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A Study of a Student Oriented Effort to Rehabilitate a Small Delta Town

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A STUDY OF A STUDENT ORIENTED EFFORT
TO REHABILITATE A SMALL DELTA TOWN

A Thesis
Presented to
the Director of Graduate Studies
Ouachita Baptist University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts
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by
Patricia Merry Stipek

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TO REHABILITATE A SMALL DELTA TOWN

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Mitchellville, Arkansas, a rural community of 150 displaced farm families in Desha County, is a relic of the agricultural past. The unskilled laborers pursue vocations of cotton chopping and cotton picking with little success. Vocational skills required in an urban society are sorely lacking. Affluence is nonexistent.

Governmental and private agencies are emphasizing the need of education for the citizens of the United States. The citizen of Mitchellville has been deprived of an adequate education. Even the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic are minimal.

Other areas where great need is reflected are recreation, health, housing, and employment. Mitchellville has no parks nor other recreational facilities. The housing consists of dilapidated shacks. Most homes do not have indoor plumbing. The accepted standards of living are but illusionary dreams to the citizens of Mitchellville.

The distinctive feature of the Mitchellville community is that the 600 citizens of Mitchellville are Negro. B. F. Riley states in his book regarding the relationships of the Negro and the white:

To contribute to the interest of the Negro, is to contribute, at the same time, to the interest of the public weal of which he is a part. To accomplish the most for him as well as for ourselves, the policy must be one of construction and not of destruction, for a policy of destruction is a two-edged sword which cuts both ways. Action toward another or others is reaction toward ourselves. We cannot escape the fact that the destinies of both races are inseparably bound together, and equally productive of good to both races. Nothing less than the development of each race will produce this result for manhood in a democracy is the essential basis of participation.¹

On December 2, 1967, twenty-one volunteer students from Ouachita Baptist University traveled to Mitchellville. Under the direction of Mrs. Daisy Bates of the Office of Economic Opportunity Rural Training Program and Dr. Bob C. Riley, Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Ouachita Baptist University and consultant of the Office of Economic Opportunity Rural Training Program, the students conducted a survey to determine the extent of specific needs of the citizens of Mitchellville.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the Problem. The problem of the Negro has not been solved in the centuries in which it has existed.

¹B. F. Riley, The White Man's Burden (Birmingham, Alabama: B. F. Riley, 1910), p. 13.

The Negro problem is considered prime on the domestic scene and an international handicap of the United States.²

Economic deprivation exists in Mitchellville. Yet, this community is only one of many burdened under the saddle of poverty. The problems facing this Arkansas community are in existence not only in Arkansas but in the other states as well. By studying the efforts of college students to obliterate poverty in one particularly deprived community, other similarly underdeveloped areas will also be benefited.

A study of such a community and advancement of the citizens is appropriate. Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, over a quarter century ago, "One-third of our nation is ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clothed." In Mitchellville, Arkansas, 1969, this statement is more than appropriate.

Significance of the Study. An attempt was made to develop this delta town of Mitchellville through education of the residents, increased economic self-sufficiency, and expansion of the limited community facilities. Mitchellville was typical of the Negro farm laborer community in which the citizens suddenly found themselves without employment. Improvement of this town could serve as a pattern to other settlements of poverty.

²Rayford W. Logan (ed.), What the Negro Wants (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), p. 1.

The objective of the program was to improve Mitchellville by utilizing the skills and abilities of the college students who remain the central force of the project. Human resources were to be used as well as local, state, and federal agencies and institutions.

The study of the development of an undeveloped society resulted in a challenge to the contemporary problems and minds of the college students. The answer to the problem of the Negro has not been solved. Solutions are attempted through the process of education. Only through the work of the more fortunate can the ills of the less fortunate be amended. A study of a student oriented experiment conducted on the university level seemed a pathway to amendment.

II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Office of Economic Opportunity. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)³ refers to the federally sponsored agency for the alleviation of economic, social, and cultural poverty.

Arkansas Office of Economic Opportunity Rural Training Program. The Arkansas Office of Economic Opportunity Rural Training Program (Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program) is a state sponsored agency for the alleviation of economic, social, and cultural poverty in the rural area where there

³Hereafter alphabetical abbreviations will be used for designated agencies.

are generally poorer conditions.

Poverty. The term "poverty" indicates a lack of money or material possessions; the term also applies to the need of cultural and social abilities.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the model for all subsequent civil right associations with regard to the Negro.

Ombudsman. The term "ombudsman" refers to the representative directing specific problems to designated agencies for solution.

Operation Bootstraps. "Operation Bootstraps" applies to the federally sponsored program designed specifically for the economic, cultural, and political advancements of Mitchellville, Arkansas.

Community. The term "community" pertains to the incorporated town of Mitchellville, Arkansas.

III. DELIMITATIONS

The immediate nature of the occurrence of the program for the advancement of Mitchellville required the research to be of the field study variety. The material was transitional. The specific time involved in this study began with

the original survey conducted by the Ouachita Baptist University students in December, 1967, and concluded with the re-funding of the OEO Self-Help program in March, 1969.

The study involved isolating an area of poverty, diagnosing the needs, and attempting to raise the low standards of living. A brief history of the community was included to give the reader the background information of the citizens of the community. The study of the program was done through personal interviews, maps, research, reports, and periodicals. The economic, social, and cultural changes in the community were considered to be of prime importance. This study did not intend to express personal opinions concerning the social and cultural changes which could not be documented by appropriate records or personal interviews.

IV. SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF DATA

Materials were accumulated from relevant local, state, and federal agencies and institutions. Those contributing were the Farmer's Home Administration, the State Planning Commission, State Welfare Commission, Employment Security Division, Public Health Administration, housing agencies, the State Department of Education, and the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program.

Interviews with Mrs. Daisy Bates, Dr. Bob C. Riley, Mitchellville citizens, and Ouachita Baptist University students participating in the program development were included.

Personal observations and experiences were given from the viewpoint of the college student.

Since the student participation emphasis was made, special note was made on the activities of the Ouachita Baptist University students in their committees. Reports submitted to the OEO in Washington, D.C. were of major importance.

Explanations were offered concerning the accomplishments of the students and the progress of the program. Numerous memorandums of the figures involved in conferences to advance the program, newspaper coverage on the local, state, and national level, and newsletter items in the NAACP publications suggested added interest in the Mitchellville project.

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MITCHELLVILLE

BEFORE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ASSISTANCE

Mitchellville began approximately 25 years ago when the federal government closed a National Youth Administration Camp. The land was given to the Dumas School District, a group of 29 autonomous Negro Baptist congregations in Lincoln and Desha Counties. To provide more adequate supervision the Watson School District (Lincoln County) assumed full ownership of the 37-acre tract on December 25, 1944. Reverend John Mitchell was then responsible for the district and the selling of lots to the Negro families. Mitchellville was incorporated in 1963 and named after the Reverend Mitchell.⁴

The only industry in Mitchellville was and continues to be the Puryear Wood Products Company, Inc. This industry hired some of the citizens of the area. Other residents found employment in Dumas, Arkansas, and surrounding areas. The only other employment was farm labor. When such jobs as cotton picking were available the accepted wage for a ten hour day ranged from \$3.50 in 1955 to \$5.00 in 1969. According

⁴Interview with Mrs. Daisy Bates. Permission to quote secured.

to Mr. Charles McCarrell, a Mitchellville resident since 1955, many jobs were scarce and required working from sunrise to sunset.⁵

From 1950 through 1960 Mitchellville suffered a loss in population of 23.5%. The loss was due to farm labor migration. Another survey conducted in December, 1967, by the Political Science Department of Ouachita Baptist University revealed an increase in population for this seven year period of 73, bringing the total population to approximately 600. One hundred fifty families lived in Mitchellville at the time of this second recorded census.⁶

From the establishment of the town the citizens believed that the population should increase. Mitchellville was to continue in growth because the citizens sincerely wanted to help others to improve their own individual conditions. Motivations coupled with leadership and co-operation were promoted to structure a new environment. As Mrs. Daisy Bates emphasized:

Twenty-five years ago the people of Mitchellville were unable to upgrade their station in life because of a lack of leadership and

⁵Interview with Mr. Charles McCarrell. Permission to quote secured.

⁶As quoted from a report by Mrs. Daisy Bates for the Office of Economic Opportunity.

responsibility. There was a crying need among the residents to live a life of dignity and self-respect. All these people needed was someone or something to channel them into development.

Mitchellville began from raw land. In contrast to the high expectations, it was a new born, poverty stricken town where shabby homes were constructed amid gravel roads. Within a decade an industry was established, a few commercial enterprises begun, a water system completed, and a church erected. All these services mentioned were functioning at the time of this study.

If the citizen of Mitchellville was too old to find employment or unable to work for other reasons, welfare was the answer, in addition to social security benefits.

The survival of the community required that industry be developed. Dumas, a city of approximately 5,000 population two miles west of Mitchellville, could not support the total working residents of Mitchellville in the future. Pine Bluff, 40 miles north of Mitchellville with a population of 57,000, was not within practical distance for employment opportunities. A self-supporting community with job opportunities centrally located remained the prime objective of community development.

The citizens of Mitchellville worked hard to build the community to become a city of pride in the State of Arkansas. The American spirit was alive in Mitchellville and only

needed to be lead and encouraged in the right directions for improvement.

Mitchellville was within the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. The terrain was a flood plain affected by the Mississippi River. The land in Desha County was flat and very poorly drained by streams and channels. Desha County encompassed 15 square miles of area. Most streams drained southward.⁷ Included in the survey conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service were reports on soil survey interpretations, drainage development plan, and an overall recreational appraisal by Mr. William Davey, State Conservationist.⁸

All of the streets of Mitchellville were constructed of dirt and gravel. No curbs nor gutters, sidewalks nor traffic control devices were in evidence.

Mitchellville had no schools, one 50 foot by 100 foot park, and no community facilities for recreation. The city was in the process of acquiring a fire station and fire truck. The City Hall and City Jail were no longer in use. A desperate need existed for expansion of public and private facilities.

⁷Ibid.

⁸See Appendix numbered I.

The community also lacked the social organizations prominent in increased communication between the citizens and community officials. Neither the church nor the homes were used for social gatherings. The lack of a spirit of unity and social compassion provided a further serious handicap to community development and organization.

CHAPTER III
ARKANSAS OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
RURAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The proposal of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program provided training for (1) administrative and supervisory staff members of Community Action Agencies; (2) non-professional workers, coordinators, and other employees of Community Action Programs in community organization; (3) unemployed residents of target areas to prepare them for Community Action Program employment; and, (4) training for Community Action Agency Boards and Neighborhood Council members to increase the effectiveness of board operations. The main objective of the training proposal was directed toward development of community organizations in the rural areas where there were generally poorer economic conditions, more sub-standard education, greater problems of communication, fewer capable community leaders, and more resistance to innovation.⁹

The Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program served as a supportive service to the Community Action Agencies of the state. The emphasis was to involve the non-professional and

⁹1968-69 Proposal - Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program,
p. 1.

the poor in OEO community planning, formation, and execution of policy.¹⁰

The work proposal of the Rural Training Program was functional and informal. The curriculum was based on the needs of the trainees and the problems to be solved. The major emphasis in terms of goals was directed toward community organizations and management in Community Action Agency programs. The lack of education and experience of the workers resulted in trainees totally unprepared for the responsibilities to which they would be exposed. The success was important to the non-professionals themselves who required the inspiration and encouragement through achievement.¹¹

The OEO, faced with a series of complex problems, began its operations without precedence. Training of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program personnel was not emphasized to the degree necessary at the launching of the program in 1964.¹²

The effect of the OEO Rural Training Program was both immediate and long range. The immediate value was to provide training to develop a competent staff for the development of OEO Rural Training Program. Better qualified persons on all

¹⁰Ibid., p. 1.

¹¹Ibid., p. 8.

¹²Ibid., p. 9.

levels of the OEO should result in better quality programs more related to the needs and problems of the groups served. The program was to assist the non-professionals and low income people discover their place in the mainstream of American life as reflected in their local communities. Opportunities to contribute to the success of the program were provided to the workers. The program enhanced public understanding and appreciation of the OEO. The program was designed to help contribute significantly to the efforts of helping the poor to help themselves.¹³

The long range efforts of the training program were related to the value of the OEO programs in their larger perspective. The needs of the poor were paramount, both material and socio-psychological. The stability of society was threatened as result of the needs of the poor. The Christian conscience, the democratic commitment, the national image, and the position of world leadership were involved. The training program of the project was to build a greater measure of success at the "grass-roots" level. The OEO provided an alternative for orderly social change within the confines of the democratic processes and responsibilities. The Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program was aimed toward this ultimate objective.¹

¹³ Ibid., p. 7.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 7.

The method of instruction used in the Rural Training Program included lectures, informal discussions, field trips, observations, and reports on individual projects by enrollees from their respective committees. The courses were conducted on an informal basis. Film strips and other audio-visual aids were used. The emphasis, in theory and in practice, was focused on the actual problems of the enrollees in their respective employment. Efforts were made to utilize the Regional Office staff in the Rural Training Program to the maximum extent. Every effort was made to insure up-to-date information on regulations pertaining to Community Action Programs. Work-shops, in-service "site" training, training for Community Action Program Boards and Neighborhood Service Council members, and management training programs provided in-depth training and specialization in the Rural Training Program.¹⁵

From the very conception of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program until the Fall, 1968, the program was under the sponsorship of Ouachita Baptist University. The organization of the original "Operation Bootstraps" program for self-help for the community regarded Ouachita Baptist University as the applicant agency or sponsor for the program. With experience in programs to help the poor, Ouachita assumed the

¹⁵Ibid., p. 51.

responsibility for the community development program. Previously, such programs designed to help the poor, the educationally and economically deprived--Head Start, Upward Bound, and the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program of Little Rock, Arkansas--had been held on the University campus in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.¹⁶

Dr. Riley, a member of the training staff of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program, became interested in the Mitchellville program through Mrs. Bates. Mrs. Bates of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program convinced Dr. Riley that Mitchellville could be helped to help itself. "The Mitchellville idea was a long-time dream of Mrs. Bates, heroine of Little Rock, former president of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP branches, and currently a member of the Association's National Board of Directors."¹⁷

Through the efforts of Mrs. Bates, Dr. Riley, and the Ouachita Baptist University students involved, the Mitchellville program received local, state, and national attention.¹⁸

Beginning in the fall, 1968, the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program operated under the sponsorship of the Univer-

¹⁶Op. cit., Bates.

¹⁷"Student Power Lifts Mitchellville," Crisis (May, 1968), p. 161.

¹⁸See Chapter IV for the complete program of development for Mitchellville stressing the involvement of the students of Ouachita Baptist University.

sity of Arkansas Graduate School of Social Work. The Graduate School was a division of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and offered a program of graduate professional education leading to a Master of Social Work degree. Administered by its own dean, faculty, and staff, the primary purpose was to prepare social workers for beginning practice in a variety of settings including Community Action Agencies. Through this Graduate School the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program had access and strong connections to social welfare resources and other state-wide programs. The Rural Training Program was administered by the Project Director and staff to whom administrative authority was delegated. The Project Director, who had a faculty appointment, provided supervision of all activities and coordinated the training project with the Graduate School.¹⁹

The Project Director for the duration of the period beginning July 1, 1968, and extending through June 30, 1969, was Earl E. Evans. The operating budget for this same period was \$234,938.²⁰

The key faculty members of the Graduate School shared in the work of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program and were involved to insure a highly effective contribution to

¹⁹Op. cit., 1968-69 - Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program, pp. 6-6b.

²⁰Ibid., pp. 65-71.

the program. Effective coordination was maintained with the General Extension and the Agricultural Extension Divisions of the University of Arkansas.²¹

²¹Ibid., p. 61.

CHAPTER IV

OPERATION BOOTSTRAPS

Through the interest of the Ouachita Baptist University students the residents of Mitchellville received the motivation to improve their individual education, to improve their ability to operate their own local government, and to improve their homes and vocation potential.²²

. . . Since the colleges and universities harbor the reservoir of knowledge that our society will operate in the future, it seems practical enough to put it to use while the student is still in school so those fruitful years can be used to aid society and give him experience for the job and the place he will maintain when he graduates.²³

The actual involvement of the college students began on December 2, 1967. Twenty-one volunteer students in Dr. Riley's political science classes conducted a survey about the community. Before the day ended plans were made to set up adult education classes and to have student work projects to help remove health hazards within the area.²⁴

The results of the survey were revealing. Of the 150

²²Op. cit., "Student Power Lifts Mitchellville," p. 161.

²³Bobby Stover, Editor, Ouachita Baptist University Signal, Spring, 1968.

²⁴Op. cit., "Student Power Lifts Mitchellville," p. 161.

families in the community, 45 had an annual income of less than \$1000. Only 10 families earned more than \$5000 per year. Eighty per cent of the homes required repair or reconstruction. The residents were found to be friendly but often seemed reserved and cautious when answering questions. Other residents waited in front of their houses anxiously awaiting the student surveyor. The male-female teams received a greater acceptance than the male teams. The citizens appeared less suspicious of them.²⁵

Mrs. Bates took the information interpreted from the survey to New York for a conference with Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive officer. The support of the NAACP was pledged to the program. Mrs. Bates also went to Washington, D.C. with Miss Cloene Biggs, a junior Political Science major at Ouachita Baptist University.²⁶ The women conferred with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Theodore Berry, Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity; and Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture. Each representative pledged the full support of his agency. After Secretary Freeman endorsed the Mitchellville program, John Baker, assistant administrator of the Department of Agriculture, made an announcement in Pine Bluff promising a grant of \$60,000 and

²⁵Arkansas Gazette, January 7, 1968.

²⁶Miss Biggs was a resident of Logan County, Arkansas. Relatively few Negroes lived in this county.

a loan of \$42,000 for a sewer and treatment facility. Arkansas Senator John McClellan was also instrumental in assisting the student development program for Mitchellville. Using the results of the student survey Mrs. Bates had previously estimated that the cost of such a sewerage system would be \$90,000--an amount too great for the community to undertake without loans or grants. During the summer of 1966, the community had put in a water line by borrowing \$43,500 from the Farmer's Home Administration. This expense had strained the municipal resources.²⁷

Mitchellville applied to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a \$6,000 planning grant and to the OEO for \$39,000 for a summer education grant to operate from May through August, 1968.²⁸ This grant was refused by Gerson M. Green, director of the Research and Demonstration Section of the federal OEO Community Action Program. His reason for refusing the grant was that the involvement of the student volunteers in planning and provision of services was not innovating.²⁹ To some observers this appeared to be an unreasonable rationalization.³⁰

²⁷Op. cit., "Student Power Lifts Mitchellville," p. 161.

²⁸Ibid., p. 163.

²⁹Pine Bluff Commercial, May 6, 1968.

³⁰See Appendix numbered D.

All relevant local, state, and federal agencies and institutions were encouraged to participate in the Mitchellville project. These included Ouachita Baptist University; Agriculture, Mechanical, and Normal College; the University of Arkansas; the Farmer's Home Administration; the State Planning Commission; the Arkansas Department of Welfare; the Arkansas Department of Public Health; the Arkansas OEO; the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program; and, the Arkansas State Department of Labor. Local citizens pledged their support as well as local officials, county judges, members of the Arkansas Legislature, civil rights organizations, and education associations.³¹

The primary beneficiaries of the Mitchellville program were the 150 displaced farm families. Included in this estimated figure are approximately 250 children. Mode figures of the student survey indicated that the middle age group was small in number because of the lack of economic opportunity. The HeadStart Project, literacy programs, recreational activities, and vocational counseling were of value to the young. The old shared in the benefits of the program through the increased facilities for health, education, housing, and sewage.³²

³¹Bates, op. cit.

³²Ibid.

In addition to the primary beneficiaries were the secondary beneficiaries, the college students. These young people were exposed to the basic, raw, inescapable facts of poverty, most for the first time. This was vital to the program and vital to the practical education of society. Education through experience and purpose was perhaps the greatest lesson of all taught through the experiment of Mitchellville.³³

We're all students and we're learning. We're willing to supply willing hearts and hands and we'd like to feel we're available when you need us. This is just the opening of a better life for all who live here.³⁴

A third group of beneficiaries were the similarly undeveloped communities. This wealth of untapped potential rested in numerous communities like Mitchellville. The prospect was that someday they also would receive federal, state, and local assistance in the elimination of economic deprivation.³⁵

During the civil rights fight of the past decade, students became involved, but it was more the exception than the rule, and all too often their participation was devoted to demonstrations and (not to mean that this is necessarily a bad participation) instead of actually helping someone who needed immediate help. Since the colleges and the universities harbor the reservoir of

³³Ibid.

³⁴Dr. Bob C. Riley, Arkansas Gazette, January 7, 1968.

³⁵Bates, Report for OEO, op. cit.

knowledge that society will operate, it seems practical to put it to use while the student is still in school. Those fruitful years can be used to aid society and give him experience for the job and place he will maintain when he graduates. In Arkansas alone there are many Mitchellvilles. There are also many intelligent and able bodied students who may be wasting some of their more productive years by not helping them. We commend Dr. Riley³⁶ and his group for not letting this happen to them.

The objectives of the Mitchellville program were:

1. To make an assessment of the problems of a community.
2. Develop meaningful programs and processes to improve the economic conditions of the community.
3. To motivate and to convey a sense of hope and aspiration to members of the local community toward economic self-sufficiency.
4. To arouse and enlist local, state, and national institutions and agencies with the view of making the combined resources available to Mitchellville for its economic development.
5. To improve educational opportunities, health, housing, recreation and the general cultural conditions of the area.
6. To demonstrate the potential of local, state, and national agencies in giving practical help to deprived communities.
7. To provide an opportunity for involving institutions of higher learning on real problem situations as a means of having education related to the problems and needs of society.
8. To encourage development of local enterprises and industry as a means of providing employment for the area.³⁷

³⁶Stover, op. cit.

³⁷Bates, Operation Bootstraps, op. cit.

The work program proposed depended upon the needs and problems of the community. The program for Mitchellville embraced the following:

1. An assessment of the needs and problems of the community.
2. Providing education and training consistent with the needs of the community.
3. Providing for recreation, physical fitness, and health.
4. Providing information on the practical everyday problems of the members of the community--both young and old.
5. Improvement of housing, sewage, streets, and sanitation.
6. Cultural enrichment locally as well as through field trips.
7. Encouragement in developing local enterprises and industry as means of employment.
8. Development of vocational skills through referrals, if not practical to develop locally.³⁸

³⁸Ibid.

CHAPTER V

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OPERATION BOOTSTRAPS

The plight of Mitchellville was for the most part a direct result of an economic system where little value was placed on education. Cultural as well as economic deprivation was manifested. The plantation system, the sharecropper, and the tenant farmer left marks on Mitchellville and they were largely the source of its present circumstances. Mitchellville suffered from a situation where unskilled labor was the primary means of income. These pursuits left the residents of the community without the skills necessary in an urban society and an industrial economy.³⁹

³⁹In Mitchellville, an all Negro community, there were two worlds coming together from different economic and social backgrounds. According to statistics given in the Statistical Data Regarding Incidence of Poverty in the State of Arkansas, 68% of the adults were under the age of 64 (157) while the additional 32% (73) were over the age of 65. The total number of children was 255; 29% (74) were attending school while 71% (181) were placed in the pre-school category.

Only 42 families had an income of over \$3000 per year. There were six young adults individually who had an income of over \$3000. The families existing on incomes of under \$3000 per year numbered 89 (63%). There were 64 persons collecting Social Security in addition to 62 persons receiving welfare benefits.

All of the citizens of Mitchellville were Negro. The per cent of non-white in Desha County was 48.1. The total population of the county was 20,770. Surveys revealed that the county lost 2100 Negroes in the period of 1950-1960 yet received an overall increase in population of 17.4%. Desha County ranked 31st in 1960 in order of population of 75

Mitchellville was very typical of many rural communities because of the environment. Neglect seemed to be the proper term to apply to the circumstances of the community and to similar communities. Neglect in education, cultural enrichment, recreation, health, housing, and employment opportunities were evidenced. The Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project had a limited budget with which to alleviate many of the problems resulting from these conditions.⁴⁰ The members of the staff of Operation Bootstraps selected health, education, welfare, employment, and recreation to be the

counties. The percentage of urban population was 38.5%. Desha County ranked 19th in the number of families with income less than \$1000 per year. The survey revealed that 22.4% (1,081) of the families in Desha County received less than \$1000 annually. The county ranked 36th in the number of families with incomes of between \$1000 to \$1999 per year. There were 1,090 families (22.6%) in this category. Desha was 74th in the number of families receiving from \$2000 to \$2999 annually. There were 555 families in this category (11.5%). Desha County was ranked 37th in regard to the total number of families with incomes of less than \$3000 per year--2,787 families (56.56%).

According to the same survey, 6% of the male labor force over 14 years of age were unemployed in Desha County while 8.1% of the females of the same age were unemployed. The total labor force for the males numbered 4,606 and for the females 1,658. The number of persons over 65 receiving Old Age Assistance benefits were 729 out of a possible 2,041. The rank and number receiving this assistance in June, 1963, was 35.7%.

The number of persons from the ages of 14 through 17 enrolled in school in Desha County averaged 85.6%. Desha County ranked 19th in the total number of persons over 25 years of age (10,163) with less than 8 years of formal education (5,139) with 50.6%.

⁴⁰See Appendix numbered B.

short range goals. The long range goals chosen were sewerage, streets, housing, and community development.⁴¹

Adequate health services were needed not only for Mitchellville but for other low income communities of Desha County as well. The clients were allowed only one visit per month to the office of a doctor at the expense of the Department of Welfare. In order to acquire this privilege the patient had first to receive authorization from the Welfare Office in McGehee. This required a period of three to four days. If a visit was made to the physician without this authorization, the patient paid for the examination and the cost of medication. Many of the clients were not aware of health services.⁴²

A need existed for adequate health insurance. Most of the citizens were unable to afford Blue Cross-Blue Shield. The majority of them purchased insurance that paid only \$7.00 for the first week of hospitalization, \$14.00 for the second, and \$21.00 for the third week.⁴³

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The education program called for Negro history, basic

⁴¹Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project Memorandum (November, 1968), prepared by Mrs. Daisy Bates.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Ibid.

adult education, sewing classes, and carpentry. Approximately ten men from the area registered for the Concentrated Employment Program. The most successful program to date was the tutoring sessions of organized study. The sessions were conducted from Tuesday through Friday for the elementary and high school students. Miss Betty Portis of the Dumas public schools along with ten high school students conducted the sessions. The Community Training Center furnished the books, pencils, and paper. Some of the teachers in the schools attended by the students stated that they had recognized marked improvements since the organization of the classes.⁴⁴

On the average 35 students attended the tutoring classes. Excellent support was given from both the local community and the school officials. In a conference with the principals and teachers of Dumas Elementary School and Reed Elementary and High School, complementary remarks were offered.⁴⁵ Several students attending the schools had been referred to the tutoring sessions for special assistance.⁴⁶ The Superintendent of the Dumas School District and three Board members visited the Operation Bootstraps Project in December, 1968. A black-

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵See Appendix numbered L.

⁴⁶For all practical purposes, a segregated school system was in existence in Desha County at the period of this writing.

board was donated for the classes and help in securing typewriters was promised.⁴⁷

A project was underway assembling tie racks. Plans called for the submission of the finished products at the end of the training program to manufacturers in an effort to obtain a contract for orders. The material was furnished by O. L. Puryear, owner of a local wood-products mill.⁴⁸

In addition to the ten men enrolled in the Concentrated Training Program, two men were trainees enrolled in the Home Builders Course and attended special tutoring classes provided by Operation Bootstraps. Five residents attended evening courses at Reed High School, two attended evening typing classes at Dumas High School, and two attended the Agricultural, Mining, and Normal College Technical College in Pine Bluff.⁴⁹

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Four homes in Mitchellville underwent repairs with loans through the Farmer's Home Administration.⁵⁰ The repairs

⁴⁷Bates, OEO Report, op. cit.

⁴⁸Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project Memorandum (February, 1969), prepared by Mrs. Daisy Bates.

⁴⁹Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project Memorandum (December, 1968) prepared by Mrs. Daisy Bates.

⁵⁰According to a December, 1968, survey of the 124 residents in Mitchellville, 41 were found to be in satisfactory condition, 26 in deteriorating condition, and 57 were

were made with Concentrated Employment trainees associated with Operation Bootstraps.⁵¹ Eight trainees were assigned to the Mitchellville Project.⁵²

William McKinney of the regional office of the Federal Housing Administration met with the staff of Operation Bootstraps and the city council. McKinney made a study of the community in an effort to determine the type of housing most desirable for the citizens.⁵³

A chemical company obtained an option on 40 acres of land near the community center.⁵⁴ The location of this plant in Mitchellville greatly improved the economic status of the community.⁵⁵

in dilapidated condition. Renewal and rehabilitation programs were essential. The commercial enterprises were in a deteriorating condition and would be best relocated in a new area of construction. Mitchellville was unique in that it did require all the physical functions of a city, building, street, or recreation facility.

⁵¹See Appendix numbered K.

⁵²Bates, op. cit.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵The employment opportunities in Mitchellville reflect those in other all-Negro, poverty-stricken communities, according to statistics prepared by Dr. Randolph Quick for the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program. The Negro was usually the last to be hired and the first to be fired. There were about six million of the 20 million Negroes in the United States gainfully employed. Another one million were looking for work. Although 10% of the population was Negro: 3% of the physicians and surgeons were Negro

The Concentrated Employment trainees were engaged in building the first multi-purpose building in Mitchellville. The building was to house a fire station, day care center, classrooms, library, recreation center, dining room, kitchen, and sleeping quarters for volunteer firemen. The building was slated for completion in July, 1969. The La France Company of New York has promised fire equipment upon completion of the building.⁵⁶

Through the cooperation of the national office of the

-
- 3% of the dentists were Negro
 - 2% of the engineers were Negro
 - 2% of the business managers were Negro
 - 1% of the architects were Negro
 - 1% of the auditors were Negro.

Three out of five Negroes were unskilled. The vast majority of the Negroes earned less than \$4,000 a year, far below the \$6,140 deemed "modest but adequate" for a family of four by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average Negro earned slightly more than half as much as the white worker. Until very recently it was true that a white man with an 8th grade education expected to earn more in his lifetime than a Negro with a college degree.

While relatively few of the Negroes were unskilled, such was not always the case. Of the 120,000 unskilled workers in the South at the close of the Civil War, 100,000 were Negro. The Negro experienced a unique problem in application for a position as an employee. The question of assertiveness arose. Discrimination in the use of company facilities was prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Southern operators, in particular, experienced great difficulties because of the long-established practices of segregation in that section of the country. Though the signs were easy to remove, the attitudes remained far more difficult to alter.

⁵⁶Ibid.

NAACP McGraw-Hill Publishing Company donated 3,000 books to start the library. The Singer Sewing Machine Company donated 12 electric machines for the use of the sewing center.⁵⁷

The Council distributed 500 pieces of clothing and the sewing class made dresses and suits for the needy children. The clothing was donated by Father James McVeigh Smith and the Catholic Women of Little Rock. The United Dollar Stores contributed vast quantities of material to Operation Bootstraps.⁵⁸

Federal money was available for the development of a new park through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Standards of recreation activity were to be established for all.⁵⁹

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The school board was searching for a solution to the problem of unifying the school system. This action had to be done to improve the educational system and meet requirements set by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The staff of the Mitchellville Program, worked with the parents and teachers of both the white and the black. No communication had been established between the two races.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

The situation existed because of a lack of leadership.⁶⁰

Mrs. Bates recommended a special six-week training session in the summer for the teachers and parents in the school district with a consultant in the field of race relations. Such a procedure was directed toward a solution of the problems confronting those in the period of transition.⁶¹

The influence of Operation Bootstraps was felt not only as an instrument for leadership and guidance for the poverty stricken but also a source of guidance for the schools. The effectiveness of the program was haunted by the fear that the program would not be refunded.⁶²

Steward Edwards of the Farmers Union, Silas Glover of the County Office of the Farmer's Home Administration, D. L. O'Neal, James Danough, and Joseph Cavaness of the Employment Security Division,⁶³ and Delbert L. Beeman of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development were only a few of the many consultants and visitors traveling to Mitchellville in an attempt to improve the social, economic, and cultural status of the citizens. An evaluation team from Volt

⁶⁰Ibid.

⁶¹Ibid.

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³See Appendix numbered G.

Technical Corporation in Austin, Texas, toured the community.⁶⁴

Legal services were made available to the citizens of Mitchellville through attorney George Howard, Jr. of Pine Bluff. Howard, a prominent civil rights attorney, furnished legal services such as property titles, legal documents, wills, and contract interpretations to the project.⁶⁵

The Mitchellville City Planning Commission was organized upon the basic premise that an orderly, well thought-out plan for progress was the only realistic and practical approach to making Mitchellville the city its citizens wished it to become. The following primary goals were essential in this planning:

Economic Health

To insure maximum stability and growth in community output, employment, income, and utilization of resources;

Social Mobility

To promote maximum opportunity for each person to improve his economic and social status and conditions;
To encourage each individual to contribute to the welfare and improvement of the community to the fullest extent of his abilities;

Attractive, Healthful, and Convenient Environment

To work together toward greater convenience in our daily lives and in the community and to establish higher standards of health, beauty, and variety in the surroundings;

⁶⁴Bates, op. cit.

⁶⁵Ibid.

Optimum Use of Natural Resources

To seek a better adjustment between the natural environment and the superimposed man-made environment of the area;

Commercial

To provide adequate areas and locations for the establishment and growth of businesses so that all material of our residents can be adequately and satisfactorily fulfilled locally;

Residential

To provide adequate and attractive housing for all residents in order to make this community a more desirable place to live and to encourage people to stay and others to come to make their home here;

Industrial

To provide attractive and desirable areas with adequate utilities to fulfill the needs of industry so that expansion and growth can be encouraged; this objective is based on the promise that the jobs and livelihood provided will stimulate community growth;

Agricultural

To develop co-operative relationships between the urban and rural areas in order to increase the interdependence for the satisfaction of their needs; this objective serves for the reciprocating stimulus in the growth of each area and increasing the self-sufficiency of this community.

Public Activities

To provide for those activities that will satisfy the needs of the residents of this community;

Educational Facilities

To adequately provide for the educational needs and development of all residents;

Land Use Compatibility

To obtain maximum utilization of all lands within the bounds of these regulations and restrictions established by the people through their governing body so that planning and organization are reflected by the community image;

Fire Protection

To adequately provide protection against fire and other preventable destruction to the property of all residents, whether private, commercial, or industrial;

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities

To provide areas adequately equipped for the informal relaxation and entertainment of all residents;

Police Protection

To adequately protect all members of this community through the firm, fair, and uniform application of all laws and ordinances.⁶⁶

Overall objectives were established whether the building type or land use be residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, agricultural, educational, or governmental;

Access Each should be easily accessible to the public it serves, and should not present unnecessary or safety hazards to the movement of pedestrians or vehicles in the area;

Compatibility Each should incorporate whatever physical design features necessary to protect it and the adjoining property from unnecessary noise, odor, or other environmental problems;

⁶⁶Prepared by Mrs. Daisy Bates for the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program.

Aesthetics Each should contain architectural and landscaping features as will best blend into the surrounding physical features and insure conservation of economic values and appreciation of aesthetic values.⁶⁷

CONSUMER BUYING

The Project organized a Consumers Buying Club in an attempt to convince the citizens to pool their money and purchase in wholesale lots. This was begun during December, 1968, in the purchase of children's toys from the Cash Wholesale Company of Little Rock. The citizens bought through the Consumers Buying Club and saved approximately 40% on their purchases. This served as an inducement to strengthen the Club and further plans were made for the purchase of a number of necessities through collective buying.⁶⁸

In a very practical sense the Mitchellville OEO Program, Operation Bootstraps, became an intricate part of the community and its surrounding area. The Program made considerable progress. The vast majority of the citizens being served by the Project were disabled products of culture or poverty. This disablement served as an impediment and a handicap in relation to obtaining, retaining, and adjusting to employment.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Bates, op. cit.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From the heritage of the plantation system to the NAACP, from the pre-school children to the elderly, from the illiterate to those with doctorate degrees--Mitchellville was a symbol of a community in change. From its inception as a settlement of migrant farm laborers until the intervention of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program, a disadvantaged existence was the only life experienced by the citizens of this impoverished community.

Many Mitchellvilles had been endured by their citizens not only in Arkansas but throughout the United States. Although the inhabitants themselves had the desire to change their modes of life, the leadership quality required to stimulate the desire to acting initiative was not present.

Through the capable guidance of program director Mrs. Daisy Bates, counselor Dr. Bob C. Riley, and many college student assistants, the program of Operation Bootstraps began. Intervening agencies were warmly welcomed in contributing to the noticeable improvement of the all-Negro community. The involvement of the college student as the original stimulus in influencing the acceptance by the federal, state, and local authorities cannot be overstated.

The apprehension of non-funding upon completion of a previously sponsored period proved a handicap. Danger existed in over-encouraging the ambitions of the residents.

The periods of historical significance which influenced the community were before the intervention of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program (Operation Bootstraps) and after the initiation of this Program. During these two periods, there was a noticeable change of attitude in the citizens. The hope for a better life through the realization that aid was forthcoming became evident.

The cultural and social factors of the community were dependent upon the economic structure. This structure had become outdated and was desperately in need of rapid change from agricultural to industrial.

The educational opportunities made available through federal programs as well as independent college scholarships furthered technical knowledge. The aim of keeping the young adults in the community was prime. Only through their learned capabilities could Mitchellville become a more successful community. The settlement of young families was always encouraged.

Operation Bootstraps was a federally sponsored experiment in self-help. Awarded to a community which had previously experienced unemployment and welfare, the opportunity for improvement was possible. Interest in Operation Bootstraps

successfully brought the possibility of self-respect, self-pride, and self-determination to a rural area where despair had previously dominated.

A new area of OEO assistance was opened through the involvement of the college student with the poor. The young educated students had never before witnessed the extremes of the society in which they live. These students had the time, the desire, and the ability to donate to those in need the knowledge of improved living. A demonstration of help to the established way of poverty provided experience to the college student in better understanding the circumstances of others. Through the learning process, two segments of the American society were brought closer to an awareness of the problems faced by each.

Through other experiments of self-help coupled with student assistance, further progress can be made to bridge the gap created by the society of misunderstanding.

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Bates, Mrs. Daisy, Project director for Operation Bootstraps.

Biggs, Cloene, Volunteer student from OBU, Student Chairman of the Committee for Teen-age Interest.

Bork, Jerome, Volunteer student from OBU, Ombudsman in Operation Bootstraps on the student level.

McCarrell, Charles, Mitchellville resident for fourteen years.

Matthews, James, Dumas businessman, member of the 1969 Arkansas House of Representatives from DeSha County.

Parker, Kenneth, Volunteer student from OBU, member of the original student survey team.

Parker, Virginia, Volunteer student from OBU, Student Chairman of the Pre-School and Grade School Committee for Mitchellville.

Robinson, Delores, Secretary for Operation Bootstraps.

Railey, Stephen, Volunteer student from OBU, member of original student survey team.

Riley, Dr. Bob C., Field representative for the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program, consultant for Operation Bootstraps, chairman of the Political Science Department of OBU.

TRAINING OR DEMONSTRATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.

Demonstration Training

Project Director and ALL MAJOR PERSONNEL

- 1. Kelly Bates, Director
- 2. Bob Allen, Cleveland State University, Ohio
- 3. Gailie Paris, Assistant Director

APPENDIX

Project Title: _____
Project No.: _____

APPENDIX A

Project No. (Do not Use This
Space)

NOTICE OF TRAINING OR DEMONSTRATION OR RESEARCH PROJECT

Submitted to: Community Action Program, Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D. C. 20506

Type of Project: Demonstration Training Research

Give names, departments, and official titles of PROJECT DIRECTOR and ALL MAJOR PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL engaged on the project:

Mrs. Daisy Bates, Director
Dr. Bob Riley, Ouachita Baptist University, Chief Consultant
Mrs. Callie Portis, Assistant Director

Name or title of project (10 words or less):

"Boot Straps" Mitchellville (Desha Co.) Arkansas

Name and Address of Applicant:

Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71924

Summary of Proposed Project - (200 words or less.) In the Science Information Exchange summaries of proposed projects are exchanged with governmental and private agencies and are forwarded to interested investigators. Your summary will be used for these purposes.

At a time when governmental, public and private agencies and institutions are turning their attention to the need and wisdom of having all United States citizens share in the general prosperity of our country, Mitchellville projects itself as a "sore-eye" and a contradiction to the general effort to do something about the economically deprived citizen in the United States.

This application is proposed for the establishment of a demonstration project (Boot-strap) which recognizes that the citizens of Mitchellville have not thus far been included in the processes and programs to help the poor and its purpose is not only to place this little rural community in proper perspective but also to give the residents of the area a meaningful opportunity to lift themselves from their economic plight.

Literally speaking, it is proposed that local, state, and national resources will be combined to provide opportunities for this community so that it may become a part of the mainstream of American life, and thereby enjoy the minimum benefits, at least, which this nation provides for its citizens.

The project will engage (1) in an assessment of the economic, social, and cultural circumstances of the area; (2) it will recommend specific programs and processes to improve the economic conditions of the area; (3) it will recognize the wisdom of having involvement of local citizens during all phases of the project; (4) it

will be conscious of the fact that people are best helped through themselves; and finally, (5) it will strive to assist this country to the point that it will be self-sustaining.

Signature of

Project

Director

Daisy Bates, Date 4-2-68

Amount of Grant: \$ _____

Grant Period: From _____ to _____

Grantee Support: \$ _____

APPENDIX A

The community action agency named below plans to apply to OEO for financial assistance under Title IV-A of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, to carry out community action projects in your office, agency, or institution. The activity that the community action agency plans to undertake is described in Section I, below. In order to assure that this activity is coordinated with your own program of concerns, you are requested to complete Sections II and III of this form.

OEO requires the community action agency to allow each office, agency, or institution to which this form (CAP Form 46) is sent, a minimum of 15 days from receipt of the form to complete it and return it to the community action agency. If you are unable to respond fully to the request within this time period, you may either request additional time from the community action agency or, if its schedule will not permit an extension, you may return the form with a notation explaining why you were unable to complete it.

The checkpoint procedure is not designed to require concurrence in proposed community action activities by all potentially concerned local officials, agencies, or institutions. Where there has been prior consultation, and where no valid arguments have been advanced against a proposal, OEO will consider it on its merits. What OEO does require of a community action agency is that it provide a meaningful opportunity for affected local or State agencies to express their concerns.

SECTION I. APPLICANT AGENCY AND PROPOSED ACTIVITY

1. NAME OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project				2. DATE THIS FORM PREPARED 1/9/69	
3. ADDRESS					
4. NO. AND STREET P. O. Box 567		5. CITY Dumas	6. COUNTY Desha	7. STATE Arkansas	8. ZIP CODE 71639
9. NAME AND TITLE OF STAFF DIRECTOR Mrs. Daisy Bates, Project Director				10. TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Code) 382-5976	

11. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT(S):
The Mitchellville OEO Self-Help Project is to help this rural community to mobilize their resources to combat poverty. A vital feature of the Project is the involvement of the groups to be served in planning, policy making and operation.

12. TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY 71,529		13. NON-FEDERAL SHARE 14,308		14. FEDERAL SHARE 57,221	
---------------------------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--	-----------------------------	--

SECTION II. OFFICIAL OR AGENCY RESPONDING TO FORM

15. TITLE OF OFFICIAL OR AGENCY RESPONDING Mr. Charles Kelly, Mayor of Mitchellville				16. DATE OF RESPONSE 1-10-69	
17. ADDRESS Dumas, Ark.					
18. NO. AND STREET Route 1, Box 386-A		19. CITY Dumas	20. COUNTY Desha	21. STATE Arkansas	22. ZIP CODE 71639
23. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THIS FORM Mr. Charles Kelly, Mayor Mitchellville			24. SIGNATURE <i>Charles Kelly</i>		25. TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Code) 382-5392

SECTION III. COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ACTIVITY

26. WERE YOU, OR WAS YOUR AGENCY, CONSULTED IN THE PLANNING OF THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT(S) DESCRIBED IN SECTION I, ABOVE?
 YES NO OTHER (Describe)

27. WILL THE PROPOSED PROJECT(S) BE IMPLEMENTED AND BE COORDINATED WITH YOUR CURRENT AND PLANNED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY?
 YES NO OTHER (Describe)

28. DO YOU, OR DOES YOUR AGENCY, RECOMMEND THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT(S) BE APPROVED BY OEO?
 YES NO OTHER (Describe)

Office of Economic Opportunity
APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

FORM APPROVED
BUDGET BUREAU NO. 115-R019

CAP 8. COMPONENT PROJECT: TRAINING OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This form is to be used to apply for a training grant or a technical assistance grant under Section 206 of Title II-A, Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

NAME OF APPLICANT AGENCY Wachita Baptist University	COMPONENT PROJECT NO. 8	DO NOT FILL IN (For Administrative Use)
--------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------------

BRIEF DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF PROJECT
"Boot Straps" Mitchellville (Desha Co.) Arkansas

SUMMARY OF PROJECT <i>Describe the component project, using only the space below:</i>	PURPOSE OF PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> TRAINING <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

WORK PROGRAM *Attach a description of the work program for this component project, following the requirements for such a work program contained in the GUIDE to Training or Technical Assistance Projects, whichever is appropriate.*

DELEGATION OF ACTIVITIES TO OTHER AGENCIES

The following information is to be provided if any part of this component project is to be carried out by an agency or organization other than the applicant.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF DELEGATE AGENCY

TYPE OF AGENCY *Is the delegate agency a (Check one):*
 PUBLIC AGENCY PRIVATE-NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
 OTHER (Specify) *

SCOPE OF DELEGATION *Attach a statement describing:*
 a. The degree of responsibility that the delegate agency will have in carrying out the component project.
 b. The qualifications of the delegate agency to undertake and complete the component project.
 c. The way in which the applicant agency will supervise and/or coordinate the activities of the delegate agency.

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS *Attach a fully executed copy of the Civil Rights Assurance Form for each delegate agency.*

PREVIOUS APPLICATION

Has this component project, in substantially its present form, ever been the subject of a previous application for Federal financial assistance?
 YES NO *If "Yes", attach an explanatory statement.*

BUDGET

COST CATEGORY	ESTIMATED COST	8.4.1 BUDGET DETAIL <i>Attach a statement giving the basis for estimating the cost of this component project, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the CAP GUIDE. Where convenient, the cost estimates should be shown on CAP Form 23 (Budget for Component Project).</i>
1. PERSONNEL	\$	
2. CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACT SERVICES		
3. TRAVEL	SHEET ATTACHED	
4. SPACE COSTS AND RENTALS		
5. CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES		
6. RENTAL, LEASE, OR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT		8.4.2 PERIOD OF GRANT <i>How long will this component project be financed by the grant requested in this application?</i>
7. OTHER COSTS	\$	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT		May 1, 1968 to August 31, 1968
NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION		NUMBER OF MONTHS
FEDERAL GRANT REQUESTED UNDER TITLE II-A		

APPENDIX A
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

50

Form Approved
Budget Bureau No.
Approval Expires

Leave Blank

Due Rec'd. _____
Application No. _____
Due Ack'd. _____

Leave Blank

Action _____
Action Date _____
Grant No. _____

PROPOSAL FOR DEMONSTRATION OR TRAINING OR RESEARCH GRANT

P.L. 88-452 Title II A Section 207

Type of Project: Demonstration Training Research

<p>A. Amount (for the grant period shown in item B)</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	<p>B. Duration of Grant Period (12 months or less-See instructions.)</p> <p><u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>1968</u> through <u>8</u> <u>31</u> <u>1968</u></p> <p>Mo. Day Year Mo. Day Year</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>C. Type of Proposal (Check one box only)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of Grant Number _____</p>	<p>D. Estimated Duration of Project after the first grant period</p> <p><u>(1) one year</u></p> <p>E. Estimated Total Cost of the project beyond the first grant period _____</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

F. Project Director

Name Mrs. Daisy Bates

Mail Address of Project Box 290, Route 1
Dumas, Ark.

Tel. No. _____

G. Applicant Agency or Department

Name Ouachita Baptist College
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Mail Address Same

H. Financial Officer

Name Dr. Ralph Phelps, Jr.

Title President

Mail Address Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, Ark. 71924

Tel. No. CH6-4531

I. Designation of Payee (Treasury check will be drawn as follows) Ouachita Baptist University

J. Official Authorized to Sign Proposal for agency

Name Dr. Ralph Phelps, Jr.

Title President, Ouachita Baptist Univ.

K. Personal Signatures (in ink)

(1) Project Director (Same as "F" above) _____ Date _____

(2) Authorized Official (Same as "J" above) Ralph A. Phelps, Jr. Date 4-2-68

Mail Completed Application to:
Community Action Program
Office of Economic Opportunity
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20506

APPENDIX B
PROPOSED BUDGET

OPERATION BOOT STRAP

FROM: May 1, 1968 to August 31, 1968

A. PERSONNEL:

Director	\$3,200.00	
Assistant Director	2,800.00	
Student Coordinator	2,000.00	
Advance College Students (3)	5,400.00	
Secretary-Bookkeeper (5 months)	2,500.00	
Chief Consultant 2 days x 16 weeks x \$100.00	3,200.00	
Consultant fees 2 days x 4 months x \$100.00	800.00	
Fringe Benefits @ 10%	<u>1,590.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 21,490.00

B. TRAINEES:

(1) Subsistence	\$ 320.00	
(2) Travel		
Volunteers (25)	<u>1,500.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>1,820.00</u>

C. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT:

Typewriter (1)	\$ 500.00	
Executive desks (2) @ \$150.00	300.00	
Executive chairs (2) @ \$50.00	100.00	
Office chairs (6) @ \$15.00	90.00	
Classroom chairs (30) @ \$11.00	330.00	
Secretarial Desk (1)	225.00	
Secretarial Chair	30.00	
Adding Machine	325.00	
Hall trees (2) @ 27.00	54.00	
Four-drawer file cabinet (1) @ \$90.00	90.00	
Two-drawer file cabinet (1) @ \$45.00	45.00	
Tables (2) (oak) @ \$145.00	<u>290.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 2,379.00

D. CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES

Instructional Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	
Office Supplies	415.00	
Postage	250.00	
Telephone	600.00	
TOTAL		\$ 3,065.00

APPENDIX B

52

CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES:

Office Supplies--\$45 mo. x 12 mos.	\$ 540
Postage & Telephone--(Telephone,\$50 mo. x 12 mos=\$600) Postage--\$20 mo. x 12 mos=\$240	840
Training & Production Supplies--(Sewing Center \$2,000 & Training Supplies \$6,000)	<u>8,000</u>
Total	9,380

OTHER COSTS:

Utilities--\$50 mo. x 12 mos.	<u>600</u>
Total-----	600

TOTAL COST OF COMPONENT PROJECT 71,529

NON-FEDERAL SHARE

Volunteers	6,808
Community Center	<u>7,500</u>

Total----- \$14,308

FEDERAL SHARE \$57,221
NON-FEDERAL SHARE 14,308

GRAND TOTAL COST OF COMPONENT PROJECT \$71,529

APPENDIX B
MITCHELLVILLE OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

53

PROPOSED BUDGET-3/31/69 to 3/31/70

PERSONNEL:

Director---\$750 mo. x 12 mos.	\$ 9,000
Secretary-Bookkeeper--\$400 mo. x 12 mos.	4,800
Part-time Secretary \$200 mo. x 12 mos.	2,400
Training Supervisor (2) @ \$400 per mo. x 12 mos.	9,600
Neighborhood Aides--20 hrs. per wk. x 52 wks. x 4 Aides @ \$1.60 per hr. = 4,160 hrs. @ \$1.60 per hr.	6,656
Student Trainee--(10) students x 4 hrs. per wk.=160 hrs . per mo. x 12 mos.=1,920 @ \$1.60 per hr.	3,072
Volunteers--Legal service, 220 2/3 hrs. @ \$12 per hr.=2,648 volunteers--10 hrs. per wk. x 52 wks.=520 hrs. x 5 volunteers= 2,600 hrs. per year. @ \$1.60 per hr.=4,160	<u>6,808</u> 35,528
Fringe Benefits (10% of 35,528)	<u>3,553</u>
Total-----	\$ 45,889

CONSULTANTS & CONTRACT SERVICES:

Audit & Bonding	400
Consultants (2), 52 visits per yr. @ \$25 per visit	<u>2,600</u>
Total-----	3,000

TRAVEL:

C.A.A. Staff Travel--500 mi/mo x 12 mos. x .10 per mi.	600
Staff Travel--1200 mi/mo x 12 mos. x .10 mi.	1,440
Student Trainee Travel--1600 mi/mo x 12 mos. x .10 mi.	<u>1,920</u>
Total-----	3,960

SPACE COST & RENTALS:

Portable Office--\$100 mo. x 12	1,200
Community Center--2500 sq. ft. x .25 sq. ft. x 12 mos.	<u>7,500</u>
Total-----	8,700

MITCHELLVILLE OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

APPENDIX B

54

	Expenditure	Balance
Personnel:		
Director	\$2,100.00	\$ 900.00
Secretary-Bookkeeper	1,400.00	600.00
Neighborhood Aides	1,466.40	581.60
Training Supervisor	675.60	324.40
Student Trainees	51.20	972.80
Fringe Benefits	43.00	878.00
Audit & Bonding (Hardin & Wilson)	27.00	273.00
Consultants	250.00	750.00
Travel; C.A.E. Staff Travel	.00	250.00
Staff Travel	136.10	463.90
Student Trainee Travel	83.00	557.00
Portable Office	500.00	.00
Office Supplies	169.36	55.64
Postage	40.72	169.28
Telephone	205.68	228.32
Training & Production	1,444.55	3,013.45
Office Equipment	931.66	268.34
Utilities	<u>88.89</u>	<u>161.11</u>
Total Amount	\$9,613.16	\$10,386.84

MITCHELLVILLE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

COMMITTEE

Economics
Housing and Planning
Health, Medi-Care, Social Sec.
Co-Op
Recreation
Ombudsman
Adult Education
Teenagers
Pre-School and Grade School
Beautification
Rehabilitation
Laubach Reading
Acquisitions .

CHAIRMEN

Patti Stipek
Gary Cheatham
James Freeman
Walter Butler
William Meeks
James Stark
Bobby Bulloch
Cloene Biggs
Virginia La Cook
Michael Meeks
Bill Massey
Jamil Shami
Jerry Bork

APPENDIX C
Mitchellville

56

Members

Patti Stipek
Gary Cheatham
Jim Freeman
Jerome Bork
Walter Butler
Virgil Wilson
Robert Cornelius
Mike Meeks
Bill Meeks
Jim Stark
Bobby Bulloch
Cloene Biggs
Virginia La Cook
Bill Massey
Jamil Shami
Richard Lindley
Mac Sisson
Jerry Forehand
Jeannie Mason
Mitchell Chun
Mike O'Cain
Pat Moss
Cliff King
Ken Parker
Tommy Ward
Jon Jennings
Dennis Snider
Drew Bacon
Nancy Smith
Maxwell Kelly
Sandy Ross
Mary Williams
Arlyss Friddle
Charles Taylor
Karen Sidwell
Gerald Morgan
Beverly Graffis

Home Town

Hot Springs
Little Rock
Arkadelphia
New York
Helena
Prescott
Camden
El Dorado
El Dorado
Heber Springs
McGhee
Booneville
Perry
Malvern
Jordan
Russellville
Crossett
Memphis
Pickens
Dallas, Texas
Little Rock
Morrilton
Atlanta, Georgia
Little Rock
Little Rock
Milwaukee
Norphlet
Newton, Texas
St. Louis
El Dorado
Dewitt
Texarkana
Little Rock
Pine Bluff
Pine Bluff
Shreveport, La.
Baltimore, Maryland

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

for

MITCHELLVILLE, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Patricia Stipek, Chairman
2. Drew Bacon
3. Bobby Bulloch
4. Jon Jennings
5. Clifford King
6. Richard Lindley
7. Michael Meeks
8. Kenneth Parker
9. James Stark
10. Dennis Snider
11. Thomas S. Ward

HOMETOWNS

Hot Springs, Arkansas
Newton, Texas
McGehee, Arkansas
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Atlanta, Georgia
Russellville, Arkansas
El Dorado, Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas
Heber Springs, Arkansas
Norphlet, Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas

The objective of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
is to promote the interest of industry into this rural area.

APPENDIX C

We have recognized the overall importance of using the local industry and resources to the utmost ability. However, the obvious conclusions reached emphasize the need for further investment by outside interests.

The citizens of Mitchellville are more than ready to learn a skill or trade in preparation for advanced incomes and community betterment. The greatest resource to any business is the prospect of employment. And, this is easily made available.

In the early part of February Mr. William P. Rogers visited on the campus of Ouachita University with Dr. Bob Riley and several students of this committee. Mr. Rogers suggested that we explore specific means of getting and using the local industries and resources. At this time the possibility of planting the crops of okra and summer squash was suggested. Also, an industry of the "home-grown" variety was posed as a possibility. Such a business might be the building of birdhouses or even simple sewing. The question of available markets was discussed.

A brief study into the crop venture revealed a land shortage. The citizens had previously grown crops for the BIRD'S EYE CORPORATION, which we later learned was the one suggested by Mr. Rogers, and found their arrangements to be unsatisfactory.

The Committee has met with approximately 35 of the ladies of Mitchellville who have expressed some slight knowledge of sewing. Enthusiasm has been raised in the possibility of

the sewing of pillow cases, laundry bags, ironing board covers, and other simple mass production items.

The training of these workers could be aided by the installment at this time of three or four machines for practice sessions. There is one suitable building on the land owned by the city which could be used and in which the machines could be stored.

The needs in the area of Mitchellville for an industry are great. Additional structures and factories would have to be constructed before any actual manufacturing could begin. Phone conversations with Mr. Rogers have revealed the hope that he has the interest of some needlecraft industry.

The ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE has, either as an entire group or in semi-groups thereof, visited the area on four different occasions, covering over 1,000 miles.

February 27, 1968

Laubach Literacy Committee

Objectives:

Based on Laubach method of "each one teach one", and in order to make it a community project, we planned our work on two stages:

Stage 1. A Literacy Workshop

We are conducting a Literacy Workshop in Michelville where we are preparing six literacy teachers. In doing so, the prospective teachers are oriented on the literacy situation and work in and outside America. Besides that, the prospective teachers are taught how to use the literacy kits, including the charts and stories, writing books, streamlined English, and wall charts. Along with that, a Teacher's Guide to Charts has been handed to the teachers. The literacy material used in the Workshop and given to the teachers was paid for by Laubach State Committee.

Stage 2. A Literacy Campaign

March 9th will be the kick-off for our literacy campaign in Michelville. With six teachers from the community, reinforced later on with the "each one teach one" approach, we believe that we can lift every illiterate in Micheville to adequate literacy and participating role in the community development within one year.

Committee Needs

We need to place a literacy kit in the hands of each student at the cost of \$2.34 each. We need six wall charts at the cost of \$1.60 each. So, assuming that we will be dealing with fifty illiterates (reasonable guess in the absence of literacy statistics), that would bring our literacy material cost to \$126.00.

Jamil M. Shami

Jamil M. Shami

Laubach Literacy Committee

REPORT BY THE ACQUISITIONS OFFICER

JEROME BORK - NEW YORK

GATHERING OF INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES FROM

- 1- Social Security
- 2- Arkansas OEO
- 3- Farmers Home Administration
- 4- Arkansas State Department of Welfare
- 5- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 6- Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
- 7- Cooperative League
- 8- Department of Agriculture
- 9- Department of Commerce (EDA)
- 10- Arkansas Municipalities
- 11- Arkansas Planning Commission

PROGRAMS

- 1- Representative from Social Security (next few weeks)
- 2- Public Information Officer, Mr. Bob L. Kemp, State Department of Welfare. To be followed by case workers on an individual interview basis

EXPENSES

Phone calls (long distance to Little Rock and Mitchellville)

Subject: Mitchellville Adult Education

The adult education classes have not been started due to the fact that Dr. Bob Riley is presently teaching basic parliamentary procedure classes. As soon as these are completed, the adult education classes will begin.

The instruction will be aimed toward the state and local government levels. This course will include election procedures and duties of elected officials. The role of the individual in county and state elections and general political behavior will also be discussed.

The Adult Education Committee

Chairman - Bobby Bulloch, McGehee, Ark.
Jean Mason, Arkadelphia, Ark.
Cliff King, Atlanta, Ga.
Mitchell Chun, Dallas, Texas

Mitchellville

Pre-School and Head-Start

Committee Chairman Virginia La Cook, Perry, Arkansas

Committee Members	Home Towns
Mary Williams	Texarkana
Patti Stipek	Hot Springs
Nancy Smith	St. Louis
Cloene Biggs	Booneville
Sandy Ross	Dewitt
Jeannie Mason	Pickens

The purpose of the Pre-School and Head-Start committee is to acquaint the children of this community with some things that could help them when they start to school and to help the school age children with some of their problems. We also serve as a baby setting group while the mothers are attending adult classes.

Our committee is now set up in the church at Mitchellville where two more of the committees also meet.

We have a wide range of children in our group. At our last meeting we had an attendance of 3 (three) pre-school children and 10 (ten) school age children ranging from ages 6 to 12. During our last meeting we did an experiment with the children provided for us by our Educational Psychology teacher using some ideas on the center of gravity. From this study we prepared a report which was given to an Educational Psychology class.

We are now in the process of setting up a program with a speech therapy student who will be working with the children on their speech problems. We hope through this program we will be able to help some of the children to overcome their problems in communicating with their playmates.

Every week we have a story time for the children where they can become involved with some type of reading and speaking situations. We encourage them to become a part of this group activity.

After our reading and speech therapy periods are over we take the children to the playground area where we play the games they enjoy.

Our group has made on the average 4 (four) trips each to Mitchellville. This covering over 1,000 miles.

Mitchellville

Health, Medicare and Social Security Committee

Committee Chairman Jim Freeman, Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Committee Members

Home Towns

Clifford King

Atlanta, Georgia

Nancy Smith

St. Louis, Missouri

Gerald Morgan

Shreveport, La.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

William M. Meeks III

Virgil Wilson

Robert Cornelius

HOMETOWNS

El Dorado, Arkansas

Prescott, Arkansas

Camden, Arkansas

The purpose of the RECREATION COMMITTEE is to organize a Community wide effort to provide recreational facilities for the children and young people of Mitchellville, Arkansas.

We have made on the average of four trips to conduct surveys and obtain the use of privately owned lands.

Several rough drawings have been made and local effort has been secured toward the establishment of several area playgrounds. Some equipment has been secured from the Henderson State College Physical Education Department and from Ouachita University and from private donations.

William M. Meeks III
Chairman, Recreation Committee

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND PLANNING

I. Members

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Gary R. Cheatham, Chairman | Little Rock |
| 2. Richard Lindley | Russelville |
| 3. Mac Sisson | McGee |
| 4. Jerry Forhand | Memphis |

At the present we are conducting research on all of the programs now available for housing in Mitchelville. We are planning to make a detailed survey into the conditions of housing in the town and in what specific areas help is needed.

We are also analyzing the various skills of the people in order to find out who is capable of furnishing skills necessary to build the homes.

We hope to either help the people of Mitchelville to improve their homes to much higher standards or in some cases to provide assistance in building new homes.

Gary R. Cheatham
Chairman

GRC

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION OF YOUTH

Cloene Biggs - Coordinator

I. Members of the Committee

- A. Cloene Biggs - Booneville, Arkansas
- B. Mary Williams - Texarkana, Arkansas
- C. Arlyss Friddle - Little Rock, Arkansas
- D. Nancy Smith - St. Louis, Missouri
- E. Beverly Graffis - Baltimore, Maryland
- F. Karen Sidwell - Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- G. Sandy Ross - Morrilton, Arkansas
- H. Jerry Beth Jamison - Nashville, Arkansas
- I. Richard Lindley - Russellville, Arkansas
- J. Gary Cheatham - Little Rock, Arkansas
- K. Jerry Bork - New York, New York

The primary objective of this committee is to prepare lessons in areas in which the youth of Mitchellville have shown a specified interest. The age of this group is from 14 to approximately 25, so we have a variety of classes designed to be of interest to the group as a whole or to specific divisions. At the beginning of each weekly session, males and females participate in the discussion of one of the following:

- I. Privileges and Responsibilities of Citizenship
 - A. Federal Constitutional Rights
 - B. Voting Procedure and Its Implications
 - C. Operations of State and Local Governments
- II. Sex Education
- III. Dating Manners
- IV. Basic Art

At the conclusion of these discussion sessions, the young men are free to participate in recreational activities. The young women then participate in the discussion groups or activities specified for them for that week.

The following is a list of the subjects dealt with in the young women's discussion and activities groups:

1. Physical Fitness
2. Etiquette
3. Child Psychology
4. Infant Care
5. Practical Mathematics
6. Sanitation
7. Health
8. Clothing
9. Makeup and Hair Styling

We have a number of future projects which we hope will encourage the young people to complete their high school education and go on to college. On March 2, Mr. M. W. Williams, a representative from the Arkansas Office of Economic Opportunity and a former college dean, will speak to all the young people interested in a college education. He will attempt to show how these youngsters can obtain the necessary funds for college, and he will continue to come to Mitchellville occasionally and assist in the actual process of applying for funds. Another representative of the Arkansas OEO will speak about the possibility of the interested youth obtaining jobs through the work study program during the summers. These jobs will provide them with a means of saving for college.

We also hope to be able to bring all of the interested youth who are high school seniors to our campus at Ouachita University. Members of the committee will then take them to classes being held that day in the specific fields in which they are most interested. It is our hope that this small taste of college life will make them anxious to return for more. We will then have a college workshop at Mitchellville held by the committee.

During this workshop we will try to help the young people apply to the college of their choice or decide which college they are interested in attending.

The people at Mitchellville have shown a remarkable eagerness to learn and to improve themselves. A Ouachita senior majoring in speech therapy is now working with one girl who has a speech defect. She is also planning to organize speech improvement classes for the children and the young people. Along this same line of self improvement, we hope to be able to get Mitchellville placed on the Bookmobile route from the regional library in Monticello. Since we are working primarily with the youth, it is our hope that we can encourage as many as possible to better themselves through higher education.

EXPENSES

- I. Five trips Arkadelphia to Mitchellville and return - 250 miles per round trip - 1250 total miles
- II. Two trips Arkadelphia to Little Rock and return - 300 miles per round trip - 300 total miles
- III. Anticipate eight additional trips Arkadelphia to Mitchellville and return - 2000 total miles

COPY

May 10, 1968

Mr. Gerson Green, Director
Research and Demonstration Community Action Program
Office of Economic Opportunity
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mr. Green:

Your letter of May 2 telling us that our proposal for "Boostraps" could not be funded since it was "neither new nor an innovative approach to a recognized vehicle of community activity" did not come as a particular surprise, though it was a disappointment. The proposal had been carefully worked out by Mrs. Daisy Bates, an outstanding Negro leader in our state, who had been encouraged by people in OEO Headquarters--including Ted Berry--to submit the proposal. The first time I knew anything about it was when she and Dr. Bob Riley, chairman of our Department of Political Science, brought the application into my office for final signoff. I was happy to sign, since the project represented a significant attempt at joint work by Negro leaders of Arkansas and some teachers and students in this University. I thought then and still think that the idea was a good one, but if you do not choose to fund it Ouachita will not suffer. It will again be the poor people who take a beating.

The thing that did disturb me was the report I received, via the always-functioning OEO gossip line, that the real reason the program was not funded was because OEO in general and Ted Berry in particular were sore at me personally. I could hope that such pettiness would not be the determinative factor in a situation in which white involvement in the South is an attempt at a mutual solution of socio-economic problems could be a reality if the project were funded. If the thought there is that this works out as some sort of revenge on Phelps for having said something derogatory about the malfunctioning of OEO machinery, I hope it will be remembered that the poor are going to be punished much more than I am--particularly since the program was not my idea, anyway.

It would be extremely helpful to find out if it is true that applications with my name signed to them are unwelcome in OEO Headquarters, for it would save a lot of paper work on our part and some review time on OEO's if we knew this in advance. In spite of OEO's efforts to the contrary, I continue to be vitally interested in it and in the War on Poverty. I fought the war for six months out of a deep sense of commitment to the poor people and still have that commitment.

For the sake of Mrs. Bates and others interested in "Bootstraps," I wish you would pass the proposal on to any other desk that might consider funding it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Phelps, Jr.
President

RAP:aa

cc: Mr. Bertrand Harding
Mr. Ted Berry
Senator J. W. Fulbright
Senator John McClellan
Congressman Wilbur Mills
Congressman David Pryor
Mrs. Daisy Bates
Dr. Bob C. Riley

MITCHELLVILLE --- OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

P. O. Box 567

-:-

Telephone 382-5976

Dumas, Arkansas 71639

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Kelly, Mayor
 Charlie Portis
 James Boone
 Abraham McCarrell
 Willie I. Dean
 Ellis Goodloe
 A. L. Grant

December 6, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
 Project Director

Name: Harry Phillips, age 69

Wife's Name: Sarah Phillips, age 68

Address: Route I, Box 393, Dumas, Arkansas

Married: 50 years and owns their home

The Phillips have no children, and receives \$65.70 per month Social Security. Mr. Phillips is the head of the house, but is unable to do outside work because he has to be with Mrs. Phillips at all times.

Mrs. Phillips had a stroke in 1966 and is totally disabled to do any work. The Phillips would like to apply for Welfare or any other aid which may be available. Mrs. Phillips is under doctor's care in Dumas, Dr. Lazenby.

The Phillips monthly expenses are as follows:

Medicine	\$ 20.00
Doctor bill (\$5 per exam.)	5.00
Grocery	70.00
Wood (2 loads @ \$6.00 per load)	12.00
Water bill	5.12
Light bill (approximately)	3.00
	<u>\$115.12</u>

* Mr. Phillips has a small bank account at the Merchants & Farmers Bank, Dumas, Arkansas. Mr. Phillips saved the money during his farming years.

APPENDIX E 73
MITCHELLVILLE --- OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

P. O. Box 567

-:-

Telephone 382-5976

Dumas, Arkansas 71639

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Kelly, Mayor
Charlie Portis
James Boone
Abraham McCarrell
Willie I. Dean
Ellis Goodloe
A. L. Grant

December 6, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Project Director

NAME: Andrew Williams

Wife's Name: Margret Williams

Married: 25 years

Children: 10, from ages 18 to 18 months.

Mr. Williams, the father of 10 children, was employed by the City of Mitchellville as a Policeman for 10 months during 1968 at \$35.00 per month, earning \$350 for that period. He also worked at the Rice Mill for 5 weeks @ \$1.60 per hr., earning approximately \$450 for the 5 weeks. Mr. Williams owns home, but owes \$50 mortgage.

Mrs. Williams works as a baby-sitter, earning \$15.00 per week. Their 18, oldest son/is a Drop-Out with a 9th grade education. The oldest girl is 17 years of age and is in the 10th. grade.

The Project has gotten Mr. Williams certified for the Concentrated Employment Program, McGehee, Arkansas. He will begin orintation period December 16th @ \$31 per week. After orintation, he will receive \$1.60 per hour.

The family has an immediate need for food stamps, clothing, and employment. At this date the financial report of the family is \$10.00.

The Sewing Center will furnish clothing for the family.

Joekro

Oct 26 1953 Jan
1895

Dumas ark
223 So ark st
2-3-69

Mrs Daisy Bate

Dear Mrs Bate

please tell me what to do the welfare
has cut me off and my boy that in
12 grad cut him to I have told them
that he could report to talk one of
us I have heard of you & no that I
ask a lot of you but please help me
I dont what to say they please

Your since

April & may 1968 Stella Reed

5746 - Dumas

Leomadis - Stella 74 year old.
Reed 18

when did son start sending
checks?

son in service has been sending \$135.00
a month home. Welfare cut he off
in Sept. 1968

N

75

APPENDIX E
MITCHELLVILLE --- OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

P. O. Box 567

--

Telephone 382-5976

Dumas, Arkansas 71639

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Kelly, Mayor
Charlie Portis
James Boone
Abraham McCarrell
Willie I. Dean
Ellis Goodloe
A. L. Grant

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Project Director

NAME: Stella Reed

ADDRESS: 223 South Ash Street
Dumas, Arkansas

I recieved a letter from Mrs. Reed, stating that, she had been cut off from welfare in September, 1968. Mrs. Reed is 74 years of age, has a son in the army, nephew Leonmadis Reed, who is 18, and attending Reed High School.

Mrs. Reed's son send \$135.00 home every month to help with the family expenses, and to put some of the money in a saving account for him upon his return from the service. Mrs. Reed put the money in her name, and the welfare found about the money and cut her off.

I intormed Mrs. Reed that she iss eligible tor Social Security, if she can find some papers, such as, insurance papers stating her age. She was born in October 26, 1895.

We will continue to work with Mrs. Reed until she proves her age.

January 7, 1969

NAME: Olenna Bailey

ADDRESS: Route I, Box 31

AGE: 48

PHONE: 263-4598 (c/o Mrs. Burk)

Mrs. Bailey has four children, ages 12, 14, 15 and 17. She also has a daughter age 25. From 1962 to 1964 Mrs. Bailey was self-employed. Her husband is in Chacigo, Ill. employed as a construction worker. Mrs. Bailey promised to pay \$50 per wk. for support of the family, but he has not done so. The family is never sure of when or how much money they will receive. There are 10 persons in the household.

Florine Mae Bailey, daughter of Mrs. Bailey, age 25, has never been married and is the mother of 4 children. Florine Bailey receives \$95 per month from Welfare. She does not know how to locate the fathers.

Miss F. Bailey attended Gould High School and completed training course at Capital City Business College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, from 10--'65 to 2--'66. She moved to Chicago in 1966 but did not like the city and could not make a living for her family. Miss Bailey would like work in a ^{sec-}retarial position but/accept other position.

Mrs. Olenna Bailey would like any type of work. She appears healthy and able to work.

July 23, 1968

NAME: Maggie Charles
ADDRESS: 4413 West 5th Street, Pine Bluff
PRESENT ADDRESS: P. O. Box 390, Route 1, Dumas, Arkansas
BORN: August 24, 1894
AGE: Seventy-four (74)
BIRTHPLACE: Avery Place, 12 miles west of Dumas, (John Avery, Owner)
MOVING DATE: December 26, 1966 to Mrs. Laura Kizzie, Route 1, Box 390
DATE OF DISSMAL FROM WELFARE: At the time of her moving to new address.

Mrs. Maggie Charles has no income. She is presently living with her sister, Mrs. Laura Kizzie. Mrs. Charles was cut off from her Welfare a year ago when she moved from Pine Bluff to Mitchelville to live with her sister, who receives welfare.

Name: Mr. Willis Williams

Age: 63

Born: Hempsted County

Wife's Name: Mrs. Mary Johnson Williams, 29 at time of marriage

Married: October 30, 1943, 38 at time of marriage

Social Security No.: 379-26-4198

On November 12, 1968, Mr. Willis Williams and Mrs. Letholia Johnson came to the Mitchellville-OEO Self-Help Project and stated to Mrs. Daisy Bates, project director, that they were hungry, needed clothing and medical assistance. Mr. Williams and Mrs. Letholia Johnson, who live together, but are not married live on the outskirts of Dumas, Arkansas in a frame house that is completely deplorable.

On the same day, Mrs. Bates, along with two Neighborhood-Aides, Mr. Abraham McCarrell and Miss Ruth Nelson, visited the home of Mr. Willis Williams and this is what they found:

Upon arrival at the home of Mr. Williams and Mrs. Johnson, the Community workers found a 3-room frame house, where the conditions of the out-side would let you imagine what the inside could possibly look like. The house is not descent or sanitary enough for any person or persons to live in.

On the inside we found no bath facilities, no kitchen or kitchen utensils, no lights, nor gas. They have one wood heater in the front room, and also a bed in each room. The closest place they can get water is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from their home. They have a few dishes, but no place to keep them except in a box on the floor and no way to keep them clean. There were no dishpans, nor sinks to wash dishes in, nor were there any shelves or cabinets to store them. They have a few clothes, but they have no way of keeping them clean, and no money to carry them to a laundromat.

Mr. Williams has been separated from his wife, Mrs. Mary Johnson, for several years. Since then he began to live with Mrs. Letholia Johnson.

Both, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Johnson seem to be mentally ill and are in severe need of medical assistance. They have no source of income, and Mr. Williams is not able to work because of a bad kidney. Although Mr. Williams is 63 years of age, he looks the age of 80.

Money was given to Mr. Williams and Mrs. Johnson for food, and arrangements were made at a local grocery for them to obtain food. Also clothing was given to them by the Mitchellville-OEO Self-Help Project.

In helping Mr. Williams and Mrs. Johnson, questions still remain in my mind. How will they cook the food, and how will they keep the clothes given to them clean?

INTERVIEW: March 25, 1969

Mr. Pirty B. Hall and Family

APPENDIX E

80

NAME: Pirty B. Hall AGE: 69

WIFE: Clara Hall AGE: 51

PRESENT ADDRESS: 315 South Willow Street
Dumas, Arkansas 71639

Mr. & Mrs. Hall has three grand children, who have been living with them since birth. Mr. Hall works for the city of Dumas, he began working on March 15, 1964, five days a week, eight hours a day, at \$25.00 a week. Presently he is earning \$29.00 a week due to a raise. Mr. Hall also received \$85.00 a month for Social Security to take care of his household.

Mr. Pirty stated that about "a year ago he asked the mayor of Dumas (Billy Free) why they did not (Negroes) get vacation with pay? Mayor Free said, "I will look into it." The end.

The whites who are employed by the city of Dumas, sanitation department workers get from one to two weeks vacation, when the Negroes who works there get nothing. The only time they get off is the time that they take off.

Mr. Pirty wants to know why he can't get a vacation!

Mr. Pirty yearly income at 29.00 per week is 1,508.00, and at \$85.00 per month for social security is 1,020.00 yearly, therefore, Mr. Pirty makes \$2,528.00 a year. for a family of five, this wage is not enough for a family two.

MITCHELLVILLE --- OEO SELF-HELP PROJECT

P. O. Box 567

-:-

Telephone 382-5976

Dumas, Arkansas 71639

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Kelly, Mayor
 Charlie Portis
 James Boone
 Abraham McCarrell
 Willie I. Dean
 Ellis Goodloe
 A. L. Grant

Mrs. Daisy Bates
 Project Director

INTERVIEW: February 15, 1969

Issac Langston and Family:

NAME: Issac Langston AGE: 28 DATE of BIRTH: 1-22-41
 WIFE: Geneva Langston AGE: 24 DATE of BIRTH: 5-26-44
 PRESENT ADDRESS: Dumas, Arkansas HOW LONG: 4 months

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 5

<u>NAMES:</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Johnny L. Langston	7
Ammie Langston	4
Geneva Langston	3
Mary B. Langston	2
Tony Lee Langston	6 mo.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Farming, Bayou Dumas, Arkansas

EDUCATION: 2nd grade Dermott, Arkansas
 A.M.&N. Trade School for 4 months
 Machanic

Mr. Langston have lived in Desha County for 12 years. Mr. Langston's house contain the following items:

2 rooms
 2 beds
 1 television
 1 bench
 heater vent-pipe extends through window

RECOMENDATIONS:

A better place to live.
 Bring children to center to be fitted for clothing.
 Attend adults basic education classes

Interviewed by *Mrs. Bates to Mitchellville 7 Nov 1969*

Student Power Lifts Mitchellville

Since the colleges and universities harbor the reservoir of knowledge that our society will operate on in the future, it seems practical enough to put it to use while the student is still in school so those fruitful years can be used to aid society and give him experience for the job and place he will maintain when he graduates.

—BOBBY STOVER
Arkansas Gazette

STUDENTS from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, have been traveling several times a week at their own expense to the small all-Negro town of Mitchellville to assist in its "Bootstraps" operation. It was their survey which brought the interest of both Federal and state agencies into focus upon this community of 600 people lost in the vast Mississippi Delta. It was their interest in helping others which gave local residents the motivation to improve their individual education, to improve their ability to operate their own local government, and to improve their homes and vocational potential.

Ouachita (pronounced WASH-ita) University, operated by the Southern Baptists, is local 70 miles southwest of Little Rock, 35 miles south of the beautiful Hot Springs recreation area, and 150 miles from Mitchellville. It is the latter trip into the midst of flat cotton and rice lands on the west side of Highway 65, heading to Dumas, for which 57 students, three of whom are Negro, have been paying their own bus fare.

The Mitchellville idea was a long-

time dream of Mrs. Daisy Bates, heroine of Little Rock, former president of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP branches, and currently a member of the Association's national Board of Directors. She convinced Dr. Bob Riley, professor of political science at Ouachita, a former legislator and mayor of Arkadelphia, that Mitchellville could be helped to help itself. He immediately recruited 21 volunteers from the university's political science classes to take the first step—a careful and detailed analysis of the town's general condition.

It began with a survey of the homes by the Ouachita students and ended with a community meeting in the one-room town hall. When it was over, plans had been made to set up adult education classes and to have student work projects to help remove health hazards from those homes. Plans also called for an investigation to see what money could be loaned or granted to lay a sewer line, pave the streets, and provide for individual home improvement.

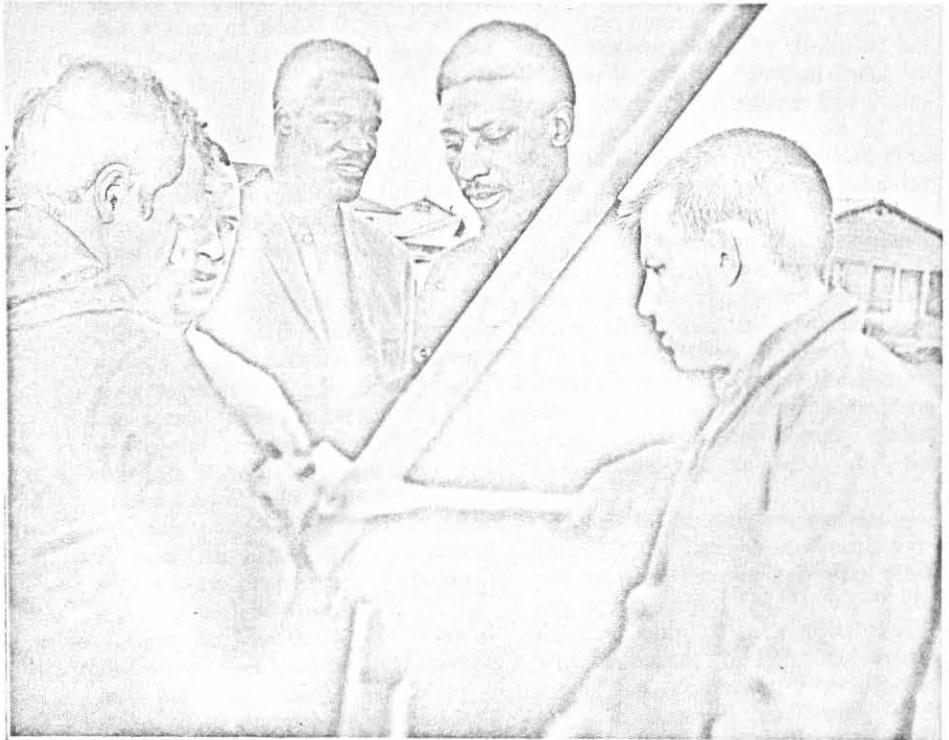
The survey revealed that 45 of the 135 families in the town have an annual income of less than \$1,000. Only 10 families earn more than

\$5,000 a year. Approximately 80 per cent of the homes need repairing or rebuilding. Mrs. Bates took this information to New York for a conference with Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive director, who pledged the Association's support. She then went to Washington to confer with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Theodore Berry, Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity; and Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture. Each agency representative expressed concern and stated that his

agency would cooperate in Mitchellville's desire to help itself.

"A sewerage system would cost these people too much — maybe \$80,000 or \$90,000. So we're going to explore the possibility of getting a grant," Mrs. Bates had said. The town had put in a water line during the summer by borrowing \$43,500 from the Federal Government and getting a grant for the same amount. This in itself was enough to put the municipal resources in a tight bind.

The streets are almost as big a problem. When it rains, a car can hardly operate in the mud. It is



Ouachita Baptist University students of Arkadelphia, Ark., installing playground equipment in Mitchellville.

nearly impossible to walk from one house to the next without sinking a shoe into the street.

As Dr. Riley said, "These people need to get their sewerage in first, if possible, because if they put their streets down and then can get enough money for the sewerage system, the streets would have to be torn up and they can't afford to waste anything."

After Secretary Freeman's endorsement of the Mitchellville effort, John Baker, assistant administrator, made an announcement of the endorsement at a public meeting in Pine Bluff. The Department of Agriculture promised a grant of \$60,000 and a loan of \$42,000 for a sewer and treatment facility. The estimated cost of the total sewer system is \$105,000.

Mitchellville has also applied to HUD for a \$6,000 planning grant and to OEO for \$39,000 for a summer education grant to operate a program that will run from May through August.

While all this was going on, Dr. Riley suggested that Ouachita groups could provide such assistance as painting the houses and adding some "frills" which would improve the homes. In addition, the students started work on four programs—adult education, discussion of basic political ideas in an effort to establish better self-government, a recreation program, and classes in reading and writing.

Gary R. Cheatham, chairman of the student committee on housing and planning, said: "We hope to either help the people of Mitchellville to improve their homes to much higher standards or, in some



Pictured above are Charles Kelly, 93-year-old Mayor of Mitchellville, and Dr. Bob Riley discussing plans for the town.

cases, to provide assistance in building new homes." According to student chairman Bobby Bulloch, his classes in adult education "will include election procedures and duties of elected officials. The role of the individual in county and state elections and general political behavior will also be discussed."

Two of Ouachita's Negro athletes, Robert Cornelius and Virgil Wilson, conduct the recreation program. Soon after this aspect of the program was announced, the Arkansas State Conference joined the university in donating considerable playground equipment—swings, slides, basketballs, gloves, bats, and the like.

Jamil M. Shami is a student specialist in the Laubah method, a simplified program for teaching reading and writing. On March 9, the literacy campaign in Mitchellville was launched. "With six teachers from the community, reinforced later on with the 'each one, teach one' approach, we believe that we can lift every illiterate in Mitchell-

ville to adequate literacy and a participating role in the community development within one year," Mr. Shami said.

As overall project director, Mrs. Bates noted that "The students are from varied social, economic and cultural backgrounds. We have one from New York, one from Milwaukee and one from Shreveport. One of the young ladies from Arkansas, who has been with the project since it started, came to us last week in tears saying that her father had forbidden her to work on the project. He is an officer in the Ku Klux Klan. She was determined to continue working with the Mitchellville project, so she agreed to serve as secretary for the student committees on the campus."

In a conversation with Mrs. Bates, Dr. Riley summed up the Ouachita group's feelings. "We're all students and we're all learning. We're willing to supply willing hearts and hands and we'd like to feel we're available when you need us. This is just the opening of a better way of life for all who live here."

It is just the beginning, for there are many, many things to be accomplished both despite and because of the excellent beginning. Books must be collected for a community center to be established. Sewing machines are needed for the new training center in which 35 of the women will produce pillow cases, laundry bags, ironing board covers, and other simple mass production items in the beginnings of a home industry. There is one building in the town suited to this type work.

The needs of Mitchellville for an

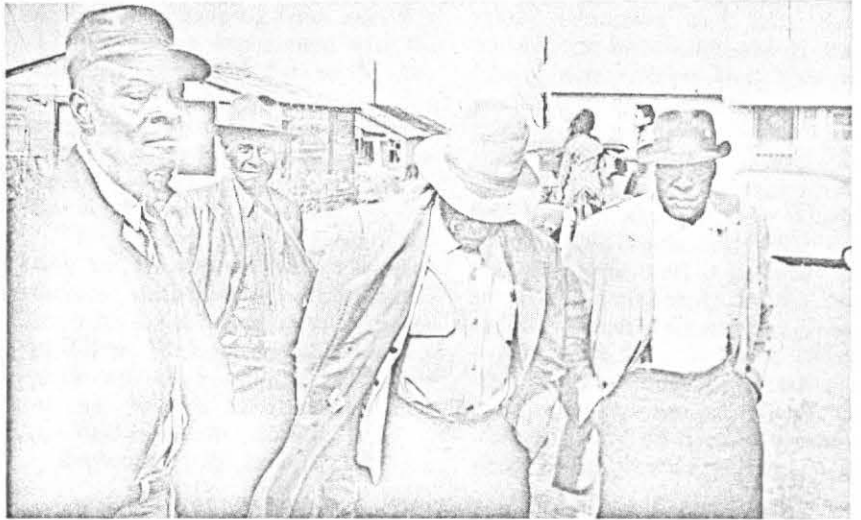
industry are great, but there is no structure in which to house them. Additional structures and factories would have to be constructed before any manufacturing could be undertaken. Conversations with several leaders of the business and industrial community are under way already to meet this need.

Initial successes of Bootstraps have come because of the careful organization which has gone into the entire effort. Ouachita Baptist University is serving as applicant agency or sponsor of the project. This institution has been involved in a number of programs designed to help the poor and the educationally and economically deprived—



Megen Riley, Annette Walker and Debbie Racey, left to right, playing at the training center in Mitchellville.

Head Start, Upward Bound, preparation of teachers for assignments in integrated schools, and the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program in Little Rock. Aside from Mrs. Bates, who serves as project director, and Dr. Bob C. Riley, who is chief consultant, Mrs. Callie Portis, an area resident, and a teacher, is the as-



A group of Green Thumb workers on their way to work for the first time in years.

sistant director. There is also a student coordinator.

The most important staff assistance the project has comes from the college students who have participated. They have conducted classes in citizenship, basic business math, recreation, etiquette, the arts, etc. These college students constitute the backbone of the Mitchellville Project and are considered a necessity for the program's future success.

As the recruiting apparatus for students and the frame of reference for student involvement at Mitchellville, Ouachita added a course to its curriculum which is called Political Science 491. The regular weekly programs were begun the third week in January. In response to a stated need by a group of teenage girls, an element was added to the curriculum designated "charm course" or sug-

gestions of how one should act in unfamiliar circumstances.

A major in arts, a major in home economics, a major in elementary education and a physical education major have innovated a course which alters from week to week depending upon the interests and suggestions of the 35 or more Mitchellville teenagers and young mothers who have responded to this presentation. There is a high level of communication based upon respect and informality which have been present from the start.

Back in Mitchellville, the youngsters are getting their share of attention. Virginia LaCook, chairman of the pre-school and Head Start committee, puts it this way:

"We have a wide range of children in our group. At our last meeting we had an attendance of three pre-school children and ten school-

age children ranging from ages 6 to 12. We did an experiment with the children, provided for us by our education psychology teacher using some ideas on the center of gravity. From this study we prepared a report which was given to an educational psychology class.

"We are now in the process of setting up a program with a speech therapy student who will be working with the children on their speech problems. We hope through this program we will be able to help some of the children to overcome their problem in communicating."

Beginning with Robert Hutchins,

many educators and educational consultants have admonished small liberal arts colleges that they will continue to have difficulty in securing needed financial support unless these colleges become an active and integral part of the communities in which they are located. Whether Ouachita is consciously following this advice or not, it certainly has involved itself deeply in the community. Benefits are coming already to Mitchellville and to the University. And the students are getting an education and an experience that isolated study on a college campus never could provide them.

(PHOTOS BY GARLAND BRADSHAW of Pine Bluff Commercial)

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APPENDIX G
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

88

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 23 1938

Mrs. Daisy Bates
1207 West 28th Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72200

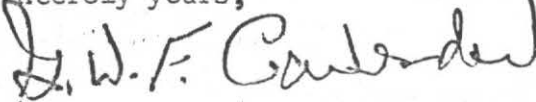
Dear Mrs. Bates:

It was nice to have an opportunity to meet and visit with you while you were in Washington last week.

I felt that the meeting with agriculture officials on January 16 was beneficial. Certainly, I am hopeful that the Department can be of assistance to the Town of Mitchellville.

You may be assured that we will do all that we can within our authorities. We will also try to get assistance from other departments that will contribute to the project in which you so enthusiastically support.

Sincerely yours,



G. W. F. Cavender
Assistant Administrator

January 31, 1968

Mr. Dutch Cavender
Farmers Home Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Mr. Cavender:

Needless to say, I am on "cloud nine" about the Mitchellville Project. Mr. Hankins and Mr. Leonard Carter have been most helpful in the Mitchellville Project. Mr. Jesse Mason from the State F.H.A. Office and Mr. Silas Glover, Jr. from the Desha County F.H.A. Office along with students and faculty members from Ouachita Baptist College and myself organized a training program January 27, 1968 in Mitchellville. Courses will be offered in Political Science, Basic Adult Education, and Recreation each Saturday morning. We plan to enlarge the training program to include many other subjects such as (providing services to the youngsters in Mitchellville that will enable them to develop their abilities to the fullest extent and to assist students with learning problems).

I know this is an ambitious program to undertake without funds; however, I feel with the dedicated group such as we have working with us, we can accomplish a great deal until funds are available.

We filed an application with the State F.H.A. for a sewer system on January 27, 1968, and we are meeting with the Technical Action Panel, Executive Committee on February 12, 1968.

Again, my sincere gratitude for your help and your leadership in this project.

Sincerely yours,

Daisy Bates

DB/gj
Enclosure



APPENDIX G
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

90

February 14, 1968

RECEIVED
FEB 14 1968

sas OEO Training Program
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program
1511 Chester Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

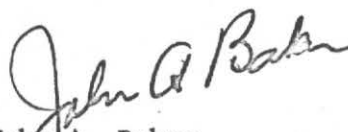
Dear Mrs. Bates:

Thank you for your good letter of January 31, and the attached newspaper clipping and photographs. You made a favorable impact here on your visit to Washington. The merits of your project earned the encouragement you got from USDA personnel.

As you know, I have directed each of our agencies to use all of their applicable legislative authorizations, their outreach function under Executive Order 11307, and their personnel to cooperate in making a success of this most worthwhile undertaking. You can be assured of their help wherever possible.

You are also assured of my continued interest and support, therefore, do not hesitate to call on me when I can be helpful.

Sincerely,


John A. Baker
Assistant Secretary

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC

OPPORTUNITY

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
4TH FLOOR LOWICH BUILDING
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

August 9, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Arkansas Office of Economic Opportunity
Rural Training Program
1511 Chester Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Dear Mrs. Bates:

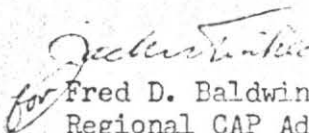
Following our conversation the other day, this is to confirm that our office will be happy to accept the modification in the Mitchellville Bootstrap Program whereby either Ouachita Baptist University or City Council of Mitchellville became a delegate agency of the Bradley County Community Action Agency.

Under these circumstances, the grant would still go to Bradley County, but a third party contract would be executed between the grantee and the organization actually operating the program in Mitchellville rather than having the program operated by the Bradley County staff. It was my understanding that you intend to explore this possibility with all parties concerned including, of course, the Bradley County Community Action Agency which would be one party to the contract.

I regret the breakdown in communication that apparently occurred earlier in the funding of this project. I believe that the delegate agency arrangement combines the virtues of working through an existing CAA with some flexibility in the actual operation and implementation of the work program.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Fred D. Baldwin
Regional CAP Administrator

cc: Mr. James W. Earnest
Mr. Glen L. Jermstad
Mr. Theodore M. Berry
Mr. Tom Mata



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October 28, 1968

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 C. T. WOODFIN, VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. L. C. Bates
 Mitchellville, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Bates:

I am delighted to read in Sunday's Democrat the fine story outlining the outstanding job you are doing in rebuilding Mitchellville. I was impressed with the development of the project when you gave us an opportunity in Washington to see the plans you were working on. The undertaking is much greater than what could be seen at that time. We are so glad you have the cooperation and support of all the government agencies and those in high places in Washington and the state. We wish for you complete success, and know that you are getting great satisfaction out of making Mitchellville a place that the citizenship can be proud of and enjoy the conveniences that they deserve.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

W. W. Campbell
 W. W. Campbell
 Chairman

WWC:mm

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Little Rock, Arkansas
November 26, 1968

JOINT COMMITTEE ON
INTERNAL REVENUE
TAXATION



Mrs. Daisy Bates
Director
OEO Self-Help Project
Post Office Box 567
Mitchellville, Arkansas 71639

Dear Mrs. Bates:

Thank you for your letter of November 23 and for forwarding to me a copy of your letter to Assistant Secretary Baker.

There are a number of communities in Arkansas which need assistance and we have been working intensely to try and assist all of them and, certainly, we will be glad to work to help you and Mitchellville.

Of course, whether the Department of Agriculture is in a position to help Mitchellville will depend to a great extent on the amount of funds that are available, but we will get in touch with Assistant Secretary Baker.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Wilbur D. Mills

WDM/ji

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

P. O. Box 2778
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
November 26, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Director
Mitchellville - OEO Self-Help Project
P. O. Box 567
Dumas, Arkansas 76130

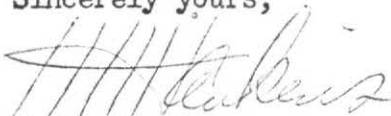
Dear Mrs. Bates:

This is in reply to your letter of November 23, 1968 concerning the loan and grant application from the Town of Mitchellville for the construction of a sewage system.

As you know, a loan docket was completed for this project and a request was made to our National Office for the loan and grant funds necessary to implement the project. Our National Office advised us by memorandum dated November 20, 1968 that additional funds are not available at this time.

We are maintaining this project on our processing schedule for further action as soon as loan and grant funds become available.

Sincerely yours,



H. H. Hankins
State Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

OCT 9 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Director
Mitchellville-OEO Self-Help Project
P.O. Box 567
Dumas, Arkansas 71639

Dear Mrs. Bates:

Thank you for taking the time to send me your report and to brief me on your progress during your first month of operation. You sound as if you have been busy. I am pleased to hear it because there is so much work to be done, not only in your community but in the "Mitchellvilles" elsewhere.

Please accept my personal appreciation for the efforts which you and your friends in Mitchellville are making.

Sincerely,



Theodore M. Berry
Director
Community Action Program

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

DEC 3 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates, Director
Mitchellville Office of Economic
Opportunity Self-Help Project
Post Office Box 567
Dumas, Arkansas 71639

Dear Mrs. Bates:

We have been asked to reply to your letter of November 19 concerning the processing of an application to develop a sewer system for the community of Mitchellville, Desha County, Arkansas.

All grant and loan funds available for Arkansas have been committed for this fiscal year. Our state office is reviewing all active applications on hand at the present time. The town officials will be contacted as soon as this evaluation is completed.

Our ability to finance this project will be dependent upon the amount of grant and loan funds made available for our sewer and water facilities program.

Sincerely,



Administrator

JAN 14 1969

APPENDIX G

97

Date: JAN 14 1969
Reply to: Thomas Mata, Jr. SW/CKN
Attn. of:
Subject: Request for Budget Change

To: Mrs. Daisy Bates, Director
Mitchellville Self-Help Project
P. O. Box 567
Dumas, Arkansas 71639

This will acknowledge receipt of the CAP 43 requesting a 30 day extension of the present program in Mitchellville and a suggested budget proposal for continuation of the project.

I am enclosing a supply of revised CAP 43 forms which are currently in use. Since the one you submitted is on an obsolete form I must ask you to re-submit your request. If your request is simply to continue to operate using unexpended funds, the amount in column "E" would be the same as column "B". If, however, you wish to request changes in the budget categories, please indicate these changes in either column "C" or "D" as applicable.

I wish it were possible for me to offer you some encouragement on continuing the project in Desha County. It did appear from preliminary projections that this might be possible. However, information at hand as of this date does not support our earlier optimism.

Since the project was originally funded as "one-shot" demonstration with special funds not included in the statutory allocation for Arkansas, it does not now appear that it will be possible to re-fund it.

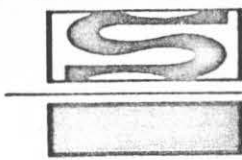
Should any change occur before the end of your program year, I will contact you immediately.

Thomas Mata, Jr.

Thomas Mata, Jr.
District Supervisor-Arkansas/New Mexico
Community Action Program

cc: Jim Rogers, Director
Bradley County CAC





Silvey Companies

98

PRIDDY INSURANCE AGENCY
122 EAST WATERMAN
DUMAS, ARKANSAS 71639
PHONE EV 2-4455

APPENDIX G

Silvey Corporation
Tri-State Insurance Company
Farmers and Merchants Insurance Company
Midwestern Insurance Company
New American Life Insurance Company
Silvey Finance
Kim Premium Finance

10 February 1969

Mrs. Daisy Bates, Director,
Mitchellville Self-Help Project
Mitchellville, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Bates:

This letter is an expression of the appreciation of the work and the leadership which you have done in the past few months for the people of Mitchellville as well as the Dumas area.

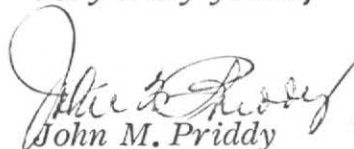
During the past sixteen years, I have worked with the people of Mitchellville regarding their insurance problems and I know that prior to your coming to Mitchellville, the people were both ignorant and unconcerned regarding their needs. They were primarily interested only with today's needs and did not concern themselves with their future needs.

Since you came to Mitchellville and provided the fine leadership, the people of Mitchellville have begun to move forward in taking their responsibilities in society. No longer are they content to live just for the day, but they are eager to up-grade their station in life and become part of and contribute to the society in which they live.

I want to thank you for your assistance and work in forming the Mitchellville Property Owners Association. Through this organization, the people of Mitchellville are able to exert their influence with the City Council to guide them in planning the City affairs. The members of this organization are able to accept responsibilities denied them before to raise their standards of living and improve their lot. Through this organization, we are able to provide group hospitalization, disability, and life insurance at a cost which they can afford. Through your leadership, these needs have been pointed out to the people and they have accepted the challenge with vigor.

Mitchellville is no longer the town which it was just a few short months ago. The people are eager to improve themselves and they are improving the City with it. They are now improving their homes, their streets, and their utilities. This can be attributed directly to your fine leadership and hard work.

Very truly yours,


John M. Priddy

Mrs. Bates Takes Plea to Capital; U.S. Comes to Aid of Mitchellville

From Gazette Press Services

Mrs. Daisy Bates, executive secretary of the Arkansas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spent three days last week in conferences with federal department heads in her attempt to get improvements for tiny Mitchellville, an all-Negro community in Southeast Arkansas.

Her efforts were rewarded Thursday with the announcement by John Baker, assistant secretary of Agriculture, that he was impressed by the project and would give it all the cooperation possible.

Baker was in Arkansas with other federal officials to speak at the Rural Life Conference at Arkansas A&M and N College at Pine Bluff. Ira Kaye, rural coordinator for the Office of Economic Opportunity also was at the Conference and joined local officials in touring Mitchellville for a first-hand look.

According to Dr. Bob Riley, a political science professor at Ouachita Baptist University, who is helping Mrs. Bates with the project, Kaye, a former Peace Corps worker in Nepal and the Philippines, found the Mitchellville housing to be "some of the worse he had ever seen."

However, Dr. Riley said, Kaye felt that because it was in the United States, at least something could be done to alleviate the situation.

Town Went Broke, Used Up Credit

The poverty-saddled town with a population of 527, just north of Dumas on U.S. Highway 65, is broke with no money available for basic municipal needs. Last summer, the city used up its credit installing a water line with a federal loan and grant of \$43,500 each.

In December, Mrs. Bates, Dr. Riley and 21 of his students, went into Mitchellville to begin surveys that hopefully would lead to federal help and the town's improvement.

As a follow-up, Mrs. Bates went to Washington to make personal pleas. She ended her round of conferences with a 30-minute interview with Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman.

Mrs. Bates presented to Freeman a copy of a recent Arkansas Gazette feature article on Mitchellville's plight. Free-

man read it and told her, "You can bet your life we will give you full support."

Mrs. Bates was told to make application for a federal grant that would pay up to 50 per cent of the cost for the sewer system. Dr. Riley's students had found the system to be the town's most immediate need.

"We now have to find the other 50 per cent," Mrs. Bates said. "So we will go to Governor Rockefeller to see if the state has any money. If he gives us 20 per cent, then we will have 30 per cent to go. We'll look at foundations or any place we might get the rest of it."

She estimates that a sewer project would cost \$99,000.

The sewer system would just be the beginning, Mrs. Bates said. "After that, we are going to look for roads. And after that we are going to do something about housing to replace those Mitchellville shacks."

Freeman told her that she did a good job in presenting her case.

She replied, "Well, you have to talk fast in Arkansas to get anything."

Dr. Riley said Saturday that his students would start work this week on four programs—adult education; discussion of basic political ideas in an effort to establish better self government; a recreation program, and classes in reading and writing.

He said one of his students was a specialist in the Laubach method, a simplified program of teaching reading and writing.

Two of Ouachita's Negro athletes, Robert Cornelius and Virgil Wilson, will conduct the recreation program, Dr. Riley said. One of Ouachita's women basketball players will assist.

The town's jail house, which has never been used, will be turned into a storage room for the recreation equipment.

"If you're not going to lock up people, then use the facility for something more constructive," Dr. Riley said.

He said that Mitchellville Mayor Charles Kelley, 93, who has been mayor since the town was incorporated in 1962, had indicated that the town had for recreational use.

OEO Considers Mitchellville Project As Starter for National Program

By **BOBBY STOVER**

The Mitchellville development project begun by Dr. Bob Riley and Ouachita students may be the start of a nation-wide program designed along the lines of the Peace Corps and Vista.

Bob Brousseau, a representative from the Office of Economic Opportunity, has become interested in the Mitchellville program. He has sought help from the OEO to finance the Mitchellville project as an experiment which, if successful, can be expanded over the nation.

The project has been temporarily entitled: "The College Corps."

Star Classes

Working with the Community Action Agency in Texarkana, the Ouachita group will also start conducting classes at places where they are needed in Southwest Arkansas. The program will be financed by OEO for six weeks near the end of this semester.

At the end of the experimental period, an evaluation will be made by Brousseau and the OEO to decide whether the program is feasible enough to set up on a nationwide scale.

A limit of 50 has been placed on the number of student volunteers who can participate in the experimental project on a regular basis. This will mean at least one trip to an underdeveloped area each week for six weeks. Other part-time volunteers performing a special service may accompany the regulars when the need arises.

Areas of Service

The group will be split into areas of service including recreation, home management, teaching basics of government and teaching writing and reading, plus other fields which are considered needed by the Community Action Agency.

The agency is a coordinator of

federal programs and has sought out target areas where the students can work.

All work will be on a volunteer basis, with OEO paying only for travel and meals, if any are missed.

"We must maintain the volunteer aspect of the program," Brousseau said, "or else we're going to lose the very thing that makes this so different."

A faculty member will be overall coordinator at the school while a student, either a graduate student or a senior taking graduate courses, will act as student coordinator. These two and a secretary will be the only paid people in the program. They will receive a part-time salary.

Enough Organization

"We feel that this is enough organization, because if we get much more, we will get it tangled in all the rest of the government bureaucracy. This is something

we want to avoid." Brousseau explained.

The six-weeks funded program will start near the end of March and end in the middle of May. After that, a summer experiment will be tried if the first one is a success.

Originally the Ouachita group started a survey at Mitchellville, an all-Negro community with a population of 527, to see what could be done to help the town. The survey, held last December, showed the town to be lacking in nearly everything. It has no sewage system, gas lines, or paved roads. Most of its inhabitants are very old or very young, and many are illiterate.

Emphasis Shifted

At first the emphasis was put on what the students could obtain through the federal and state governments, but now it has shifted to what the students can directly (See "Mitchellville" on Page 3)

Mitchellville

Continued From Page 1

supply in the form of teaching and training. A group of students has gone down each Saturday since the spring semester began.

If the experiment is successful and the OEO approves a national program, colleges will be assigned areas, probably within a radius of 75 miles. In this way six or seven colleges could cover the average size state.

Brousseau said he was surprised someone hadn't thought of at-

tempting anything similar before because, "the college students fits so perfectly into a project of this type."

Although a nationwide program could run into millions of dollars.

he said, it would be one most economical of all government programs and would supply hundreds of thousand man hours to help the poor

OEO Rejects ^{VO} Mitchellville Training Program Grant

Special to The Commercial

LITTLE ROCK — The "Bootstraps" training program planned for students from Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia may be cancelled for lack of funds, Mrs. Daisy Bates of the state Office of Economic Opportunity said today.

In a letter dated May 2, Gerson M. Green, director of the Research and Demonstration Section of the federal OEO's Community Action Program at Washington, told Dr. Ralph A. Phelps Jr., president of Ouachita, that the OEO would not fund the project because "student volunteer projects in

planning and provision of services are not, as such, new programs."

"The 'Bootstraps' proposal is neither new nor an innovative approach to a recognized vehicle of community activity, and therefore is not appropriate for funding . . ." Green wrote, adding that he hoped funds could be obtained from

another source.

Mrs. Bates said had appealed to Congressman Wilbur D. Mills of Kensett and the director of the Community Action Program to reconsider the program.

Application for the \$39,000 grant was made in April and the program was scheduled to begin May 1 and continue until August 31. It was to include a

summer education program and general community development for the all-Negro town about a mile north of Dumas on Highway 65-South.

Mrs. Bates said eight students from Mitchellville had been accepted in colleges. Part of the planned program would have had Ouachita students tutoring the eight students.

In addition to their tutoring classes, she said, the high school students would work the community and earn money to help pay the college expenses.

If the program is not funded, Mrs. Bates said, there still may be a limited program using volunteers exclusively.

Mitchellville Citizens Make Another Big Step

Dumas, Ark. — July 24, 1968 marked another step forward for the citizens of Mitchellville, a small rural community approximately one (1) mile from Dumas, Arkansas, with some 150 displaced farm families in the community. The town of Mitchellville is the first town in Arkansas to sign a contract with the State Planning Commission during the fiscal year. Mr. Leonard Winget, representative for the State Planning Commission, presided over the meeting.

The town of Mitchellville accepted and signed the proposed contract presented by Mr. Winget for the grant in the sum of \$6,000 from HUD, which the town agreed to pay one fourth (1/4) of the grant. A check was presented to Mr. Winget at the close of the meeting in that amount.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Don Strohmeier, City Planner of Little Rock, Father Thomas McVeigh Smith, former president of the Hot Springs Branch NAACP, presently with the Catholic Churches, Mrs. Daisy Bates, director of the Training and Development Program for Mitchellville, the Mayor of Mitchellville, Mr. Charles Kelly, and the council members.

The council also signed a contract with the State Planning Commission to employ Mr. Don Strohmeier as the planning consultant for the town.

Urban, ground and rural maps will be given to the town for its use. Goals and objectives will have to be discussed and planned for future land use. It is also left to the city to consult with the city consultant to plan any redevelopment for the city.

The 1st proposed project for
(Continued on page 8)

Mitchellville

(Continued from Page 1)

the community under the planning grant will be a Fire House. Lumber for the proposed Fire House has been drawn by Mr. Strohmeier, the planning consultant for the town. Volunteer firemen will be organized and trained to master the fire equip-

ment, which is to be donated to the town also.

Following the signing of the contracts with the State Planning Commission, the presentation of supplies and fabrics, donated by Mr. Dave Grundfest of Little Rock, for the sewing center of Mitchellville, was presented by Mrs. Daisy Bates, director of the Mitchellville Training and Development Program.

On July 10, 1968, sewing machines were presented to the town by the Arkansas representative for the Singer Sewing Machine Company of New York. The donation was made at the request of Mr. William R. Morris, director of Housing for the NAACP.

Mrs. Bates said, "the sewing center is just the first step of the proposed project. The center has chosen for its first project the making of clothing for students who are to attend college this fall.

The Mitchellville Training and Development Program is the first program ever planned, presented, and accepted, by and for the citizens of this poverty stricken area. The project will cost approximately \$20,000. It is planned to provide the citizens of Mitchellville with a "new look on life". The program was developed on the needs and problems of the community. It will be in existence for four months.

THE DUMAS, Ark., CLARION, Wed., Aug. 14, 1968—7A

Community Plan Being Developed For Mitchellville

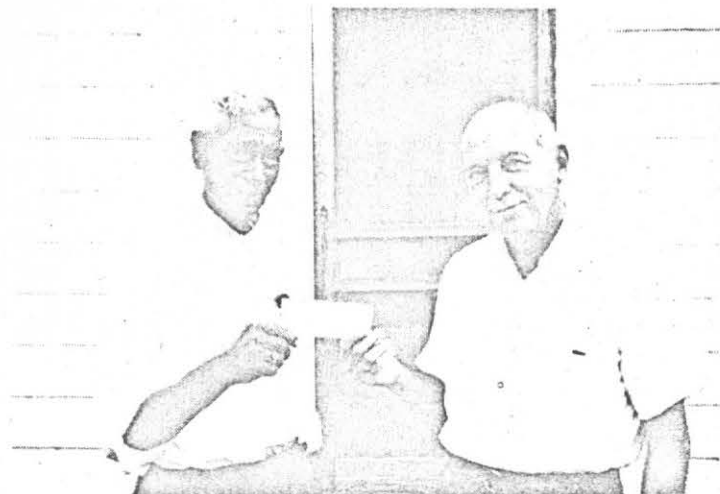
Mitchellville--The members of the City Planning Commission for Mitchellville and Len Wingate, director of community planning with Mrs. Ellen Ford and Don Strohmeyer met Thursday evening in the city hall to make plans for the city.

Mr. Strohmeyer made a talk on various ways to improve the town and showed maps of areas around Mitchellville. He pointed out the things that Mitchellville is urgently in need of as housing, streets and a sewerage system. Other things that Mitchellville citizens hope to have are recreational facilities and a fire station. They also need an industry.

Mrs. Ford stressed beautification and pointed out littered

streets, old abandoned cars and trucks and weed grown lots. The committee agreed to give a 30 day notice of these things.

The members of the committee are Alex Dodds, Linda Clay, Mrs. Nellie Mae Young, Mrs. Callie Portis and Willie Dean.



MAYOR CHARLES KELLEY of Mitchellville, left, presents a check for \$1,547 to Len Wingate for Mitchellville's share of cost of preparing a comprehensive plan for the City of Mitchellville. Not shown in the picture but present for the ceremony were Mrs. Ellen Ford, Arkansas Planning Commission beautification director, and Don Strohmeyer, city planning commission.

Daisy Bates: Negroes Need New Self-Image

By BERT CARLETON
Of The Commercial Staff

Mrs. Daisy Bates, who said she didn't speak in churches very often anymore because Christians "have let me down as Christians . . . have let the whole world down," told a Women's Day audience here yesterday that American Negroes needed a new self-image.

Mrs. Bates, a long-time civil rights worker who became well known during the Little Rock school integration crisis of 1957, spoke at Cherry Street AME Zion Church at 800 Cherry Street. She is a former president of the State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Although the theme for the morning worship was "Women's Challenge in Perilous Times," Mrs. Bates ventured from this theme to speak on the crying need among Negroes for persons who think of themselves as beautiful and can thereby live lives of dignity and self respect.

She began her speech by saying that "somewhere along the line Christian people have not lived up to the Christian life."

Mrs. Bates told of her childhood memories of seeing her grandmother pray again and again for blessings only to be left with nothing in the way of an improved existence when she died.

Mrs. Bates said she learned from this never to pray for things but to pray for "the knowledge and courage to face life."

White people, Mrs. Bates said, had come to her many times in the course of past years and told her that they thought Negroes liked the filthy conditions in which they lived.

She said that she did not like these conditions and that she was not afraid to say so and to work to overcome them.

"I'm tired," she said. "I want justice. I think of myself as a first-class human being and I want justice."

Mrs. Bates said that by doing such things as teaching their children to love white dolls, the Negroes were perpetuating an inferior self-image in their culture. She said that in all the "white liberal" homes in which she had been she had never seen a white child with a dark-skinned doll.

She held up a picture of the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. at one point in her talk and asked her listeners to stand in the heritage of the slain civil rights leader in order to give their children an image which would enable them to live active and constructive lives.

In speaking of today's young Negroes, Mrs. Bates said they wanted freedom and were tired of living in shacks and going to schools which did not teach them to compete in today's world.

She said that youth was rebelling because the older generations had not done a good enough job of creating a liveable world for them.

The real desire of today's young blacks, Mrs. Bates continued, is not to associate with whites but to secure for themselves good educations and good jobs.

In order to get these things, she said, youth has recognized that it needs not only political rights, but economic rights as well.

To gain these rights she said two groups — the revolutionaries and the militants — have formed within black activist circles.

The revolutionaries, Mrs. Bates said, "are those who plan strategy and really dedicate themselves to the cause." The militants, she said, "dedicate themselves

(Continued on Page 2)

Daisy Bates: Create New Self-Image

From Page 1

to action."

As an illustration that black youths are capable of gaining good educations, Mrs. Bates told of a young Negro girl who was a recent graduate of Central High School in Little Rock. Mrs. Bates said the girl went to her high school guidance counselor to ask her about attending college. The graduate had a B average, Mrs. Bates said, but was advised by her "realistic" guidance

counselor to attend a college which was predominantly Negro.

The young girl turned to Mrs. Bates for counseling and several colleges were contacted. Mrs. Bates said the girl received several good offers and eventually accepted a \$17,000 scholarship to one of the top colleges in the United States.

Mrs. Bates said that this was one of the "little black children" who, people were saying in 1957, couldn't learn. To Mrs. Bates the fact that the girl had gained the scholarship was sufficient evidence to show that Negroes could and would learn.

Urging the congregation to more active lives, Mrs. Bates told the audience that "if you are a real Christian you won't worry about bombs in churches or homes, but will work for a better life.

She also noted that often in churches she had attended the concern of the ministers was to describe in detail to their congregations how wonderful life would be in heaven.

She closed her talk by urging all those present to build the kind of life and existence they dream of here and now instead of waiting for heaven.

The Dumas Clarion



16 Pages—10c A Copy DUMAS, DESHA COUNTY, ARKANSAS, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1968 Sec. A, Vol. 39, 1

Mitchellville Opens Drive for Center

Mitchellville -- The citizens of Mitchellville launched a \$3,000 Fund-Raising drive Thursday, November 28, at their town meeting to help raise funds for a Multi-Purpose Center for Mitchellville. The center will house a Day-Care center, Post Office, Fire House, Public Library, class rooms, etc.

Mitchellville received an OEO Self-Help Grant for \$20,000 for training and developing program. The Mitchellville-OEO Self-Help Project has been in operation since October 10, 1968, and will extend through March 1, 1969.

Mrs. Daisy Bates, director from Little Rock, stated when asked why she chose Mitchellville for such a project, and how much she expected to accomplish in such time with such a small grant said, "I thought about it a long time before I made the decision to move to Mitchellville. When I first discovered the plight of Mitchellville and the problems facing the rural poor, I was naive enough to think that if I called the attention

of the needs and conditions of Mitchellville to various State and Federal agencies, that

something would be done to relieve the deplorable conditions of which the rural poor are subjected.

"With this in mind, I made several trips to Washington and numerous long distance calls pleading the case of the rural poor. Mitchellville became a symbol of all the poor and neglected rural citizens of this country. I visited urban cities where thousands of dollars are being spent mostly to keep down trouble, riots, etc., yet very little was being done to alleviate the deprivation of the rural poor. Our friends and organizations lobbied for more liberal legislations for the rural poor.

"As a result of our efforts and those of our friends, Congress passed meaningful legislations this year that would help provide adequate housing and training for the rural poor. The needs of the rural poor are paramount, more material and emotional, but much more than the needs of the poor

are involved in the war of poverty. The stability of our social order, which may be threatened by a result of the unmet needs of the poor, are also involved. Our Christian conscience, our Democratic commitment, our nation's image, and our position of world leadership are involved. In the final analysis, the OEO program provided an alternative for an orderly social change for our Democratic process and responsibility."

The City Council of Mitchellville, along with Mayor Charles Kelly, are asking the citizens and friends to make a liberal contribution to their efforts to pull themselves up from their "bootstraps". The amount of \$500 was collected at the meeting and approximately \$2,000 in pledges. Donors may make checks payable to the Mitchellville-OEO Self-Help Project, c/o Mayor Charles Kelly or Mrs. Daisy Bates, P. O. Box 567, Dumas, Arkansas. All donations are tax deductible.

Dumas mayor lauds Mitchellville residents, calls them 'unique'

Special to The Commercial

DUMAS — According to Mayor Billy Free of Dumas, the residents of nearby Mitchellville are "unique in the skills they possess" and the growth of the all-Negro community depends largely on whether those basic skills are developed.

Free, who has been mayor here since 1957 and has seen both Dumas and Mitchellville experience steady growth, said he doesn't expect Mitchellville to grow "by leaps and bounds" in the future because the community is made up almost entirely of elderly Negroes who have given up farming to retire.

But Free is quick to add that the residents of Mitchellville are unique in certain inherent skills and that if these skills are developed, further growth is possible.

"The people of Mitchellville are fantastic at skills that involve the use of the hands," he said. "For example one woman quilts and another makes little powder boxes out of popsickle sticks. Talent like this could possibly be developed into something useful and beneficial to that community."

Free, like most Mitchellville

residents, admits that if the community progresses it must attract an industry.

"What would really help Mitchellville is for some industry to locate there . . . an industry that could produce some product that involves the use of these basic skills," he said.

Free said most Mitchellville residents were deprived of the chance to learn new skills because they spent most of their lives on farms picking cotton. He said, however, the information and training offered by the self-help project from the Office of Economic Opportunity has given Mitchellville new and useful training that might be helpful should an industry decide to locate in the community.

"The chance of an industry locating in Mitchellville could very well depend on the success of the OEO program" he said. "If some company that is considering locating in Southeast Arkansas should see how these people are willing to educate themselves and learn on their own, that industry may very well decide to locate in Mitchellville and put this energy and devotion at

work in a factory."

Free said that residents of Dumas have encouraged the self-help project "because the people of Dumas are interested in the well-being of Mitchellville citizens." Free said Mitchellville residents patronize Dumas merchants and that in return for their business, the merchants have shown an interest in helping the Negroes.

"United Dollar Stores, Inc., which is located here, has definitely lended a helping hand to the people of Mitchellville," Free said. "Besides donating books and pamphlets to their new library, the company has given Negroes here a chance to work up to a position with the company . . . not just because they're Negroes but because they're qualified in what they're doing."

"This is one way the OEO project will benefit Mitchellville citizens. When others see how people here in Dumas, and all over Southeast Arkansas, are willing to give them a chance, let them earn a living, they're gonna want to learn and develop their basic skills."

"People here in Dumas are 100 per cent behind the project at Mitchellville."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

P. O. Box 2778

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

February 16, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program
1511 Chester Street
Little Rock, Arkansas

Arkansas OEO Training
Little Rock, Arkansas

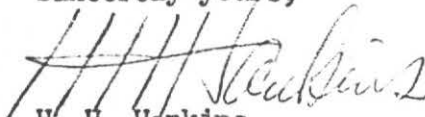
Dear Mrs. Bates:

Attached are two copies of a Preliminary Cost Estimate for the sewer system for the Town of Mitchellville, Arkansas. You will note that the total estimated cost for providing a complete sewer system, including collection lines, pumping stations, and treatment facilities is \$105,000. This would provide sewer services for the 130 potential users in the Town of Mitchellville and would allow any additional foreseeable growth.

If the Town of Mitchellville could secure a 60 percent grant for the construction of their sewer system, we would consider making the loan for the remainder of the cost. Considering the economic situation of the citizens of the Town of Mitchellville, we hope that you and the town will be successful in obtaining financial assistance from other sources to accompany the possible 60 percent grant.

We appreciate your interest in our program and your assistance in helping the rural people in Arkansas. If we can assist you in any other way, do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,



H. H. Hankins
State Director

Attachments

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE
Sewer System
Town of Mitchellville

I. Construction		
A. Collection Lines	\$59,000	
B. Pumping Station & Force Main	20,500	
C. Treatment (Oxidation Pond)	<u>6,000</u>	
		\$85,500
II. Engineering (12% Construction Cost)		9,400
III. Legal		1,800
IV. Land (Approximately 8 acres)		4,000
V. Contingencies		<u>4,300</u>
Total		\$105,000



APPENDIX I
DONALD STROHMEYER

110

PLANNING CONSULTANT

REGIONAL • CITY PLANNING • URBAN DESIGN

November 1, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Box 386-A
Dumas, Arkansas 71639

Dear Daisy,

How are you and your program coming?

We will have to be concerned with federal programs related to the development of Mitchellville. One of these programs has to do with street development and I would recommend we have a man come from Ft. Worth Regional Office of HUD to explain to all of us the particulars of the "Code Enforcement Program".

I have included a letter which should be sent by the Mayor.

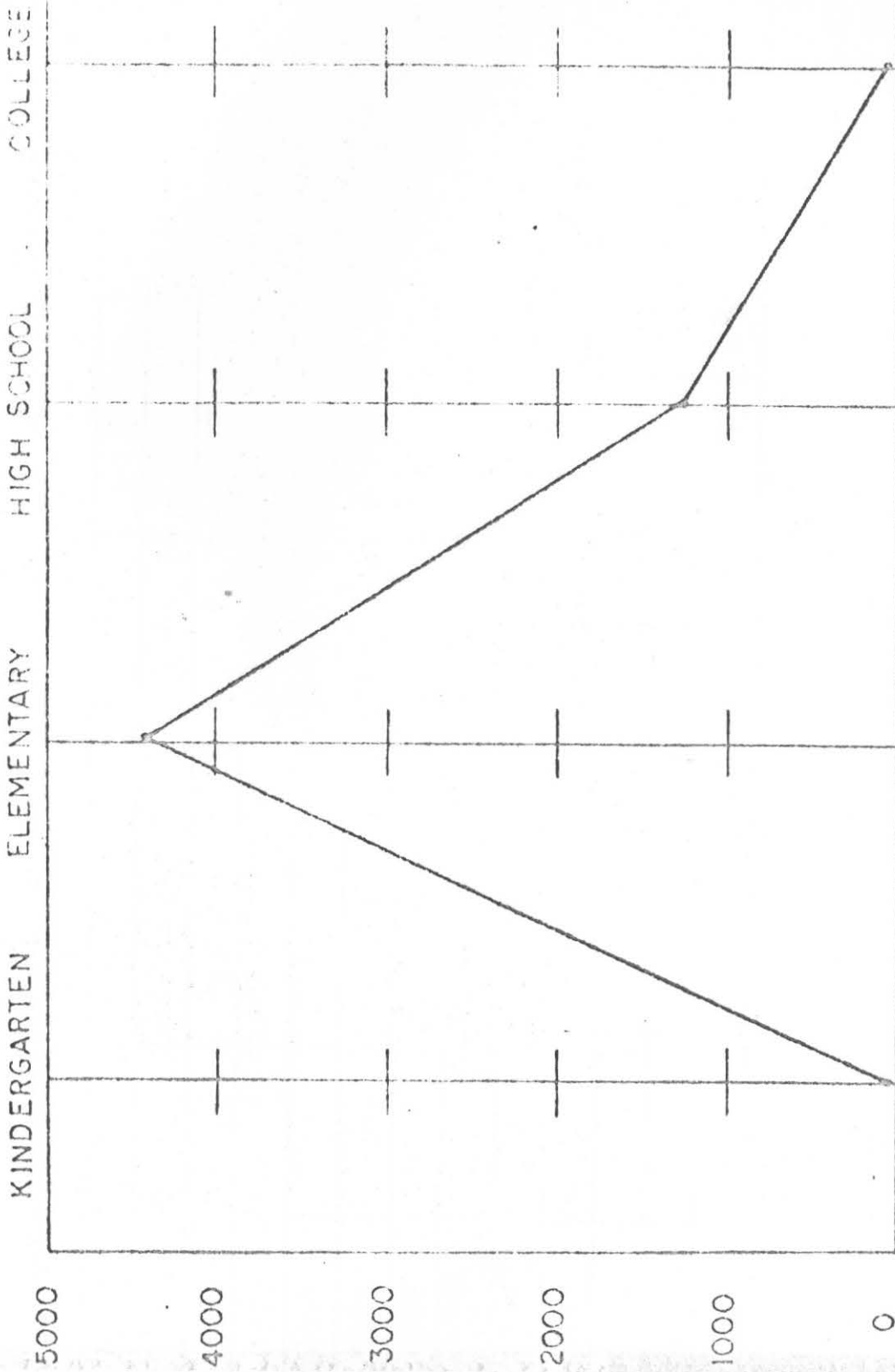
There is a provision in this program which gives \$1,500.00 out right grants to home owners to repair and remodel their homes. This is a rehabilitation program--not a renewal program. Therefore we may not qualify in all areas of the City but lets give it a try.

Much luck and success in your program.

Sincerely,

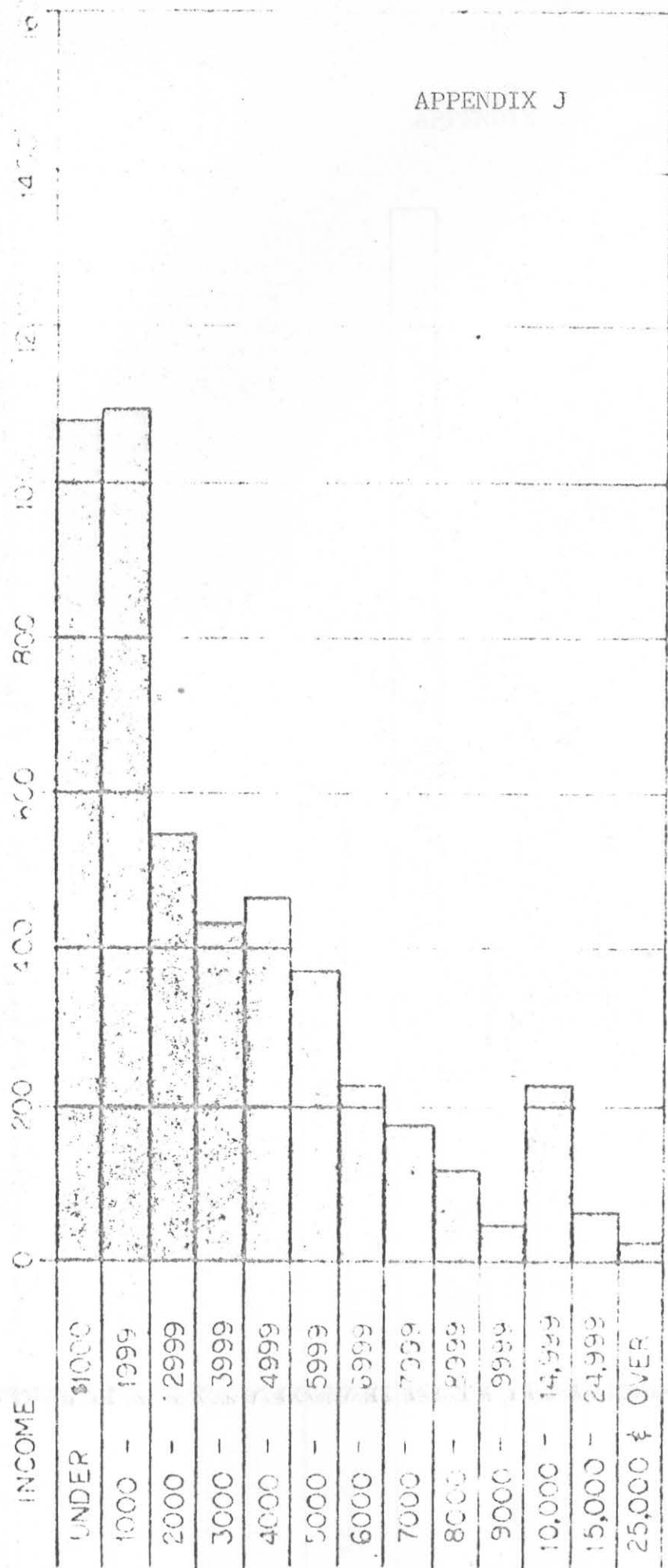
Donald Strohmeyer

DS:ss
Enc.



DESHA COUNTY
ARKANSAS
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

AGE 5-34
1960 ENROLLMENT



DESHA COUNTY

ARKANSAS

FAMILY INCOME 1960 CENSUS

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME \$ 2,430

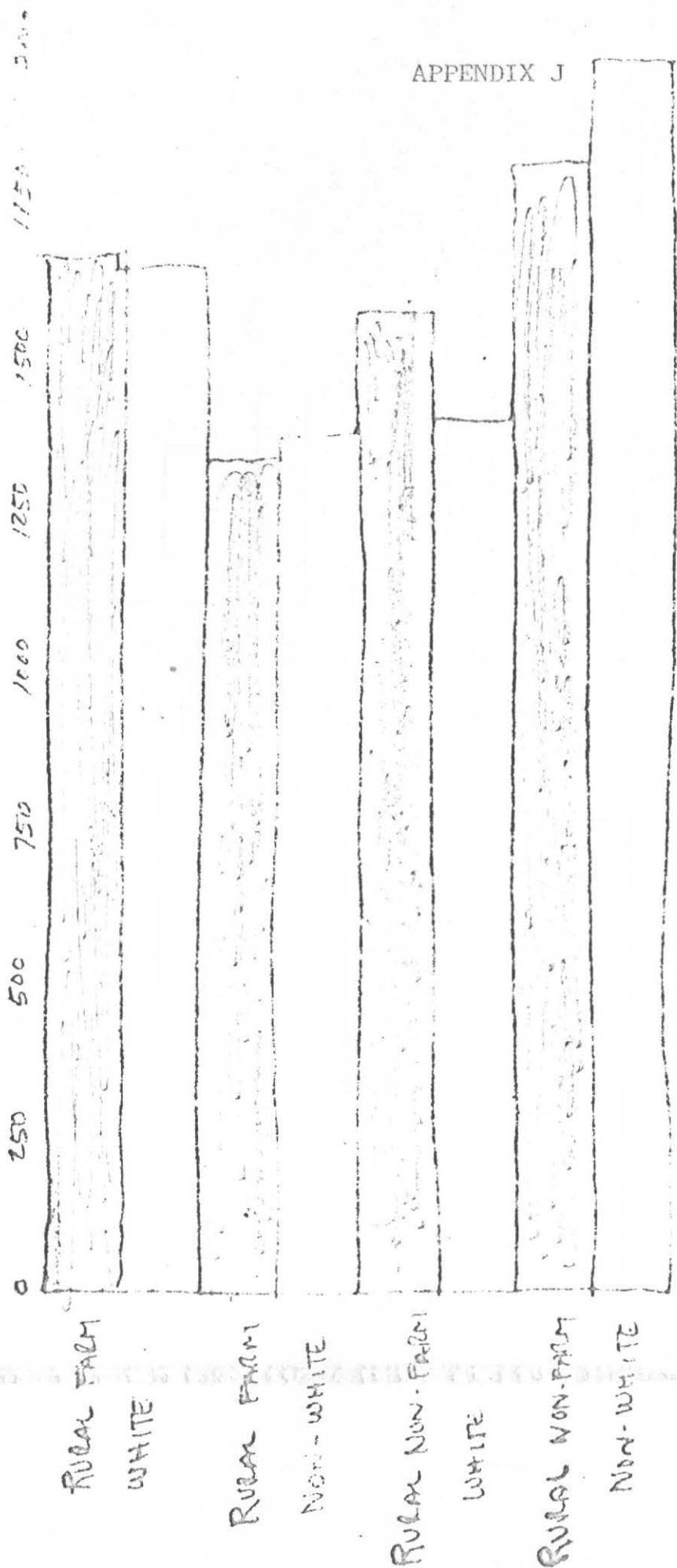
NUMBER EMPLOYED



DESHA COUNTY
ARKANSAS
EMPLOYMENT 1960 CENSUS

KEY

MALE
FEMALE



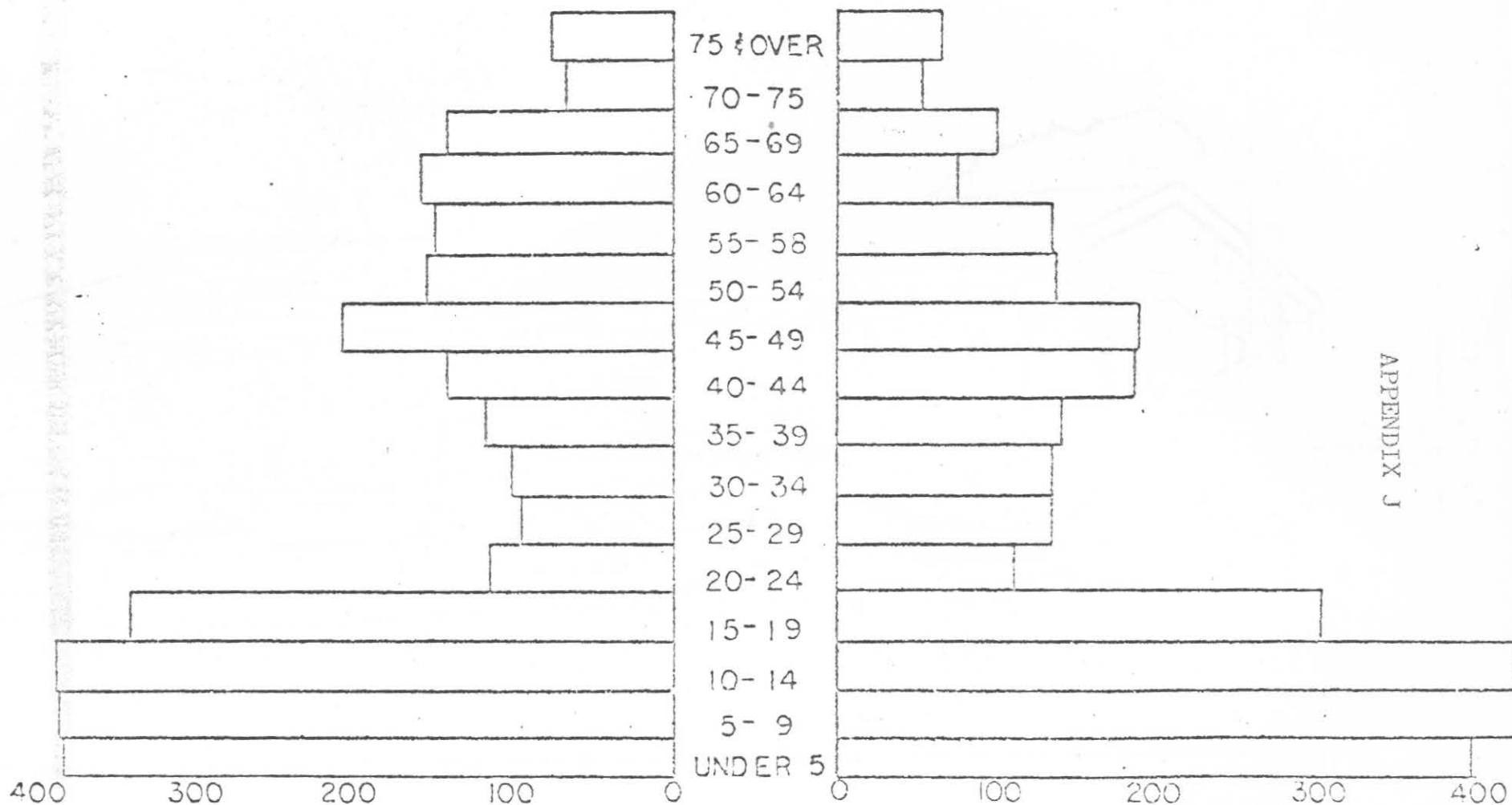
DESHA COUNTY
ARKANSAS

☐ MALE
☐ FEMALE

FARM - NON-FARM RESIDENCE 1960 CENSUS
TOTAL RURAL POPULATION 12782
TOTAL RURAL FARM POPULATION 6009

MALE

FEMALE



APPENDIX J

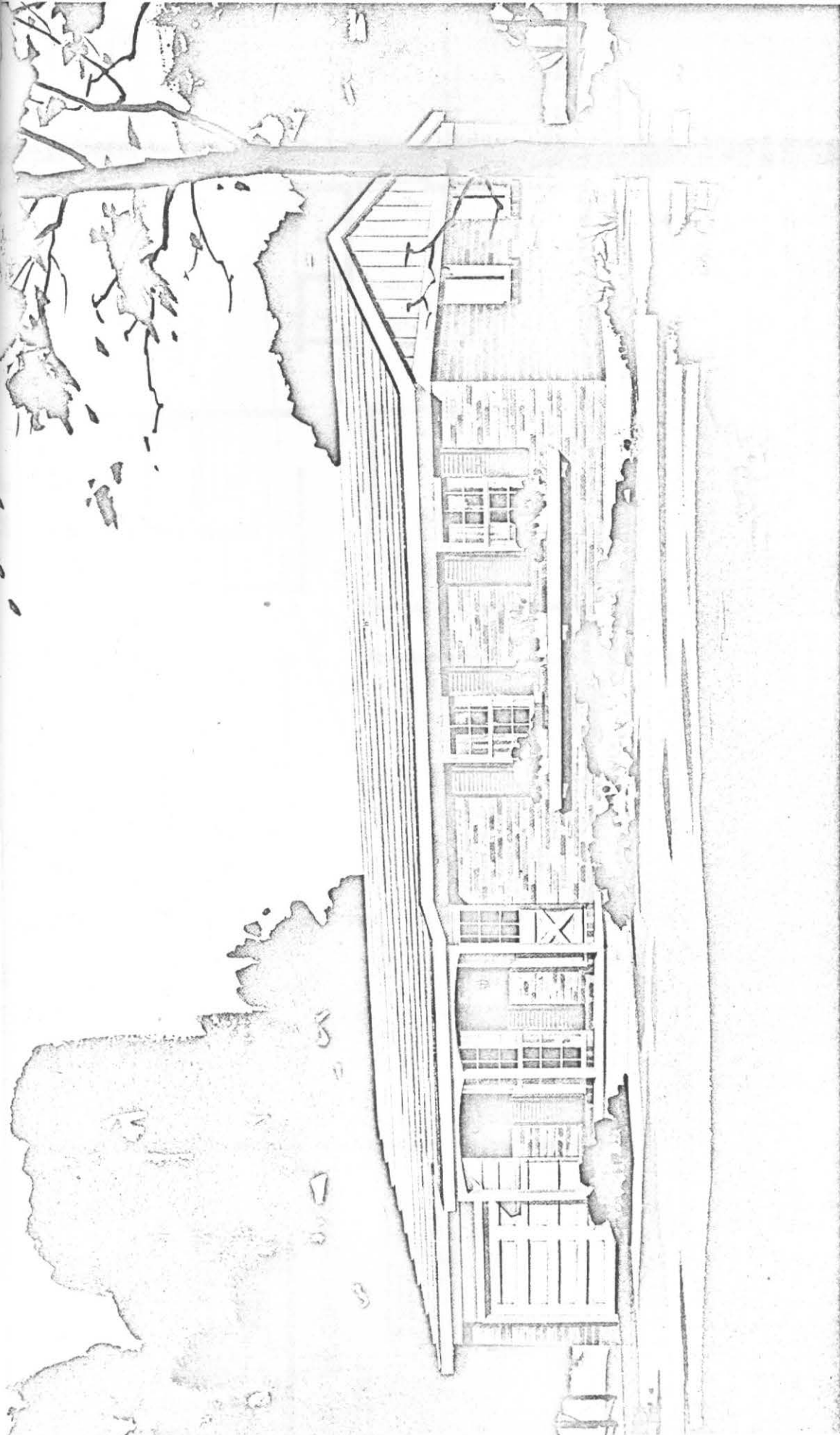
DESHA COUNTY

ARKANSAS

RURAL - FARM POPULATION BY AGE - 1960

TOTAL 6009

MALE 3003



The Belden


KINGSBERRY
HOMES

APPENDIX L

119

Rt. 1 Box 13
Dumas, Arkansas
December 19, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Mitchellville Redevelopment Project
Mitchellville, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Bates,

To have lived for years in a community where civic pride was almost nil, the town was economically deprived, the health conditions were deplorable, the children were neglected, and the "old" and handicapped suffered, is an experience that makes me shudder for my fellowman.

When you introduced the OEO Project, we began to see a New Day for Mitchellville. The most impressive service is the stress of cleanliness. The youth of our community has been made aware that cleanliness is the most important feature in good citizenship. Their conduct has improved in the classroom and they have become more interested in projects that will help them plan a future.

We are praying that sufficient financial aid will come so that you can complete the project here. May you live long to serve your fellowman and may the Lord continue His blessings upon you and your dedicated life.

Appreciatively yours,

Mrs. Callie Portis
Mitchellville, Arkansas

Reed High School
Dumas, Arkansas
December 19, 1968

Mrs. Daisy Bates
Mitchellville Redevelopment Project
Mitchellville, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Bates,

I thought of sending you a regular Season Greeting, but it cannot express the gratitude for the services you are rendering my students and patrons through the OEO Project you are implementing in Mitchellville.

Having given a few evenings in this community before the Project began, I am cognizant of the deplorable and deprived conditions you found in the community.

Not only do I see a change in the civic conditions and community relationships, the personal appearance of both children and adults is improved in public and church wear. This is the results of your sewing classes and family advisory discussions.

I have students in my English classes who have improved because of their being tutored & trained to study. They are also developing better study habits and a deeper appreciation for scholarship and citizenship.

Money can't do all the morale building. The human touch by the administrator is the foundation of good relations. The real love you extend to each individual through your own personal dedication for your fellowman gives the whole project a brightness that only the possessor of the Christmas Spirit could radiate.

May God bless you for being the channel through which a poor child can have a doll for Christmas, a disadvantaged family can have fire, food, and shelter, a senior citizen can smile because of medical care, and the handicapped are happy because of rehabilitation.

May God bless and keep you,

Love and prayers,

Mrs. Evangeline K. Brown
President Arkansas Teachers Department of Classroom Teachers
Chairman English Department

A STUDY OF A STUDENT ORIENTED EFFORT
TO REHABILITATE A SMALL DELTA TOWN

An Abstract of a Thesis

Presented to

the Director of Graduate Studies

Ouachita Baptist University

In Partial Fulfillment

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Master of Arts

by

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Stipek, Patricia Merry, A Study of a Student Oriented Effort To Rehabilitate a Small Delta Town. Master of Arts, American Civilization, May, 1969. 121 pp.

This study considers the influence of the college student involvement in a federally sponsored self-help project of development. The community observed was Mitchellville, an entirely Negro settlement near Dumas, Arkansas. The residents lived in extreme states of poverty with little opportunities of improvement.

The history of the community was traced. Emphasis was placed on the periods before intervention of assistance from the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program (Operation Bootstraps) and after the initiation of Operation Bootstraps. The difficult circumstances under which the residents of the community endured were most alarming. Great importance was placed on the student involvement in the initiation and advancement of a self-help project. This organization distinguished Mitchellville from other federally sponsored communities receiving assistance.

The prosperity of the community was dependent upon the advancement of education and the relocation of industry into the area. The previous occupation of farm labor was no longer adequate in an industrialized society. New fields of employment had to be investigated immediately.

The field study method was the basic research employed. Interviews were held with residents of the community, directors of the program, and student volunteers. Data prepared by Mrs. Daisy Bates for the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program provided another major source of information. Only data which seemed germane to the study was included.

The improvement of the community was analyzed as the economic, social, and cultural achievements were realized. Monetary assistance from the Office of Economic Opportunity and educational achievements through federal aid and private scholarships channeled the development of Mitchellville, Arkansas. The realization that self-achievement could be possible through proper effort and guidance was preferred to the precedent of welfare.

The influence of the Arkansas OEO Rural Training Program became an intricate part of the community. The presence of a mobile home office located in the center of Mitchellville symbolically emphasized the core of this experimental self-help development project.

The hope remains that this experiment will become a pattern for additional community development programs. Operation Bootstraps has attracted nationwide attention and will continue to do so. The involvement of the Ouachita Baptist University students in the self-help program adds special interest and attention to Operation Bootstraps.