

FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE TO THE NEGRO SURVEY

1954

SUPPLEMENT REPORT

- I. The Committee in its Annual Meeting held August 2, 1954 again reported encouraging progress made on problems affecting Negroes in Greenville during the past year.
- II. GREENVILLE'S BIG IDEA --- a fact-finding project---continues to make known to the public through the Committee and the Community Council of Greater Greenville not only what progress has been made, but it also attempts to point up unmet needs, to learn what gaps exist in services, and to seek ways to alleviate untoward situations.
- III. Additional improvements and developments in Greenville have been in evidence since the BIG IDEA began. It has received national prominence because of its growth and work carried on without fanfare. Greenville citizens are working together for all the community's people and their welfare.
- IV. Mrs. C. C. Withington, Chairman of the original Self-Survey in 1949 stated it well at the August 2nd meeting as follows:
- "What we have done in Greenville in four years is one of the most amazing things that has been accomplished anywhere in the South. From the start of the Self-Survey, it has been a case of members of both races changing attitudes."
- "We had never thought about an interracial group getting together to talk about our problems. We have made great strides without unpleasantness and without force."
- "Greenville deserves a lot of credit. The Negro leadership is exceptional."
- V. The following were mentioned as developments during the past year:
1. The Fourth Annual Human Growth and Development Institute held in Sept. 1953 was interracial.
 2. Donald J. Sampson was elected vice-chairman of the Recreation-Education Division of the Community Council.
 3. Miss Ella Beck represents Sterling High School on the Greenville Community Youth Commission. (Two adult Negro leaders also serve in this group.)
 4. The Social Workers Luncheon Club which meets monthly is interracial.
 5. The Green Forrest Municipal Park is well-staffed, has a good swimming pool, a fine crafts program, recreation building, and cookouts.
 6. Improvements have been made at Happy Hearts Park.
 7. A Negro Farm Bureau was organized.
 8. Division X, one of the solicitation groups in the 1953 Community Chest Drive made an excellent record by going over the top with the money received thru Chest pledges.
 9. There has been some improvements in housing in some places.
 10. Negro women and babies are to be cared for at the new Maternity Shelter.
- VI. The Council continues to show its interest in keeping the records currently up to date on all community improvements and developments which take place in health, recreation, education, and general welfare fields.
- VII. If the items listed above are not complete, please call the Community Council Office. Your cooperation in keeping the list correct will be appreciated.
- VIII. Attendance:
- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Bagwell, Mrs. S. G. | Hersey, Jane | Sampson, Donald J. |
| Birnie, Henry L. | Hollis, L. P. | Staggs, Mrs. Olive |
| Gambrell, J. W. | Moore, Marshall | Tolbert, M. R. |
| Gambrell, Magnolia | Perry, J. Carlton | Withington, Mrs. C. C. |
| Glenn, William | Pickens, F. C. | Zimmerman, S. I. |
| Davis, Miss Peggy | Remick, Thomas | Betros, Louis J. |
| Dysart, Mrs. J. O. | Rowland, Gil | |

For Aiding Negroes

Progress Of Self Survey In City Said Encouraging

By GIL ROWLAND

Encouraging progress was made on problems affecting Negroes in Greenville during the past year, it was pointed out last night at a meeting of the follow-up committee of Greenville's Self Survey.

The 21 persons present agreed to meet again in the fall to discuss an agenda to include such questions as:

Do we need a new self survey in the light of the Supreme Court school ruling?

Should a study be made of Negro home ownership?

DEVELOPMENTS LISTED

Should a committee be appointed to investigate the possibility of a Negro golf course?

The following were mentioned as encouraging developments during the past year:

1. The Human Growth and Development Institute was interracial.

2. Donald James Sampson was elected vice president of the Recreation-Education Division of the Community Council.

3. Miss Ella Beck represents Sterling High School on the Greenville Youth Commission.

4. The Social Workers Luncheon Club is interracial.

5. The Municipal Park at Greenacre is well staffed, has a good swimming pool, a crafts program, recreation building and cookouts. (Someone asked when it would be possible to put the road in and build tennis courts).

6. Improvements have been made at Happy Hearts Park.

7. A Negro Farm Bureau was organized.

8. Division 10 made an excellent record in the Community Chest drive.

9. There has been improvement in housing in some places. (Much improvement is needed in other places, it was stated).

10. Negro women are cared for at the Maternity Shelter.

Other encouraging signs were not mentioned because of lack of time, it was explained.

Mrs. C. C. Withington, who served as chairman of the original Self Survey in 1949, lauded the progress that has been made.

PROGRESS AMAZING

"What we have done in Greenville in four years is one of the most amazing things that has been accomplished anywhere in the South," she said. "From the start of the self survey it has been a case of members of both races changing attitudes.

"We had never thought about an interracial group getting together to talk about our problems. We have made great strides without unpleasantness and without force.

"Greenville deserves a lot of credit. The Negro leadership here is exceptional."

On the negative side, much time was devoted to Pleasant Ridge State Park and the recent drowning of three boys.

Details were given of the inaction, difficulties, and great amount of time devoted to the partly-finished park off Highway 11 in upper Greenville County.

The possibility of closing the park until it is completed and has lifeguards and other facilities was suggested.

The possibility of "making some other park around here available to Negroes" was also mentioned.

Dr. L. P. Hollis, chairman, who presided over the meeting, said he has been "terribly disappointed" at the slow pace of development at Pleasant Ridge Park.

The need to make more "cultural recreation" available was discussed.

Dr. Hollis said the purpose of the committee was "to see what can be accomplished by pulling together."