

INDICES OF DEVELOPMENT

C. TOWARD SOCIAL SELF-RELIANCE

INTENT: The intent of the residents of Delta Pace during the last three years has been to move toward social self-reliance by intensifying social services of the community. This was to be accomplished by providing essential health and safety services, training residents of all ages in leadership methods and basic practical skills and initiating opportunities for engagement in community responsibilities.

CONTRADICTIONS: The underlying contradictions in the Consultation Summary Statement that have blocked the development of social engagement are: incomplete delivery of basic services, inappropriate application of traditional values, ineffective structures for local consensus, fragmented modes of citizen engagement, narrow range or practical skills.

INDICATORS: The following four examples have been selected as representative of indications of rapid social development.

1. Sewer System

A new sewer system for the total community has been planned and funded with a government grant. The town water system has been reorganized to allow for the sewer system and all land-use plans necessary are complete. While working on the plans for the new sewer system, Delta Pace residents upgraded the present drainage system.

2. Community Preschool

A community preschool has been initiated which provides employment for 9 people and serves twenty-four children or 87% of the eligible preschool population.

3. Adult Continuing Education

The preschool staff and mothers have participated in in-service training, qualified for GED and taken courses in college. Adult education and sewing classes have begun at the Attendance Center. Pace residents have participated in and led Town Meetings across the Delta and the state. All of these have enabled in-depth learning of methods and released latent creativity within individuals and the community.

4. Community Service Groups

Approximately 1/6 of the population of Delta Pace has joined community service groups in the past five years. These are the Volunteer Fire Department, the Jaycees, Youth Service Corps, Prepare For Tomorrow (PFT), and VISTA. These groups have demonstrated the power of residents to work together in practical service to the community.

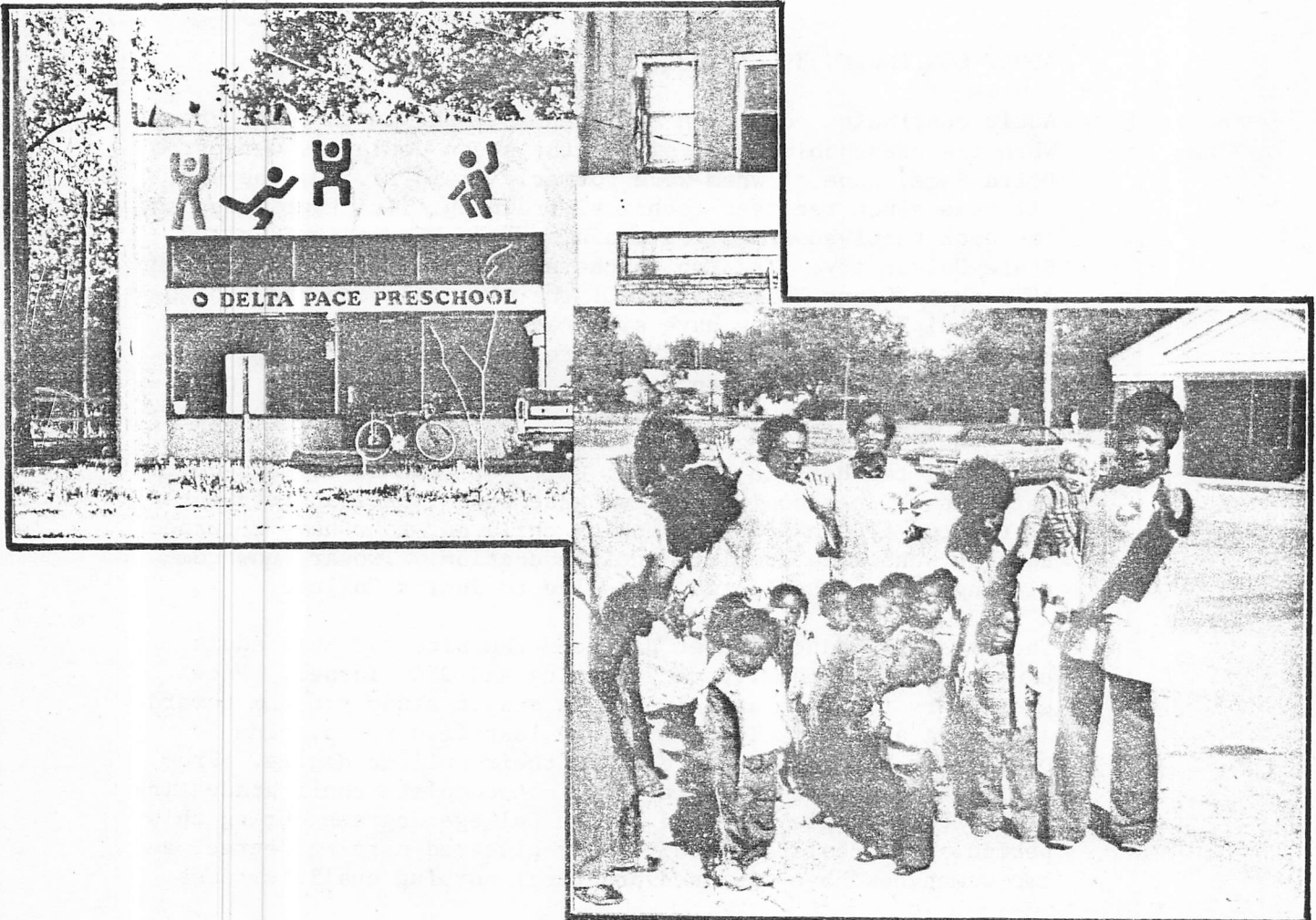
SEWER SYSTEM

The first step in demonstrating a positive economic future was dealing with the water system and sewer. It was evident that a public sewer and improved water system would mean the elimination of health hazards, such as open ditches, and contaminated water from leaks in water lines and mosquito growth. A sanitation system would also provide an opportunity for an increase in population, industry and housing. Community efforts to upgrade the present drainage system were made, including manually cleaning drainage ditches and enclosing at least one ditch with 250 feet of culvert. At the same time, work continued on the long-range plans for a new sewer system. A sewer feasibility study--201 Study--was done by Continental Consultants in Jackson in 1977. A major breakthrough was the decision by the National Demonstration Water Project in Washington, D.C. to choose Delta Pace as one of four communities in Mississippi to receive aid in getting a sewer system. Another major breakthrough was made when after a year of discussion, a Pace Water Association General Meeting was held with over 100 residents in attendance. A motion was made to turn over the water system to the Town Board to facilitate water system funding essential to the passing of the sewer grant. After much work by the Mayor and the Town Board, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Farmers' Home Administration (FmHA) granted funds for the sewer and water systems. In May 1980, the Sewer and Water Improvement Bond Issue for \$133,000 was passed by Delta Pace residents. This is the final step in releasing \$1.4 million secured grants for sewer, water, housing, and new streets. Delta Pace will soon see the ground breaking for the new sewer system--a long awaited dream has happened.

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

The old Post Office building was donated by a local resident and renovated to meet State Health and Welfare Department guidelines necessary for future funding. New floors, interior walls, ceiling, lighting fixtures, air conditioning, heating, plumbing and wiring windows and door frames were added. The inside and outside of the building were repainted. The entire restoration effort was

done with an estimated value of \$45,000 for an actual cost of \$11,000, the difference being made up by volunteer labor and donated materials. This was the first major restoration effort to be made in the business district in many years. Title XX federal funds were soon committed and the preschool became the largest residential employer in the town of Delta Pace. The preschool has had two graduating classes since the fall of 1977. The teachers have been to the 5th City: Chicago Preschool for training and curriculum planning sessions. Two teachers are attending Junior College and four have received High School Equivalency Certificates. Local fund-raising events have included work days combined with barbeque dinners, telethons, and flea markets. The preschool teachers turned back a portion of their salaries to pay utility bills to meet the local match for the grant. A slide show has been prepared which has been shown to visitors from the local community and to visitors from overseas. The Delta Pace Preschool is the only operating facility of its kind in Bolivar County. The Headstart Director has said that the children from the Preschool show a tremendous difference over those who come straight from the home. She has also said that preschool graduates are more independent and advanced in language skills, cognitive and self-help skills.



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE DELTA PACE PRESCHOOL	
<u>7 Preschool Employees</u> 2 Teachers 4 Aides 1 Cook	3 have obtained Graduate Equivalency Diploma
	2 are attending Junior College
	2 are completing Graduate Equivalency Diploma
	All have attended In-service Training sessions at Mississippi Valley State University
<u>22 Preschool Mothers</u>	4 have secured employment
	2 returned to high school
	2 are completing Graduate Equivalency Diploma
	2 are attending Junior College

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

Adult continuing education has been an emphasis in Delta Pace. When the preschool began, six of the seven employees were from Delta Pace, none of whom were formerly employed. Of the six, all have since received technical training. The four aides and the cook received inservice training from Mississippi Valley State University. The two teachers attended a training session at Jackson State University. Of the six, only one had a high school diploma. Three have since achieved their High School Equivalency Diploma (GED). Two are beginning courses at Coahoma Junior College and two are working towards the completion of their GED. The preschool staff travelled to Chicago for a weekend training and curriculum building session with preschool teachers in 5th City: Chicago. The 22 mothers of the children at preschool have also made educational achievements. Of the twenty-two mothers sending children, four have returned to high school to complete their education. Two are now completing their GED and two are going to Junior College.

The Pace Attendance Center has been the site for much adult education including literacy, sewing and GED classes. Pace elementary faculty participated in a self-study program toward acquiring accreditation. Over the last five years, nine Delta Pace students have received their college degree. From the high school, only fifteen did not complete their graduating year. Four people received Junior College degrees during this period. One resident received a registered nursing degree, and two women now have licensed practical nursing qualifications.

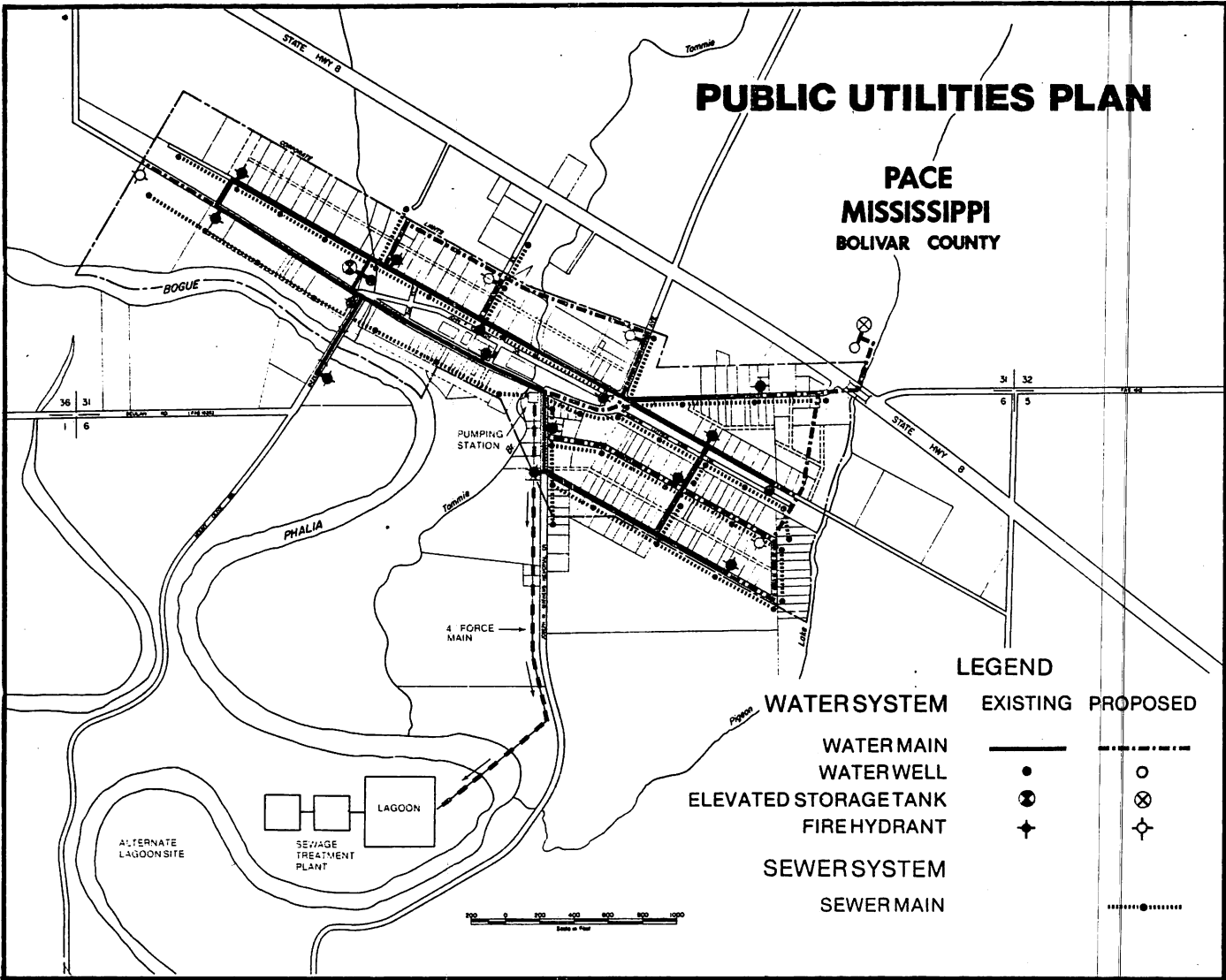
COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS

The Pace Volunteer Fire Department is now in its eleventh year. At present its membership numbers fifteen. In 1974 they acquired a fire truck and have added special equipment. Training sessions are held regularly. There are also six youth who are in training and help direct traffic at fires. The Fire Department has acquired uniforms, of bright orange vests. The Fire Department has saved many residents and their homes from severe damage.

The Youth Service Corps was formed in the Spring of 1977 with 60 Pace youth involved. They designed a YSC symbol and had T-shirts printed. Community beautification projects have included painting trash cans and painting the local basketball court with Delta Pace's symbol, repairing the foot bridge, and designing and carving out wooden plaques for family house signs and street names signs. Community service projects included visiting the elders, assisting in health screening, and sponsoring programs for elementary children, including "Saturday Night At the Movies" shown at the old Town Hall. There have been youth employment programs sponsored by Bolivar County in which four to ten youth have participated.

In December 1977, the first Pace chapter of the Jaycees International was formed with 22 members. These men dedicated themselves to raising money for national and community service projects. For instance, they earned well over their assigned goal for the multiple sclerosis drive by setting up a one-day roadblock on the highway. Their biggest community service project was teaching families about fire safety, selling and installing smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. More than half of the homes in Pace now have smoke alarms.

The Prepare For Tomorrow Group (PFT) developed when concerned individuals noticed a need for developing the cultural life of Delta Pace. They were out to discern ways to get more entertainment into the community for all ages. They took responsibility for the following activities: movies during the summer, dances on Friday nights, Bingo and card games on other nights and an annual Halloween Party complete with a Spook House. The PFT is also concerned about increasing educational opportunities for Delta Pace citizens. It raises money all year to be able to give two \$100 college scholarships to graduating high school seniors. In March 1980, they directed a Black History Night to which over 60 adults and children came. This group sponsors clean-up campaigns, health drives and other needed community projects and has been instrumental in gathering people together for neighborhood meetings.



PUBLIC UTILITIES PLAN

**PACE
MISSISSIPPI
BOLIVAR COUNTY**

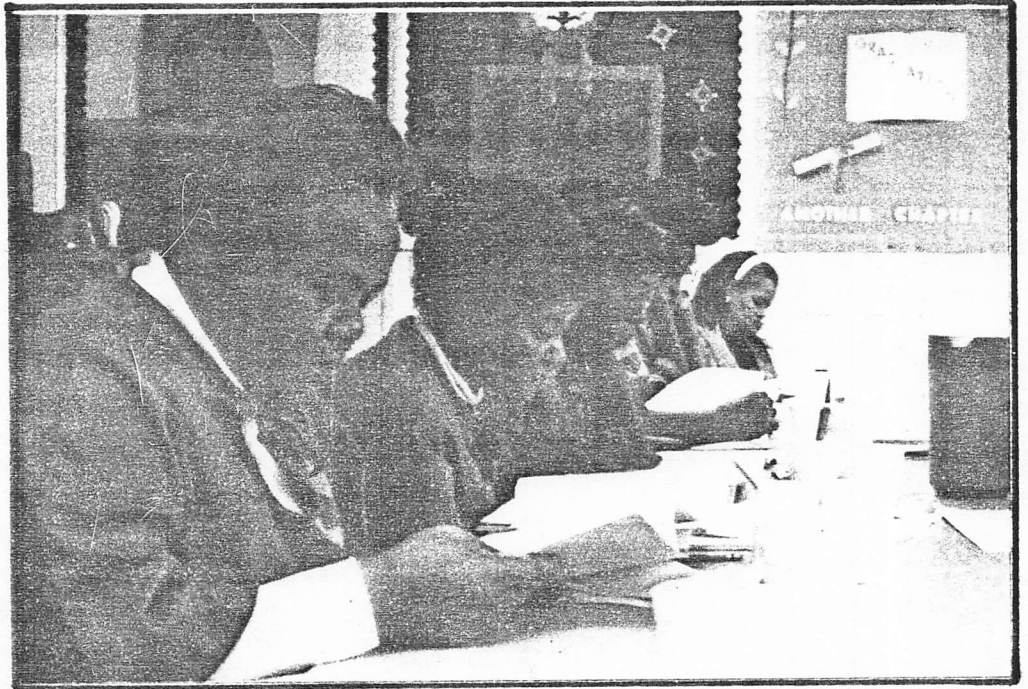
LEGEND

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
WATERSYSTEM		
WATERMAIN	—	- - -
WATERWELL	●	○
ELEVATED STORAGE TANK	⊗	⊗
FIRE HYDRANT	⊕	⊕
SEWER SYSTEM		
SEWERMAIN	

WATER SYSTEM PROPOSALS

- Construct a second water well
- Install an auxiliary engine and right-angle drive on the proposed new well
- Install an auxiliary engine and right-angle drive on the existing water well
- Install a second elevated storage tank
- Repair or replace all defective water meters
- Install new meters for all unmetered customers
- Install 6640 feet of new 6-inch water mains
- Install 480 feet of new 8-inch water mains
- Install four new fire hydrants on new water mains

Preschool Teachers
Plan Curriculum



Jaycee Installs
Fire Extinguisher



Youth Service Corps
Paint Fire Hydrants