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Special points of interest:

- Judd Hill Plantation Reunion Story
- Project updates: HPPI and Rural Development
- Donation of Many Voices
- Farewell to Dr. Jane Gates
- Arkansas has a new Scenic Byway
- President names Dr. Glen Jones to head ASU's Diversity Initiatives
- Folklife conference to be held at ASU.

A Message from the Center Peggy R. Wright

As we prepared to do our summer newsletter, a lot of exciting things happened that we wanted to add to this issue so we are a little late.

The center continues in its efforts to promote the region and its people. Our information clearinghouse services usage has increased and from the feedback we got it is a valuable tool to our friends across the region.

Several articles have been written in state and local papers that help share our vision and hopes across the region.

Delta Studies Center and the Delta Center for Economic

Development will be working as agents for ASU in a collaborative project with Southern Development Bankcorporation, Arkadelphia targeting one of our small communities on the lower end of the delta. More information will be forthcoming as we continue plans.

Dr. Clyde Milner, former Professor of History and Executive Editor, Western Historical Quarterly at Utah State University has joined ASU as Director of the Heritage Studies Ph.D. Program. We look forward to working with him. Dr. Brady Banta who served as Interim Director of Heritage Studies and did a great job

has assumed additional duties as Interim Director of the Library.

The Delta Regional Authority received a large number of projects proposals from across the eight-state area for the first batch of federal grant funds appropriated by Congress. The DRA staff will now review and score each project based on set criteria for the DRA members. The project score sheet and score sheet criteria explanations can be viewed on the DRA website www.dra.gov.

A new and challenging year of adventure begins at DSC and we look forward to it.

Congratulations JaJuan Johnson....



May 10, 2002, JaJuan Johnson, Delta Service Corps member and Oral History Interviewer graduated from Arkansas State University with a Degree in Radio/TV.

Upon graduating from the Delta Service Corps in August, Mr. Johnson will be entering the Master's program at Oral Roberts University in

Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Delta Studies Center would like to congratulate Mr. Johnson on his achievements and wish him much luck as he enters the second phase of his academic life.

CONGRATULATIONS

JAJUAN!!!!



Dr. Georgia Hale, Assistant Dean of Student Services for the College of Education at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa

"Delta" African-American Heritage Tourism Planning Forum By Len Watkins

African-Americans are "untapped" people when it comes to promoting tourism, Dr. Georgia Hale of Iowa State University told a tourism planning forum on Thursday, May 23, 2002 at Arkansas State University.

The theme of the forum, sponsored by ASU-Delta Studies Center, was "Travel Dollars for Communities: "Is there a role for African-American Heritage Tourism?"

"The Arkansas Department of Tourism has a budget of \$11 million," Dr. Hale, pointed out. "A lot of that money goes for promotion. So have them help you promote as well."

Dr. Hale, who grew up on the Judd Hill Plantation just outside Trumann spoke on the subject of economic development as it relates to African-American heritage.

Dr. Hale pointed out that it is economic development when people come to a city for reunions and the like. Black people should get with city leaders and tell them how much they bring into the community, and ask them, "What are you doing for us? We're helping the economy, so give us something back."

Charlie Presley, president of the African-American

Travel Conference in Salem, Ohio, spoke on tours. He noted that almost 7 percent of African-Americans took part in group travel last year compared to 3 percent of whites.

"African-Americans spend high amounts of money on tourism," Presley noted. He said 500 travel planners bought "\$37 million worth of travel" every year during a two-month period.

Angela da Silva, keynote speaker at the forum luncheon and president of the National Black Tourism Network, gave a brief history of African-Americans during and after the Civil War. Mrs. da Silva pointed out that she is often asked to verify things about black people.

Other forum speakers included Mrs. Mattie Wortham of Trumann, president of the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund; Mrs. Robbie Lyle, project director of the African-American Cultural Center in Jonesboro; Scott Harrison, project director of Birthright "House" Museum in Clarkton, Missouri; Kathe Hambrick, director of the River Road African-American Museum in Gonzales, Louisiana, and

Les Range of Pro-Mark, Inc of Jackson, Mississippi.

Range spoke on tourism strategy. He pointed out that tourism can be used as job-training outlets for local communities. He stated that tourism groups can get help from the federal government.

Mrs. Wortham explained that the scholarship committee was established in 1995 with six members. They were concerned about the community and the youth in Trumann, she said.

"Our dropout rate for our youth was very high on the high school level," she explained. "Our community as far as our youth, had a very high crime rate." The group discusses ways to keep you in school, and this gave rise to the scholarship, she said."

Mrs. Wortham noted that the black community in Truman had one thing in common "We all came from a plantation just outside of Trumann." The scholarship was named in honor of their parents, grandparents, and descendents of Judd Hill, she said. The first scholarship was awarded in 1996 to a descendent of a Judd Hill resident.

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"Black people should get with city leaders and tell them how much they bring into the community, and ask them, What are you doing for us? We're helping the economy, so give us something back."



Angela da Silva, Heritage Tourism Specialist and owner of the National Black Tourism Network

"Delta" African-American Heritage Tourism Planning Forum Continued.....

The group has strong support from ASU's Delta Studies Center from the beginning, Mrs. Wortham noted. The Judd Hill Reunion was born out of such discussions, she noted.

Mrs. Lyle explained that there "is a great resistance" to African-American history and African-American achievement. She said to get the young people interested in black history, the museum began highlighting local black people and their achievements.

Mrs. Lyle said the black youth did not want to hear about "slavery and how black youths walked four miles to school and church....That ain't gonna happen to me."

She said the county library in downtown Jonesboro displayed no pictures of African-Americans in the city during its early years. In 1996, the Jonesboro public

schools gave the group space in the Adult Education Center, she said. There are now exhibits of black people.

African-Americans "practically ran the city in the early days," Mrs. Lyle explained, but there were no pictures of blacks displayed.

Harrison spoke of the Charles and Betty Birthright Cultural Center. Both former slaves, the Birthrights spent their entire lives in pursuit of providing education for young people in their community and, "at their death," also to the education of black men in the form of administrative work with their donation of their entire property to Stillman University in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The Birthrights' home was acquired through a revolving loan through the Department of Historic Preser-

vation in Missouri. Harrison said it "was a daunting task" for their organization, and the group had to overcome "bias and/or economic or geographic limitations" in Missouri.

The group is in the process of getting the Birthright's home ready for tourism, he said.

Calling herself "the only African-American to talk their way back to a plantation," Mrs. Hambrick said people, "especially African-Americans," become "very uncomfortable" when she makes that statement.

She said the museum has been involved in research where the museum has an exhibit on the rural roots of slavery and the Louisiana Delta.

The Forum was attended by over 80 people from across the region.



Wilbur Hawkins, former Executive Director of the LMDCC



Kathe Hambrick, founder and Museum Director of the River Road African American Museum & Gallery



"Delta" African-American Heritage Tourism Planning Forum Participants



[L to R] Scott Harrison, Mattie Wortham, Robbie Lyle, Dr. Georgia Hale, Peggy R. Wright, and Charlie Presley

2002 Judd Hill Reunion "Together Again" By: JaJuan Johnson



Judd Hill Cemetery Dedication



Tulot Cemetery Dedication

The Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship committee in conjunction with the ASU-Delta Studies Center held the 2nd Judd Hill Reunion May 24-27, 2002 in Truman, Arkansas. Over 150 former plantation residents and their descendants traveled from many areas in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Ohio, Nebraska, California, Missouri, and many other places to celebrate the past and present.

This year's reunion consisted of 3 main events; the day-of-fun, the formal banquet, and the cemetery dedication. The day-of-fun was a time of



Judd Hill descendants back on the plantation their families farmed

fellowship for former residents. The day was filled with many activities: games, lots of laughing and hugging, and good food.

The formal banquet was the highlight of Saturday's events. During this event

many former residents discussed the lessons they learned while living on the plantation and how their experiences made them successful. Each speaker placed special emphasis on encouraging the youth to excel. The cemetery dedication day was a time for former residents to remember those who laid the foundation of their history. This was not just a day of mourning but a time to celebrate the legacy each deceased person left behind.

HPPI Project Update By: Jacquelyn Gilbert

The Delta C.L.A.S.S. HPPI program is going strong this spring and summer of 2002. We have been able to have guest speakers at our Health Camps this year who were not only famous but profound in stressing taking math and science courses. Dr. Debbye Turner presented at the March 1, 2002 health camp with 75 students in attendance. Dr. Bob Burns from UAMS presented at the March 8, 2002 health camp. The emphasis on our Delta to health programming has



Osceola Junior and Senior High School Students

been to introduce students in the students becoming viable candidates for a health profession. Osceola Junior and Senior High school students actively participated again this year in service learning

opportunities at Baptist Osceola under the supervision of Adrienne Rhodes, RN Education Coordinator. These students were able to accumulate at least 50 hours of learning opportunities in the hospital setting, become CPR certified, and learn about infection control. Exposures this year have been plentiful with a trip to Libertyland in Memphis, TN.

"The emphasis on our programming has been to introduce students in the Delta to health professions and assist in students becoming viable candidates for a health profession"

Rural Development Project Update

The Rural Development Program for Eastern Arkansas under the management of the Delta Studies Center has made a highly successful rural development thrust in eastern Arkansas. The program is a vehicle that provides better utilization of existing state and federal programs in accelerating conservation of our natural resources and the development of essential infrastructure in the East Arkansas Delta.

Major sponsors of the program are USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE); Arkansas State University (ASU); the East Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council; and Congressman Marion Berry.

Project Development has been the focus in meeting the Economic Development and

Natural Resource needs. Since the program was setup, in April 1998, many of the successes have been due to the establishment of this position. To date they include:

- A pool of 42 projects and/or identified; at an estimated of over \$1.1 Billion;
- \$1.3 Million in Grant funds have been received for eleven delta projects;
- Forty-two projects are presently being looked at for implementation that could bring an estimated \$5 million to ASU.
- Twenty Project Steering Committees have been setup and now meet regularly;

I, along with Dr. Tina G. Teague, co-coordinated the fourth Annual Arkansas Soil and Water Education Conference held on ASU Cam-

pus. This is a fast growing statewide conference that provides a timely informational forum on critical soil and water issues.

A USDA grant for ASU Agriculture Department with Colorado State University to monitor nitrate leaching below the root-zone in the Mississippi River Delta Region. The name of the Grant is Nitrate Leaching and Economic Analysis Package (NLEAP).

The most critical issue facing eastern Arkansas in the 21st Century is depletion of groundwater. Based on information from State and Federal Agencies over a million acres of agriculture land, West of Crowley's Ridge, will soon be a critical groundwater depletion problem that threatens Municipalities and agricultural production of some of the richest farmland in the world.

"The program is a vehicle that provides better utilization of existing state and federal programs...."

Delta Events

Arkansas Economic Developers 2002 Annual Conference

August 18-21, 2002

Doubletree Hotel
Little Rock, Arkansas

For more information on 2002 AED annual conference, call AED Vice President Jim Sharkey at (501) 833-5555 or Susie Marks at (501) 377-6016

25th Annual Mississippi Delta Blues Heritage Festival

September 21, 2002

Hwy 1 S at Route 454
Greenville, MS

National Preservation Conference

Cleveland, Ohio

October 8, 13, 2002

For more information check out their conference website:
www.nthpconference.org

17th Annual King Biscuit Blues Festival

October 10-12, 2002

Helena, Arkansas

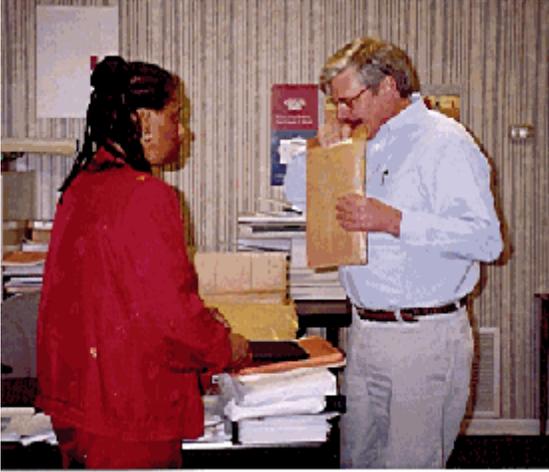
For more information email:
kbbf@ipa.net

Building Communities Changing Lives NRHC Conference 2002

December 5-7, 2002

Hyatt Regency Washington, DC on Capital Hill
(202) 842-8600 ext: 108
2002conference@ruralhome.org

Many Voices give to Delta Studies. . . .



[L. to R.] Peggy R. Wright and Earl Anthes

Earl Anthes of Forrest City recently donated a set of the original copies of "Many Voices," a bi-weekly newspaper serving the Arkansas Delta during

the early 70's and other documents related to the publication to the Delta Studies Center. Mr. Anthes was Editor of the newspaper published by RESPECT. INC.,

West Memphis, Arkansas. African-American Cultural Heritage Tourism is a growing field of economic development and the identification and commemoration of sites of civil rights change is a growing facet of this field. "Many Voices" as a collective entity is one of the few vehicles that chronicled the sites, voices, and events in the Arkansas Delta.

The collection shall be preserved, administered, and used by the Archives and Special Collections, Dean B. Ellis Library for histori-

cal, educational, and scholarly research and be available in 2003.

Peggy R. Wright of the Delta Studies Center and a lifelong resident of the delta region said that "Many Voices for many of the communities in the delta was the only paper that told of events traditionally not covered in the other papers at that time. They are a valuable asset and we are appreciative to Mr. Anthes for donating them to us."

"Many Voices" for many of the communities in the delta was the only paper that told of events traditionally not covered in the other papers at that time."

Dr. Jane Gates New Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences for Savannah State



Dr. Jane M. Gates, Chair of the Political Science Department at ASU has been appointed the Dean of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at

Savannah State University. A member of the ASU family since 1974, Dr. Gates will truly be missed by all of us here at ASU.

She has served as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as a member of the Delta Studies Center Advisory Board and founder/Director of the

MAMP (Mid-South Alliance for Minority Participation) Program.

We wish her well as she begins her new voyage at Savannah State University.



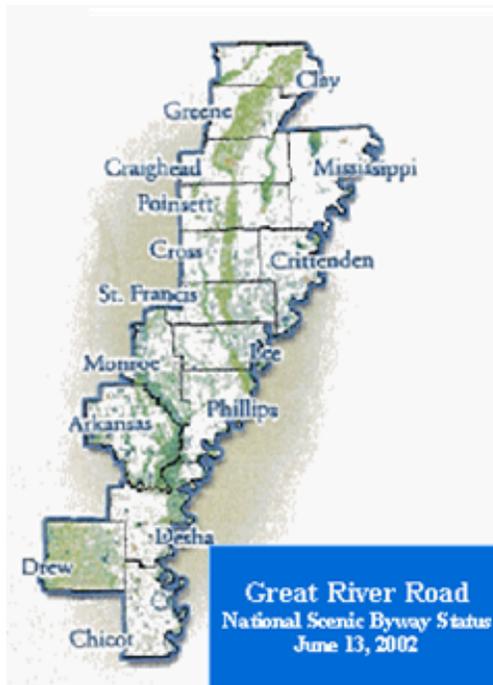
Great River Road Designated as a National Scenic Byway

After two years of working involving nearly 200 volunteers, the Great River Road in Arkansas has been declared a National Scenic Byway by U.S. secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta.

This route through 10 counties in Eastern Arkansas is part of a ten-state route, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, along both sides of the Mississippi

River. Arkansas joins Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and part of Missouri in achieving this national recognition of their segments of the route.

A three-day Great River Road Celebration Tour to ten counties and 19 towns in Eastern Arkansas was completed July 8-18, 2002.



Ceremonies were held along the way at Blytheville, Osceola, Mississippi County; Marion and West Memphis, Crittenden County; Hughes and Forrest City, St. Francis County; Brinkley, Monroe County; Marianna, Lee County; Helena, Phillips County; St. Charles, Stuttgart and DeWitt, Arkansas

County; Dumas, Arkansas City and McGhee, Desha County; Monticello, Drew County; and Lake Village and Eudora, Chicot County.

In addition to local dignitaries, ceremonies included members of the Arkansas Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC), the organization responsible for the route; Arkansas Delta Byways, the 15-county regional tourism promotion association, for Eastern Arkansas, and officials from Arkansas

Highway and Transportation Department, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and Arkansas State University.

The Great River Road will be a major economic catalyst for many communities.

"Arkansas joins Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and part of Missouri in achieving this national recognition."

Diversity Initiative Assistant Named...

Glendell Jones Jr., has been appointed as the Assistant to the President for Diversity Initiatives. His office is located in the President's Office and he may be reached at 972-3030.

Folklife Conference at ASU

"Toward an Arkansas Folklife Program," is the focus of a one day conference on September 20, 2002; at the ASU Carl R. Reng Center. Sponsored by: Heritage Studies Ph.D. Program, Delta Studies Center, and "Arkansas Review" it is funded, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information contact Dr. William Clements (870) 972-3043.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CLT.ASTATE.EDU/DSC

