

Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION, INC.
1225 WACHOVIA BUILDING
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
27101

THOMAS W. LAMBETH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
919 725-7541

November 15, 1978

Mr. Ike G. Powell
Gibson Human Development Project
P. O. Box 307
Gibson, North Carolina 28343

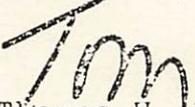
Dear Ike:

I am pleased to inform you that the Trustees of this Foundation, at a meeting held on November 10, 1978, approved a grant in the amount of \$145,300 to the Gibson Human Development Project, as specified in the enclosed statement, a copy of which you are asked to sign and return to me. You are also expected to contact me to arrange for payment of the grant when your need requires it and the conditions have been met.

Our Board hopes that you will publicize this grant in the local press and other media, now or in the future. The enclosed brief history of the Foundation may be helpful in doing this...Please send me a copy of any published items.

Please know that our Trustees are happy to have a part in your important project.

Sincerely,


Thomas W. Lambeth

TWL:mp

Enclosures

Dev

Copies to:

Area Houston

Gibson

Dev. Team

JHC

Bal True

Ann Epps

Gibson file

Public Agencies



COASTAL PLAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION

215 East Bay Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

(803) 724-4250

November 15, 1978

Institute of Cultural Affairs
Social Demonstration Post
4750 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Gentlemen:

We noted with interest the statement in the U. S. Department of Commerce News concerning a grant to you to help provide planning assistance to the town of Gibson in Scotland County, North Carolina.

Will you kindly send us some details of this program and the field visits planned by the consultants to this community.

Please do not hesitate to call if there is any information or assistance we can provide you with.

Sincerely,

O. M. Wellslager, Jr.

Industrial Development Program Director

November 18, 1982
Gibson, NC 28343

Dear Ike and Charlene,

I know by this time you think everyone here has forgotten you folks, but believe me, we have not. It is just that we all stay so busy and so far behind that we can't catch up with everything. I am speaking for myself. I do not know what to start with first. The Nutrition Site is still going strong. They feed about 40 people each day. The fellowship they have means more to them than the food they get to eat. Mr. Harry Salmon from Springfield is the manager.

Since Viola has taken over the ELC, they have the enrollment up to about 21 children.

The housing has finally gotten off to a good start. The construction started about fifteen days ago, and really looks good. As you know there will be thirty units and I have a list of about 75 families wanting one. I think the bitterness in town in regard to them has diminished somewhat.

We finally got our Wastewater Facilities Grant in the amount of \$559,000. It is in the design stage now, and hopefully we will move on to the construction phase by the middle of the summer.

The town also was notified last week that we had been the receiptient of a \$493,500 Community Development Block Grant. This will be spent to rehab houses, tile and drainage. The town had to designate a target area, and we chose the area behind Dan Liles station, from there back to the city limits line. This will start around the first of the year. The Lumber River COG helped us write the application.

I do not know if you knew Naomi Gibson died last April, and Mary Hamrick died in May.

Tom Whitlock is our new town clerk and is doing a great job. Mr. Joy retired.

The school property has been sold to a knitwear firm out of Wilmington and I am not sure what the owner intends to do with it. Rumors have it that there will be a plant there but this I do not know. It looks terrible, most all of the windows are gone out of the buildings. Headstart moved to Laurel Hill just before this school year started because they were not sure what would happen to the property. Parks and Recreation is still using the gym.

The restaruant has been sold to Rev. and Mrs. Loyd King. It is going real good. They have breakfast and lunch every day but Sunday, and they are only open on Friday nights. The cooking is delicious. Gertrude Lewis that use to cook at McCormick's grocery is doing the cooking.

Joanna and Mrs. Hester are doing great. Joanna had a rough time after Naomi passed away, but she adjusted real well. Mrs. Dukes is right feeble.

I hope your children are all doing fine. I guess Joseph is growing up a storm.

Kay Lea and her family are all fine, too. Carolyn and Nelson saty on the go about all the time. I know Nelson misses Tom since he does not farm with him anymore.

Mrs. Lucus is now planning for her Christmas pageant again. She works so hard to pull it together. Last year it rained but she had it any way.

I wish I could remember all the things I should tell you but we live such a fast life my memory is getting short.

Take care, and we wish all the best for you in the coming year.

*Love.
Sadie*

Gibson Remains One Of Powells' Homes

GIBSON - A number of places around the globe can be called "home" by Ike and Charlene Powell of the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

None, however, seems more special than this town,

where they lived for two years, helping spark local citizens to improve their community.

The Powells were part of an ICA team that was invited to Gibson in the summer of 1978

to begin and oversee a community project designed to improve the quality of life with the help of local citizens.

They returned for the first time in three years Wednesday to a homecoming celebra-

tion held at the Firehouse Restaurant, one of the businesses their project helped start.

About 50 local citizens turned out to share good food, entertainment and conversa-

tion with the family that is most closely associated with the changes that occurred in Gibson during and after the ICA project.

The Powells returned to find a town that has benefited from some of the projects and plans masterminded my ICA but also one that has achieved a good bit on its own since the ICA left.

"The town is doing real well," Ike Powell said before taking a first-hand tour of new facilities and businesses that have been founded since he left. "It's exciting to see all of this," he said.

His wife was just enthused. "It's great to be back," she said. "It was so nice when we walked in the door (of the restaurant to find the crowd of well-wishers inside). Gibson has always done things in a special way.

"We're proud of Gibson. It

has done things we never expected." She also said she was glad to hear of progress in the rest of Scotland County, including the building of the new Scotland Memorial Hospital.

The Powells and their son and daughter were welcomed by Viola Benfield. "They said they were proud of Gibson and thrilled to be back," Mrs. Benfield said. "They said that Gibson had done more since

they left than it had ever done while they were here."

Those in attendance were treated to a comedy skit by Mae Jernigan and Glenda Norton of Laurinburg and to organ music by Gretchen Young of Laurinburg.

Several Gibson residents later accompanied the Powells on a tour of the community center, which was unfinished when they left, new businesses and other places in town.

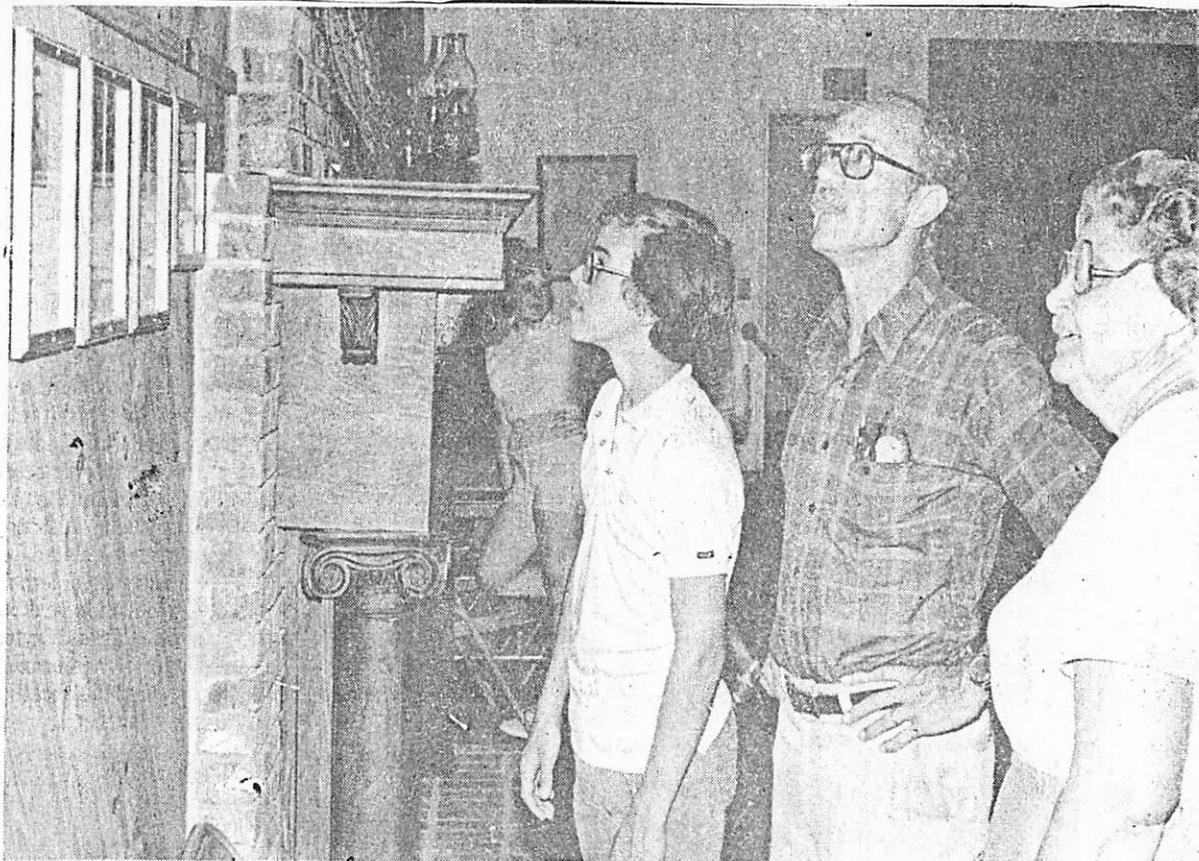
After a couple of hours the family was on its way again to a new home at another ICA project in nearby - Egypt.



Sharing Friendship

Gibson Mayor Sadie Odom (center) was one of the hostesses for a surprise luncheon for Ike and Charlene Powell and family at the Firehouse Restaurant in

Gibson Wednesday. Ike Powell (on Mrs. Odom's immediate left) thanked those in attendance, including organizer Viola Benfield, for the luncheon.



Kay Lea
Mrs. ~~Melvin~~ Foye (right) points
out pictures on the wall of the
renovated community center in
Gibson. Ike Powell and son, John,

look on. The community center, a
former railroad depot, was con-
structed as part of an ICA project.