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## I. THE HISTORICAL SETTING

### 1. The Mississippi Delta

The Mississippi Delta, like many rural areas in the South, is in the midst of a profound economic and social upheaval. It is an area that for over 200 years has relied on agriculture as its economic base, with cotton as the overwhelmingly dominant crop. The famous "plantation" style still flourishes, and most of the Delta farms are large, ranging in size from 800 acres to over 30,000 acres. The economic upheaval, in its most advanced form, began in the 1950's with the introduction of the minimum wage law. Where entire families had once been employed with the head of household alone earning at or above the minimum wage, farmers could no longer afford to pay some 40,000 farm workers in Bolivar County at the new wage level. Massive unemployment resulted, and a new emphasis on mechanization was inevitable. By 1970, the 40,000 farm workers in Bolivar County had dwindled to only 400. Those who now found themselves and their families unemployed by the rapid succession of events often lost their homes, their sole means of support, and ultimately even their pride. They were usually functionally illiterate and untrained for any other kind of work.

The economic crisis further intensified between 1973 and 1976 when cotton crop failures were serious enough to have most of the counties in the Delta declared national disaster areas each year. Any small farmers who had somehow managed to eke out a subsistence existence farming 20 to 40 acres now lost their land to larger farmers who could afford to absorb the crop losses. As the crop that had sustained the Delta for 200 years foundered, rice and soybeans began to command more and more acreage, but fluctuating prices on those two crops have further increased anxieties concerning future economic stability.

Commerce and industry have not developed rapidly enough to fill the employment gap, and that has helped fuel an already burgeoning social upheaval, which likewise took a dramatic leap forward in the 1950's with the Civil Rights effort. In 1973 six towns in the Mississippi Delta elected black mayors for the first time in the state's history, and in June of 1977, seven additional Delta towns followed suit, bringing the total to thirteen black mayors in the Delta today. Six of those thirteen are located in Bolivar County, including Pace.

In Beulah, Mississippi, another small town in Bolivar County, June of 1977 marked the first official public election ever held in the town. Although three of the five aldermen elected were black, no one from the black community ran for mayor. Reportedly those who had expressed interest were quietly threatened with loss of jobs if they decided to run.

The most obvious effect of the intensification of the two upheavals has been the rapid acceleration of outmigration from the Delta - 50,000 people left Bolivar County alone between 1950 and 1970. Pace itself has only one male in the entire community between the ages of 35 and 39, and only 7% of the total population is between the ages of 30 and 40. The remainder, both black and white, have moved to the cities in search of economic security, all too often contributing to enlarged welfare roles and expanding ghettos in the urban centers.

### 2. The Baseline Data

Pace, Mississippi is located 12 miles east of the Mississippi River on Highway 8 between Cleveland and Rosedale. The total population of the town and its surrounding area is 659. The age distribution reflects a disproportionate number of elder and younger citizens; 16.7% of the population is over 65, compared to 8.0% for the state of Mississippi. 42.0% of the population is between the ages of 0-19, 19.6% is between 20-39, 16.1% is between 40-59, and 22.3% of the population is 60 years of age or older. Only 35.7% of the total population is between the ages of 20 and 60. In the arena of family income, the median family income level

(one half of the families earn more than that amount during one year and one half earn less) for the community is \$3490 per year. That compares to a national median income figure of \$14,094 in 1975. In 1975 11.4% of the families in the U.S. had incomes at or below the poverty level, compared to 26.1% in Mississippi, and 54.9% for Pace. The average educational level is 7.1 years of school completed, with approximately one third of the adult population functionally illiterate. Over half of the 193 housing units in Pace are classified as dilapidated. All of the houses in the white community are fully equipped with hot and cold indoor water and with at least one bathroom. In the black community, 15% of the houses have no indoor water at all, 23% have no hot water, and 33% have no indoor bathrooms. There is no sewer system; sewage accumulates in open sewer trenches and ditches beside and in front of houses. The privately owned water system is badly in need of major repairs. The four retail businesses in town are all that is left of a once thriving business community of seventeen businesses. The four include three family-run grocery stores with limited stock and high prices, and one general merchandise store. It is estimated that Pace residents spend more than a quarter of a million dollars a year outside of the community on food alone. There is a Headstart Center in Pace which serves virtually all of the three, four, and five year old children in the community and the Pace Elementary School. Junior and senior high students attend school in Rosedale. There is a county health center in town, which now is open only one morning a month, if it opens at all. The town government is a mayor and five members of the Board of Aldermen, and operates on a monthly tax base of \$309, which does not even cover the cost of renting the fire plugs in town from the Pace Water Association.

## II. THE GLOBAL BAND

### 3. The Village Projects

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is an international research, training, and demonstration group concerned with the human element in community development. It is incorporated in the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit corporation, and its Pace office is domesticated in the State of Mississippi. The Institute has headquarters in Brussels, Bombay, Chicago, Canberra, and Hong Kong. In addition, there are ICA offices in more than 100 major cities serving in 23 nations. The Institute's programs around the world are supported by grants, gifts and contributions from government departments and agencies on the federal, state and municipal levels and from private foundations, corporations, trusts and concerned individuals.

In 1975 the Institute began the initiation of a global band of 24 Human Development Projects around the world in 20 nations. In June, 1977 the Initiation Phase was completed as Vogar, Canada and Oyubari, Japan completed the week-long consultation that launches each two year project. Each of the 24 is a pilot project demonstrating the comprehensive socio-economic development of a local community. Five of the projects are located in urban situations - Chicago, Washington, D.C., Nairobi, West Berlin, and London. The remaining nineteen are situated in small, rural towns and villages ranging in size from 250 persons to approximately 2,300 persons. Each of the 24 participating communities is listed in the attached materials.

In each project, the local citizens simultaneously activate the 12-15 programs designed during the initiating consultation. ICA staff members live in the community for at least two years as resident consultants to provide expertise, experience, and leadership training in effective corporate methods. The responsibility for program actuation, however, lies totally in the hands of the local citizens. Programs are organized under the headings of Economic, Social, and Human Development and generate community self-sustenance, self-reliance, and self-confidence.

#### 4. The Replication Scheme

During 1977-1978, twenty-eight new projects will be initiated, including 12 in the United States and 4 in South America. That expansion will bring the global band to 52 projects. At the same time, one of the original projects was chosen as the site for experimentation in methods of rapid project replication. Maliwada, in the state of Maharashtra in India, held its initial week-long consultation in December, 1975. By June, 1976 project replication had begun and by December, 1976 four new villages had held their consults and begun program actuation. To date there are now 36 villages participating in what is now being called "Nava Gram Prayas," or "the new village movement." Beginning in January, 1978 an additional 32 villages will be added every three months until March, 1979, at which point 250 villages will be part of the replication effort, representing each of the 232 tahsils (the equivalent of counties) in the state.

Pace has been charged with the responsibility of being in position to replicate by the summer of 1978 should the decision be made to begin replication in the United States at that time.

### THE LOCAL PROJECT

#### 5. The Delta Pace Project

The Delta Pace Human Development Project is one of the original 24 Human Development Projects around the world and began by holding its one week consultation February 20-26, 1977. The Pace Project represents the initial step in a comprehensive development effort in the rural South. The name Delta Pace indicates the project's intent to serve as a demonstration of the renewal that is possible across the Mississippi Delta and in similar small towns throughout the South. Toward that end, 268 consultants gathered in Pace in February for one week; 81 were non-resident consultants from 22 states across the country and from the nations of Australia, Canada, India, Nigeria, and South Korea. This diversified group of volunteer business and professional people functioned as a unified research body using methods of comprehensive community reformulation. The week-long consultation produced the enclosed document that has formed the basis of all subsequent activity in the project.

Since February well over half of the 172 subtasks called for in the document have been either initiated or completed. Six guilds are operating under community leadership and meet weekly - The Health Guild, Builders Guild, Business Guild, Garden Guild, Community Design Guild, and The Education Guild. The town has been divided into five stakes, or neighborhoods, and community residents meet weekly in stake meetings. In the nine months since the consult, the old Post Office has been completely renovated for use as the new preschool, a laundromat has been opened, work days held nearly every Saturday, adult literacy classes meeting twice weekly, local health advocates trained and commissioned, a non-profit community association chartered, a Jaycee chapter begun, a community playground built, home repairs begun, a survey completed, streets renamed and new street signs constructed and put into place, movies shown each Saturday night by the Youth Service Corps, a footbridge rebuilt, two town meetings held, a Community Youth Forum held, a Global Women's Forum held, and three hazardous buildings and several vacant homes demolished. A fuller account is represented in the two enclosed quarterly reports. In addition Pace residents have participated as workshop leaders in town meetings in eighteen small towns around the Delta as they have begun to imitate what has been going on in Pace.

#### 6. The Immediate Future

As the Pace Project anticipates a June, 1978 reduction of ICA staff, several

critical arenas have been singled out for a major emphasis immediately. New business and industry needs to be in place and functioning smoothly by the summer. Since home loans, new streets, industry attraction, and sanitation all depend on effective treatment of raw sewage, increasing emphasis must be placed on ensuring the construction of a new sewer system. With many groups meeting regularly each week and town meetings held each quarter, space must quickly be provided to sustain the interest and effectiveness of local citizens; that will require construction of the new community program center. Several demonstration homes need to be built to deal with the extremely poor housing situation in the community. Heavy equipment - a small bulldozer, two dump trucks, and a backhoe - must be obtained to enable the Builders Guild to do most of the work just mentioned. These particular arenas of emphasis have been repeatedly mentioned in guild and stake meetings and in the town meeting in October. They are not only integral to Pace's development; they are also important groundwork in preparing for project replication.

#### IV. THE CURRENT NEED

##### 7. The Specific Need

To date \$168,175 has been invested in Pace in program actuation. Twenty percent of that amount, \$33,755, has been cash and the remaining eighty percent, \$134,420, has been invested as donated goods and services (see the "Capital Costs" chart). For every cash dollar invested in Pace, including money invested by Pace citizens, at least four additional dollars in inkind have been released for use in the project. That means that each dollar invested to date has produced five dollars worth of local capital improvements.

ICA:  
PACE

## DELTA PACE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - CAPITAL COSTS

NOVEMBER  
1977

COMMUNITY PROJECT	COMMUNITY MONIES		OUTSIDE MONIES			SUMMARY		TOTAL PROJECT VALUE
	PRIVATE		PRIVATE		PUBLIC: INKIND & GRANTS	INKIND: ALL SOURCES	CASH: ALL SOURCES	
	INKIND/CASH	LOANS	INKIND	CASH				
1. Consult Center	4,750		10,000	250		14,700	300	15,000
2. Consult	400		6,400	8,200		3,000	12,000	15,000
3. Beautification	700		100		300	1,000	100	1,100
4. Playground	2,000		25,600	2,100		26,900	2,800	29,700
5. Footbridge	500		1,120	1,380		1,620	1,380	3,000
6. Community Design	400		10,000		30,000	40,000	400	40,400
7. Community Survey	1,200				6,300	7,500		7,500
8. Preschool	5,000		33,825	11,775		37,825	12,775	50,600
9. Training (trips)	2,300			1,325			3,625	3,625
10. Equipment Pool			1,500			1,500		1,500
11. Street Signs	750					375	375	750
TOTALS (TO DATE)	18,000		88,545	25,030	36,600	134,420	33,755	168,175
PERCENT OF TOTAL	10.7 %		52.6 %	14.9 %	21.8 %	79.9 %	20.1 %	100.0 %
12. Preschool				5,000	82,940			87,940
13. Community Center	7,000		35,000	138,000				180,000
14. New Businesses	25,000	40,000	10,000	75,000				150,000
15. Demonstrat'n Homes		160,000						160,000
16. Adult Literacy	1,000			16,000				17,000
17. Heavy Equipment		10,000	10,000	25,000				45,000
18. Laundromat Expan.			2,500	7,500	5,000			15,000
19. Sewer System					650,000			650,000
20. Park Land				25,000				25,000
21. Home Repairs		20,000						20,000
22. Beautification	1,000		10,000					11,000
23. Minibus			2,000	10,000				12,000
24. Engineering Fees					10,000			10,000
25. Earthworm Farm	1,500			600				2,100
TOTALS (PROJECTED)	35,500	230,000	69,500	302,100	747,940			1,385,040
CUMULATIVE TOTAL	53,500	230,000	158,045	327,130	784,540			1,553,215
% OF ALL COSTS	3.4 %	14.8 %	10.2 %	21.1 %	50.5 %			100.0 %
% BY SECTOR	18.2 %		31.3 %		50.5 %			100.0 %



## BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

### PACE, MISSISSIPPI

#### POPULATION

There are 659 persons in 193 households in the Delta Pace Human Development Project grid. 69% of those persons are black, 4% are Mexican American, and 27% are white.

#### INCOME

The median family income in Pace is \$3,490 per year, compared to a national median family income of \$14,094 (1975 Census update). The mean family income in Pace is \$6,004 per year. The huge gap between the mean and median incomes indicates a large number of families at the bottom of the income scale, and a very small percentage of families with a broad range of high salaries at the upper portion of the scale. The mean family size is 3.46 persons. Utilizing the U.S. poverty level index figures, 54.9% of the families in Pace live on incomes at or below poverty level. Of all one and two person families in the black community in Pace (usually elderly), 83% are below the poverty level. In the black community as a whole, 70% exist on poverty level incomes, and 71% have incomes less than \$5,000 per year. Per capita income in Pace is \$1,508.

#### HOUSING

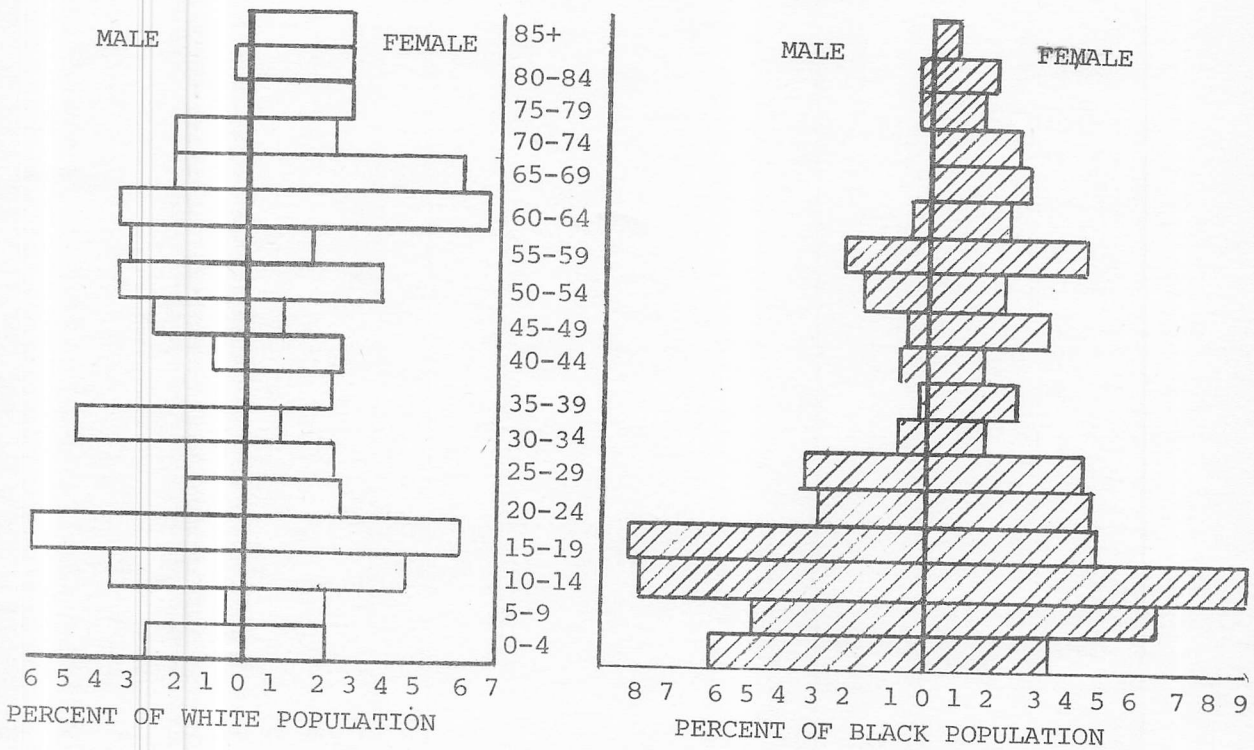
About one half of the 193 homes in Pace have been classified as dilapidated in a survey conducted by the Mississippi Research and Development Center ("dilapidated" means that it would cost more than 50% of the value of the house to repair it). Only 11 units are vacant, 9 of which are scheduled for demolition. 93% of all homes are heated by gas space heaters. 68% of the homes are owner occupied; 11% are owned by relatives or employers of the occupants; the remaining 21% are rented, usually at monthly rates between \$15 and \$35. All homes in the white community are equipped with both hot and cold indoor water and have at least one bathroom. In the non-white community, 15% of the homes have no indoor water at all; 23% have no hot water; and 33% (42 homes) have no indoor bathroom. In the black residential area, 20% of the families with indoor toilets do not have septic tanks, resulting in open sewage ditches standing stagnant with untreated effluent.

#### EDUCATION

There are 37 households in Pace in which at least one adult cannot read or write. The educational level, measured in school years completed, is very low among the elderly in the non-white community. In Stake 3, for example, the least educated neighborhood, the mean school years completed for males 25 years of age and older is 5.57 years; for females, the average is 9.02. In the black community as a whole, females tend to have about twice the formal education of males. The educational level in the white community is somewhat higher - 10.0 years for males and 11.26 for females.

(Survey conducted in October, 1977)

### COMPARISON OF AGE AND SEX PROPORTIONS

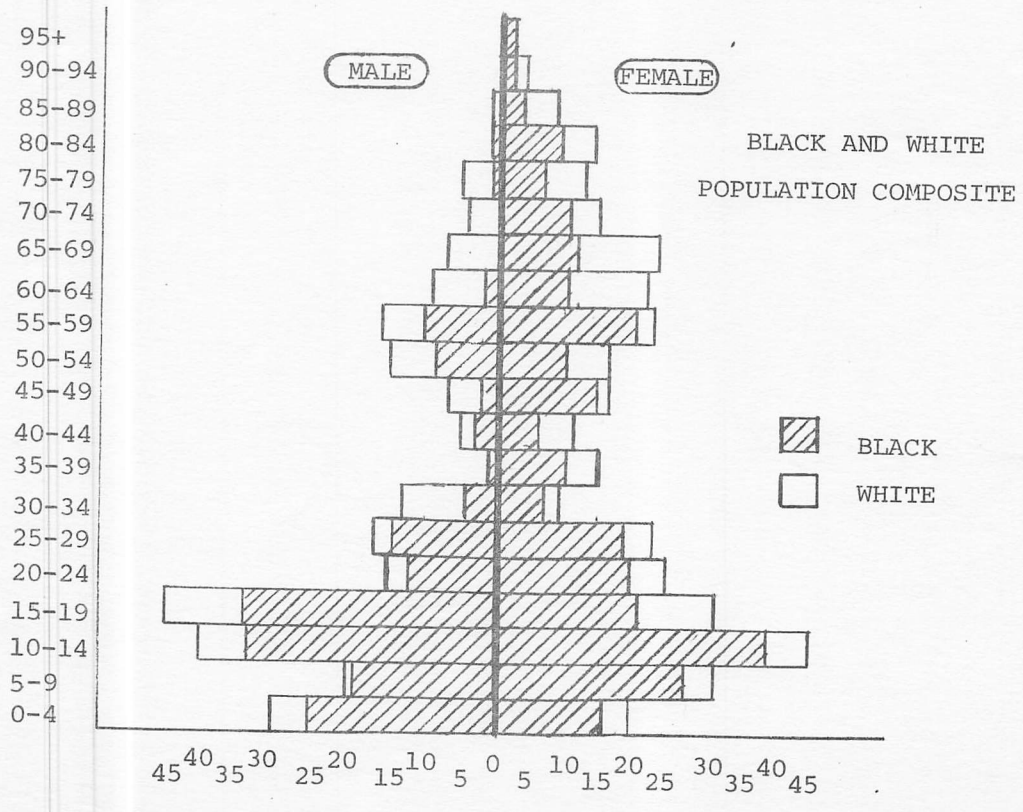
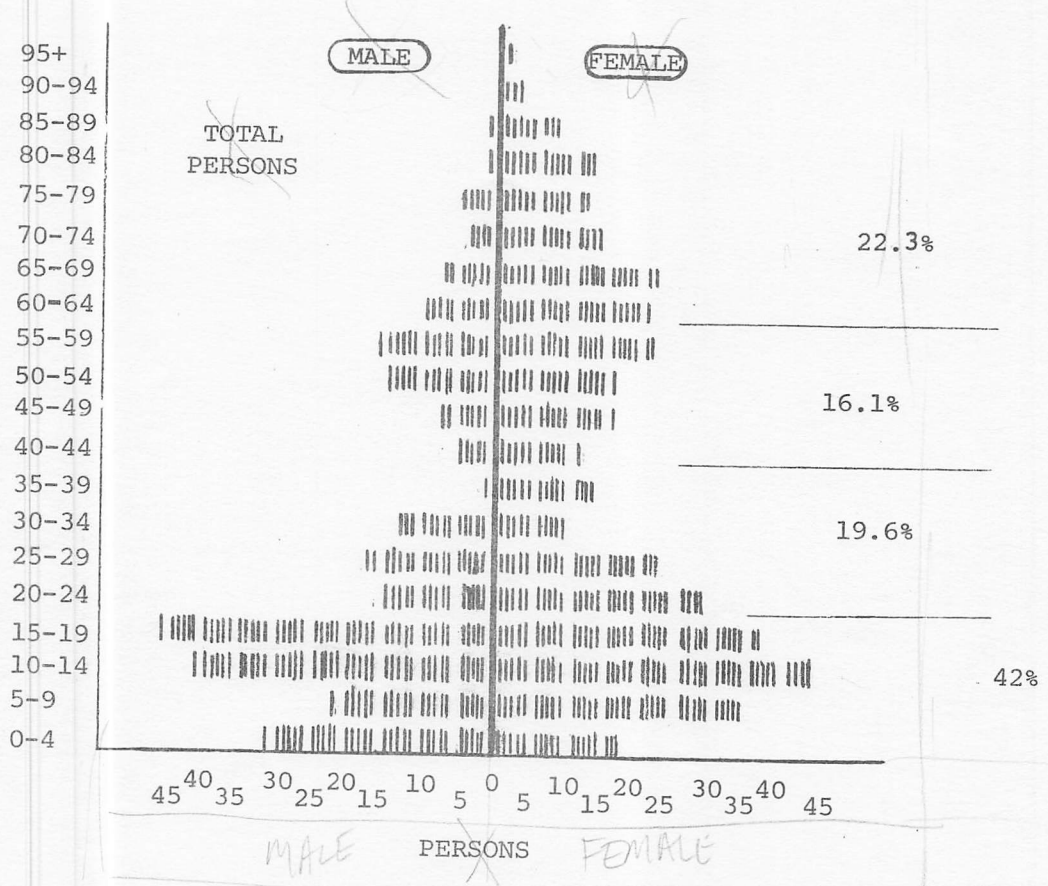


The Age/Sex Distribution is the most dramatic illustration of population trends in small towns in the Delta and throughout the South. A very high proportion of the population is elderly - nearly a fourth of the people in Pace are above sixty years of age. Immediately noticeable is the low percentage of both males and females in the 30 - 50 age category. Normally this group would provide the principal work force for a community. The absence of persons in this range can be attributed to out-migration into urban areas (Bolivar County lost 50,000 people in out migration in the twenty years between 1950 and 1970). The out-migration from Pace is higher among males; there is only one male in Pace between the ages of 35 and 39. Out-migration of males begins at age 18-19, or upon completion or graduation from high school. (Note the dramatic drop between the 15-19 and 20-24 intervals). The absence of adult males is clearer still in the black population graph. In urban areas, the proportion of males is usually greater than that of females.

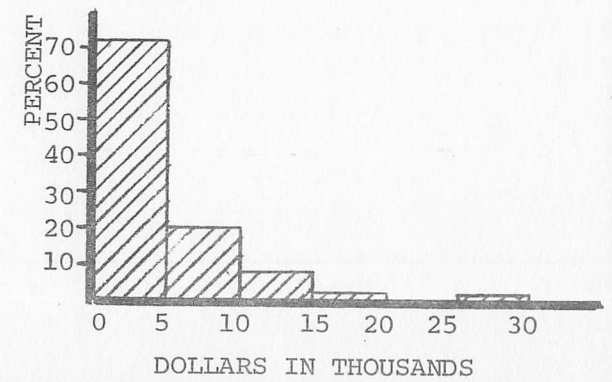
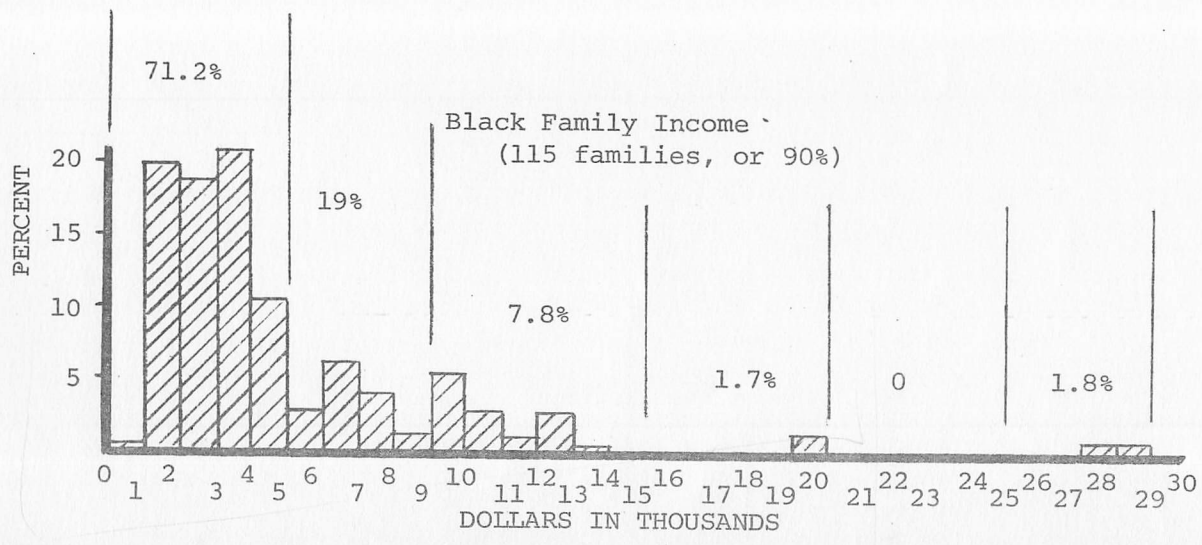
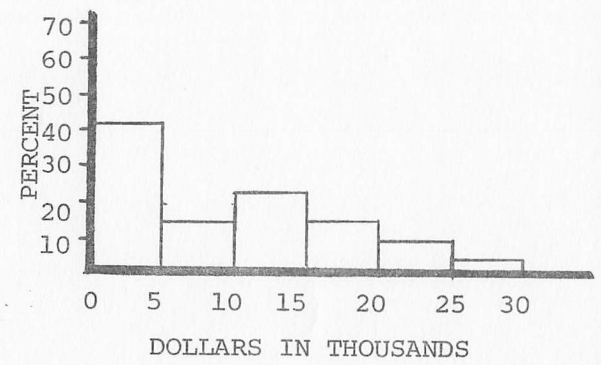
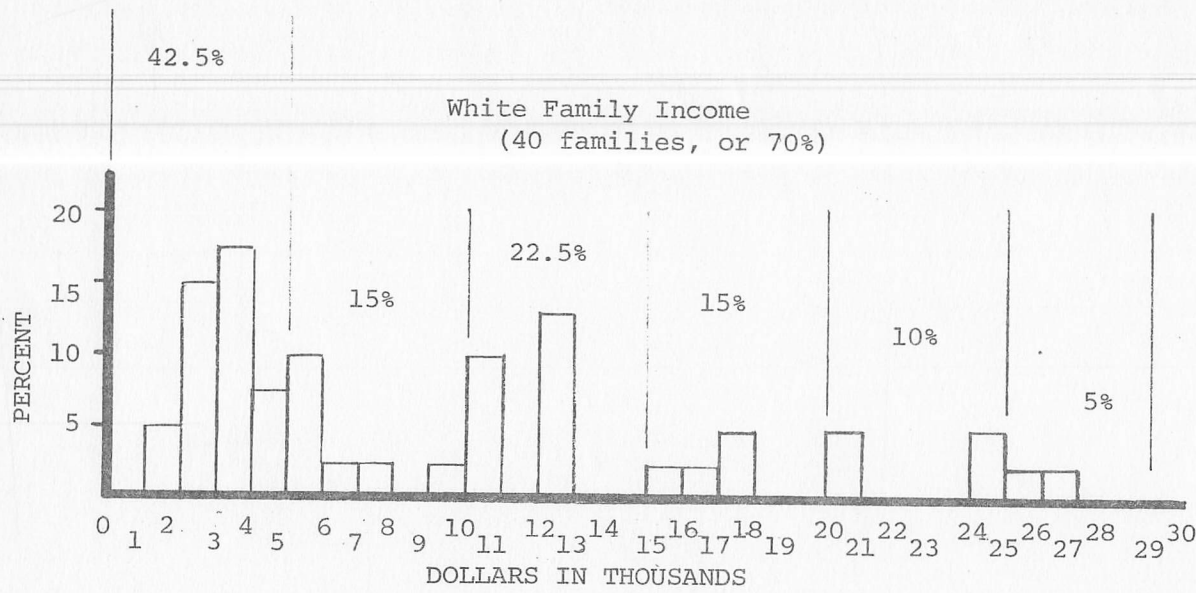
The white population graph indicates a near absence of children and a disproportionate amount of elderly citizens, reflecting an even more dramatic out-migration, percentage-wise, than that indicated in the black community.



AGE AND SEX COMPARISONS



FAMILY INCOME: BLACK AND WHITE COMPARISON



ADULTS NOT WORKING, NOT IN SCHOOL, UNDER AGE 65: Occupation in Last Job

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	BLACK			WHITE			TOTAL
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
self-employed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
professional	0	0	0	3	0	3	3
semi- professional	0	1	1	0	2	2	3
managers, foremen	1	0	1	0	2	2	3
clerical, sales	0	1	1	2	4	6	7
operator, craftsman	1	0	1	1	3	4	5
industrial labor	1	0	1	0	2	2	3
other labor, non-farm	2	7	9	0	1	1	10
agricultural labor	1	11	12	1	0	1	13
no occupation	3	13	16	0	2	2	18
TOTAL	9	33	42	7	16	23	65
PERCENTAGE	13.8	50.8	64.6	10.8	24.6	35.4	100.0

There are 171 adults in Pace who are working. This constitutes 49.7% of all adults. 31% of all adults are retired. 27% of all adults in Pace under 65 and not in school are not working (65 persons).

51% of the non-working persons are black women with little or no work experience. 33% of these women have previously worked only as agricultural laborers. 21% have worked only as domestics, cooks, or babysitters. 39% have never worked at all (13 women).

There are sixteen adult males in Pace who are not working, of whom six are retired before reaching 65. The remaining 10 comprise 7.1% of the adult male population of Pace; 7 of these are black, which is 7.6% of all black males.

54 adults residing in Pace work in Pace proper:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 12 - Pace Headstart Center | 3 - Bolivar County Bus Shop |
| 5 - Pace Elementary School | 1 - The Valley Bank         |
| 9 - Delta Pace Preschool   | 4 - The Town of Pace        |
| 9 - Self-employed          | 11 - Domestics or cooks     |

117 working adults (68.4%) work outside the town limits of Pace.



CITY OF PACE

Hwy 8

Consult  
Center

Bank P.O. Town Hall

Newman  
Building

HDP ICA  
Off. Center

Cotton  
Gin

School

