylvia.

A community Easter service will be held Sunday, April 16, in Holly Grove. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. on the downtown mall area.

Various area churches including Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian will all be involved in the service. Scheduled singers include a children's choir, "The Messengers" teenage choir, and a multicultural adult choir.

In case of rain the change of location of the service will be posted on the marquee at City Hall. The public is invited to join the churches of Holly Grove for this

4-20-95

The Monroe County Sun

April 11, 1995 8 hrs.

Talked with Fran at the Holly Grove Public Schools about Dental week that they will have for the students

next week. The National Guard will help along with students from UAMS in Little Rock. Gave this information to Marty Hopper with the Monroe County Sun so she could write an article for the paper. Held 4-H meeting and met with mayor about the buy-out.

April 17, 1995 11.5 hrs.

met with mayor and Charlie Cummings on new housing for Holly Grove. Worked on Proclamation for City Wide Clean up Week and Health Week. Met with American Legion Auxiliary about feeding the UAMS Dental Students and had a 4-H meeting. Pulled names of people interested in new housing to invite to the meeting

Public Hearing Monroe County Sun 3-30-95 In Holly Grove

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at Holly Grove City Hall for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing the community needs of the City of Holly Grove, determining whether an Application for Community and Economic Development Program funds should be developed and if so, for what community need. Also, comments on proposed project activities will be discussed, especially those with possible impacts on the community, should the project receive funding.

Community and Economic Development Program monies are federal funds received by the State of Arkansas and administered by the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. These funds will be made available to cities and counties according to need and can be used for housing rehabilitation, community facilities, or economic development, but must address one of the following objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low and moderate income families,
2. Aid in the prevention of slum and blight, or
3. Meet other community needs which pose a serious, immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where no other funding is available to meet such needs.

All residents of Holly Grove are encouraged to attend the hearing and participate in the community development process. The City of Holly Grove will provide technical assistance in developing proposals by groups representing low and moderate income persons.

Reception at City Hall Monroe County Sun 3-30-95 For Jimmy Stephens

A reception honoring Jimmy Stephens, the former waterworks man at Holly Grove, will be held at 5:00 p.m. Monday, April 3 at the Holly Grove City Hall.

The public is invited to attend.



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; Audria Coleman of Holly Grove; Debra Carmen 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.



SIGNS PROCLAMATIONS: Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler signed two proclamations this week. Tyler proclaimed the week of April 17-21 as Dental Hygiene Week and the week of April 23-29 as City Wide Clean-Up Week. Dental Hygiene Week was proclaimed in honor of the dental students, National Guard personnel and others who are sponsoring a dental clinic at Holly Grove Public Schools this week. City Wide Clean-Up Week was proclaimed to encourage people to clean-up yards, lots, and business sites as all large items such as stoves and refrigerators will be hauled away free on April 29 if placed at the curbside. Joining Mayor Tyler in making the proclamation are from left: Audria Coleman Foran, Brenda Coleman, Harry Mayo, Renee Spurlock, and Cornelius Barnes.

PROCLAMATION CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP WEEK

April 23-April 29

I, Lula Tyler, Mayor of the City of Holly Grove, Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the week of April 23, 1995 through April 29, 1995 to be "CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP WEEK" and request that all citizens of Holly Grove put on their work clothes, roll up their sleeves, get their gloves and collect all litter, debris and trash including metal and glass junk which cannot be burned and place same in sacks, boxes or other non-returnable containers at the curbside for loading. These items (including old stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, bed springs, etc.) will be picked up on April 29, 1995.

All rubbish will be hauled away FREE during the campaign. Do not delay beyond the deadline as no call-backs will be honored.

Holly Grove citizens are urged to Clean-Up, Paint-Up, and Fix-Up their premises and property, which will add not only to the health and sanitary conditions of our City, but will beautify and enhance the value of all property.

Our Homes and Community are what we make them.

BE A GOOD CITIZEN
DO YOUR PART IN KEEPING OUR
COMMUNITY LITTER-FREE

Dated this 17th day of April, 1995.

LULA TYLER, MAYOR
CITY OF HOLLY GROVE

PROCLAMATION DENTAL HYGIENE WEEK

April 17-21, 1995

WHEREAS, the City of Holly Grove believes that proper dental care is needed for all children, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the important relationship between learning and good health, and

WHEREAS, dental hygiene students and faculty from the Department of Dental Hygiene at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and members of the 204th Medical Detachment with the Arkansas Army National Guard, and professionals with the Arkansas Department of Health, have volunteered their services to conduct five days of dental services to the students of Holly Grove Public School providing such dental care as oral health education, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, and other services as deemed necessary;

I, LULA TYLER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLLY GROVE, do hereby PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF APRIL 17-21 AS DENTAL HYGIENE WEEK IN HOLLY GROVE.

Lula Tyler,
Mayor of the City of Holly Grove

City Wide Clean-Up In Holly Grove

4-13-95
Monroe County San

The Holly Grove Beautification Committee will sponsor a City Wide Clean-Up. The committee is urging the community to get involved in making the city one of the most beautiful cities in Monroe County. There will be a special residential pickup on Saturday, April 29. This will give everyone the opportunity to get rid of anything from bathtubs to screwdrivers. Be sure to place these items in front of your residents on Friday afternoon, April 28, so you will be ready for the Clean Sweep on Saturday, April 29.

If anyone needs assistance in moving heavy objects or cleaning-up their property please contact AmeriCorps-USDA Member Renee Spurlock at 462-8300, Chairman Brenda Coleman at 462-8350, Mary Frances Spurlock at 462-3402, or Grace Brown at 462-8574 so we can make arrangements to help you as soon as possible.

CITY WIDE CLEAN UP WEEK April 23-April 29

Put on your work clothes, roll up your sleeves, get on your gloves and collect all litter, debris and trash including metal and glass junk which cannot be burned and place in sacks, boxes & other non-returnable containers at the curb for loading. These items (including old stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, bed springs, etc.) will be picked up on

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 1995

All rubbish will be hauled away FREE during this campaign.

DO NOT DELAY BEYOND THE DEADLINE
AS NO CALL-BACKS WILL BE HONORED

If you need assistance in moving heavy objects or cleaning up your property, please contact:

AmeriCorps-USDA member Renee Spurlock at 462-8300
Chairperson Brenda Coleman at 462-8350
Mary Frances Spurlock at 462-3402
Grace Brown at 462-8574

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 AmeriCrops 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: Renee Spurlock

Project location: Holly Grove, AR

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

I have a BSE in Business with endorsements in Vocational and Computer Technology. This AmeriCorps service experience has definitely been a learning experience for me in many ways.

What are your present education and career goals?

I would really enjoy serving my community in AmeriCorps-USDA for another year. By serving another year I would be able to finish a lot of projects that I have started. Eventually I would like to get back into the school system.

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?

Personally the impact of this AmeriCorps experience makes me feel that I am helping the community in which I live in. There is no way that the city would have been able to get the things done if it hadn't been for the AmeriCorps program.

What have you learned about natural resources through this program?

Through this program I have learned alot about enhancing the wetlands by working in the floodplain area at Holly Grove.

What have you learned about community service through this experience?

If everyone would give a little of their time to community service then it would make the town a better place to live in.

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

Just because people have different backgrounds doesn't mean they don't have feelings. I try my best to treat everyone the way I would want them to treat me, even though at times it is very hard to do.

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

It is definitely a learning experience. Be prepared to work hard if you want to see results. You must be able to work with all different kinds of people and take what information you have and go with it in order for AmeriCorps to work.

THIRD QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT
RENEE SPURLOCK, AMERICORPS MEMBER, HOLLY GROVE

3. TOTAL NUMBERS OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

Renee Spurlock: 1569 hours (start date: 9/12/94)

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

Renee Spurlock: 308 hours

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- A. Assisted The Churches of Holly Grove in organizing as Easter Special on the Mall for the community.
- B. Met with the DAD'S Program Committee to discuss how to raise money in order to start the program in our community. We have yet to receive any grant to fund this program.
- C. Various activities have been done with the Jr. 4-H Club.
- D. Assisted the Economic Development Committee in locating 40 acres for an Industrial Park.
- E. The water at the City Airport is undrinkable. The AmeriCorps member has checked on various ways to get a water line to this area.
- F. Helped with ideas on enhancing the Dial Creek area.
- G. The AmeriCorps member was a part of the very successful City Wide Clean Up.
- H. Collected ideas on how to rejuvenate the downtown area.
- I. Gave information to the Holly Grove Fire Department concerning Act 833 money.
- J. Progress has been made toward the completion of the information to be turned in to FEMA for the buy-out.

6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A. The citizens of Holly Grove enjoyed the Easter Special on the Mall that was made possible by The Churches of Holly Grove. We hope to make this an annual event.

- B. The DAD'S Program Committee has collected donations from citizens in or from the Holly Grove area for this program.
- C. The Jr. 4-H Club helped with the Rabies Clinic in Holly Grove which was very successful. They have planted giant watermelons and pumpkins which requires them to learn how to care for these plants. Various members entered the County 4-H Broiler Barbecue Contest at Clarendon which was sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service along with Co-Sponsors that included Kroger of Brinkley and Fred's of Clarendon. We had five winners from our group that competed at the District 4-H Broiler Barbecue Contest at Ferndale. Our group also participated in the County 4-H O-Rama in Clarendon. Some went on to the Southeast District 4-H O-Rama at Pine Bluff. From this group we had one Jr. member and one Sr. member that placed. The Sr. member is eligible to compete in the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama at Fayetteville on July 26-28.
- D. The Economic Development Committee and the AmeriCorps member is in the process of trying to secure 40 acres of land in order to be eligible for an Industrial Park with the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission (AIDC).
- E. The AmeriCorps member has met with an Engineer to run a water line extension to the City Airport. It is hopeful that we will be able to add an Industrial Park to this area.
- F. The National Guard was unable to help with the draining of Dials Creek. At this time, the city is planning on enhancing this wetland area instead of draining it. The AmeriCorps member, Mayor Lula Tyler, Brenda Coleman, and Bill Stone toured the Bona Dea Trail at Russillville in order to see what the City of Holly Grove can do with the wetland of Dials Creek. Ken Guston, who is with the Forest Service, is drawing up a park plan for Dials Creek. The plan is part of the package that will be turned in to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with various other material.
- G. A City Wide Clean Up Week was promoted by the City Beautification Committee and the AmeriCorps member on April 23-29 to help the citizens take pride in their community and clean up unsightly sites that aren't meeting the criteria of City Ordinances. On April 29 it was scheduled for BFI to haul all items away. BFI was not prepared for the large quantity

of items needing hauling away. Therefore, they agreed to return on May 6 to complete the task. The city has received many compliments on the clean up effort. Members of the City Beautification Committee and the AmeriCorps member schedule days to go around the town to help keep it clean. Other citizens are starting to get involved in the clean ups. Flowers have been planted in several different areas around town.

- H. Plans are under way to apply for a grant to fund a new Senior Citizen Center. An owner of three vacant buildings in the downtown area will donate them to the city and it is hopeful that we can restore these buildings for a new Senior Citizen Center. At the present time our Center is unfit but, it is better than nothing.
- I. The Holly Grove Fire Department received their Act 833 money in order to update their department.
- J. Structures have been located on a flood map that identifies property in the FEMA buy-out. Certified letters have been sent to 50 land owners who were not included in the buy-out in the beginning. Photo's have been taken of each structure and old newspaper articles have been collected along with old photo's of flooding in this area. New certified letters have been sent to the 43 owners, who were included in the beginning, showing the fair market value for each property and structure. A certified independent appraiser has almost completed the appraisals for the first 43 property owners. The AmeriCorps member has been very involved in completing this information for this buy-out. The City of Holly Grove has received over \$84,000 for this project. Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission presented a check in the amount of \$59,481 and Governor Jim Guy Tucker gave the \$25,000 in order to purchase property to provide quality affordable housing to socially disadvantaged residents who live within the Dials Creek floodplain area.

7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- A. Assist The Churches of Holly Grove make plans to expand the programs they have started for next year.
- B. Help start the DAD'S Program in Holly Grove.
- C. Continue to work with the Jr. 4-H Club and recruit adults to form more 4-H Clubs in the community.

- D. Secure the land for an Industrial Park.
- E. Locate funding to provide water to the City Airport.
- F. Start enhancing the Dials Creek floodplain with the park plan.
- G. Assist the City Beautification Committee on locating unsightly property that does not meet the City Ordinances.
- H. Continue to rejuvenate the downtown area.
- I. Have a fireworks display around the 4th of July.
- J. Continue to collect information for the buy-out in order to finish the package to turn in to FEMA.

8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

The biggest problem has been getting the AmeriCorps shirts, hats, and pins to wear while providing services for my community. My service is almost over and I have yet to receive a hat or pin.

9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Computer workshops

AmeriCorps *USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report completed: July 6, 1995

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of AmeriCorps Member: James Thompson

Name of person completing this report (if different): James Thompson

Site Name (RECD Office or Organization): Mid-Delta Community Services, Inc.

Site Address: 610 South Biscoe St.

Helena, Arkansas 72342

Telephone number: 501-338-6406

Fax number: 501-338-3629

**Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Member Name: James Thompson
2. Check this reporting quarter: ☐ First Quarter ☐ Second Quarter ☒ Third Quarter ☐ Fourth Quarter
(10-1 - 12/31) (1-1 - 3/31) (4-1 - 6/30) (7-1 - 9/30)
3. Date you began service: October 18, 1994
4. List the total number of service hours you have completed
as of the last day of this quarter (include all previous quarters) 1,232
5. Please estimate: Total number of community volunteers who took part in activities which were
sponsored or organized by you (i.e. Number attending classes or training taught or organized by you; Helped in a
community project; Participated in a group or organization convened or organized by you, etc.). 0
- 6.. Please estimate: The cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by
the volunteers in Number 8 above: (e.g. Twenty-five 0)

8. Describe your major accomplishments this quarter. List them by each objective from your work plan. Under each objective, describe your major accomplishments for this quarter toward each objective. If there was no progress, explain how plans changed. Use additional pages, if needed.

Example:

Objective 1:

To increase the number of 504 Rural Housing loan applications in the Deadhead SD service area by 15% (75 new applications).

Accomplishments:

150 local residents were informed of the 504 program through direct contact at five local senior citizen centers. I set up programs at each senior citizen center and made 15 minute presentations. There was much interest in the program and there were always a lot of questions afterward. The senior all expressed a lot of appreciation that someone had taken the time to explain the program to them. These activities resulted in 16 new applications for the 504 program, of which 7 were funded. - meaning 13 people will now be living in decent housing..

Objective 2:

To increase the number of local jobs by creating a small business enterprise fund.

Accomplishments:

Two workshops were held at which I trained 12 potential entrepreneurs in how to write a business plan. Four of the attendees finished their plans and submitted them to our Development Fund. This resulted in all four received funding in the amount of \$55,000. These four businesses will generate 25 new jobs for the area and nearly \$200,000 in annual payroll. Most of this money will be spent in local stores, creating even more employment.

Objective: To improve access by area residents to public safety services.

Accomplishments: I have worked with the Monroe County Judge in determining the economic feasibility of providing 911 service to the 11,333 residents of Monroe County. Earlier this year, the Arkansas Legislature enacted legislation allowing lesser populated counties to assess a higher surcharge on telephone bills in order to defray the costs associated with 911 service. Because of this new legislation, there is renewed interest in 911 service for Monroe County. I am presently assisting the County Judge and the Mayors to prepare an action plan to work through the steps necessary to prepare for and to call a special election for the voters of the county to approve this issue.

Objective: To improve the level of and the quality of fire protection services provided in the area.

Accomplishments: I have worked with the Holly Grove Volunteer Fire Department in order to assist them in a total reorganization of that department. They now have a new set of by-laws, a new slate of officers, and renewed support from City Hall. This department now has trained instructors and is meeting on a regular basis. I have also been able to walk them through the steps necessary to obtain their share of insurance premium turnback funds provided through the State of Arkansas. This amounted to over \$7,000 in one-time funding and will be followed by approximately \$2,000 in annual funding. This will benefit over 1,000 residents.

I have also been working with the Clarendon Volunteer Fire Department to ensure their continued receipt of the insurance premium turnback funds. This amounts to approximately \$4,800 in annual funding which benefits over 2,000 people. I also found out about and wrote a grant application for the Clarendon department

which resulted in a \$500 grant award from the Arkansas Forestry Commission for the purchase of equipment. Also, I have been assisting the Clarendon department in determining the steps necessary and other actions needed to prepare for a grading to lower their property insurance rating. This could result in at least a 10% reduction in annual property insurance premiums for all property owners in the town.

Objective: To increase the opportunities available for area youth to complete their education, to acquire job skills, and to enter the workforce.

Accomplishments: I assisted in the coordination of efforts to prepare a planning grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund a YouthBuild project to be based in Phillips County. This program would create an opportunity for area youth who have not finished high school to complete their GEDs and to gain valuable work experience in supervised construction activities. Once they have completed the program, the participants would then be more attractive to employers in the area. Funding for this project is pending.

9. Unplanned Activities: Please describe all accomplishments for the quarter that were not in your workplan:

Example:

I organized 10 local residents to spend a Saturday painting houses which are occupied by disabled elderly people. I found the volunteers by contacting three local church groups and making presentations about the needs in this community. The response from church members was very enthusiastic. **This resulted in** two homes of elderly people being completely repainted.

- ° I have assisted a fellow AmeriCorps member in efforts to complete the flood plain project in Holly Grove. This assistance has consisted of completion of required maps, research, and other administrative functions.
- ° I attended an intense, three-day training session targeted at improving customer relations presented by USDA's Rural Economic and Community Development Services. This was very good training for dealing with the general public in a successful manner.
- ° I attended the state-wide Arkansas Rural Development Conference. This was an excellent opportunity to inter-act with individuals and agencies outside of USDA who are striving for similar goals in rural development.
- ° I attended a dedication ceremony at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro where President Clinton was the keynote speaker. During his speech, President Clinton spoke about the AmeriCorps Program and pointed out those members who were in the audience.
- ° I attended several meetings of the East Arkansas Enterprise Community including a special ceremony for the award of the EC's funding. This ceremony was attended by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger Congresswoman Blance Lambert Lincoln as well as several state and local dignitaries.

10. Unique Successes or Great Stories (Briefly describe a unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or 'great stories' about your project or partnerships you formed with other people and/or organizations).

Example:

I was having coffee on morning in the local cafe and talking with the High School Principal. She mentioned that that they had a computer lab which was not going to be used over the summer. After talking over some ideas, she and I decided to set up a summer program for underprivileged children to teach them how to do computer art. I designed ads for the local paper and wrote up a curriculum for the course. 15 local kids showed up for the program. Their work was so exciting that the local paper ran a story (enclosed) about the project. This resulted in the school district deciding to offer the program every year.

None for this reporting period.

11 Primary Challenges: (Report on problems you may have encountered in your program this quarter. These can be about obstacles to achieving your objectives, significant causes of delay, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.

- ° I still have not received an AmeriCorps t-shirt.
- ° There are still some bottlenecks in the flow of information through the AmeriCorps system. This is to be expected in any new program and improvements are visible.
- ° There are apparent differences in the broad and overall goals, objectives, and attitudes between USDA AmeriCorps members in NRCS, FS, and RECDS. This creates problems for cohesiveness and for presentation of a unified effort.
- ° Some local leaders are for some reason apparently unwilling to fully utilize the AmeriCorps Program and/or particular members.

AmeriCorps *USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report completed: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of AmeriCorps Member: Eugene McKinney

Name of person completing this report (if different): _____

Site Name (RECD Office or Organization): Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corp.

Site Address: P.O. Box 220
More, AR 72368

Telephone number: (501) 768-3271

Fax number: (501) 768-3231

**Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Member Name: Eugene McKinney
2. Check this reporting quarter: Third Quarter (4/1 - 6/30)
3. Date you begin service: 10-17-94
4. List total number of service hours completed as of the last day of
this quarter: 1514
5. Please estimate: Total number of community volunteers who took
part in activities which were sponsored or organized by you: 35
6. Please estimate: The cumulative total number of hours of community
service completed by the volunteers: 24

PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED THIS QUARTER:

No major problems or obstacles have occurred to hinder the progress that have been made on objectives.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING NEXT YEAR'S AMERICORP PROGRAM:

The work plan of the AmeriCorp member needs to be understood by all participants involved in the carrying out the objectives: members, site supervisors, state contacts and the corporation.

Better protocol information dissemination from the Corporation, State Contacts, Site Supervisors, and the members.

More understanding is needed as to what is expected of the Rural Development Team.

UNIQUE SUCCESSES OR GREAT STORIES:

Attended a Tri-State (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi) Regional Training in Little Rock ,AR. It was the first time Delta Service Corps and AmeriCorps USDA Members have been in training together. It was a very sucessful and exciting training.

UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES:

I started to work with a community group in tutoring school kids after school. It is approx. 45 kids that show up on a volunteer basis to receive assistance from the adult tutors. The success of the program is measured by how many kids grades improve from the current status , how many continue to stay enrolled in the program , and how many continue to advance to higher grades. So far five have graduated from high school and others are continuing to meet the requirements of the program.

DESCRIBE YOUR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER:

Objective 1: Locate additional resources for implementation of the EC plan.

**Accomplishment: Located some funds that were available from RECDs
community facility/waste water system program.**

Objective 2: Assist in the implementation of the EC Strategic Plan.

**Accomplishment: The participants of the Eastern Arkansas Enterprise Community
are meeting and planning their strategy to begin the implementation
stage of the EC Plan as soon as it becomes feasible.**

TO: Jim Coyle
AmeriCorp

FAX # 703-305-2982

FROM: Mary McBride
Washington State Director

RE: AmeriCorp Quarterly Report

- Still one to come. I will write it up & fax to you today. (The other member has been winding down & not readily available).
- I am at the Ramada Inn Hotel in New Carrollton. Call me at (301)-459-6700 this week if you have questions.
- They are all finishing their final reports now.

Quarterly Report

1. Member Name: Chris Glen
2. Reporting Quarter: Third
3. Date began service: 10/94
4. Service hours completed: 1303
5. Number of community volunteers who took part in activities sponsored by you: 64
6. Estimate the cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers above: 100

8. Major Accomplishments this quarter.

* organize annual workshops + conference to assist local rural impoverished communities ~~and~~ representatives to meet with public agency representatives to :

- access resources for public infrastructure projects
- find solutions for/to locally identified problems/barriers
- gain information that will result in every household ~~has~~ in Washington State having access to water/sanitation resources

* Providing one-stop-shop access to local community residents on resources (infrastructure resources) available, packaging information, barrier removal. Provided critical referral and linkage information to 47 different community leaders during this last quarter.

* Follow-up information to communities that contacted the one-stop-shop number to insure that information was provided by agencies to community and to identify ~~upon~~ additional opportunities for assistance.

* Assistance in the "Streamlining Application" pilot effort. Worked with local community members and public agency representatives to streamline the difficult-multi-application process for infrastructure resources.

9. Unplanned activities.

* Assisted 7 local community non-profit organizations to tie into a Statewide telecommunications project

10. Unique successes/great stories

* Lead story in "Water Sense" a newsletter that is distributed to Small Communities nationwide on innovative approaches to Drinking Water issues. The partnership between Americorp and the Washington Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) and their One-Stop-Shop approach to helping small communities is noted as an excellent resource to small communities + community residents. (Story Attached)

Water Sense

Water Sense Begins Detailed Look at Rates

by P.J. Cameon
NDWC Staff Writer

Editor's note: Rising water rates can be a difficult issue for small communities.

A multitude of factors—labor costs, debt service, chemicals—influence the cost of providing clean drinking water. Water utility managers and water boards may find it difficult to balance these factors with community needs when setting or adjusting rates.

The following article discusses expenses covered by water bills, trends in water rates, and commonly used rate structures. Future issues of Water Sense will include articles on consumer involvement in rate setting, computer rate-setting programs, and implications of shifting national trends on water rates.

Unless there is a problem with the water, usually the customer thinks about water service

only when it's time to pay the bill. Even then, the customer probably doesn't consider what expenses are covered by that bill.

In most small communities, residents are likely to receive a combined bill for water and sewage service, either with an itemized listing for each service or as a single charge.

"In small towns, the water and wastewater charges are typically combined on the same bill if the town provides both services," said Jerry Kopke, rural community assistance coordinator with the Community Resource Group in Springdale, Arkansas. "Some also add other charges to the bill, such as garbage service. Some even have mosquito abatement charges."

But regardless of how the service is billed, the key is to generate enough revenue from rates—in addition to any fees or other income—to cover

Continued on page 4

With this issue,

Water Sense begins
the first in a series
of articles on drinking
water rates.

"One-Stop Shops" Help Small Communities

by Laurie Klappauf
Water Sense Editor

Where can small communities turn for help to build or upgrade their drinking water systems? Who can help them unscramble the patchwork of different federal, state, or other funding options to finance their projects?

Increasingly, states are providing this sort of help by establishing "one-stop shops" to guide small community officials through the infrastructure planning and financing process.

"We have to be more creative than ever in getting the most bang for our resources," says Jim Bonk, environmental supervisor in the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance.

His state is one of a growing number that have started networks—formal and informal—among state agencies providing financial and technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater projects.

"One of the biggest benefits of the whole process is that we've developed a better

understanding of other programs, and what they can and can't do," says Bonk. "It also provides simultaneous access to everyone with financial resources—that's really critical to small commu-

nities," who may have part-time mayors or operators, often with little expertise in coordinating expensive infrastructure projects.

While the states vary widely in how they coordinate infrastructure

Continued on page 10



Cris Glenn handles calls to Washington's Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council* (IACC), providing information to help communities address their water, wastewater, and other infrastructure needs. IACC is among a growing number of state "one-stop shops" striving to better coordinate financial and technical resources.



"One-Stop Shops" Help Small Communities

Continued from page 1

financing, they do tend to share some common traits:

- Most state coordination activities are voluntary, with no state funding for administrative costs.
- Although state coordinating groups often identify funding sources and devise ways to combine them, most communities still need to make final application to the individual funding agencies themselves.
- There's a trend toward streamlining services by developing a single, standard preapplication—to gather preliminary project descriptions and financial data—and sharing environmental reviews among multiple funding agencies.
- Many states have developed a *matrix*—or list—identifying sources of water and wastewater funding within the state. These lists generally include the major federal funding sources administered by state agencies, such as Rural Utilities Service's Water and Waste Disposal Program; Community Development Block Grants; and state revolving funds.

Some state and local community officials don't know where they'd be without this "one-stop" approach. David Meador, chair of the Arkansas Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee, says that in the past "I'd seen projects sit around three years and maybe longer" before they secured adequate funding from several sources. Now that WWAC is around to coordinate infrastructure financing, says Meador, "we can usually get funding committed in about six months."

Some states do offer a true "one-stop" approach, while others collaborate more informally. A sample of some of these efforts follows.

Arkansas Uses Single Preapplication

What: Arkansas Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee

Who: Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Arkansas Industrial Development Commission
Rural Economic and Community Development Services (formerly Farmers Home Administration)
Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology
Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
Community Resource Group (the local Regional Community Assistance Program)

The experience of one small community in Arkansas was typical. Facing health problems caused by failing septic tanks, the community hired a consulting engineer and submitted preapplications to two different funding sources. For almost a year and a half, neither funding agency knew an application had been submitted to the other.

In the meantime, the state Department of Health had to review both preapplications, which included two very different engineering reports. Funding commitments came piecemeal, and construction wasn't slated to start until at least three years after the first preapplication was filed.

By the late 1980s—frustrated by too many similar cases—officials from major water and wastewater funding organizations in Arkansas began a grass-roots coordination effort that, by 1992, developed into the Arkansas Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC).

"We really have 'one-stop shopping' in the true sense of the word," says Bill Young, assistant director of community assistance at the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. To achieve this, WWAC created a single preapplication that communities submit to the committee. "Every funding and regulatory agency reviews the same preapplication at the same time," says Young.

At its monthly meetings, WWAC conducts two types of reviews on preapplications. Regulatory agencies review the projects for technical feasibility, while financing agencies review the preapplications to determine eligibility for different funding programs.

"One thing that's important to recognize is that we don't always go for the lowest capital cost," says Young. "We're much more interested in the lowest maintenance and operation cost once the project is built."

The committee itself is solely advisory and does not provide funds. It's up to individual funding agencies within the committee to determine if they can help finance a particular project, often in combination with other funding programs.

Following its monthly meetings, WWAC sends out letters to each community approving the project for funding, denying it, or requesting additional technical data. Approval letters direct the communities to specific funding agencies identified during the meeting. The engineering

Continued on next page

"Every funding and regulatory agency reviews the same preapplication at the same time."

Bill Young,
Arkansas Water/
Wastewater
Advisory Committee

Continued from previous page
report required with the preapplication can be used again or revised as requested by the committee when applicants submit their final applications to each source.

WWAC members consider the effort a success. "The thing that works in Arkansas that could work elsewhere is as long as every organization receives something positive, there's incentive to participate," says Young.

For instance, Young says his organization distributes grant funds—in the form of Community Development Block Grants—but lacks the engineering expertise of other agency staffs. "What we get [from WWAC] is technical assistance in engineering issues," says Young, "and what other organizations get is grant money" to package with their loans.

"We're also able to deal with regionalization," says Young. "Without WWAC, we would have seen more small, marginal wastewater systems. Being able to force regional solutions for marginal systems has been perhaps one of the best things for small communities."

A key measure of WWAC's success is "the speed in which projects are funded," according to WWAC chair Meador, noting that funding commitments are now sometimes made within a matter of months, instead of years.

Communities wanting to receive preapplications or more information should contact the appropriate WWAC subcommittee chairs. For drinking water, contact Alan Johnson at (501) 682-3974; for wastewater, contact David Fenter at (501) 570-2826.

Colorado Creates Needs List

What: Water and Sewer Needs Committee

Who: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Rural Economic and Community Development office (formerly Farmers Home Administration)
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority
Colorado Water Conservation Board and other state associations

In Colorado, communication among funding agencies tends to be informal, but "quite effective," according to Leroy Cruz, director of Community and Business Programs with the Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) office. "The people know each other and work well together."

Face-to-face contact among those involved with drinking water or wastewater funding and regulation occurs every three months at meetings of the Water and Sewer Needs Committee. This committee reviews health, regulatory, and financial problems facing communities with water and sewer needs. The communities are then ranked from A to C, where "A" reflects the most critical health or compliance problems.

"This Needs List is used in different ways by different programs," says Barry Cress, public works specialist with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Cress says that DOLA uses the ranking as one of several factors that the agency looks at when a community applies for Community Development Block Grants or Energy Impact Program funding through DOLA.

After the meetings, letters are sent to the individual communities describing how they were evaluated, and suggesting what funding programs might be able to help them finance their projects.

The committee also gives the list to field staff of various state agencies or assistance organizations so that they can follow up with local officials or operators.

Interaction among funding agencies is not limited to quarterly meetings. "If a funding request is received by any of the agencies, we contact the others to see if they would be interested in funding some of the project," says Cruz, who adds that his office talks with the health department and DOLA on a weekly basis.

The Needs List is published and distributed by DOLA, which also compiles a summary of financial assistance available for water and wastewater projects in Colorado.

Colorado communities looking for assistance can contact Barry Cress at DOLA, at (303) 866-2352.

One Call Gets Washington's Clearinghouse

What: Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council

Who: Representatives from local, state, and federal organizations, including: Washington departments of Health; Ecology; and Community, Trade and Economic Development

Continued on page 12



"One-Stop Shops" Help Small Communities

Continued from page 11

**Rural Economic and Community
Development office
Association of Washington Cities
Washington Public Utility Districts
Association
Rural Community Assistance
Corporation (the regional Rural
Community Assistance Program)**

In 1987, as Charmaine Stouder of the Community Development Block Grant program was leaving a meeting in eastern Washington, she ran into Pete Butkus of Washington's Public Works Trust Fund, who was heading to the same community to talk about the same project. Both realized there had to be a better way to plan and fund projects.

Soon afterward, representatives of agencies providing water and wastewater funding started informal discussions about ways to collaborate on common activities. These meetings gave birth to what is now called the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC), a voluntary effort to make better use of the state's infrastructure resources.

Washington's IACC does not formally coordinate financing. Instead, it's a "clearinghouse of information," explains Gwen Haynes, program manager with the Washington State Energy Office and current chair of the IACC.

Central to this clearinghouse function is a hotline number, staffed by an AmeriCorps member who answers questions, provides referrals, and distributes the *IACC Directory* of agency programs and contacts.

Updated annually, the popular directory lists technical, financial, and training resources for water, wastewater, and other infrastructure projects. It also includes an events calendar and names and addresses of all IACC members.

Also popular is IACC's annual statewide conference. There, local government officials can meet state and federal personnel providing infrastructure financing and technical assistance.

"The conference is valuable to communities because they get to meet and talk with agency representatives," says Janice Roderick, a wastewater specialist in the Washington Department of Ecology.

Such face-to-face contact is valuable to the agencies as well. "What IACC is to an agency like mine," says Roderick, "is an excellent network. When I'm on the beginning of a project, I know who to call with different pots of money, and I can pull together a team [to address the problem]."

Most of the actual coordination among funding agencies, therefore, tends to take place on a case-by-case basis, says Roderick. At the full IACC council meetings, held every other month, members discuss common issues or needs across programs, rather than specific communities.

For instance, IACC is starting a number of initiatives to improve statewide coordination. One subcommittee is trying to create a single preapplication for all of the different funding sources. Another subcommittee is working to link IACC members—and eventually local community officials—via an electronic bulletin board.

For more information, contact Cris Glenn at the main IACC number: (360) 586-7656.

Ohio Focuses on Small Communities

What: Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group

Who: 29 state, federal, and local agencies, including:

Ohio Water Development Authority

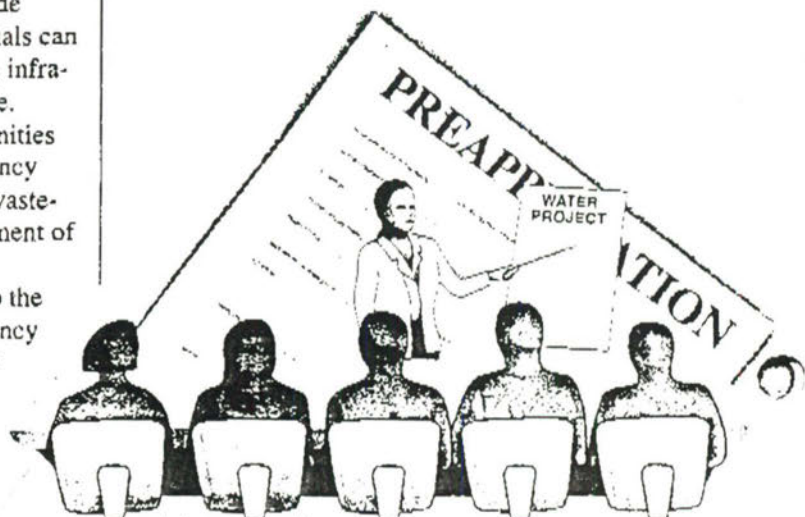
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

**Ohio Public Works Commission
Ohio Department of Development
U.S. Department of Commerce**

other governmental, educational, and assistance organizations

In 1990, the Ohio Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG) was created as a voluntary effort to help small governments find resources for resolving their water and wastewater problems.

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

A Financing Committee within SCEIG coordinates funding provided by state and federal organizations. Since it started in 1992, this committee has met with approximately 85 Ohio communities.

Communities applying for help fill out a one-page project profile sheet summarizing the proposed project, estimated capital costs, and projected costs to the users, as well as the number of users and a local contact person. The Financing Committee also uses the profile sheets to solicit technical input from Ohio EPA staff.

At the actual Finance Committee meetings, held every other month, community representatives meet face-to-face with potential funders. "We try to keep the meeting as informal and open as possible," says Bonk of the Ohio EPA. "It's nice for a mayor or small town official to be able to deal with faces and names rather than just a bureaucracy."

After a community representative outlines the proposed project, the Finance Committee members give brief summaries of their financing programs. "They describe what money is available from their programs and discuss timelines for acquiring funding," says Bonk. "As they go around the table, we try to come up with a financing package that gives the community a good feel about what dollar amounts are available from where."

In some cases, however, the proposals brought to the meetings are deemed too expensive. "The committee may then suggest that [the town] talk to neighboring communities about regionalizing or sharing lab costs, or that they consider down-sizing or start building up cash reserves now," says Bonk.

SCEIG also offers training assistance through its Curriculum Committee, and recently updated its list of funding sources and statewide resources for water and wastewater systems in Ohio.

Ohio communities interested in learning more about SCEIG and its Financing Committee can call the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance at (614) 644-2832, or the Ohio Water Development Authority at (614) 466-5822.

A number of other states either have established or are starting to organize their own coordination efforts. For instance, the West Virginia legislature last year established a state Infrastructure Council to coordinate water, wastewater, and other infrastructure funding within the state. And in Indiana, an Environmental Infrastructure Working Group was recently established with help from the state's Rural Development Council (see article on page 14).

For additional contacts within any of the states profiled in this article, or for the numbers of RECD offices or other major funding organizations in your state, contact the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse at (800) 624-8301. To share information about coordination efforts in your state, contact the Water Sense editor at the same number, extension 545. \$

Pennsylvania Launches Shepherding Program

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)—the state's largest source of water and wastewater funding—has started a "Shepherding" program to help guide small communities as they plan, finance, and construct water and wastewater projects.

"A big shortcoming out there in small communities is that they don't have experience in managing a capital project," says Michael Gallagher, a project specialist and "shepherd" for PENNVEST. "Not many of those people have gone through the process, so they don't know how to cut through the red tape, manage construction, or negotiate with a consultant."

The idea, says Gallagher, is to serve as a mentor from the early stages to the end of the project.

"We shepherd them through an entire capital improvements project," says Gallagher. "But we don't do the actual engineering, legal, financial, or regulatory work—we're not there to replace the consultants." Instead, he says, they do "sort of handholding."

"We can be the resource people to help break logjams and pull all the pieces together," says Gallagher.

While the assistance the shepherds provide will vary, financial help is still one of their important functions. "The project specialists are familiar with other funding sources, and can help communities get in touch with them," says Paul Marchetti, executive director of PENNVEST.

They are also familiar with other state programs providing technical and financial assistance for small communities. For instance, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) runs a Technical Assistance Center for Small Communities, which offers small grants for water supply planning, regionalization studies, and creation of water authorities.

PENNVEST, DER, and the state Department of Community Affairs also manage an Environmental Training Partnership (ETP) program, which includes a number of financial management seminars.

Gallagher is one of four "shepherds" operating out of PENNVEST. He hopes that other agencies involved in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure will devote some staff time to this effort. "In these times," stresses Gallagher, "we all recognize that the government has to do more with a little bit less."

Shepherding program assistance is available to drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater systems serving communities with fewer than 1,000 connections, regardless of whether they have formally applied to PENNVEST. For more information, or to request assistance, call PENNVEST at (717) 787-8137. \$

RECEIVED

AUG -2 95

REC'D STATE OFFICE
WENATCHEE, WA 98801

Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Member Name: Mary Ann Beeson
2. Check this reporting quarter: Third Quarter (4\1 - 6\30)
3. Date you began service: 10-17-94
4. List the total number of service hours you have completed: 1293
5. Please estimate the total number of community volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by you: 26
6. Please estimate the cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers above: 104

8. Describe your major accomplishments this quarter. List them by each objective from your work plan.

The objectives described in the original work plan for the Americorps position at Grant County Community Action Council have not been implemented. The objectives of my work plan were established under the assumption of having a funded Enterprise Community proposal. As this was not the case, the objectives could not be pursued as originally planned, as we had hoped to establish a county wide Community Resource Center. I have placed my third quarter activities under the category of Unplanned Activities.

9. Unplanned Activities. Please describe all accomplishments for the quarter that were not in your work plan.

Despite having my Americorps national service activities placed in the Unplanned category, there was a thought out purpose behind the pursuit of them. As I could not aid in the implementation of an actual Resource Center, we have sought to implement smaller, more manageable components pertaining to the Resource Center's purpose for existence (as conceptualized in our Enterprise Community\Empowerment Zone application).

During the third quarter I was able to organize and coordinate a Grantwriting Workshop for Grant County's non-profit sector. As we are a rural area, access to funding information and technical assistance can be a major barrier to improving the social and economic conditions of our county. By contacting and working with the president of the only community foundation in Grant County, I was able to obtain a commitment from him to come and present a grantwriting workshop tailored to the needs of non-profits. The community foundation staff volunteered their time for the presentation and Grant County Community Action Council donated the money necessary to obtain the meeting facilities. Twenty-six people were served through this workshop and approximately 23 different community based non-profit organizations were represented.

Throughout the third quarter a portion of my national service time has been used to give information presentations to a variety of community based organizations and networks. During the months of May and June, I was asked to present to Habitat for Humanity and the Grant County Children's Commission. Both organizations were interested in learning more about how to pursue projects they were interested in. I was able to inform both groups of several strategies which might help them to see their projects to a successful completion, trends in private and corporate funding, possible sources of funding, and to give them names of individuals who might be able to aid their efforts.

10. Unique successes or great stories.

Having begun this year as an Americorps member with a set work plan and high hopes for what could be done, I found myself disappointed when I realized the goal of establishing a Community Resource Center was not going to be attainable due to the lack of funding. A community based organization named the Strategic Planning & Housing Response Team had been an integral part of realizing the need for such a Center. During the course of my term of service I have made it a point to attend there meetings and have encouraged their continued interest in the Community Resource Center that had been envisioned. I now find it very rewarding to know that this group continued to believe in the Center's possibilities and have taken it upon themselves to try again to establish funding through our local community and state. I believe this is important because the project could have easily been disregarded because of one instance of failure, however, our community is pulling together to make it happen and my presence may have helped them to see the value of continued pursuit.

11. Primary Challenges.

There have been a few challenges at the site were I am serving, however, with the help of my Americorps state director the issues have been addressed.

Member Name: John Glen

Quarterly Report: Third

Date Began Service: 10/94

Total Service Hours: 1310

Total Volunteers: 4

Hours completed
by volunteers: ?

8) Describe your major accomplishments this quarter. List them by each objective from your work plan. Under each objective, describe your major accomplishments for this quarter toward each objective. If there was no progress, explain how plans changed.

Objective 1: Arrange monthly meetings open to the public, regarding the Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team process and accomplishments.

Accomplishments: Meetings were arranged the first Friday of each month. The locations of the meetings varied from month to month. Issues concerning the perceived effectiveness of the program designed to economically assist rural, timber-impacted communities were brought to the attention of the committee. This will aid the WA-CERT in modifying the approach for more efficient funding of economic diversification projects. Information was presented on the major accomplishments of the program. The meetings provide for an open forum addressing many of the needs and concerns of natural resource dependent rural communities throughout Washington.

Objective 2: To continue as a point of contact for information on opportunities available through the WA-CERT for coordinated state and federal loan and grant funding. To proceed into the data analysis and interpretation stage of the performance evaluation survey designed last quarter, to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the WA-CERT process, and provide recommendations for procedural improvements.

Accomplishments: Both these objectives were met. Am currently in the process of writing up the results of the survey. It will also incorporate a section containing several in depth case-studies exemplifying federal and state coordination/ collaboration in the evolution of large scale diversification projects in timber distressed communities.

9. Unplanned Activities: please describe all accomplishments for the quarter that were not in your workplan:

My workplan includes an array of daily activities not addressed in the accomplishments question.

Activities such as large informational mailings to members and non-members of the WA-CERT process, keeping track of all funding announcements and status of projects, and organizing all data (physically and by computer). No major unplanned accomplishments stand out in my mind.

10. Unique successes or great stories:

Such things are evident in closely examining many of the projects funded through the WA-CERT process. The case studies I will be highlighting are examples of such successes. The WA-CERT stresses an importance on federal and state coordination, in taking a more holistic approach to rural community project funding. I am happy to have been part of this process, but can in no way take credit for such accomplishments.

11. Primary Challenges:

One primary challenge could very well be working for a year with 40 hours of vacation and sick leave. Other than that the WA-CERT has been good to me, and I feel the Americorps program is indeed a success. The work I am involved in does not provide for direct, tangible, results in many of these rural communities. But instead, provides for the foundation structure that will enable the necessary economic growth and diversion away from declining natural resource based industries. Rural Washington is depending on such efforts.

AR

AmeriCorps *USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report completed: July 12, 1995

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of AmeriCorps Member: Johnnie F. Campbell

Name of person completing this report (if different): _____

Site Name (RECD Office or Organization): USDA/RECDS - Little Rock, Arkansas

Site Address: Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission (MCAEOC)
P. O. Box 1289 - Blytheville, Arkansas 72316-1289

Telephone number: (501) 532-2348

Fax number: (501) 532-2625

**Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Member Name: Johnnie F. Campbell
2. Check this reporting quarter: ☐ First Quarter ☐ Second Quarter ☒ Third Quarter ☐ Fourth Quarter
(10-1 - 12/31) (1-1 - 3/31) (4-1 - 6/30) (7-1 - 9/30)
3. Date you began service: October 31, 1994
4. List the total number of service hours you have completed as of the last day of this quarter (include all previous quarters) 1321.00 hours
5. Please estimate: Total number of community volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by you (i.e. Number attending classes or training taught or organized by you; Helped in a community project; Participated in a group or organization convened or organized by you, etc.). 20
- 6.. Please estimate: The cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers in Number 8 above: (e.g. Twenty-five Approximately 20 hours)

8. Describe your major accomplishments this quarter. List them by each objective from your work plan. Under each objective, describe your major accomplishments for this quarter toward each objective. If there was no progress, explain how plans changed. Use additional pages, if needed.

Objective I:

Become familiar with MCEC Strategic Plan.

Accomplishments:

I serve as a liaison between Mississippi County Enterprise Community (MCEC) and East Arkansas Enterprise Community (EAEC) groups:

- Attended a Press Conference to officially announce East Arkansas and Mississippi County designations as Enterprise Community recipients. These ten-year plans were chosen by USDA to receive up to \$3 million in Federal Social Service Block Grant monies.
- Attended MCEC and EAEC meeting, along with representatives from various federal, state, and local agencies to collaborate on their commitment to the EC's. I and other AmeriCorps/USDA Members were introduced by RECD Project Manager, Shirley Tucker. She also announced that we will play a major role in implementation of the ten-year strategic plan.

I am presently working with the MCEC in implementation of the ten-year strategic plan.

- Assisted in developing the necessary requirements, in order to sign the memorandum of agreement for the EC.
- Attended community meetings in Burdette and Blytheville to discuss implementation of the strategic plan.
- Participated in MCEC's meeting of evaluation with Pam Moore, an Independent Consultant, out of Greenville, Mississippi. She served as a liaison between USDA and MCEC. Her main objective was to gather information through group discussion of the problems, and/or barriers of implementing the strategic plan and report all gathered information back to USDA.
- I and other AmeriCorps/USDA Members from Eastern Arkansas attended a Press Conference at MCCC's (Mississippi County Community College) Adams/Vines Library in Blytheville to publicly award MCEC a check for the amount of \$766,700 to be used in implementation of the strategic plan. Richard E. Rominger, Deputy Secretary, USDA, was the special guest. Rominger presented this check to the group and acknowledged the AmeriCorps Members' role in assisting with the implementation of the strategic plan. This press conference was hosted by my host site and MCEC Leading Entity, MCAEOC (Mississippi County, Arkansas, Economic Opportunity Commission), with Samuel Scruggs, Executive Director

Objective II:

Organize the Mississippi County Housing Alliance.

Accomplishments:

Unfortunately, I have not presently been able to began implementation on the above objective, due to a slight delay in the signing of the memorandum of agreement for the MCEC group plan. However, upon signing of the agreement the Mississippi County Housing Alliance will be organized as stated.

Objective III:

Increase home ownership for low and moderate income residents by 10 units.

Accomplishments:

I work with existing federal, state, and private programs in the area of housing and community development.

- Represented MCAEOC and MCEC by attending HUD's John Heinz Neighborhood Development Program Training session for pre-application to help fund initiatives in the strategic plan at HUD's Field Office in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Assisted in the development of a pre-application for HPG (Housing Preservation Grant) funds from RECD. The funds requested will be used to cover the rehabilitation cost of approximately 20 houses in the City of Luxora. Luxora is part of MCEC's census tracts with a 38.86 percent poverty rate and population of approximately 3,300. As a result, we were selected to submit a long-application for HPG funds.
- Assisted in conducting Low Income First-Time Home Buyers Workshops for approximately 20 individuals, in order to acquaint them with the responsibilities and steps of purchasing a home. Continued to work with those who qualify for financial assistance and clearing up credit and other problems that prevent them from owning a home. As a result, increased first-time home ownership for low and moderate income residents units by five (5) units through the provision of buyer support programs and utilization of the ADFA (Arkansas Development Finance Authority) HOME funds. The ADFA, has a HOME funds program which reduces down payment and closing costs for first-time home buyers, up to \$3,000. Other support groups included Mississippi County Public Facilities Board, Mississippi County Community College, Century 21, First Tennessee, and other local financial institutions, Realtors, and grassroots individuals (see enclosed formation).

*MISSISSIPPI COUNTY ARKANSAS
E.O.C.*

*WILL CONDUCT A
LOW INCOME FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS WORKSHOP*

*WHERE:
MONDAY'S
BLYTHEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
202 WEST MAIN*

*WHEN:
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 13, 20, & 27, 1995*

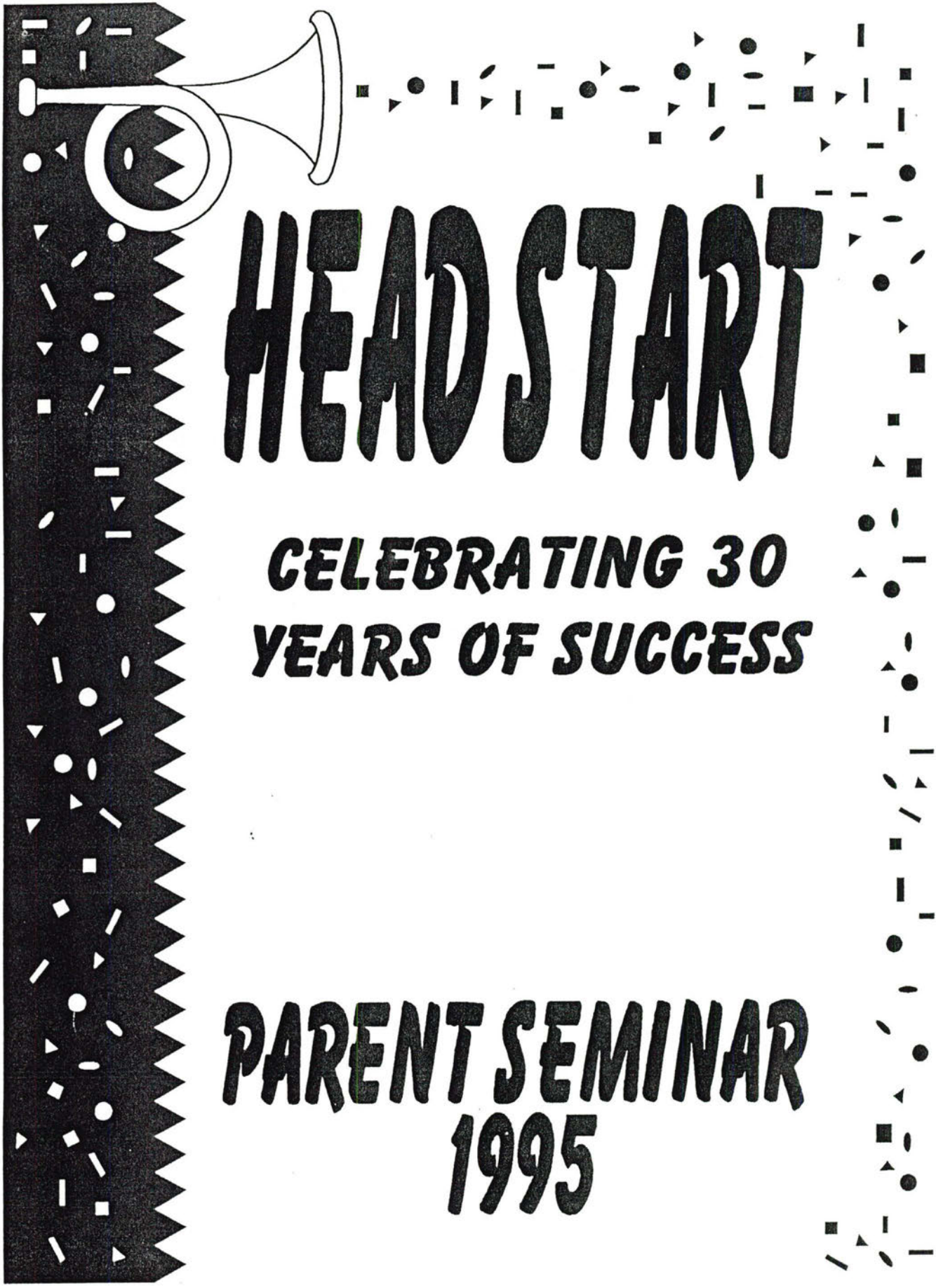
TIME: 6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

*FACILITATORS:
SANDRA SMITH
MCAEOC HOUSING COUNSELOR*

*JOHNNIE CAMPBELL
AMERICORPS/RECDS MEMBER (Formerly FmHA)*

9. Unplanned Activities: Please describe all accomplishments for the quarter that were not in your work plan.

- Had the opportunity of conducting a Home Buyers Workshop for MCAEOC Head Start & Child Development Program's Parent Workshop at the Harrison Cultural Youth Center in Blytheville (see enclosed information).
- Participated in MCAEOC Head start & Child Development Programs' Annual Self-Assessment.
- Attended Customer Service Training, entitled "Achieving Extraordinary Customer Relations - Skills & Strategies for the Federal Government with RECDS employees and RECDS AmeriCorps Members at the Holiday Inn in Forrest City, Arkansas. It was sponsored by USDA. The seminar consisted of reading some text, watching videotapes, and joining in discussions to exchange our ideas with each other.
- Attended the 1995 Arkansas Rural Development Conference at Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. It was hosted by Arkansas Rural Development Commission, Office of Rural Advocacy.
- Attended Arkansas AmeriCorps/Delta Service Corps Regional Super Training Conference at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. It was sponsored by the State Commission. There were approximately 500 AmeriCorps/Delta Service Corps Members from Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas attending this beautiful event (see enclosed photos).
- Attended Arkansas State University's Dean B. Ellis Library Dedication Ceremony with other AmeriCorps/USDA Members in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The ceremony was addressed by The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the USA (see enclosed information and photos).



HEAD START

***CELEBRATING 30
YEARS OF SUCCESS***

***PARENT SEMINAR
1995***

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS E.O.C.
HEAD START & CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PARENT WORKSHOP
HARRISON CUTURAL YOUTH CENTER
APRIL 12, 1995
9:30 A.M.

GENERAL SESSION..... 9:30-10:30
FAYE FORD
MCAEOC HEAD START
NUCOR ROOM

WELCOME.....IRA T. YOUNG
MCAEOC HEAD START

OPENING REMARKS.....SHIRLEY J. SCOTT
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

TRACK I
10:00 - 10:45

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.....DR. HELEN NUNN
WILEY ROOM

DRUG AWARENESS.....SGT. JACK KING
BLYTHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
LESTER ROOM

PRE-NATAL CARE.....JUDY LILLY
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
V-25 ROOM

LOOKING AT LIFE.....MARGARET FLOWERS
MCAEOC HEAD START
AAMOD LOUNGE

BREAK10:45-11:00

TRACK II
11:00 - 11:45

ADULT LITERACY.....ELIZABETH THOMPSON
COTTON BOLL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
WILEY ROOM

S.K.I.L.L.E.D.....NIKKI JOHN
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LESTER ROOM

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT.....JANE BELL
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
JANIE CHUN
STOP CHILD ABUSE NOW
V-25 ROOM

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS..... KATHY BROWN
SANDRA SMITH, JOHNNIE CAMPBELL
MCAEOC
AAMOD LOUNGE

GENERAL SESSION.....11:45 -12:15
VIRGIE E. CRAIN
MCAEOC HEAD START
NUCOR ROOM

TRANSITION FROM HEAD START TO PUBLIC SCHOOL.....JANET TAYLOR
ELAINE WILLIAMS, NORMA ANDERSON,
BARBARA HUNTER, & RENELLA CLEMMONS



Arkansas State University enjoys a reputation as the preeminent institution of higher education in the Arkansas Delta, and is the only comprehensive public university located in this region.

All 75 Arkansas counties, 44 states, and 64 nations are represented at ASU, with approximately 9,750 enrolled at ASU's main campus in Jonesboro. In spite of this diversity, 80 percent of ASU students are from the Delta region. Ninety percent are undergraduates, 57 percent are women, and 10 percent are African-American. An additional 4,000 students are enrolled at ASU's regional campuses. Approximately 70 percent of ASU students are first generation college students.

ASU offers a total of 164 academic programs, including a doctoral program in educational leadership. The university's commitment to the highest levels of excellence in higher education is demonstrated by its accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as 11 other accrediting organizations. Additionally, the university holds membership in 22 organizations that support the highest educational standards.

Library Dedication Committee

Larry Ball
Jerry Brackett
Barbara Broadway
Alta Burns
Ron Carmack
Rich Carvell
Bill Clements
Robert Engelken
Bill Foster
Vicki Fowler
Bill Hansard
Ruth Hawkins
Julie Isaacson
Charlott Jones
Pam Kail
Randy Kesselring
George Krennerich
Scott Lewis
Evan Lindquist
Ron Looney
Molly Mayer
Tom Moore
Dan Ross
Diana Sanders
Alex Sydorenko
Terrie Sypolt
Tina Teague
Don Tilton
David Vosburg

Arkansas State University



Dean B. Ellis Library Dedication Ceremony

April 3, 1995

Arkansas State University has made enormous strides since its inception in 1909, and the library as it appears today is evidence of that progression.

The first campus library, housed in the former Administration Building, was razed by fire in 1931. It took more than 30 years for the library to recover from the loss of its collection, which had steadily multiplied since the institution's beginning. A relocation to the basement of Wilson Hall following the 1931 catastrophe marked the genesis of the current library holdings.

The Dean B. Ellis Library, named in honor of a longtime ASU mathematics professor, opened in 1963. The new three-story structure contained 62,000 square feet. Gov. Orval E. Faubus delivered the main address at the library's dedication on March 19, 1964.

An addition in 1978 increased the library's size to 146,048 square feet, and provided additional facilities for the ASU Museum and the university's Audio-Visual Department.

The library today is 264,000 square feet of undisputed stateliness. Current holdings number more than one million bound volumes. Users now access materials through a user-friendly online computer system, and databases searchable on CD-Rom and computerized reference service provide access to hundreds of remote databases both in the United States and abroad.

The Arkansas State University community celebrates the dedication of this expansion, which includes five additional floors and a bell and clock tower. Brackett-Krennerich & Associates of Jonesboro provided architectural services for the \$11.8 million project. Now rising an imposing 172 feet tall, the Dean B. Ellis Library is the centerpiece of campus and community and symbolizes ASU's timeless commitment to educational excellence.

It also is the nucleus for a planned Delta Studies Center, which will reaffirm and redefine Arkansas State University's special mission in the lower Mississippi Delta region.

Platform Guests

Harold Thomas
Vice Chair
ASU Board of Trustees

Bill Phillips
Secretary
ASU Board of Trustees

Charlotte Bornhoft
Bradbury
ASU Board of Trustees

Wayne Hartsfield
ASU Board of Trustees

Rodney Slater
Federal Highway
Administrator

Jerry Brackett
Brackett-Krennerich and
Associates

George Krennerich
Brackett-Krennerich and
Associates

Curt Bradbury
Chair, Arkansas Board of
Higher Education

Phil Jones
Arkansas Board of
Higher Education

Dr. H. D. Luck
Arkansas Board of
Higher Education

Diane Gilleland
Director, Arkansas
Department of
Higher Education

Pat Cloar
21st Century Benefactor

Mike Gibson
21st Century Benefactor

Hasselle McCain
21st Century Benefactor

Evan Lindquist
Professor of Art
Arkansas State University

Alex Sydorenko
Chair, ASU Library
Committee

PRE-CEREMONY CONCERT

Arkansas State University Orchestra
Neale Bartee, Conductor

Arkansas State University Singers
Alfred Skoog, Conductor

Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble
Thomas J. O'Neal, Conductor

PROCESSIONAL

Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Larry Ross, Chairman
Arkansas State University Board of Trustees

"The National Anthem"Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble
Francis Scott Key

Arkansas State University ROTC Color Guard
GreetingsR.P. Smith, President
Arkansas State University Faculty Association
Ben R. Bush, Jr., President
Arkansas State University Alumni Association
James William Hansard, Director
Dean B. Ellis Library

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"How Calmly the Evening"Arkansas State University Singers
Edward Elgar

"Hail to the Chief"Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Community TributeJohn Troutt, Jr., Editor & Publisher, *The Jonesboro Sun*
Chairman, Jonesboro Unlimited

University TributeEugene W. Smith, President
Arkansas State University

RemarksThe Honorable Blanche Lambert Lincoln
U.S. Representative, First District of Arkansas

The Honorable Ray Thornton
U.S. Representative, Second District of Arkansas

IntroductionMolly Mayer, President
Student Government Association

Dedication Address.....The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America

RECESSIONAL

Arkansas State University Orchestra

BELL DECLARATION

10. Unique Successes or Great Stories (Briefly describe a unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or 'great stories' about your project or partnerships you formed with other people and/or organizations).

I was very pleased with the outcome of the Low Income First-Time Home Buyers Workshops. Attendance was low at first, however, after more promotions were done with the local news media, radio, T.V., newspapers, church and public housing agencies' attendance had increased to approximately 20 participants. As a result, we increased first-time home ownership for low and moderate income residents units by five (5) units through the provision of buyer support programs and utilization of the ADFA HOME funds. The ADFA, has a HOME funds program which reduces down payment and closing costs for first-time home buyers, up to \$3,000.

I was also very pleased and honored to receive the opportunity of attending Arkansas State University's Dean B. Ellis Library Dedication Ceremony with President Clinton. We were all so appreciative of his acknowledgment of the AmeriCorps Members.

11. Primary Challenges: (Report on problems you may have encountered in your program this quarter. These can be about obstacles to achieving your objectives, significant causes of delay, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.

- Slight delay in beginning implementation of MCEC Strategic Plan
- AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team Members still have not receive T-shirts.
- Confusion between direct service and capacity-building.
- Do's and Don't of what we as Members can or can not do, per projects.

National Identity Activities this Quarter: (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

I and other AmeriCorps/USDA Members from Eastern Arkansas attended a Press Conference at MCCC'S Adams/Vines Library in Blytheville to publicly award MCEC a check for the amount of \$766,700 to be used in implementation of the strategic plan. Richard E. Rominger, Deputy Secretary, USDA, was the special guest. He acknowledge the AmeriCorps Members role in assisting with the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan.

We attended Arkansas AmeriCorps/Delta Service Corps Regional Super Training Conference at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. It was sponsored by the Arkansas State Commission. There was approximately 500 AmeriCorps/Delta Service Corps Members from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas attending this exciting and beautiful event. We were presented Super-Training T-Shirts and Key-rings. We were also provided training in resumes to conflict management.

Lastly, we attended Arkansas State University's Dean E. Ellis Library Dedication Ceremony with The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America. We wore our t-shirts (those who had them) and caps.

AmeriCorps *USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report completed: 7/19/95

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of AmeriCorps Member: Breck Harris

Name of person completing this report (if different): _____

Site Name (RECD Office or Organization): District Office

Site Address: 1306 Stone St. Foxwood Square Jonesboro, AR.

Telephone number: (501) 972-4720

Fax number: _____

JUN 28 '95 12:19

RECD AmeriCorps

PAGE.202

From: David Gibson To: Shirley Tucker

Date: 6/24/95 Time: 13:34:44

Page 3 of 7

Corporation for National Service Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Member Name: Breck Harris
2. Check this reporting quarter: ☐ First Quarter ☐ Second Quarter ☒ Third Quarter ☐ Fourth Quarter
 (10-1 - 12-31) (1-1 - 3-31) (4-1 - 6-30) (7-1 - 9-30)
3. Date you began service: 6/17/94
4. List the total number of service hours you have completed as of the last day of this quarter (include all previous quarters): 1488
5. Please estimate: Total number of community volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by you (i.e. Number attending classes or training taught or organized by you; Helped in a community project; Participated in a group or organization convened or organized by you, etc.) _____
6. Please estimate: The cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers in Number 5 above: (e.g. Twenty-five) _____

JUN 28 '95 13:18

RECD AmeriCorps

PAGE.001

JUL 25 '95 16:21

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PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE 1:

One of my primary accomplishment was to inform as many residents as possible about the loan and grant programs that are available through RECDs with intentions that the people of the community would understand procedures of the loans & possibly want the assistance.

OBJECTIVE 2:

A second accomplishment consisted of very helpful training sessions. On May 9-11 RECDs AmeriCorps members attended a Customer Service Training. The training consisted of classes of discussion, audio presentations, & work related skills. RECD AmeriCorp members also attended a Rural Development Conference in Hot Springs Arkansas, on June 4-6. There was also a training session at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock held for AmeriCorps & Delta Service Corps on June 26-29.

OBJECTIVE 3:

A third accomplishment was the LITTLE Brothers of Omega (this is a community out-reach program for the youth) which has proven itself to be worthy in the community. The number of enrollment is slowly increasing because, parents know the affect that the program have on the youth.

UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES

I had an opportunity to attend a Teen Rally in Mississippi. The major discussions were centered around teen pregnancy & male responsibility. These are some of the problems that are being faced in Mississippi.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

A problem that some AmeriCorp members are being faced with are not having the T-Shirts that are needed to make the uniform complete.

AmeriCorps *USA

Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report completed: July 10, 1995

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of AmeriCorps Member: Margaret Peters

Name of person completing this report (if different): _____

Site Name (RECD Office or Organization): Rural Economic and Community Dev. Service

Site Address: Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 1497, 249 S. Main, Jonesboro, AR. 72403

Telephone number: 501-935-8610

Fax number: 501-935-0291

JUN 28 '95 13:18

RECD AmeriCorps

PAGE.002

SEP 11 '95 14:10

935 0201 PAGE.002

Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Member Name: Margaret Peters
2. Check this reporting quarter: ☐ First Quarter ☐ Second Quarter ☒ Third Quarter ☐ Fourth Quarter
(10-1 - 12-31) (1-1 - 3-31) (4-1 - 6-30) (7-1 - 9-30)
3. Date you began service: October 17, 1994
4. List the total number of service hours you have completed as of the last day of this quarter (include all previous quarters) 1496
5. Please estimate: Total number of community volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by you (i.e. Number attending classes or training taught or organized by you; Helped in a community project; Participated in a group or organization convened or organized by you, etc.). 20
- 6.. Please estimate: The cumulative total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers in Number 5 above: (e.g. Twenty-five 120)

JUN 28 '95 13:19

RECD AmeriCorps

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SEP 11 '95 14:10

935 0201 PAGE.003

DESCRIBE YOUR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER: List them by objective from your work plan. Under each objective, describe your major accomplishments for this quarter toward each objective. If there was no progress, explain how plans changed.

Objective 1:

Will increase the police force in at least one town be one officer.

Accomplishments: One new officer was hired in the last quarter and Marked Tree is working on hiring a officer and drug dog.

Objective 2:

To enable the over 65 population to remain independent and in their own homes. To do this they need some help which can be provided through services offered be Elderchoice and the Aging programs. This would give the aid with housework, nursing care and a balanced meal each day.

Accomplishments: Through talking with residents at area restuants, a senior apartment complex and spreading the word at a resource fair, the enrollment at in Elderchoice is up in the Tri-City Delta Community. This resulted in 10 new customers for Elderchoice in the Community.

Objective 3:

There will be an increase by 60% of low income families using the communities health department and that some form of transportation unit working within the community.

Accomplishments: Searching for a private foundation to purchase and aid in the funding of operations for the first year.

Objective 4 & 6:

4: Increase the number of jobs within the community by 25%, the number of small businesses by 10% and look at industrial growth with new and expansion of what is there.

6: To set up one new job training site to increase the number of unemployed receiving training and than holding a job.

Accomplishments: Although this is a large need, I have been unable to find any possible solutions at this time, and the business sub-committee has been unable to aid in the problem solving process on this objective.

Objective 5:

There will be an increase of housing of 15% over the next two years. The houses will be built for moderately priced, so that the low-middle income families can afford to buy them. There will also be an increase in rental housing and seniors citizens housing.

Accomplishments: The 3 lots in Tyronza have had bids taken to do the building of 3 rental houses, and Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc. (CRDC) is now waiting on HUD to complete the paper work. One house has been purchased and rehabed in Marked Tree for resale. This resulted in a family being able to buy their first home. Closing was done the first part of May.

BACKGROUND:

I was placed with Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc. in October 1994. CROWLEY'S RIDGE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC., is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1969 to provide services to low income persons living in poverty, to improve the educational opportunities for all persons and assist in the economic growth of a four county area in Northeast Arkansas. The counties served by Crowley's Ridge Development Council are Greene, Craighead, Poinsett and Jackson.

Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC) is governed by a volunteer board of directors that are representative of public, private and community sectors in the four county area. The day-to-day operation of the agency is delegated to the Executive Director, Mr. Bob Yopp. CRDC employees answer through program directors to the Executive Director.

The area in which I was placed to help is the Tri-City Delta Community. They applied for the Enterprise Community Grant but were not designated. The Tri-City Delta is made up of Lepanto, Tyronza and Marked Tree in Poinsett County Arkansas. The population of Lepanto is 2033, Tyronza is 858 and Marked Tree is 3100. Making up the Tri-City-City Delta area, Tyronza is 6 miles from Lepanto, Lepanto is 8 miles from Tyronza and Marked tree is 10 miles from Lepanto. The Tri-City Delta area in Poinsett County sits on the St. Francis and Little Rivers with combined population of 5,991. The Tri-City Delta area has seen a population drop in the last 10 years of 8.8%. The area is 135 mile from Little Rock, Arkansas and approximately 42 miles from Memphis, Tennessee. The Tri-City Delta area has an unemployment rate of 14.2% The Tri-City Delta area has a poverty rate of 32.6%, with 28.3% under 18 living in poverty. There is a Head Start program for the under 5 group which helps preschooler's families as well. The area has an average high school dropout rate of 42%, with an unemployment rate of 14.2%.

UNPLANNED ACTIVITIES: Please describe all accomplishments for the quarter that were not in your workplan:

I have attended a number of training sessions dealing with community development and job skills. At each training I was able to make contacts which will aid in or have aided in program development. The training in Customer Service was helpful in dealing with the members of the community which I am trying to assist. The training has also helped with the communication with the leaders in the community. By learning to turn a difficult client around to one who is willing to give information in a non-aggressive manner, which will aid in them receiving the assistance that they need. This training also pointed out the importance of everyone doing their job for they are serving internal customers. If someone internally holds up information than the external customer may not be served.

The State Commission Training included 3 states: Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The training lasted 4 days and offered training in a variety of areas. They included classes on stress management, team building, job searching, AIDS, problem solving, communications, conflict management and many more. They areas were to aid in the work we are doing now and the future jobs we are training for. The training combined the learning of new skills, networking and the socializing with the other members. They worked in time for the members to learn from each others success and failures.

UNIQUE SUCCESSES OR GREAT STORIES: Briefly describe a unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or 'great stories' about your project or partnerships you formed with other people and/or organizations.

President Clinton was in Jonesboro, Arkansas to make a speech at Arkansas State University. He was invited to speak at the dedication of the new library. My involvement with the program came on Thursday March 30, 1995. I received a phone call from Katherine Gibney, in the Washington office. She asked me to organize the Arkansas United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorp members. The Whit House had asked for updates on AmeriCorp projects from Arkansas. I made some phone calls and was able to get the message to most of the members. I was told then that they were trying to arrange for the members to participate in the President's trip. On Friday, March 31, 1995 I called Katherine Gibney and received an update on the progress of the arrangements. She told me then that she received several updates from the Arkansas members. On Saturday, April 1, 1995 Rhonda Lampkin, the regional facilitator, called me, the arrangements had been made for the members to attend the Presidents press conference. I was to call Ed Puret, head of security, to inform him of how many members would be attending. Lisa Cobb and I were able to contact most of the members and state supervisors. They were told of the arrangements and what time they were to be at the Arkansas State University (ASU) campus in Jonesboro.

On the morning of the dedication, nine of the USDA AmeriCorp Members were able to be there. We were placed within a roped off area behind the reserved seats. Ed Puret, the head of presidential security, asked that we cheer when the President spoke about the AmeriCorp Program. When the President spoke the words "some of our volunteers are over there in the audience today." we sent out a loud cheer. President Clinton spoke of the cuts wanted by congress and then the importance of education. He talked of the National Service and the apprinence positions for its members. The President spoke of the work being done in Hope, with the migrant workers and in Texarkana, with reducing school dropout rates. President Clinton, however did not talk about any of the work being done by USDA members

PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED THIS QUARTER:

I still have not received an AmeriCorp T-shirt from the state contact, although the state contact was able to get us buttons and the sweatjacket.

The lack of available funds to start and run needed programs within the community. Funding that is available at the Federal level takes months to make the determination of who will receive the funding. Many of these communities can not wait that long before they start the needed program.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING NEXT YEAR'S AMERICORP PROGRAM:

To improve the communication from Washington to the state contacts. Many times this year information was wanted and by the time it made it down to the Members it was needed yesterday. Better communication is also needed between the state contacts.

More training at the beginning on what the AmeriCorp Member will be doing in the position. This training should include both the Member and the site supervisors.