



CLAY COUNTY CLEAN-UP FORUM

MARCH 13, 1980

Bryan Public Library-West Point

A CLEAN DREAM

(tune: You are my Sunshine)

As I was walking the streets of West Point,
I fell across an ugly sight
Discarded bottles, wrappers, and cartons,
I stubbed my toe on "Urban Blight"

CHORUS: You are my hometown
My only hometown
I am so proud when people say
Clay County's growing
Our pride is showing
I'll do my part to keep it this way!

The other night dear, as I lay sleeping
I dreamed of sidewalks swept bright and clean
Historic buildings now in their glory
The cleanest town that I've ever seen

CHORUS

The Song & Symbol group recommends that the song be used over the radio and taught to children as part of the "clean-up consciousness" effort. "Garbage Gus" can be used in conjunction with the "dirty dozen" proposed by the media group. The group also felt that as Clay County got cleaner and cleaner, Garbage Gus would gradually straighten up and shine. The "Point with Pride" slogan can be used on bumper stickers, posters, and to point to pictures of positive clean-up efforts in the paper.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1976-79 Painted store fronts
 Fixed up city parks
 Urban renewal program
 Tearing down some old houses
 putting in curbs and gutters
 street improvements
 flowers planted by garden clubs
 at intersections
 Fisher-Marine landscaped grounds
 City government bought 12 new trash cans
 for Main St.
 Prisoners used to sweep streets
 New medical clinic
 new parking lot lights
 new library
 new city hall

FUTURE VISION

Draw attention to positive examples
 Clean streets in business district
 enforcement of litter laws
 continued restoration of downtown bldgs.
 rebirth of public pride in community
 appearance
 empty stores filled
 new hospital
 image of "I am responsible" restored
 New sidewalks
 private property cleaned up

CHALLENGES

In the arena of The Rebirth of Pride, the following blocks exist: 1) lack of respect, 2) we have become a throw-away society, 3) the lack of moral discipline. This indicates that the underlying challenge is TO PROMOTE ATTITUDINAL CHANGE IN PEOPLE. This is illustrated by the destruction of private property, destruction of public property and apathy.

In the arena of Renovation of the Downtown, the following blocks exist: 1) lack of money, 2) absentee owners, 3) Apathy and complacency, 4) lack of public education. This indicates that the underlying challenge is PRIORITIZING RENOVATION COMMITMENTS.

In the arena of Commercial Growth, the following blocks exist 1) parking limitations, 2) littered appearance, 3) tight money, 4) larger trade areas are close to West Point. This indicates that the underlying challenge is TO SUPPORT AND BELIEVE IN WEST POINT.

In the arena of Law Enforcement relative to Beautification, the following blocks exist 1) don't want to step on people's toes, 2) lack of concern about litter. This indicates that the underlying challenge is MORE EFFECTIVE LIASON WITH COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS.

We the citizens of Clay County, in order to focus attention on the need for drastic action, propose to hold a GARBAGE DAY with a parade and convoy carrying the trash that is picked up, a garbage display in the Park, a mystery celebrity. There will be a County-wide clean-up effort on this day and "Real People" TV show will be invited. The Clay County Garbage Day will be held on a Saturday in May. Information will go to all schools, clubs, churches, house to house information distribution and enclosures in bills, etc. The Coordinating Committee is described below.

We the citizens of Clay County, in order to encourage widespread dissemination of need for beautification effort and to increase involvement propose to EXPAND CLEAN-UP CLAY COUNTY TASK FORCE through contacting all possible groups, churches, civic groups, etc. and having them have a representative in the group. These representatives would publicize the events, etc. to their members and also encourage individual responsibility among their members. The next meeting of this group will be March 25th.

We the citizens of Clay County, in order to increase "beautification education", and spread the ideas of this forum throughout the entire community propose to have MEDIA SUPPORT which involves 1) running a 2 week series called the "Dirty Dozen" which would run pictures of the 12 dirtiest places in town 2) publishing photos of areas which are examples of successful beautification efforts 3) run various articles/editorials (e.g. How much litter costs our city). The Daily Times Leader will be the coordinator of these efforts.

We the citizens of Clay County, in order to make problems known to elected officials and increase positive communication propose to FORM AN ADVISORY GROUP TO WORK WITH CITY/COUNTY OFFICIALS. This group will come from representatives of the Clean-up Clay County Task Force, they will meet with city officials on April 8th if possible.

Kenny Dill
Mayor
West Point, Ms. 39773

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West Point, Ms. 39773

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West Point, Ms.

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West Point, Ms.

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Elsie Dixon
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1492 Pinewood
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Carol Harris
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Ben Rosencrans
Clay County Chamber of
Commerce
West Point, Ms.

TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI
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TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI

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March 18, 1980

Mr. Ben Rosencrans
Director
Clay County Chamber of Commerce
West Point, Ms.

Dear Ben,

Here is the document all set to go. If you have found a local artist who can do this cover better, feel free to re-do it. George and I both enjoyed the Forum very much and feel that it went well. We hope to work with you and the Public Information Committee soon to do some methods training for your proposed quarterly forums. The group may also want to consider for the future, using the forum model as a way to increase the county-wide focus of the Chamber through holding them in other communities in the county.

I know how busy you are since you are minus a secretary and are working on the clean-up campaign, but we are blocked on what to do next with B & W. If you get a chance and if you feel that it is still appropriate, a phone call to Mr. Farrell would help us a great deal. Please let us know what your feelings are on this matter.

I cannot overemphasize how much we have enjoyed working with you on both the Town Meetings in the county and on the Clean-up forum. You have been most helpful and supportive. It is a pleasure to find a Chamber of Commerce which understands the need for comprehensive development and citizen participation. The Town Meeting program is based on these concepts and we feel that they are crucial for the future of our towns and communities across the state. Thank you again and we will continue to be in touch with you to let you know what is happening in various communities around the state. Please keep us informed of how things progress in Clay County.

Sincerely,

Eileen Howard
Institute of Cultural Affairs



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GETTING STARTED

"WHY START IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?"

If we can't find a sensible answer for that question, chances are we'd be better off to abandon whatever it was we were about to start.

This is the first issue of THE POINT OF VIEW -- a monthly newsletter of our Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Corporation. If there's enough interest later on, it could become a bi-monthly publication.

Through it we hope to inform you of important events which will be taking place within our community and our organization. Hopefully, this will develop in a COMMUNITY CALENDAR which is as comprehensive as any we have ever had. It's also important that we report on the many significant things that are happening within our organization, both in terms of plans for the future as well as evaluation of activities just past. We want you to know what your organization is doing. Finally, we want to invite you to participate by keeping us informed of events that we might otherwise miss, by making suggestions and sharing your ideas. There's no such thing as too much communication between us. It can only enhance our organization's efforts to help make our community a better place in which to live and make a living

Our Newsletter is just getting started. Help us make it go somewhere!

"Those who TRY something and fail are infinitely better than those who TRY NOTHING and succeed."

1980 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS APPOINTED

Chamber President Hubert Caston has appointed the following 1980 Committee Chairpersons:

Annual Meeting.....Butch Luke
Community Service.....James Stewart
Downtown Development.....Rufus Ward
Education.....Marcia Bryan
Governmental Affairs.....Bob Ganss
Membership.....Coke Knighten
Organization & Planning...Kyle Chandler
Public Information.....Bennie Turner
Retail Development.....Mike Simmons
Retail Steering.....Harold Wilson
Transportation.....Charlie Rutledge

The goals and objectives of these committees are spelled out in THE PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1980. A copy is available from the Chamber of Commerce office. (Drop by and we'll also give you a cup of coffee.)

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE CHAMBER & CCIDC?

Feb. 5th (8:30 a.m.)....Retail Steering
Feb. 11th (12:00 Noon)..Education (Bring your own sandwich)
Feb. 13th (4:30 p.m.)...Membership
Feb. 14th (4:30 p.m.)...Orientation of new Leadership
Feb. 19th (2:00 p.m.)...CCIDC Board
Feb. 21st (4:30 p.m.)..."Clean Up West Point Task Force"
Feb. 28th (5:00 p.m.)...Chamber Board