

garages, both above and below ground. In some instances, center structures will be built on stilts so cars can go underneath, out of the way and out of the weather. Computers will be used to control parking. As each car comes into the center it will be directed to a vacant space by signs and flashing arrows. When the car leaves, the computer will again direct the way to the preferred exit, or detour the car if these exits are overloaded.

For some of us the future is the present. For example: A two-level mall is in use in the Washington, D.C., area. A shopping center has been built on stilts in Belgium; carpeted malls replace terrazzo floors. An instant stage is enabling a South Florida center to put on numerous small-scale attractions; art exhibits of local talent are being held. In Alexandria, Va., a center has a 20,000-square-foot ministry which provides hourly child care, counseling, worship, theater-in-the-round, and consumer education.

Our Cultural Needs, to Add Zest to Life

DAVID E. LINDSTROM

PROSPECTS for as many as 25 million more families in the United States by the year 2000 are real and disturbing.

Disturbing because the children and youth of today will be the parents in 10 to 30 years. Where and how will they live?

With the core of the cities already painfully overcrowded, the fastest growing section of the population is the suburbs—which cannot keep up with demands for cultural facilities.

Prospects of a rise in the population

to over 300 million at the turn of the century are the most disturbing when you consider that all cultural facilities will need expansion, especially in rural areas.

We know that with adequate planning and execution, rural America can become the more desired place in which to live and rear a family. Many attractions denied city dwellers can now be found there, and rural people can avail themselves of modern cultural facilities once limited to city dwellers. This is possible with modern roads, modern modes of travel, and modern forms of mass media.

The fact that 40 percent of the Nation's poor live in rural areas only aggravates the situation. People have continued to move to the cities and the suburbs where they hope to find better opportunities for making a living. Many of those banking on this hope move back home again.

For example, one of the surprising facts revealed in discussions at the Appalachia Conference on Research in Poverty and Development held at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va., in July of 1968 was that 60 percent of those having moved to the city came back to their home communities.

As population surges upward in the next 30 years, rural areas must be prepared to adjust to the inevitable ruralward flight of frustrated people.

Not the least important of efforts to make adjustments are those relating to cultural facilities like schools, churches, libraries, arts, crafts, and similar facilities. These are the cultural forms that help make the countryside a more attractive and desirable place to live.

This type of effort is already well started in many country and small town areas under the impetus of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the State Cooperative Extension Services, and other community development movements.

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Looking over books in library at Morgantown, Ky., that doubles as a community center.

The period of the Seventies and the decades that follow therefore will see the necessity for bridging the gap between technological developments and their effect on man.

Researchers stress the importance of looking at man's place in the total environment that will provide not only productive human beings but also a desirable quality of life over a certain span of years. One of the proposed lines of investigation is to "Identify people's beliefs, values, and attitudes concerning the natural environment as it relates to the home, neighborhood, and city," as a basis for developing educational and action programs that will attack poverty of land, man, mind, and spirit.

Cultural forms develop in any civilization because they are ways in which living together becomes more worthwhile, interesting, and enjoyable. They are a means of personal growth and fulfillment and serve to dispel loneliness and despair.

Cultural facilities arise from the needs and desires of people. As time

goes on, both private and State interests become involved. When people find it difficult to adequately meet their cultural needs, they may turn to government. It is best when the initiative comes from the people with the full participation of the people, their leaders and groups.

Growth and development must then inevitably take place. Farmers of the Nation, for example, have made extensive use of government services and facilities. At first these were limited largely to facilities that have to do with earning a living by increasing productivity on the farm and in the home. More recently they have been broadened to facilitate enrichment of life in the home and community.

The church, as one of these facilities, has often been the center holding the people together. It has given the majority of the rural people of the Nation hope, faith in the future, and a sense of security in a world of strife and uncertainty.

For many, the church still is the center where people gain a sense of togetherness. You have doubtless heard that the church is fading away in a culture of technology and a loosening of ties. Often this has been the case, but the church nevertheless remains a strong and basic voluntary force.

There have been ups and downs. A Missouri study by Hassinger and Holik, on the membership changes from 1952 to 1967 in various types of churches in places under 2,500 population, shows there was relatively little change. Losses were largest in the well established churches, where there was a 7.4 percent membership drop. Gains (4.9 percent) were in the most rapidly changing sect-type churches. Ability of these churches to maintain their groups intact was remarkable, according to the authors.

Churches in the best agricultural areas, especially the smaller churches lacking adequately trained leaders, can no longer provide the religious nurture required by an increasingly complex technical society. Fewer and

larger farms and smaller families on the land also have had their effect.

A significant move, taking place all over rural America, is the holding of interdenominational conferences and training schools to provide better trained pastors who can serve more effectively in a rural culture. Colleges of agriculture and their extension services have been called on to help plan and hold many of those types of meetings.

One purpose of these pastor-lay training schools is to orient young pastors, many from cities, to work and live in rural areas and to help these pastors understand the unique problems of farmers.

Training schools on such cooperative bases are numerous all over the countryside.

The future of the rural church lies in change—in programs emanating from the church and carried out in the life of the community, enlisting young people in the programs. The enlivened churches are becoming more concerned with conflict, tension, poverty, racism, and many other problems besetting people as they face into the seventies: problems of relevance to today's world.

This has given impetus to ecumenism—the coming together of denominations and to what is termed church renewal.

Among the numerous facilities enriching rural life, none seems more on the move than the library. The time is coming, perhaps in the decade of the seventies, when we can say, "None of the people in rural areas are without library service." The goal, widely accepted by librarians, is to provide library service for every citizen and child, no matter where they live.

This goal is being attained more rapidly in the inner city than in rural areas. Even in so rich a State as Illinois as late as 1963, over 21 percent of the people—mostly rural—had no access to public library service. The situation is more acute in depressed areas.

Librarians over the Nation can tell you the answer is Library Systems

Development. This plan is being carried out in a dozen States spread over the Nation. The basic unit is the community library, with its facilities reaching out to the remotest parts and the basic service linked to county, regional, State, and national libraries.

National libraries—the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and USDA's National Agricultural Library—cooperate with the systems libraries. Grants from the Federal Government for development are quite usual.

Through this linkage system reference materials, good books, pamphlets and periodicals, government documents, and other library services once limited to the city dweller can be made available through inter-library loans, facsimile transmission, and other modern means of communication.

Bookmobiles are out in the country reaching villages on back roads, in the hills and the hollows and on the plains. No one will be missed.

Good librarianship is part of the plan. Both professionals and volunteer workers are being trained so they can study community needs, give guidance in selection of materials, and help groups plan programs to meet needs and problems.

Library facilities, under the systems plan, can enhance the services of the agricultural and home economics extension services. Library resources of schools can be supplemented by putting much used public library resources on reserve. Adult educational facilities—visual and audio—can be furnished to planning councils and local government bodies. Group and community meeting places are now available in many libraries.

The systems library is a tremendous future development, filling the gaps now left vacant. Its development will doubtless extend well into the seventies, providing an important part in cultural advance.

Art forms of a culture may characterize its quality. Rural areas have always been a birthplace of many cultural facilities: folk music, drama,

crafts, literature, and all those fine things of esthetic creation that help make life joyous and worth living.

Rural cultural arts have taken many forms: town and country art shows, celebrations of historic significance, family reunions, gatherings related to the growing of specialized crops, music, drama, and dance festivals. Together they give zest to life in the country. My first agricultural extension activities related partly to promoting farm people's music and drama tournaments in Wisconsin and Illinois.

The Nebraska State Arts Council provided help in 1970 with music, exhibitions, special events, opera, and dance to 150 participating communities. Illinois has its annual Town and Country Art Show. The Wisconsin University Extension Office of Community Arts Development reports that 600 arts councils have been organized throughout the country. This type of activity will doubtless spread.

Many schools have included music, art and drama in their curricula. County and State fairs have exhibits of farm, home, and community arts which delight the eye and create a friendly atmosphere of competition.

The revival of crafts has not been restricted to areas of economic distress or as a means for increasing incomes. Crafts, rather, have been a significant way to satisfy esthetic yearnings, as well as to increase income. Some of the major forms have been textiles, woodworking, ceramics, basketry, landscaping, and many other forms of creative endeavor and of making home and landscape more beautiful.

An example in the landscape field is a county 4-H project to beautify grounds for a new hospital in Douglas County, Ill. Initiated by the county 4-H Federation, what the young people considered a huge project was launched—taking 4 months for planning and marshalling human and natural resources. The actual job of planting was finished within 4 hours. A \$2,000 project actually cost little because human and material resources were practically all contributed.

Involved were the 4-H leaders and members, Extension advisers, the Extension landscape specialist from the university, and hearty approval and help of the hospital administration, along with contributions of materials and supervision by representatives of area nurseries. Four-H'ers did much of the work—300 of them from 33 clubs in the county, all of whom can look back on this professional job and say proudly, "I helped!"

The Outdoors: Recreation and Responsibility

R. M. HOUSLEY, JR.

IF YOU are like many Americans today, you expect more from your outdoor recreation than just a change of scene and activity. You want to learn from your experience as well.

In fact, more and more outdoor recreation visitors are convinced they have a personal responsibility to understand their recreation environment. This understanding can enable them to use that environment without destroying it, while providing the basis for the individual to relate to his own environment, whether at work or play.

How well we learn these lessons in ecology will determine what kind of outdoor recreational opportunities Americans will have by the turn of the century.

Whether outdoor recreation takes place in a city park or a National Forest, the first step in studying the environment is to read about it.

Books from your local library and publications from Government sources