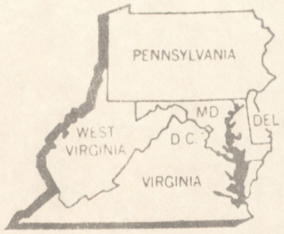
Flood Recovery Task Force - Biloxi, 1972-1975

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Office Of Emergency Preparedness
REGION 3
DISASTER CENTER
WILKES-BARRE, PA. 18702



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Sincerely,

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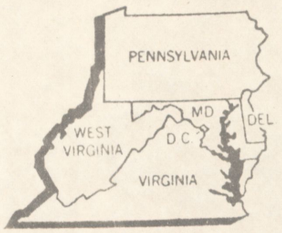

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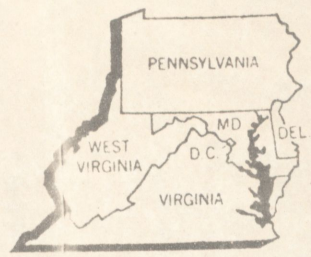

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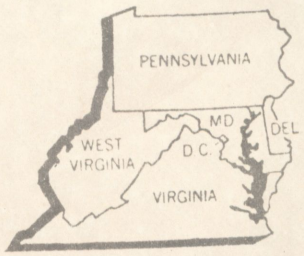

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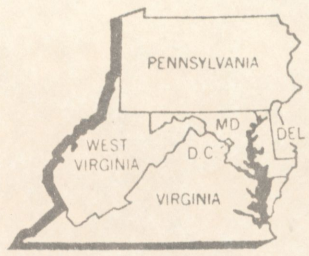

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Summary of how local citizens who visited Biloxi early in October think flood-stricken Wyoming Valley can profit from the Biloxi-Gulfport region's experience in the wake of Hurricane Camille

The trip to the Biloxi-Gulfport region of Mississippi, struck by Hurricane Camille in 1968, made by a group of local citizens early in October has proven to be of value not only to Wyoming Valley, but also to the federal Office of Emergency Preparedness. Referring to discussions held in Biloxi between victims of Hurricane Camille and victims of Hurricane Agnes, G. A. Lincoln, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, said in a letter to Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc., "These meetings have provided us with valuable information for the Disaster Study now under way." Mr. Lincoln also told Judge Rosenn that "the spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation evidenced by the Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi Sister City program and the zeal and determination of the people of the Wyoming Valley in rebuilding 'better than ever' serve as an inspiration to communities across the Nation."

With a view to making it possible for Wyoming Valley to achieve the maximum benefit from the Biloxi-Gulfport region's experience in the wake of Hurricane Camille, Judge Rosenn asked each member of the group that visited the coastal region how he thought this area can profit from it. The responses he received touched mainly on the subjects of redevelopment, business recovery, and labor problems.

Comments on redevelopment included the following cautions: strong efforts should be made to "nail down" funds needed to implement redevelopment projects before national attention is diverted from Wyoming Valley to another disaster area; recovery leadership must come, not from the federal government, but from an effective working partnership between local governments and business and labor; care should be taken to avoid assuming that a post-disaster boom in residential building will be accompanied by an unusual demand for industrial and commercial construction.

Retailers who spoke with Gulf region counterparts said that, on the one hand, there was apparently no need to anticipate credit problems with flood victims, but on the other hand, extreme caution should be exercised in extending credit to transient workers. They also said that, judging by Biloxi's experience, Valley merchants can expect exceptionally good sales for a period of six to eighteen months and should include luxury items in their stocks, especially in the home-furnishings field. They added, however, that Biloxi merchants had warned them that a continuation of the initial post-disaster business boom will depend on the success of efforts to improve parking facilities and traffic flow.

Labor oriented Valley visitors to Biloxi saw a need for care, lest a disaster-inflated labor wage scale lead to inflation and eventual recession. One visitor urged efforts to secure federal legislation that would freeze both wages and prices in the wake of a disaster. Like Wyoming Valley, the Gulf Region suffered a drain-off of labor to high paying disaster-spawned jobs, but its labor situation, Valley visitors learned, returned to near normal within six months.

The "intangibles" of Biloxi's experience were stressed. Optimism, unity bred of common effort, and eagerness to end dependency on outside agencies as quickly as possible, it was apparent, contributed heavily to the recovery Mississippians have made in the three years since Camiile struck. Their spirit and determination to come all the way back were a source of inspiration and hope to the group of people who had experienced disaster only two months earlier.

Some of those who commented on the Biloxi trip pointed out that Camille's victims had important advantages over Agnes's: for one thing, their climate made it possible to do the work of rebuilding on a year round basis; for another, most businesses and homes were covered by wind insurance to the extent of 70%; for still another, most of the affected region had the benefit of a strong, adequately staffed, and well-financed county government.

Assessing the experience of victims of both hurricanes, during the emergency period immediately after the storm, Wyoming Valleyites issued the following advice to victims of future disasters and to the government agencies who come to their assistance: think twice about taking the mobile home approach to emergency shelter - the money and effort expended in a mobile home program might better be spent in making speedy repairs to homes; be careful to scotch confusing rumors quickly, and make every effort to alleviate the distress of uncertainty among disaster victims by getting all available facts on recovery developments to them as speedily as possible.

Further words of caution concerned the psychological problem created by a post-disaster rise in income for some people that cannot be maintained: counselling on wise budgeting, it was felt, should be undertaken by employers wherever possible. Warnings were also given to the effect that many victims of Camille suffered debilitating emotional let-downs after the initial emergency period had passed.

Every comment on the Biloxi trip Judge Rosenn received included an expression of appreciation of the warm hospitality and eagerness to be helpful displayed by the Mississippi hosts, and the hope that, in the unwelcome event of another major disaster, the people of Wyoming Valley will give as much encouragement and assistance to its victims as the people of the Gulf region have given to Agnes's victims.

Mayor Guice
Mayor Shaw

Red Cross
Grew Trip did Charlie some good.

1) Introductory Remarks - appreciation.
   a) Just as attractive w/o your clothes.
      Blessing in disguise.

2) Differences between ~~Gulf~~ Biloxi - Gulfport and Pearl Valley
   which complicates the problem of recovery:
   a) no insurance whatsoever
   b) the totality of the devastation for so many people.
      about 100,000 people affected.
      " 24,000 homes.
      over 2000 industrial & Commercial establishments.
   c) under water for about 4 days.
   d) " mud for ~~months~~ many weeks.
   e) fragmentation of Govt - 20 approx. 76 in County

3) On the other hand:
   a) The Fed. Govt - especially O.E.P. -
      had the benefit of their experience w/ you.
   b) We had the hope and the morale boost
      which your trip, interest & concern
      stimulated.
   c) The Flood Recovery Task Force
   ~~4) Where~~
   d) Coordinator - Carucci - Compliments
   4) Accomplishments to date:
      a) cleaned up the valley - 60,000 homes dry
      b) placed everyone under shelter

c) Legislation for the colleges & Hosp schools.

d) The public schools

e) Federal legislation — ~~Loss~~ Recreation
Inc. program — SBA Loans

f) ~~Co~~ The Bridges — Cross Valley
expressway.

g) Housing & Transit authority.

h) Consumer protection —
D.A. & I.R.S.

~~i)~~ i) Families, — the gang —
Living environment.

j) Planning of Communities and
authorities: — F.D.C. — Single housing &

5) The future; —

The 1st ~~100~~ 100 days are history

The next 200 days are decisive:

a) The cold and winter

b) sickness & prolonged strain.

c) The rebuilding

~~Wh th~~

Inner strength, Courage & faith in G-d.

Worry about too much dependence
upon Fed & State Govt.

1/ Refreshments + food

2/ Briefing

10/6/12

Hotel Sheraton – Biloxi

Mayor Don Guice ! – + Mayor Skelly (Long Beach)
" show Rebuilt ov 900 homes in Gulfport
" entire street.
Lost favor ☐ fed. Govt.
no doubt about Rebuilding + recovery.

1) Film : after Camille – Feeder air base.

Leo Kropel
Lyons – Dept ☐ Housing — Mayor Shaw - Gulfport
Myor Don Guice - Biloxi
Mayor Smalley – Long Branch
Mary Jo Sternberger – Leo Kropke –
3 times destr rebuilt – Mr & Mrs Wade Guice –
Bob McHugh (Editor) Donald Sutton –
Roland Weeks –
Perry Mingo – –
Roy Butterfield –

2) Jos. Williams i – Thanks

3) Natl disaster Insurance – Will support
Govt also interested.

4) Flood's Bill – will support

5) X mas Tree – from Biloxi & delegation.

1| fostering help-ins —

2| Homes + business ✓ —

3| Need for state residents —

4| Banks + lending agencies ✓

Ltg McNeil – Natl OEP Hdqrs.

Pk. 3785 – Natl concern about proper interest between Communities.

Natl Conference progress fremost in our minds.

Jan. 1st 1973 – deadline for review.

Attitudes :–

Agencies – Red Cross, Salvation Army

O.E.P.

Get as much help as possible now & in new emergency.

People back to normal – self indepdt & productive.

Hurricane Ritual lost in people – most media dead.

Gulf Regl Planning Commission

(1) It approves plans & individual Comments.

(2) Value to it – Cohesive plan.

" would like to see one unified G rather than 5 separate Communities " – Price.

Study – Recommended by Fed Govt.

x Use of American flags – as symbol of recovery.

Bob McHugh :– "It is a matter of Contagion".

Great sense of necessity

Build morale. Encourage spirit of optimism.

Use of natl stds to build models.

"Tell the Economy Story" —

(1) natl stds —

(2) symbols —

(3) night of stars — 24, rotation as benefit —

Rebuilding — right where they were.

No new areas.

Rezoning for Council rather than residents.

X Bldg Codes! —

Stiffened bldg ~~Code~~ Code for hurricanes.

Re-examine bldg regulations & Codes.

Elevation of property on new Const.

Severe wind loads.

Uniform Bldg codes —

Mile Comply w/ flo drainage

Ayers: "Organized Labor

Right to Work law" in Miss. Condemned

X Inflated wages! — Drain on basic industry. Etc.

X X Put out word for let help first.

Plan — migration help — add to population

2/ Scrutinize unemployment rolls -
Confer w/ BES, Wilcox + State people.

3/ Fraud - ~~Robinson~~ croftsmen.
High cost + unjustified.

→ Leo Kropel: - Tobe downtown. More
funds now for metrop. + reg't Govt.
Jealousies disappeared - Counties
now reappearing.

4/ PL - 9179 - Preceded 606.
a/ Neighborhood ~~Facil.~~ improvement programs - substitute
for most of UB programs.
b/ No remuneration for ~~demolition~~ demolition of homes.
" " for demolition + no charge.

5/ Manage the recovery - Can you do it?

10/6/72

Meeting at Mayor Guice's W/
W/mayor Shelley, Mayor Burks
Ledford & Tom McTague
" Mayor Shows, " Tom Bigby, Bob Coster, Jos Sims
& Bob Parker

1) Assessment & properties -
   a) demolished properties removed from the rolls 1500 homes
   Lost about 8 % — $3,500,000.
   b-f - assmt — $50,000,000
   a-f - " — 46,500,000
   Current " — $52 M.

Imp. — > State made grant to take up top deficit - Very important.
   Shortfall — b-f — $46 M
   a-f — 49 M
   now — 60 M

2) County & City assessments — One assessment for ~~all~~ all
   Communities by County.
   One tax collection by County Tax Collector — Computerized.
   Conf w/ assessor - establish uniform policy for all flood stricken communities

Guice: Pursue all your remedies now. Next
   disasters & everyone will forget about you.

   Sen. Stennis & Eastland will support you.

X Straighten out sewer authority problem now.
   Next year too late.
   Need for top reform in Senate.
   Black gets $ — of its top revenue from

sales tax co/state. It get 30% from sales tax box 1% for collection. Sales tax has increased since flood.

How you made your F.F.S V/L payments:

Deposits locally by Kath Comeaux:

Red Cross aid for storm related damage.
N.D.P. - program - $3500. W/ less income. or
if 25% of income on housing - they judge.
Gulfport has rebuild 900 homes.
Biloxi " " " " " w/$3500 fed/state assist.
plus $800 program.
Comment: — put table also under program.

When you get commitment on program, make sure you get ~~it~~ earmarking of funds
N.D.P program — fund it.
Push Fed projects — which are permanent.

Certified Area program —

Renewal program is the best

Report

Pollution control desirable now.

Lighten & stiffen bldg codes now.

Bank records — for future safety.

a) delinquency rate high.

b) overextended on new construction.

c) lapse mtgs on high hazard areas.

d) frauds — 3 SBA loans on same piece of Realty.

Industrial fund — Jardine top.

Bob Masonr — telephone.

Parker — Attitude of people — not hing dependent on fed & state.
Regaining self confidence as soon as possible.

Monty — Get the shops Back. Call on each merchant not yet seen.

Tom McTague —

Ed. ~~Jim~~ Burns = Mayor Ed. Burns. — optimism.

Rev: Jule Agnes:

Contributions up 25% — 1st yr. yes
" " 15% — next yr.

Enquirk

Longs. trying something now. Others restoring + keeping Continental.

Symbols — Re flags.

Note — positive thinking & togetherness.

Roman Restorers —

Retail take up 30% for 1st yr.

Labor supply —

Shortage last 6%. Ones will be longer.

Kept expenses down & added to profit.

*→ Highly inflated income for some employees. — 12000 to 39000

Special problems for some people.

Credit losses — 2% 3 sales — 1st yr. — 10 times above Normal.

Alert credit bureau.

Coordinate w/ SBA.

X mas decorations contest w/ special attention to mobile parks.

Paint up + cleanup committee — Tree argons + landscape attention. Beauty & Community

Urban renewal key to property. Accurate.

Indl communities need help. Accurate.

Bob Casper:- Confused.

Stewart Graham:- Fed. G. has done more in NB. than it has down here.
High cost of labor great problem:
Will take more than contractors. Will the public
opinion.

Bernard Newman:
City repaired damage to plant.
Employer cleaned up plant - they had
Nothing to do.
No rash of mental health problems
Gov. make it easier for them to get back.
Mayor Shelly record 90% + rebuilt
90's homes
Moderate homes in Buffalo. Co. in
Receivership. Available cheap.

Morelle:
10 yr. TIX free inducement.
Funds for industry by floating bonds.

Chamberlain - people very competent.
Bressler -

Bigby:

Check on sewer lines & infrastructure.
They could have done much better if there
had been interjurisdictional cooperation.

"Douglas" in Candela.

Jim Lee: - Communications -
dissemination of information.

6) Mr Tosh Free Plans: — (200 + persons)
1) Committee on Equity + legislation — (Assume bill)
Natl disaster awareness program
2) Roads, Bridges and Transportation —
Mass Transit authority

3) State aid Committee —
4) Committee on Local Govt —
4 ~~11~~) Legl Staff — headed by Judge Aaron — 12 lawyers
Community legl problems
→ Sanitary Water authority
5) Labor Construction + Contractors assistance Committee.
Water shelter — Community Problems
6) Education + Libraries

7) Families, Health + aging —

8) ~~9~~ Recovery Fair — May

9) "Telling the Recovery story".
10) Flood Control Committee —
11) Planning + Development — Kiley

7) Natl

Summary Reports
Sheraton Biloxi Hotel
10/6/72

Biloxi trip

Joseph Williams: Well coordinated redevelopment program; didn't learn too much about assessment program, but on the face of it, feels that Tom Garrity's program here is better; our planning and redevelopment appears to be on the right track according to professional planner Jack Clary; must put emphasis on speed in redevelopment applications to assure funding before another disaster shifts emphasis away from Wyoming Valley.

Ugo Morelli: Trip put disaster into perspective; suggestions from both delegations will be taken into consideration in federal planning. Local leadership is key to recovery; drive, energy, enthusiasm and optimism of local leadership important; people on Coast have adopted very stringent building codes; need "input" into OEP study from our people to increase its effectiveness.

Edward Boltz: Gulf Coast was in somewhat of economic depression at time of Camille, as was entire country; new efforts at industrialization evident; banking industry was not making a great deal of progress before Camille, then tremendous increase in deposits; SBA moved more slowly here (Coast); they had advantage of some insurance, but some "overbuilding" occurred creating mortgage payment problems; frauds uncovered in SBA area; got the ideas that all is not as projected by local people.

Edgar Lashford: Industrial development operation is unique, with County industrial development commission financed primarily through gasoline tax; impressed by awareness and aggressiveness in industrial development activity.

Robert Masoner: Talking with "forecast" supervisor helpful; came back quickly with phone service; major growth came from construction area; basically no collection problems with local people, but bad experience with out of town contractors.

Robert Parker: One of key factors common to both recovery programs found in attitude and spirit of people; in final analysis, extent and quality of recovery dependent on these intangible factors.

Curtis Montz: Department stores were not put out of business, but came back almost immediately; important to re-open business firms as soon as possible.

(At this point, Judge Rosenn called on the Chamber of Commerce to call on each merchant to determine status and urge reopening when there appears to be a lag.)

Thomas McTague: Taking back much more positive perspective on recovery possibilities.

Edward Burns: Very enlightening visit; will try to demonstrate to people of Plymouth the "lift" he received by visiting Biloxi; going to take new-found confidence back with him to share with people.

Rev. Jule Ayers: Contributions increased substantially following Camille; explored stages people go through emotionally and what we can expect to see in people during recovery period; talked to representatives of Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Catholic church; found that people wanted to re-establish their self-sufficiency as soon as possible rather than being dependent on outside agencies; recovery patterns of churches all different.

Nathen Schiowitz: Positive thinking along all lines seemed to be the key recovery factor.

Roman Rubinstein: Retail trade up 30% following Camille; labor supply short for 6 months, and probably will be longer in Wyoming Valley; effect of highly inflated income on employees creates problem; urged counseling of employees to keep temporary "boom" in perspective; also urged awareness of problems of employees to help them through tense recovery period; important that Credit Bureau records are kept accurately; suggested Christmas decoration contest in mobile home parks (this suggestion originated with Mary Jo Sternberg). Emphasized importance of spring Clean-Up campaign to reduce scars; noted that redevelopment activity had been started in Biloxi before Camille, but that some other communities had not begun; stressed urgency in getting redevelopment applications funded as soon as possible.

Robert Casper: No real estate man available; still somewhat confused on status of property; zoning changes on Gulf Coast haven't appeared to have accomplished a great deal yet. Presented following statistics: Biloxi assessments - $50-million before Camille; $46-million right after disaster; $52-million now. In Gulfport - $46-million at time of Camille, $60-million now; Noted "standoff" between mayors, perhaps not as much unity between communities as they would like people to believe.

Stuart Graham: Generally, we can say federal government has done a lot more in Wyoming Valley; specifically, in construction industry the high cost of labor is real problem; negotiations coming up this spring should concentrate on keeping labor cost reasonable; expressed concern about keeping mobile homes operational through winter.

Bernard Newman: Tried to find out maintenance problem on machinery, but inundation of equipment wasn't problem there; no rash of emotional problems, probably due somewhat to insurance coverage which gave people ray of hope right from beginning; discussed possibility of modular home components.

Ugo Morelli: One community on Coast has 10-year tax free inducement to lure industry; in redevelopment, old architecture kept to retain character of community as much as possible.

Arnold Bressler/
Fritz Chamberlin: Both expressed appreciation for cooperation of local news media in helping them develop film coverage of area.

Judge Rosenn: We still don't have adequate answers for those hurt in Wyoming Valley; particularly those with both home and business damage; Also, we don't have the "boost" which wind insurance coverage provided them; expressed concern for "great personal tragedy" of those who just can't seem to "turn the corner."

Robert Casper: Expressed concern for SBA unwillingness to cut down amount of monthly payment on loans, even though the agency will cut down term of the loan.

Tom Bigler: Elderly people not able to get loans; equity restoration through insurance with SBA helping to make the people "whole" on Coast; Infrastructure development good in terms of roads, sewer lines, etc.; Perhaps more could have been done with closer intergovernmental cooperation; expressed thought that the Gulf Coast communities are no where near along the road as they should be by this time -- or as they think they are.

James Lee: Responsibility when we return to disseminate this information to our counterparts; must transmit this experience to many local people.

Judge Rosenn: Expressed concern that governmental structure won't be as improved as it should be following disaster.

RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES IN WYOMING VALLEY

Pomeroy's, October, 1972

Roman A. Rubinstein

General merchandise retailing in Wyoming Valley can look forward to an outstanding Christmas season in 1972, followed by six to eighteen months of unusually strong sales. The intensity of demand and the extent of the period will vary by merchandise category and by the speed with which families are able to return to their homes. Based on the data available to us, I believe retail sales can well be expected to be one-third higher than last Christmas.

These conclusions, supported by sales data on the attached charts, were drawn from discussions with five diverse, leading merchants from the Biloxi-Gulfport, Mississippi area. As one of these people told us, with characteristic enthusiasm, "If anyone hasn't gotten reopened yet, what are they waiting for?" Mary Joe Sternberg, owner of the Purple Lantern (an extraordinary gift shop which sells "everything") told us the hurricane destroyed her business only two years after a total-loss fire, but she reopened within two months and enjoyed a record-breaking Christmas.

The attached statistics provide an adequate record to support the contention that post-disaster business was excellent in every category. The balance of this report will deal with several aspects of business conditions which all merchants will want to consider.

Labor Force

The general shortage of people whom retailers hire is likely to continue for six to twelve months. Large retailers probably will not be able to hire the quantity or the quality of work-force they require for the Christmas season. Extra training effort is indicated.

Pressure on wage-rates will continue. Perhaps the anticipation of higher minimum wage legislation will overshadow the significance of this problem. In the short-term, inability to hire desired numbers of people will cause labor costs to remain within normal proportion to sales. But a caution against future problems is in order. Wage rates increased now will probably remain after sales volume has returned to normal.

Personnel Administration

Employers will want to consider two areas of concern. One of these is the abnormal income being earned by certain employees who are paid largely on commission. These employees need to be counseled against letting short-term income change their standard of living. The Gulf Coast merchants told of several cases of employees who got themselves so overcommitted during their "one good year" that they were personally bankrupt one year later.

A second concern all employers will want to keep in mind is that some of their employees suffered considerably during the flood. Management should be aware of any employees who are having undue difficulty coping with their problems. While we can't solve all the problems, we have an obligation to help where we can.

Luxury Goods

It may be significant to point out that the demand for luxury goods was strong during Christmas, 1969 on the Gulf Coast. Many merchants who made an opposite judgment in planning their inventory regretted it. We were told this was especially true with regard to home furnishings.

Credit

Credit writeoffs were very high at the end of fiscal 1970, a full year after Hurricane Camille. I must quickly add, however, much of this loss was attributable to out-of-area workmen who came into the area to work on rebuilding. Where losses were attributable to local residents, generally normal credit and collection procedures had not been followed.

Summary

We recognize that retailers in Wyoming Valley have sustained very substantial losses to Tropical Storm Agnes. It appears to us the recovery activity in Wyoming Valley will create an excellent opportunity for merchants in the next twelve months. We should obviously try to gain maximum benefit during that period. But flood-affected merchants, both on the West Side and in the several downtowns, must be involved and cooperative in the redevelopment activity that is beginning now. Otherwise, the short-term gains may not last long enough to enable full recovery. The experience of Gulf Coast merchants offers considerable evidence that prosperity after Camille beyond the initial 6 to 18 month surge continued only for merchants and shopping districts which worked for improved parking and traffic flow.

BILOXI-GULFPORT MERCHANTS

Mr. Frank Cifaldi, Manager
SEAR'S
Edgewater Plaza
Biloxi, Mississippi
601-388-5620

Mr. Richard Kmetz, Manager
J.C. PENNEY CO.
402 West Howard St.
Biloxi, Miss.
601-432-7096

Miss Mary Jo Sternberg, Owner
THE PURPLE LANTERN
1217 25th Ave.
Gulfport, Miss.
601-863-5902

Mr. Leo Crapo, President
MERCHISTON-HALL FURNITURE GALLERIES
914 West Howard St.
Biloxi, Miss.
601-432-2626

Mr. Paul Hermetz, General Manager
GAYFER'S (Department Store)
Edgewater Plaza
Biloxi, Miss.
601-388-4000

SEARS, ROEBUCK

Biloxi, Miss.

% Increase by Category

	H.F.	H.A.	H.I.	A.R.	W.A.	Appl. Serv.	Catalog
Sept. '69	207.0	68.3	98.1	closed	70.9	175.0	128.1
Oct. '69	142.6	159.0	159.1	"	31.0	75.0	107.5
Nov. '69	43.4	65.1	66.2	"	8.0	30.0	40.5
Dec. '69	65.0	65.4	81.4	59.9	1.0	35.0	35.0
Jan. '70	65.9	73.9	67.7	43.0	19.1	25.0	42.2
Feb. '70	92.4	80.2	77.9	35.0	12.9	28.0	16.1
Mar. '70	26.0	72.7	66.8	15.1	15.1	10.0	30.0
Apr. '70	52.0	56.9	51.6	19.7	-	40.0	18.6
May '70	7.6	32.6	22.0	18.9	1.0	25.0	23.1
June '70	38.3	5.7	16.4	5.3	7.7	20.0	13.8
July '70	-	23.0	28.7	-	11.9	12.0	27.6
Aug. '70	(43.3)	51.4	(43.7)	62.4	36.6	(8.5)	50.5

Identification by Category

H.F. - includes Furniture, Carpeting, Draperies, Linens

H.A. - includes all Major Appliances

H.I. - includes Hardware, Paint, Electrical, Housewares, Farm Equip., and all installed-type merchandise

A.R. - includes Sporting Goods and all Automotive

W.A. - includes all Apparel

Catalog includes any (or all) of above.

J.C. PENNEY

Biloxi, Miss.

% Sales Increase vs. prior year (decrease)

	1969	1970
Women's Accessories	36	121
" Sleepwear	38	(5)
" Lingerie	31	(17)
Family Shoes	41	(21)
Women's Dresses	46	13
" Sportswear	39	30
Girls & Infants	35	(28)
Boys	27	(17)
Men's	13	(13)
Piece Goods	34	20
Bedding	59	(51)
Curtains & Drapes	63	23
Bath Shop	39	14
Small Rugs	73	25
Total	31	(6)

Note: Total Store sales trend for 1969 prior to Hurricane Camille had been +3%. The strong increases of the Fall continued until August, 1970, the anniversary of the storm.

PURPLE LANTERN GIFT SHOP

Gulfport, Miss.

$ Sales Increase vs prior year (decrease)

	1969	1970	1971
Jan.	2.0	3.3	(.2)
Feb.	1.0	2.7	2.0
Mar.	1.4	4.9	(.3)
Apr.	.9	.7	4.4
May	2.0	3.5	2.3
June	(2.0)	8.5	1.1
July	.7	2.2	2.7
Aug.	(23.8) closed	29.3	(2.5)
Sept.	(17.0) closed	24.3	(4.4)
Oct.	(3.4)	6.8	-
Nov.	(3.0)	4.2	5.0
Dec.	11.8	6.1	5.4
Year	(29.4)	96.5	16.5

Note: 1968 volume approx. $300,000

Lines carried include: Jewelry, Books, Gadgets, Perfume, Games, Candles, Lamps, Stationery, China, Gourmet Goods, etc.

MERCHISTON-HALL FURNITURE GALLERIES

Biloxi, Miss.

$ Sales Increase vs prior year (decrease)

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Jan.	(9)	35	(37)	26
Feb.	4	34	(25)	(3)
Mar.	(11)	49	(16)	(26)
Apr.	6	1	-	10
May	7	19	(22)	17
June	(1)	12	(24)	27
July	(25)	15	(16)	(5)
Aug.	(19)	15	(21)	
Sept.	43	(35)	(10)	
Oct.	28	(42)	8	
Nov.	50	(34)	(2)	
Dec.	34	(27)	(9)	
Year	107	42	(173)	46

Note 1968 volume approx. $500,000

Moderate to Better Furniture & Carpet. Decorator Service.

GAYFER'S DEPT. STORE - EDGEWATER PARK, BILOXI, MISS.

Percentage of Sales Increase by Month from Sept. 1969 through August 1970 by Department

Dept.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Fashion Fabrics	-6	-4	+25	+ 3	+22	-2	+33	+10	+14	+5	-11	+57
Linens	+71	+98	+48	+23	+50	+16	+34	+34	+13	+18	+43	+29
Bdgt. Foundations	+71	+33	+21	+ 9	+36	- 4	- 3	-	-	+19	+22	+47
" Sportswear	+48	+38	+14	+38	+53	+27	+50	+23	+16	-20	+22	+82
Scarves & Hdkfs.	+26	+61	+37	+25	+74	+19	+31	-10	+40	+70	+ 2	+78
Robes	+ 6	+38	+19	+12	-17	- 7	+30	+18	- 1	+13	- 5	+72
Gloves	+ 9	+20	+16	- 5	+23	+ 6	+26	-22	-12	- 9	-49	+33
Notions	+31	+15	-	+28	+70	+ 9	+23	+ 1	+ 3	+ 1	-26	-20
Hosiery	+32	+25	+29	+48	+72	+33	+32	+19	+20	+16	+14	+56
Jewelry	- 5	+ 7	+16	+27	+40	+19	+37	-28	-21	+ 6	- 8	+66
Handbags	+36	+32	+24	+13	+38	+ 9	+25	- 8	-	+15	- 6	+39
Cosmetics	+20	+43	+22	+16	+35	+ 8	+ 4	- 2	+20	+16	+11	+64
Men's Furnishings	+72	+64	+33	+23	+25	+30	+24	- 3	+ 9	+17	+ 9	+46
Men's Clothing	+81	+59	+36	+30	-	+15	+21	- 6	- 5	- 1	+ 7	+46
Boys 3-7, 7-14	+91	+14	+17	+13	+26	+16	+26	-17	-	+ 4	+ 2	+83
Better Sportswear	+18	+37	+30	+30	-13	- 3	+33	+ 7	+26	+ 9	- 2	+37
Lingerie	+60	+16	- 2	+ 9	+21	+14	+24	+23	-	+ 4	+ 2	+42
Foundations	+46	+19	+24	+17	+ 7	- 6	+14	+10	+ 5	- 4	+10	+21
Coats	- 9	+64	+16	+26	+10	+18	-27	+12	+67	+117	-13	+63
Girls 3-6x, 7-14	+47	- 3	- 7	+10	-10	- 4	-16	-53	-25	+38	-40	+66
Infants & Toddlers	+18	+14	+11	+24	+ 8	+11	+29	-16	-	- 1	+11	+59
Children's Shoes	+90	+15	+ 9	+ 3	+25	-13	+11	-26	+ 3	+16	-	+85
Casual Dresses	+43	+74	+26	+50	+25	+35	+32	+11	+10	-13	+13	+20
Stationery	+24	+30	- 7	-	+11	+ 2	- 5	-20	- 8	+10	- 7	+59
Toys	022	+17	+14	+ 5	+101	+134	+98	+51	- 9	+13	-42	-52
Ladies Shoes	+14	+16	+21	+17	+15	+10	+29	+ 9	+ 3	+ 2	-10	+50
Gifts & China	+12	+23	+19	+39	+19	+ 4	-12	+ 7	+16	+51	+13	+40
Silverware	- 3	- 3	+22	+23	+14	-14	-30	+18	- 9	+20	+ 8	+59
Draperies	+ 5	+38	+62	+60	+89	+46	+42	+83	+22	+37	+35	+85
Art Needlework	+54	+64	+90	+110	+63	+87	+50	+22	+54	+32	+ 6	+40
Carpets	+18	+94	+66	+101	+31	+12	+176	+117	+142	+81	+58	+112
Luggage	+ 5	+28	+58	+ 6	+85	+12	-27	-34	+ 2	-15	+11	+39
Housewares	+89	+69	+62	+41	+138	+22	+33	+51	- 6	- 2	-23	-12
Infants Furniture	+71	+50	+11	+32	-20	- 2	- 4	-46	+5	-33	-32	+ 6
Jr. Sportswear	+91	+52	+50	+48	- 6	+34	+40	+ 8	+55	+ 3	-	+98
Lamps & Pictures	+10	+25	+16	+62	+95	+41	+76	+23	+22	+23	+28	+142
Stereos & T.V.	+55	+82	+81	+62	+20	+24	+23	+49	+ 4	+17	+18	+45
Small Appliances	+99	+154	+62	+40	+64	+27	+115	+58	+23	+25	+28	+47
Ladies RTW	+14	+ 8	+23	+35	+19	-	+23	-14	- 4	-	-16	+37
Total Store	+40	+44	+31	+29	+27	+14	+26	+ 9	+ 9	+ 9	+ 5	+49

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Established 1910

BUILDERS - INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL
45 OWEN STREET FORTY FORT, PA. 18704 • 717/287-3161

October 10, 1972

Honorable Max Rosenn
U.S. Federal Building
177 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Penna. 18703

Dear Judge Rosenn,

In response to your request for summations of our recent visit to the Mississippi Coastal Region, I will address myself to the area of building construction as it relates to the disaster in Wyoming Valley.

First of all, it is interesting to note that the Gulf Coastal Region experienced a similar drain on its overall labor pool because of the tremendous demand for labor in the construction industry during the early stages of recovery. It is comforting to learn that this phenomenon lasted only a few months, and the labor situation returned to normal, or near normal, within six months of the disaster.

The housing situation in Mississippi is also similar to that in Wyoming Valley in that it is predominantly a single dwelling area, and a great portion of the homes were either damaged or destroyed; the difference, of course, is that the losses in Mississippi were insured. Even so, it is encouraging that the majority of the people have rebuilt on the same location and there appears to be no trend of people leaving the area. In addition, the coastal region did not become a huge mobile home park - in fact, 95% of the people were out of mobile homes twelve months after the hurricane. It is important to note that one reason for the speedy exodus from mobile homes was the unpleasant living conditions experienced by the occupants. The HUD people in Mississippi confirmed our fears that there is a real danger of tragedy due to fires, particularly during the winter months.

The point here is that we can expect our home builders to experience a tremendous boom even though the losses in Wyoming Valley were not insured. This does not mean, however, that commercial and industrial builders will experience a similar demand for their services. For instance, we have already seen a substantial decrease in the demand for unskilled unionized labor with the completion of the cleanup phase. This in itself will force many of the factory workers back to their regular jobs and restore some sense of order to the labor market.

Unfortunately, it is possible that industrial and commercial contractors, and labor leaders alike, will interpret the events of the last one-hundred days to signal the start of a construction boom. Certainly this is possible, but only if our local governments and businesses put together public and private projects that seem economically feasible to the Federal Government. Therefore, the importance of the labor contract negotiations of the building trades next spring cannot be overemphasized. This is a problem that demands the attention of the entire community as well as the Federal Government, because history makes it clear that the building contractors are almost totally ineffective in negotiating union contracts.

I would suggest that perhaps there should be federal legislation that would call for immediate freeze on wages and prices in the event of any major disaster in the future. Such legislation would go a long way in preventing runaway inflation and eventual recession in a disaster area.

It seems evident, from our experience in Mississippi, that our homes and businesses will be repaired and replaced in most instances. Whether or not Wyoming Valley experiences lasting economic growth as the result of "Agnes" is dependent upon the efforts of our governmental, business and labor leaders. It is in the best interest of all three groups to consolidate their goals and not be lorded into the misconception that the Federal Government should be considered anything more than a funding agent. For my part, I will endeavor to impress upon leaders of the construction industry their responsibility in co-operating in the rebuilding of Wyoming Valley.

Sincerely,

Stuart E. Graham, Jr.

Stuart E. Graham, Jr.

hh

P O M E R O Y' S

2 PUBLIC SQUARE WILKES-BARRE, PA. 18701 717 823-5101

October 10, 1972

Honorable Max Rosenn, Chairman
FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Judge Rosenn:

Enclosed is my report on retail merchandising opportunities in Wyoming Valley based on our discussions with Biloxi-Gulfport area merchants. Considerable statistical data is included. Also supplied is a list of the leading merchants who were so generous with their assistance and who have welcomed additional inquiries from Wyoming Valley merchants.

Retailers' involvement in the recovery effort will be twofold. First, we all share the responsibility to meet the needs of area residents.

A second aspect will be of special importance to the many retail and wholesale merchants who were hurt by the flood. The high level of demand indicated for the next year or two may well produce sufficient profit to offset much of the loss caused by Agnes. If this is so, these businesses can look to the future without undue concern about abnormal debt service expense.

Since most merchants whose businesses were devastated by the flood also had their homes affected, we should not fail to offer any possible assistance. The Task Force may well want to consider a business consulting service for local businessmen who are particularly concerned about the viability of their firms.

Sincerely yours,

Roman

Roman Rubinstein

RR/vns

Attach.

DIAL 717-822-7168

REAL ESTATE — INSURANCE
LEWITH & FREEMAN
STERLING HOTEL
WILKES-BARRE PA. 18701

ROBERT L. CASPER

PEARL KAUFMAN
WILLIAM H. BERGSTRASSER
STEPHEN J. KESTER
LOUISE T. OTT
DONALD M. WOLBERG
ROBERT L. CASPER, JR.
JUDITH N. ROGERS
BYRON BURGESS
IRVING WINKLER
GEORGE NICHOLSON, JR.
EMERY SIMKULAK

to ask $1,000.00 per front foot for land along Route 90 in place of say, $300.00 formerly. There appear to be few sales to substantiate this increase.

Biloxi has had a small (less than 5%) increase in assessment from before Camille (source: assessor) - while Gulfport has had a 30% rise (source: Mayor Shaw). I personally did not see anything which would indicate so huge an increase but I did understand a new Industrial Park is on the north side and I believe the new Sears store to be in Gulfport.

New building codes and zoning requirements may be the cause of slowing growth. This could be a warning to us. Providing thousands of front feet of multi-family and commercial land along Route 90 does not necessarily mean there is a demand for this land (witness the land, vacant for 3 years) any more than providing more retail and office space in Wilkes-Barre central city will mean a demand is created.

An interesting note is that both Gulfport and Biloxi have held the real estate millages to about the same level as before Camille.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Casper

DIAL 717-822-7168

REAL ESTATE — INSURANCE
LEWITH & FREEMAN
STERLING HOTEL
WILKES-BARRE PA. 18701

ROBERT L. CASPER

PEARL KAUFMAN
WILLIAM H. BERGSTRASSER
STEPHEN J. KESTER
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IRVING WINKLER
GEORGE NICHOLSON, JR.
EMERY SIMKULAK

October 10, 1972

Hon. Max Rosenn
Federal Building
South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Re: Real Estate - Gulf Coast Trip

The area covered extends east and west along the Gulf Coast about 26 miles and perhaps 6 miles north with an estimated population of 150,000 - indicating only 1,000 people per square mile. This is the first differential with the Wyoming Valley whose affected communities average about 6,000 per square mile. The most severe damage in the south was for the entire east-west line back about one half mile north. Most retail businesses were not seriously damaged. The fine residential sections along Route 90 were very hard hit. It appears to me that the severity of damage there was worse than a similar area in the Wyoming Valley, but for a smaller area and affecting fewer properties in toto.

Our conversations with their representatives indicate that there has been some relocation and with projected redevelopment and re-zoning there will be considerably more in the future. What was practically entirely a single home street for some 26 miles will in the future be multi-family apartments, some commercial (Edgewater Shopping District, for example) and likely some office buildings (Mississippi Power, for example). The re-zoning has prompted owners

Robert W. Masoner
District Manager

Bell of Pennsylvania

222 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Phone: (717) 822-6171

October 12, 1972

The Honorable Max Rosenn
197 S. Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Max:

I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity given me as a member of the Flood Recovery Task Force Inc. to visit the Biloxi-Gulfport area. I returned with many impressions and helpful ideas from a community standpoint and also things that can be directly used in our local telephone operation.

The warm hospitality of our hosts was something to behold. I am sure that this afforded them an opportunity to show us the progress they have made and in turn make them feel better for their accomplishments.

To be specific, I brought back the following impressions--

1. The fact that many of the locations were covered by insurance to the extent of 70%. This makes rebuilding much easier.

2. The tremendous difference in climate which enables them to construct on a year-round basis is a real asset. This was pointed out very vividly in the growth figures as measured by the gain in main telephone installations. In August of 1969 they recorded 6,000 disconnects. By Feb. of 1970 they had regained this loss and showed a level of total main stations equal to that prior to Camille. This included telephone service in 3,000 HUD trailers.

3. The fact that Mississippi has a right-to-work law seemed to encourage a tremendous influx of contractors and workers. This was also substantiated by the number of telephones that were connected for construction workers and contractors during the year 1970 and 1971.

4. The fact that there was a change in building codes and regulations which would affect the granting of mortgages

and building permits deferred some building for about six months. Once the rules were changed the growth line as indicated by telephones took off at a tremendous rate.

5. Another indication of a great amount of movement and activity is the in-to-gain ratio which depicts how many telephones one must install to actually net a gain of one. In Biloxi this ratio during the year 1970 was 12 to 1; in 1971 it was 9 to 1, and in 1973--8 to 1. This would indicate a settling down some three years later following the brisk activity caused by Camille.

6. My discussion on collections with my counterpart, the District Manager for South Central Bell, pointed out a need to be extremely cautious in our credit dealings with transient workers. The Telephone Company suffered a considerable loss due to unpaid bills by people who moved in and quickly disappeared. From my observations the Biloxi-Gulfport area did not suffer the loss of business places that we have in the Wyoming Valley. As a result I think many of their business establishments could begin to operate almost immediately following the clean-up work associated with Camille.

7. I was impressed with the determination of this group to do a good planning job in connection with any rebuilding that would occur and to insure that it would result in a better area in which to live and to do business.

In closing, I again want to express my appreciation and thanks for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

R. W. Masoner
District Manager

RWM:mk

THE TRIP TO BILOXI
Jule Ayers

Some of my outstanding impressions of the trip to Biloxi were: the hospitality of the people, the thankfulness of being alive, the togetherness which resulted from a common effort and a positive attitude about the future, the pride in the community, the optimism, and the strong county government with financial power and authority.

Among the accomplishments of the Gulf Coast area, and its leaders, were: a substantial business recovery, the availability and using of large sums of federal and state monies for rebuilding (and considerable freedom and initiative in their management), the achievement of individual initiative and drive as a basic ingredient in the "come-back", the drawing of many workers from all over the U.S. to that location and the remaining of a significant group who later settled there, The strong enforcement of codes and zoning in reconstruction, the fact that the poor and the underpriviled also had it better as the government money was spent, the stregthening of home and church life (and the support of social agencies) during recovery, and the intelligent rationale for steps taken and plams made.

In terms of evaluation of the experience, as far as it pertains to Biloxi itself, I would note that: it was most helpful to meet some of the wives of our hosts (for they enlarged and clarified the picture we had of the people and the area); the United Fund did better immediately after the hurricane and then fell back for two years and is only now starting ahead on a truly firm new basis; organized labor there is in the minority and is not a major factor in the United Fund or industrial operation and renewal (the presence of a massive Air Base on the other hand is a big factor especially in the ongoing economy); the fact that wind insurance gave an equity for many on which to make a recovery helped, as did a fairly constant good weather through the year; the men and women we met were conscious of their image (and knew that Mississippi doesn't have a most satisfactory image in the whole country, so they often spoke of this and asked about this and wanted to be liked); our hosts felt that our wage-price structure would stay abnorally high for another 3 months, but we felt this might last longer (but we were reminded that this will drop); we did not have hardly any time to ourselves to investigate individually among working people and those we might meet on the street; we did not see much in the way of housing arrangements for those displaced by the hurricane, who may not yet have rebuilt their homes; we felt a continued interest in Wilkes-Barre and the Valley, and a desire to follow our progress and return; we gained perspective on ourselves and hope in what had been accomplished there.

We were proud of our first 100 days since June 23 and the listing of what had to date been done here. We felt that we need more centralized and cooperative government structure, and this must come out of this experience. We found that those communities with planning and staff fare best in reconstruction. We felt that it is urgent to get maximum federal and state funds now, that we should move legislatively also toward some form of national disaster insurance. Moreover we must try to tell it "as it is" to homeowners who just don't know what to do, or where they stand in relation to urban renewal and the future. Now is the time to start consultations with labor about the future wage-price structure (before spring negotiations). Whether mobile homes is the best and most economical way to handle the housing crisis, in future disasters, is open to question. Work on the legislative front, and concern for downtown Wilkes-Barre are both high on plans for the immediate future, not to neglect whatever major needed efforts are in order now in the area of flood control.

Wilkes-Barre Record
MORNING
TIMES LEADER
THE EVENING NEWS
EVENING

Published by
WILKES-BARRE PUBLISHING COMPANY
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

October 12, 1972

Dear Judge:

The summations we had at the breakfast meeting in Biloxi last Saturday were ample evidence that the trip and the data gathered were valuable, and will prove moreso when spread around here.

The conferences provided us with the paths, if not the solutions, for resolution of some of our problems, and also provided us with cautions against some courses which we might have taken but which were found not feasible in Mississippi.

Also, looking forward when we will be the "former victims" of disaster, as the Gulf Coast is presently, we have a responsibility now and in the future to assemble and update our experiences, so that they may be used to counsel others if, God forbid, some area be hit as ours was.

Hopefully, in our future information bank there will be methods to avert the present dilemma of many local flood victims concerning the rumors of redevelopment, etc. Recovery is moving along at a good pace, but the uncertainty spawned by contradictory views on who is to be redeveloped at pre-flood value, and who isn't is a deterrent to a more secure recovery.

As I mentioned at the Biloxi summing-up, our primary duty now is to see that the information the business and industry representatives gathered in their Gulf Coast conferences and conversations is spread about to their counterparts in the flood area.

And perhaps next time we can have the landing strip raised 30 feet closer to the airplane.

Respectfully,

James F. Lee, Editor
Times-Leader Evening News
Wilkes-Barre Record

October 12, 1972

Dear Roland,

I find it a bit difficult to express my personal appreciation and that of the Task Force for the generous and warm hospitality you and the leadership of your community extended to us. It was an experience that we will long remember and its glow will remain for some time. In addition, the lessons that we learned down there will be invaluable in our effort to make the recovery. Thus far, our visit with you is the only positive aspect of Hurricane Agnes.

We all anticipate your visit up here in December. We hope that Mrs. Weeks will be able to accompany you. We look forward to the opportunity of attempting to reciprocate the generous hospitality you were so kind to extend to us.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you, Mrs. Weeks and our many new found friends in Biloxi.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Roland Weeks, Jr., President
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

October 12, 1972

Dear Mayor Guice,

The glow of our trip to Biloxi and Gulfport is still visible after the long trip back. Your gracious and warm hospitality is an experience that we will long remember. It is one of the positive aspects of Hurricane Agnes.

I regret that I did not have an opportunity to call Mrs. Guice before I left. The schedule that you set up for us did not even allow time for a phone call. This was my great loss and I wish you would make my apologies to her. Would you also tell her that I have been in touch with the Host Farm and they look forward to her visit to Lancaster.

Mrs. Rosenn and I anticipate your visit to us in December. We hope you will give us ample notice of when you expect to come up. We look forward to the opportunity of making some effort to reciprocate your generous hospitality.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you, Mrs. Guice and our new found friends in Biloxi.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Mayor Daniel Guice
City Hall
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

October 12, 1972

Dear Mayor Shaw,

I find it a bit difficult to express my personal appreciation and that of the Task Force for the generous and warm hospitality you and the leadership of your community extended to us. It was an experience that we will long remember and its glow will remain for some time. In addition, the lessons that we learned down there will be invaluable in our effort to make the recovery. Thus far, our visit with you is the only positive aspect of Hurricane Agnes.

I called Connie Lizdas and gave her the greetings from you and Marian. She was delighted to hear from you. I told her that we anticipate your visit up here in December. We look forward to the opportunity of making some effort to reciprocate. We also thank you for the many kindnesses you extended to us while we were there and your generous expressions to us on our departure.

Warmest regards to you and Marian and our new found friends in Gulfport.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Mayor Phillip Shaw
City Hall
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501


PERRY B. WINGO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HARRISON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501
P. O. BOX 569
PHONE (601) 863-3807

October 12, 1972

Dear Mr. Wingo,

The aura of our trip to Biloxi and Gulfport still remains despite the long trip home and the distance that separates us. Our visit with you and our new found friends in Gulfport and Biloxi was a delightful experience. It was one from which we gained a great deal in information, mixed with a generous amount of warmth and hospitality that made the whole event memorable. You played no small role and I want to express the appreciation of the Task Force and of myself personally, for your generous time and for all of your kind assistance.

We hope that we will see you in the near future in Wilkes-Barre when we expect to have some opportunity to reciprocate. Warmest regards to you, Mayor Shaw and our mutual friends in Gulfport.

Sincerely yours,

MR:cjr

MAX ROSENN

Perry B. Wingo, Executive Director
Harrison County Development Commission
Post Office Box 569
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

ERNEST C. MELVIN

SUPERVISOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT
BEAT 1, HARRISON COUNTY, MISS.

P. O. Box 413 Biloxi, Miss. 39533

October 12, 1972

Dear Mr. Melvin:

I have just written to Mayor Guice to tell him how much we enjoyed the visit to Harrison County, Mississippi. This was a beneficial trip and while we learned a great deal, we were most impressed with the gracious hospitality and warmth with which we were received. Everyone, including you, was most helpful, cooperative and courteous. This, as I have indicated in my letter to Mayor Guice, is one of the positive aspects of Hurricane Agnes and an experience we shall long remember. I appreciate the time you took to see us off at the airport. I also want to express my thanks to you for the very beautiful plaque you so generously presented to me. It will be a delightful remembrance of a most helpful and enjoyable visit.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Ernest C. Melvin, President
Beat 1, Harrison County
P.O. Box 413
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF GULFPORT

MISSISSIPPI

October 19, 1972

PHILIP W. SHAW
MAYOR

The Honorable Max Rosenn
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
P. O. Box No. 1367
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Judge Rosenn:

I appreciate very much your kind expression of appreciation. Possibly the greatest benefit that your group derived was to get away and take another look at their problems. We all are concerned about your welfare and want to do what we can to help. If all of us can only impress on the people that they must do for themselves, for it is the mark of a noble people to turn adversity into opportunity.

We are going to make every effort to visit your area during the Christmas season, probably in conjunction with the National League of Cities meeting in Indianapolis the last week in November.

With highest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

Philip W. Shaw

Philip W. Shaw, Mayor
City of Gulfport

PWS:h

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

OCT 19 1972

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Honorable Max Rosenn
Judge of the Appellate Court
229 Federal Building
197 S. Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Judge Rosenn:

I am certain that you and the members of your delegation found your visit to Wilkes-Barre's Sister City rewarding. Mr. Morelli conveyed to me your good wishes. I thank you. I also thank you for including Mr. Morelli and Mr. Carson in your discussions with the Gulf Coast delegation. These meetings have provided us with valuable information for the Disaster Study now under way.

The spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation evidenced by the Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi Sister City program and the zeal and determination of the people of the Wyoming Valley in rebuilding "better than ever" serve as an inspiration to communities across the Nation.

I congratulate you on your outstanding progress and wish you success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

G. A. Lincoln
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

OCT 19 1972

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Honorable Max Rosenn
Judge of the Appellate Court
229 Federal Building
197 S. Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

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I congratulate you on your outstanding progress and wish you success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

G. A. Lincoln
Director

HARRISON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TELEPHONE 863-3807 P. O. BOX 569 GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

October 20, 1972

Honorable Max Rosenn
Judge
United States Court of Appeals
Third Circuit
Federal Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Judge Rosenn:

Thank you for yours of October 12, 1972, and especially the kind words you had to say about the little group that met with you and your associates in an effort to better be informed on the problems that lie in the future of you and your fine citizenry around Wilkes-Barre.

I hope your brief visit has given all of you a better insight of how the Gulf Coast area worked together after our tragic hurricane in 1969. Perhaps some of the questions were answered as a result of the numous discussions and opinions of those in attendance.

I want to wish you and all of your people the very best and a speedy recovery and I do hope I can see all of you again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

Perry Wingo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PW:jm

HOST ENTERPRISES, INC.

October 25, 1972

The Honorable Max Rosenn
Judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals
Federal Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Max:

Thank you for your letter of October 12 relating to Mrs. Daniel Guice of Biloxi.

Please be assured of my cooperation.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Irving Sicherman
President

IS:MK

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 2300 LINCOLN HIGHWAY EAST, LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA 17602 / PHONE (717) 397-7631

October 26, 1972

Robert Masoner, District Manager
Bell Telephone Company
South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Bob:

I am grateful to you for your willingness to serve as co-chairman with Roman Rubinstein on the Biloxi visit. I consider this an important committee. Roman has agreed to assume major responsibility in the planning stages but would expect that you take over during the period that the Biloxi delegation will be visiting us. Both of you will get ample staff assistance from the Chamber of Commerce and the Flood Recovery Task Force, both of whom are cooperating in this effort. I think it ought to be one of great interest and help to us.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Roman Rubinstein
Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

October 26, 1972

Mr. Roman Rubinstein
Pomeroy's
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Roman:

Thank you for your report in connection with the effort to have stores reopen in center city. I think your analysis is correct and your objective desirable. Can you get someone to do the same kind of analysis and provide the same assistance and goal on the West Side, both in Kingston and Forty Fort? I would appreciate your assigning someone to do this and report back to you.

You will probably already have received word that Bob Masoner will be glad to work with you in connection with the Biloxi visit. I deeply appreciate your attendance at the breakfast this morning and your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Edward Boltz
Andrew Shaw

P O M E R O Y' S

2 PUBLIC SQUARE WILKES-BARRE, PA. 18701 717 823-5101

October 23, 1972

Judge Max Rosenn
Flood Recovery Task Force
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Judge Rosenn:

I shall be happy to work with Ed Boltz in trying to help downtown businesses reopen. My preliminary survey, however, indicates very few such businesses which had not indicated prior to the flood their intention to close upon expiration of their current leases.

In this category are stores like Famous Maid, Datemaker, Lerner's, Wrangler Wroost. Additionally, Mrs. Herman's Hat Shop and Rogers are instances where the health of the proprietors appears to be the decisive reason for not reopening. Finally, there are several merchants who are now striving to reopen prior to Christmas. These include Balut's, Brandstader's, Morris Jewelers, Vespico Uniform Shop, and Kresge's.

This leaves a half dozen additional businesses which we shall try to contact. Notable among these are United Furniture, Yarn Shop and J. D. Williams. I believe our objective here will be to convince these merchants to become part of the urban renewal in center city. Frankly, this will be the most significant contribution FRTF can make with respect to downtown. The success of developers will depend on our collective ability to keep existing businesses and attract new ones to locations which will demand higher rents than have previously been required.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Roman

Roman Rubinstein

RR/vns

cc: Mr. Ed. Boltz, V.P.
United Penn Bank

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Hon. Max Rosenn
Chairman
Thomas H. Kiley
1st Vice Chairman
A. J. Sordoni, III
2nd Vice Chairman
Harold Rose
Treasurer
Charles Hardwick
Secretary
James Kenny
Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. George W. Bierly
Assistarft Secretary
Mrs. Frank W. Anderson
Edward J. Boltz
David DeCosmo
Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Esq.
Rev. Lane D. Kilburn
Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

26 October 1972

MEMO TO: Councilman Joseph A. Williams, Mr. Edward J. Boltz, Mr. Edgar Lashford, Mr. Robert Masoner, Mr. Robert Parker, Mr. Curtis Montz, Mr. Thomas McTague, Mayor Edward Burns, Rev. Jule Ayers, Mr. Nathan Schiowitz, Mr. Roman Rubinstein, Mr. Robert Casper, Mr. Stuart Graham, Jr., Mr. Bernard Newman, Mr. Arnold Bressler, Mr. Fritz Chamberlin, Mr. Tom Bigler, Mr. James Lee, Mr. Oscar Snead, Ms. Peggy Mack, Ms. Agnes Mravck, Mr. Ugo Morelli

FROM: Max Rosenn, Chairman

I am sending you this list with the thought that you may wish to get in touch with one or two of the people we met in Mississippi.

are

M E M O

To: Judge Rosenn
From: Betty Schechter
Date: October 27, 1972

Here is a draft of a summary of comments on the trip to Biloxi. I have attached a copy of the memo we sent to those who went on the trip(when we sent them a list of their Mississippi hosts) to refresh your memory on who they are.

The letter from G. A. Lincoln OEP is in the folder.

The trip to the Biloxi-Gulfport region of Mississippi struck by Hurricane Camille in 1968 made by a group of local citizens early in October has proven to be of value not only to Wyoming Valley but also to the federal Office of Emergency Preparedness. Referring to discussions held in Biloxi between victims of Hurricane Camille and ~~Hx~~ victims of Hurricane Agnes ~~Agnxxx~~, G.A. Lincoln, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, said in a letter to Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc., "These meetings have provided us with valuable information for the Disaster Study now under way." Mr. Lincoln also told Judge Rosenn that "the spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation evidenced by the Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi Sister City program and the zeal and determination of the people of the Wyoming Valley in rebuilding "better than ever" serve as an inspiration to communities across the Nation".

With a view to making it possible for Wyoming Valley to achieve the maximum benefit from the Biloxi-Gulfport region's experience in the wake of Hurricane Camille, Judge Rosenn asked each member of the group that visited the coastal region how he thought this area can profit from it. The responses he received touched mainly on the subjects of redevelopment, business recovery and labor problems.

Comments on redevelopment included the following cautions: strong efforts should be made to "nail down" funds needed to implement redevelopment projects before national attention is diverted from Wyoming Valley to another disaster area; recovery leadership must come, not from the federal government, but from an effective working partnership between local governments and business and labor; care should be taken to avoid assuming that a post-disaster boom in residential building will be accompanied by an unusual demand for industrial and commercial construction.

Retailers who spoke with Gulf region counterparts said that, on the one hand, there was apparently no need to anticipate credit problems with flood vidtims, but, on the other,

extreme caution should be exercised in extending credit to transient workers. They also sa id that, judging by Biloxi's experience, Valley merchants can expect exceptionally good sales for a period of six to eighteen months and should include luxury items in their stocks, especially in the home-furnishings field. They added, however, that Biloxi merchants had warned them that a continuation of the initial post-disaster business boom will depend on the success of efforts to improve parking facilities and traffic flow.

Labor-oriented Valley visitors to Biloxi saw a need for care lest a disaster-inflated labor wage scale lead to inflation and eventual recession. One visitor urged efforts to secure federal legislation that would freeze both wages and prices in the wake of a disaster. Like Wyoming Valley, the Gulf Region suffered a drain-off of labor to high paying disaster-spawned jobs, but its labor situation, Valley visitors learned, returned to near normal within six months.

The "intangibles" of Biloxi's experience were stressed. Optimism, unity bred of common effort, and eagerness to end dependency on outside agencies as quickly as possible, it was apparent, contributed heavily to the recovery Mississippians have made in the three years since Camille struck. Their spirit and determination to come all the way back were a source of inspiration and hope to the group of people who had experienced disaster only two months earlier.

Some of those who commented on the Biloxi trip pointed out that Camille's victims had important advantages over Agnes's: for one thing, their climate made it possible to do the work of rebuilding on a year round basis; for another, most businesses and homes were covered by wind insurance to the extent of 70%; for still another, most of the affected region had the benefit of a strong, adequately staffed,and well-financed county government.

Assessing the experience of victims of both hurricanes,

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Assessing the experience of victims of both hurricanes

during the emergency period immediately after the storm, Wyoming Valleyites issued the following advice to vicitims of future disasters and to the government agencies who come to their assistance: think twice about taking the mobile home approach to emergency shelter - the money and effort expended in a mobile home program might better be spent in making speedy repairs to homes; be careful to scotch confusing rumors quickly, and make every effort to alleviate the distress of uncertainty among disaster victims by getting all available facts on recovery developments to them as speedily as possible.

Further words of caution concerned the psychological problem created by a post-disaster rise in income for some people that cannot be maintained: counselling on wise budgeting, it was felt, should be undertaken by employers wherever possible. Warnings were also given to the effect that many victims of Camille suffered debilitating emotional let-downs after the initial emergency period had passed.

Every comment on the Biloxi trip Judge Rosenn received included an expression of appreciation of the warm hospitality and eagerness to be helpful displayed by the Mississippi hosts, and the hope that, in the unwelcome event of another major disaster, the people of Wyoming Valley will give as much ecouragement and assistance to its victims as the people of the Gulf region have given to Agnes's victims.

Wyoming Valley-Biloxi Disaster Bond Hailed

Monday
11-6-72

The spirit of mutual assistance between Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi, Miss., is being heralded by the President's Office of Emergency Preparedness as an everlasting inspiration to communities across the nation.

This was revealed Sunday when Federal Judge Max Rosenn disclosed the contents of a letter he had received from G. A. Lincoln, director of OEP.

The letter by Lincoln from his Washington office referred to the recent trip made to the Biloxi-Gulfport region of Mississippi by the group of local officials under the arrangements set up by Judge Rosenn, who is president of Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.

The close relationship between the two areas came into existence due to the natural disasters which caused widespread devastation in both regions — Hurricane Camille in 1968 in the Southern Gulf Coast region and Hurricane Agnes' flood destruction in Wyoming Valley last June.

In part, Lincoln wrote: "The spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation evidenced by the Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi Sister City program and the zeal and determination of the people of Wyoming Valley in rebuilding 'better than ever' serve as an inspiration to communities across the nation. I congratulate you on your outstanding progress and wish you success in your endeavors."

Lincoln further commented on the value of the discussions which took place between the two groups in Biloxi.

"These meetings have provided us with valuable information for the disaster study now underway," Lincoln said.

And the local group is currently working under the suggestion by Judge Rosenn that each member who visited the Gulf Coast to draft a personal report aimed at showing how this area can profit from the experiences of those who four years ago went through a similar type disaster.

The responses received by Judge Rosenn have been termed extremely valuable and are expected to be of great assistance not only locally but later in a report which will be submitted to the Washington office of OEP.

Comments on redevelopment included these cautions:

"Strong efforts should be made to 'nail down' funds needed to implement redevelopment projects before national attention is diverted from Wyoming Valley to another disaster area; recovery leadership must come, not from the federal government, but from an effective working partnership between local governments, business and labor; care should be taken to avoid assuming that a post-disaster boom in residential building will be accompanied by an unusual demand for industrial and commercial construction."

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The "intangibles" of Biloxi's experience were stressed. Optimism, unity bred of common effort and eagerness to end dependency on outside agencies as quickly as possible, it was apparent, contributed heavily to the recovery Mississippians have made in the four years since Camille struck. Their determination and spirit to come all the way back were a source of inspiration and hope to the group of people who had experienced disaster in Wyoming Valley a short time before their visit.

Some of those who commented on the Biloxi trip pointed out that Camille's victims had important advantages over those of Hurricane Agnes. For one thing, their climate made it possible to do the work of rebuilding on a year-round basis; for another, most businesses and homes were covered by wind insurance to the extent of 70 per cent; for still another, most of the affected region had the benefit of a strong, adequately staffed and well-financed county government.

Assessing the experience of victims of both hurricanes during the emergency period immediately after the storm, Valley delegates offered this adyce to victims of future disasters and to government agencies that come to their assistance:

"Think twice about taking the mobile home approach to emergency shelter — the money and effort expended in a mobile home program might better be spent in making speedy repairs to homes; be careful to halt confusing rumors quickly, and make every effort to alleviate the distress of uncertainty among disaster victims by getting all available facts on recovery developments to them as speedily as possible."

Further words of caution were recorded concerning the psychological problems created by a post-disaster rise in income for some people that cannot be maintained. It was suggested that counseling on wise budgeting should be undertaken by employers wherever possible. Warnings were also given to the effect that many victims of Camille suffered debilitating emotional let-downs after the initial emergency period has passed.

LUZERNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE RESTORATION

THE LUZERNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, CONSTRUCTED IN 1904, WAS THE SCENE OF A MAJOR RESTORATION PROJECT DURING THE YEARS 1964-1968. IT IS ONCE AGAIN A GRAND AND IMPOSING STRUCTURE IN KEEPING WITH THE IMPORATNCE OF THE COMMUNITY AND REFLECTING THE PUBLIC SPIRITED PEOPLE OF LUZERNE COUNTY.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE COURT HOUSE BE RETURNED TO ITS FORMER STATE OF BEING THE SHOWPLACE AND FOCAL POINT OF COUNTY BUILDINGS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EXTENSIVE PROJECT, THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF CARL J. SCHMITT & SON WAS COMMISSIONED TO PREPARE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND DIRECT THE RESTORATION WORK.

THE COURT HOUSE, A MONUMENT TO THE CIVIC CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE, WAS CONSTRUCTED OF THE FINEST AVAILABLE MATERIALS SUCH AS MARBLE, BRONZE, SANDSTONE, TERRA COTTA, GOLD LEAF, MOSAIC TILE, MAHOGANY, AND ART WORK DESIGNED TO REFLECT THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY.

THE RESTORATION PROJECT WAS BEGUN UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JARRET W. JENNINGS, J. BOWDEN NORTHRUP AND EDMUND J. McCULLOUGH AFTER THEY HAD DETERMINED THAT ADVANCING TIME, PROGRESS AND STANDARDS HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE CERTAIN REVISIONS AND REPAIRS WERE IMPERATIVE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS FINE INVESTMENT. WEATHERING AND DETERIORATION HAD CAUSED DANGEROUS

CONDITIONS TO EXIST WITH REGARD TO RETAINING WALLS, STAIRS, SIDEWALKS AND FRACTURED STONEWORK. BOTH THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING WERE GREATLY IN NEED OF GENERAL CLEANING AND REPAIR.

COUNTY FUNCTIONS HAD EXPANDED THROUGH THE YEARS AND EXISTING SUBDIVISION OF SPACE BECAME INADEQUATE. OFFICES HAD TO BE REDESIGNED AND RELOCATED IN ORDER TO MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF VALUABLE SPACE AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS. MODERN AND EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT WAS INSTALLED TO CORRECT EXISTING INADEQUACIES. MORE EFFICIENT AND COMFORTABLE OFFICES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE ACCOMMODATION AND PROPER TRANSACTION OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

THE OLD STONE WALLS ON THE RIVER SIDE OF THE COURT HOUSE, ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SCREEN FROM THE LAUREL LINE RAILROAD, WERE REMOVED. THE COUNTY ACQUIRED THE RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY AND THE ENTIRE AREA EXTENDING FROM RIVER STREET TO NORTH STREET WAS RE-GRADED AND LANDSCAPED TO PROVIDE EXTENDED PARKING FACILITIES FOR COUNTY BUSINESS.

GENERALLY THE PROJECT INCLUDED POINTING OF EXTERIOR STONEWORK, REBUILDING OR REPLACING RETAINING WALLS, STAIRWAYS AND SIDEWALKS, SANDBLAST CLEANING OF EXTERIOR STONEWORK, ROOFING AND REPAIRS TO DOMES, CAULKING, WATERPROOFING, PAINTING OF INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR, LANDSCAPING OF GROUNDS, RESTORATION OF INTERIOR MARBLE WORK, WOOD-WORK AND PAINTINGS, MODERNIZATION OF TOILET ROOMS, REPLACEMENT OF

INADEQUATE AND WORN FURNISHINGS, REPAIRS TO FLOORING, WALLS AND CEILINGS, AND THE REPLANNING OF OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS FOR MORE EFFICIENT USE OF SPACE.

THE MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS IN THE BUILDING, WHICH WERE OBSOLETE AND APPROACHING THE DANGER OF BREAKDOWNS, HAVE BEEN REPLACED. NEW MODERN TOILET FACILITIES, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, AND NEW HEATING, VENTILATING, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.

THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WHICH HAD BEEN EXCESSIVELY OVERLOADED IS NOW MODERN AND EFFICIENT. SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE FEATURES HAVE BEEN ADDED WHICH INCLUDE A COMPLETE NEW WIRING SYSTEM FOR LIGHTING AND POWER, A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, A CLOCK SYSTEM AND INTERIOR LIGHTING OF THE MAGNIFICENT DOME WITH ITS ART WORK. NEW SAFETY FEATURES INCLUDE LIGHTING, EXIT SIGNS AND A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM.

THE TREMENDOUS DOME, ROTUNDA AND GALLERIES WERE CLEARED OF A HALF CENTURY OF GRIME AND DIRT. THE WHITE ITALIAN MARBLE NOW GLEAMS, THE BRONZE HAS BEEN CLEANED AND POLISHED AND THE TENNESSEE MARBLE FLOORS HAVE BEEN RESET. ABOVE THE DOME, THE FOUR LARGE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND CLEANED.

THE ART WORK WAS NOT OVERLOOKED. HISTORICAL PAINTINGS REPRESENTING THE MASSACRE OF THE WHITE SETTLERS IN 1763, THE BATTLE OF WYOMING IN 1768, MINING SCENES, LARGE FIGURES SYMBOLIZING MORAL

LAW, COMMON LAW, STATUTE LAW AND EQUITY, AND THE MANY OTHER HISTORICAL SCENES OF WYOMING VALLEY AND PORTRATES OF HISTORICAL FIGURES WERE RESTORED.

THE RESTORATION PROJECT CONTINUED THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMISSIONERS POST, GOSS AND WIDEMEN. IT WAS FINALLY COMPLETED AND REDEDICATED UNDER THE PRESENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WIDEMEN, CROSSIN AND PRICE.

CONTRACTORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VARIOUS PHASES OF THE PROJECT AND THEIR CONTRACT AMOUNTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

General Exterior Work, Fabrio Construction Co.	$286,400
Exterior Lighting, Thomas Electric Construction Co.	9,850
Landscaping and Planting, Hall Nurseries	9,240
General Contract-Basement, Arthur E. Richards	141,800
Mechanical Contract-Basement, Steadle-Kole, Inc.	58,900
Electrical Contract-Basement, Frank E. Baldwin, Inc.	30,930

BECAUSE THE OFFICES IN THE BUILDING HAD TO CONTINUE DURING THE RESTORATION PROJECT, THE WORK HAD TO BE DIVIDED INTO MANY PHASES. CONTRACTORS PARTICIPATING IN THE FINAL PHASE INCLUDE:

General Construction Work, Raymon R. Hedden & Co.	$774,699
Mechanical Construction, E.J. Rogan & Sons	407,299
Electrical Construction, Frank E. Baldwin, Inc.	309,302

ALL ART RESTORATION WORK WAS DONE BY ARTIST LAWRENCE RUSSO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE W.W. DAVIS COMPANY AT A COST OF $37,500.

THE FOURTH LEVEL OF THE COURT HOUSE CONTAINS JURY ROOMS.

THE THIRD LEVEL CONTAINS FOUR COURT ROOMS, JUDGES CHAMBERS, COURT STENOGRAPHERS AND THE GRAND JURY ROOM.

THE SECOND LEVEL CONTAINS THE MAGNIFICENT ORPHANS COURT ROOM, CLERK OF COURTS, PROTHONOTARY, REGISTER OF WILLS, RECORDER OF DEEDS AND THE LAW LIBRARY.

THE LOBBY OR FIRST LEVEL CONTAINS THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MARRIAGE LICENSE BUREAU, TREASURER'S OFFICE, CONTROLLER'S OFFICE, TAX CLAIMS, PLANNING COMMISSION, MEETING ROOM, COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES, PUBLIC DEFENDER, ADULT PROBATION AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

THE BASEMENT LEVEL CONTAINS PROBATION OFFICES, MICROFILM, POST OFFICE, REMAPPING, LUNCH ROOM, DATA PROCESSING, VOTER REGISTRATION, PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AND BOARD OF ASSESSMENT.

THE SUB-BASEMENT CONTAINS MECHANICAL ROOMS, STORAGE ROOMS AND CIVIL DEFENSE CENTER.

Pennsylvania Courthouses

LUZERNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

By Harry A. Thompson, II*

The first official act implementing the public agitation for a new court house to replace the out-grown structure on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre was a favorable recommendation returned by two successive Grand Juries sitting for the February and April Sessions in 1894. But, each choice of site and projection of a plan to effect that purpose was met by adverse injunctive proceedings, so that the final project was not approved and contract let until March, 1903. Construction lagged; contractors were beset by difficulties and were replaced; plans were enlarged and specifications embellished; so that what had originally been projected as an $85,000 "fire-proof building" eventually emerged as a magnificent monument costing two million dollars. It was not ready for occupancy until June, 1909.

Basically, the design followed the grand architectural conception of the Villa Rotunda in Vicenza, Italy, by Andres Palladio, the illustrious architect of the Sixteenth Century. The plan of the building is cruciform, the length of each axis being 200 feet. The rotunda at the intersection of the axes is 53 feet by 53 feet, and terminates vertically with the dome, the base of which is 100 feet above the first floor. Various offices and courtrooms open off the corridor and gallery encircling the rotunda.

The entire rotunda, including the arches, is finished with marble. The four piers supporting the dome and rusticated walls of the first story are of Botticino stone, a buff-colored marble. The cornices, columns, balustrades and corridor wainscoting are of white Italian marble. The floors throughout are Tennessee marble; those of the corridors, gallery and rotunda being laid in patterns.

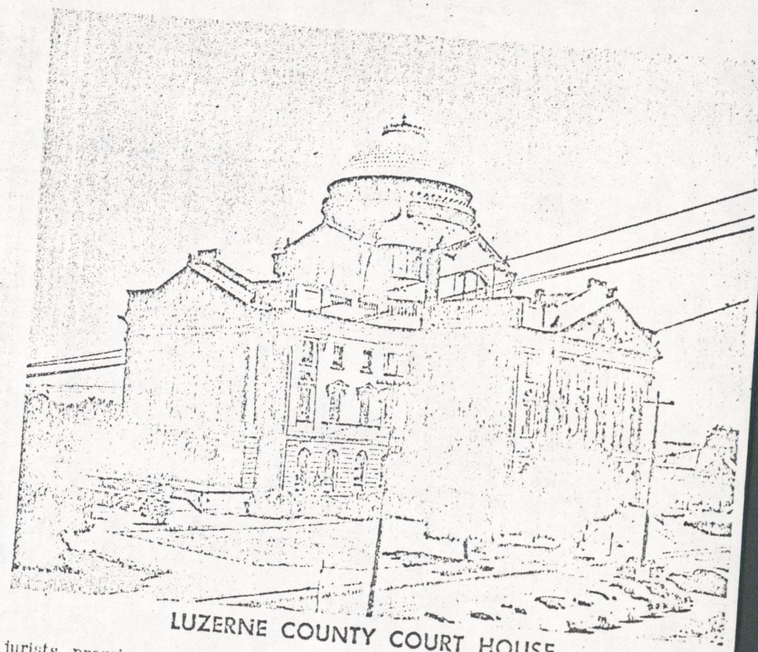
The interior of the dome is executed in plaster and is colored with the prevailing tone of the Botticino stone. The panels are of a dull green finish with such portraits and emblems as are used, painted as cameos. Goldleaf is used on the moldings. The triangular segments between the arches on the lower part of the hemispherical dome are painted with figures on mosaic backgrounds.

There are five courtrooms, four on the third floor and the fifth, the Orphans' Court, on the second floor. The third floor courtrooms are similar in design: two are finished in mahogany and two in walnut. The Orphans' Courtroom is wainscoted with English veined white Italian marble in the form of panels; the woodwork is mahogany.

Space limitation precludes recital of all the historic and emblematic decorations, the allegorical frescoes, statuary of soldiers, statesmen and jurists prominent in the state and nation. However, mention must be made of the murals that adorn each of the courtrooms over the judges' benches. All were executed by nationally-renowned artists. Of these, Will H. Low, Edwin H. Blashfield, and Kenyon Cox have earned the distinction of inclusion of their biographies in the Encyclopedia Britannica. The mural "The Judicial Virtues" in courtroom number one is recognized in the annals of art as one of the principal paintings of Artist Low.

Luzerne County's courthouse stands majestically on a spacious four acre plot, an imposing landmark of historic Wyoming Valley.

Mr. Thompson is a member of The Allegheny County Bar Association and is an associate in the firm of Plowman and Spiegel. This article was written from data furnished by Leon Schwartz, Esq. of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.



LUZERNE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Everyone owns his thoughts, so own some that are valuable.

Self-Taught 'Lawyer'

(ACCN)—"I sat at the feet of such legal luminaries as Charley (Lucky) Luciano, Jimmy Hines and Willie Sutton. Who needed Felix Frankfurter? — Israel Schawartzberg, ex-convict who became a noted jail-house "lawyer" describing to New York Times reporter Sidney Zion how he became so successful in studying law in prison that "I won 29 out of 32 writs (for other convicts) while in Dannemora and Sing Sing." Schawartzberg added: "That's the same record as Thurgood Marshall had in the Supreme Court. O.K.? And I never charged a dime."

A fool and his school are soon parted.

If you must ask, "Why?" you must also ask, "Why not?"

TIMES LEADER - RECORD
November 11, 1973

Lest We Forget!

We are glad to learn that tentative plans are afoot to give proper recognition—sometime early in the coming Christmas season—to our friends from the Biloxi-Freeport area of the Mississippi Gulf Coast who lent such valuable advice, aid and comfort to residents of the flood-torn communities of Wyoming Valley following the ravages of Tropical Storm Agnes.

It has been scarcely eleven months since the last official visit of the group, headed by newspaper publisher Roland Weeks, when more than 35 leading business, professional and government agency representatives, together with a 40-member junior college choir from that area, made a pilgrimage here by airlift to extend heartiest Christmas greetings and to present gifts and funds to some of the most destitute families affected by the June 1972 disaster.

Now is the time, we feel, that Wyoming Valley should reciprocate for all the kindnesses advanced by our Mississippi friends, who had undergone a similar tragedy when Hurricane Camille all but washed away several whole communities along the Gulf Coast three years previously. To help us in our hour of need, they sent a whole team of experts, members of a permanent committee which spearheaded the rehabilitation of their area, to give us much needed advice and counsel.

Surely, recognition of some form should be made this holiday season to show our appreciation for the compassion which the Gulf Coast folk showed our flood-torn residents. We would suggest that a delegation representing the various valley municipalities, chambers of commerce and special committees formed to deal with flood recovery, make plans to visit the area. Plans could include dedication of a Christmas tree and presentation to leaders of a "petition" containing the signatures of thousands of flood victims which could be displayed in a public place to show our gratitude.

November 12, 1973

Dear Roland:

It was good to talk to you again and to know that all is well on the Gulf Coast.

Here in Pennsylvania the fall has begun to turn to winter this week. The leaves on the trees, a riotous hue of many colors until just a few days ago, are swiftly falling. Their lifeless form offers stark announcement that the Indian summer is over and cold winter approaches. These changing days also remind us that almost a year has elapsed since the Mississippi delegation, chaired by you and accompanied by the sparkling Perkinston Junior College Choir, made their dramatic trip up here to bring the Gulf Coast holiday message of cheer and good will to this devastated area.

The recollection of that visit is still vivid in our hearts. We have not forgotten that expression of encouragement, faith, and support stretched almost across the waistline of the country, from the deep South of Mississippi to the Northeast of Pennsylvania. It symbolized the strength of the American fabric in moments of great stress; the important basic unity hidden beneath our economic, geographical and political differences.

This year the Wilkes-Barre area, the hub of the Wyoming Valley, though laid low a year ago by Hurricane Agnes, and acting through the Flood Recovery Task Force, would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to the Gulf Coast by sending you a fine Christmas tree -- one handsome, tall, and strong to carry and support our message of love and friendship.

We hope that we are still timely and that pursuant to my telephone call the necessary arrangements can be made. May I hear from you at your earliest convenience. By the way, I cannot be reached on the FTS telephone system. You can call me at Area Code 717 829-1701.

Mrs. Rosenn joins me in sending you, Mrs. Weeks, and our many friends on the Gulf Coast our warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

cc: Andrew Sordoni, III

MAX ROSENN

File - Biloxi folder

GULF COAST CITIZENS

1. The Honorable D. L. Connor
Mayor of Ocean Springs
City Hall
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

* 2. The Honorable Daniel Guice
Mayor of Biloxi
City Hall
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

3. The Honorable Phillip Shaw
Mayor of Gulfport
City Hall
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

4. The Honorable Wm. D. G. Skellie
Mayor of Long Beach
City Hall
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560

* 5. The Honorable Warren Carver
Mayor of Bay St. Louis
City Hall
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39571

6. Mr. Ernest Melvin
President of Harrison County Board of Supervisors
613 E. Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

7. Mr. Pat Byrd
President of Biloxi Chamber of Commerce
131 Iberville Drive
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

* 8. Mr. Leo Crapo
Merchiston-Hall Galleries
914 W. Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

* 9. Mr. Matt Lyons
Director of Biloxi Housing Authority
P. O. Box 447
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

* 10. Mr. Jack Thompson
President
Stewart-Sneed-Hewes, Inc. (Insurance)
1415 25th Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

* 11. Mr. Tommy Munro
Munro Oil & Paint Company (Vice President & Secretary)
333 Caillavet
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

12. Mr. Paul J. Hermetz
Manager - Gayfer's Department Store
Edgewater Shopping Center
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

13. Miss Mary Jo Sternberg
Purple Lantern Gifts
1217 25th Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

14. Mr. Richard Kmetz
Manager - Penney's Department Store
402 W. Howard Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

15. Mr. Frank Cifaldi
Manager - Sears
Edgewater Shopping Center
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

16. Mr. Don Jacobs
Eight Flags & Marine Life
DeBuys Road
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

17. Mr. Robert Baricev
Baricev's Seafood Harbor Restaurant
633 Central Beach Blvd.
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

18. Mr. Ray Butterfield
General Manager - WLOX TV
DeBuys Road
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

19. Mr. Jack Stanford
President of Mississippi Coast Innkeepers Association
Manager - Broadwater Beach Hotel
West Beach
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

20. Col. Richard J. White
Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

21. Mr. Walter Fountain
Secretary & General Manager
Biloxi Chamber of Commerce
1036 Fred Haise Blvd.
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

22. Mr. Wayne Oakes
Executive Director
Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Drawer FF
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

23. Mr. Johnny Bearden
Executive Director
United Fund for Harrison County
P. O. Box 1172
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

24. Mr. Franklin Kyle
District Commercial Manager
South Central Bell
W. Beach
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

25. Mr. Jim Allen
News Director
WLOX TV Station
DeBuys Road
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26. Mr. Hank Klibanoff
Staff Writer
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Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

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* 29. Mr. Donald E. Sutter
Executive Vice President
Hancock Bank
2500 14th Street
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

30. Mr. Dee Hamilton
Vice President
Hancock Bank
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Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

31. Mr. Cyril Washer
Personnel Director
The Daily Herald
P. O. Box 4567
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

32. Mrs. Julia Guice
Civil Defense Director for Biloxi
Pat Harrison Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

33. Mr. Wade Guice
Civil Defense Director for Harrison County
2315 17th Street
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

34. Mr. Perry Wingo
Executive Director
Harrison County Development Commission
Hancock Bank Building
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

* Members of the group that visited Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Flood

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TRIP TO BILOXI

Judge Max Rosenn	Federal Judge--Chairman Flood Task Force Committee
Roman Rubinstein	Pomeroy's - Retail
Robert Parker	Chamber Of Commerce
Edward Boltz	United Penn Bank
Roy E. Morgan	WILK Radio
Edward Schechter	Stressteel Corp. - Mfg.
Charles Hardwick	Luzerne Products Co. - Mfg.
Harrison Smith	Wilkes-Barre Publishing Co.
Dr. Francis Michellini	Pres. Wilkes College
Joseph Williams	Insurance and City Council
John Foster	WNEP - Television Media
Arnold Bresser	Cameraman
Tom Bigler	WBRE Television Media
Mayor Edward Burns	Mayor - Plymouth
Thomas McTague	Adm. Asst. to Mayor Burns
Nathan Schiowitz	General Paper Co.
OEP (Oscar Sneed & 2 Secretaries)	
Edgar J. Lashford	Exec. Director Chamber Of Commerce & Industrial Development
Jules Agree	1st Presbyterian Church

Mr. Rubinstein, to introduce Judge Rosenn

Judge Rosenn, to MC program

Mr. Wideman - on behalf of County

Roland Weeks - on behalf of Gulf Coast

Mayor Con Salwoski - on behalf of Wilkes-Barre, keys to W-B

Mayor Dan Guice, ~~Gulfport~~ Biloxi

Mr. Connor, representing Mr. Carlucci

Mr. Bob Moore, National Defense Transportation Assn.
symbolic presentation of books to Miss Hesser, Osterhout Free Library, on behalf of all Public Libraries

Also, presenting $2250 check to Santa Claus

Santa Claus, presenting gifts to family of:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wolfe 5 children
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Fox 10 children

Mr. Sonny Cantrell of Gulfport, on behalf of 6 Gulf Coast J.C. groups, who raised funds for Community Christmas tree

Perkinston Junior College choir Mr Clement

Acknowledge assistance of Bob Edgerton in arranging for tree

Move outside Rotunda

Mayor Philip Shaw, Gulfport, to light the tree

Father Cavanaugh to pronounce benediction

Miss Elizabeth Hesser

Mrs Charles Riedlinger
Plymouth

Mrs David Murray
Hoyt.

Pat
Mayor Connor
Ocean Springs

Mayor Bill Skellie
Long Beach

Philip Shaw
Gulfport

Mayor Dan Guice
Biloxi

~~Mayor~~
~~Ross Christian~~

Mr. Rubinstein, to introduce Judge Rosenn

Judge Rosenn, to MC program

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Perkinston Junior College choir

Acknowledge assistance of Bob Edgerton in arranging for tree

Move outside Rotunda

Mayor Philip Shaw, Gulfport, to light the tree

Father , to pronounce benediction

AGENDA
CEREMONIES AT WILKES-BARRE, COURTHOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1972'
OCCASION OF VISIT OF MISSISSIPPI DELEGATION.

TIME OF ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT: 1:00 P.M.
TIME OF ARRIVAL AT COURTHOUSE: 2:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE PROGRAM:

I. ROMAN RUBENSTEIN, Chairman of Committee
Opening and introduction of Chairmen of
Flood Recovery Task Force.

II. MAX ROSENN, Presiding and welcome remarks.

III. ED. WIDEMAN, Chairman, Luzerne County
Commissioners ... Remarks for Luzerne County.

IV. MAYOR CON SALWOSKI, Welcome to the City.

V. ROLAND WEEKS, President and General Manager,
The Daily Herals, serving Biloxi/Gulfport
and the Mississippi coast since 1884,
Chairman of the Mississippi delegation.

VI. PERKINSTON JR. COLLEGE CHOIR.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF MISSISSIPPI MAYORS:
Honorable D. L. Connor,
Mayor of Ocean Springs, Miss.

Honorable Daniel Guice
Mayor of Biloxi, Miss.

Honorable Phillip Shaw
Mayor of Gulfport

Honorable William Skellie
Mayor of Long Beach, Miss.

Honorable Warren Carver
Mayor of Bay St. Louis, Miss.

(Check for 6th mayor)

VIII. ROBERT MOORE, President Coast Chapter of National Defense Transportation Association -- Presentation

IX. _____, President , Junior Chamber of Commerce of Gulfport/ Biloxi -- Presentation.

X. PERKINSTON JR. COLLEGE CHOIR.

XI. Presentation of Mississippi toys by Santa Claus (Albert Patterson) to:

(a) Howard Fox, et al.
(b) Robert Wolfe, et al.

XII. MAX ROSENN, Concluding Remarks.

NOTE: WE WILL RECESS TO THE COURTHOUSE LAWN WHERE THE CHRISTMAS TREE WILL BE LIGHTED.

Flord

AGENDA, DINNER, IREM TEMPLE COUNTRY CLUB.

I. MAX ROSENN, PRESIDING

II. INVOCATION, REV. JULE AYERS

III. ROMAN RUBENSTEIN, Presentation of gifts to Mississippi delegation

IV. MAX ROSENN, remarks

V. ROLAND WEEKS, Chairman, Mississippi delegation -- remarks

VI. BENEDICTION BY REV. FATHER Kavanaugh

(Mississippi Delegation.

Coral singing by Perkinston Jr. College Choir -

I am part to pass thro' life but once — if, ii, there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again

AGENDA
CEREMONIES AT WILKES-BARRE, COURTHOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1972'
OCCASION OF VISIT OF MISSISSIPPI DELEGATION.

TIME OF ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT: 1:00 P.M.
TIME OF ARRIVAL AT COURTHOUSE: 2:30 P.M.

COURTHOUSE PROGRAM:

I. ROMAN RUBENSTEIN, Chairman of Committee
. Opening and introduction of Chairmen of
Flood Recovery Task Force.

II. MAX ROSENN, Presiding and welcome remarks.

III. ED. WIDEMAN, Chairman, Luzerne County
Commissioners ... Remarks for Luzerne County.

IV. MAYOR CON SALWOSKI, Welcome to the City.

V. ROLAND WEEKS, President and General Manager,
The Daily Herals, serving Biloxi/Gulfport
and the Mississippi coast since 1884,
Chairman of the Mississippi delegation.

VI. PERKINSTON JR. COLLEGE CHOIR.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF MISSISSIPPI MAYORS:
Honorable D. L. Connor,
Mayor of Ocean Springs, Miss.

Honorable Daniel Guice
Mayor of Biloxi, Miss.

Honorable Phillip Shaw
Mayor of Gulfport

Honorable William Skellie
Mayor of Long Beach, Miss.

Honorable Warren Carver
Mayor of Bay St. Louis, Miss.

(Check for 6th mayor)

VIII. ROBERT MOORE, President Coast Chapter of National Defense Transportation Association -- Presentation

IX. _____, President , Junior Chamber of Commerce of Gulfport/ Biloxi -- Presentation.

X. PERKINSTON JR. COLLEGE CHOIR.

XI. Presentation of Mississippi toys by Santa Claus (Albert Patterson) to:

(a) Howard Fox, et al.
(b) Robert Wolfe, et al.

XII. MAX ROSENN, Concluding Remarks.

NOTE: WE WILL RECESS TO THE COURTHOUSE LAWN WHERE THE CHRISTMAS TREE WILL BE LIGHTED.

December 6, 1973

Dear Roland:

I am deeply disappointed that I am unable to join our delegation to the Mississippi Gulf Coast tomorrow. As you know, I feel a strong kinship with so many of you whom I have come to know during this past year. It is a relationship predicated upon the finest of human qualities -- the extension of assistance, support, and friendship by your communities to another community reeling from a great natural disaster. While we are still a long way from a return to normality, we have made a strong beginning and we believe we are pointed in the right direction.

I regret that many of us who are eager to be with you tomorrow for the Christmas tree lighting cannot be there. Many have prior commitments during this time of the year. Nonetheless, our thoughts will be with you when our delegation lights up the Christmas tree in Biloxi in an expression of our appreciation and gratitude to the Gulf Coast for its many kindnesses.

In behalf of our flood devastated communities in the Wyoming Valley and myself personally, I extend to you and our many friends in Mississippi Season's greetings and best wishes for a New Year filled with good health, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

Mr. Roland Weeks, Jr., General Manager
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

December 8, 1972

Dear Dan,

First, let me express my appreciation to you for your thoughtfulness and interest in presenting the personal sketch to me this past weekend. It was beautifully framed and I am grateful to you for it.

I want to take this opportunity to also express the appreciation of the community to you, your party and to everyone concerned for your presence up here this past weekend, your generous gifts and assistance. As I have indicated to Roland in a letter to him today, the Valley is still singing your praises and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Please convey our best wishes and gratitude to our mutual friends down there who played a role in your visit up here. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Southern Airways for their assistance.

Warmest regards to you and your lovely wife and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Mayor Daniel Guice
City Hall
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

November 13, 1972

Dear Mary Jo,

I want to express the appreciation of the Flood Recovery Task Force and myself personally for the time you gave us when we were in Biloxi and Gulfport. Your suggestions were very helpful and we're very appreciative of your interest and concern.

We are delighted to know that we shall have a delegation from the Gulfport-Biloxi area on December 2nd. It would be nice to have you among those visiting us. We are looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to seeing as many of our friends from Mississippi who can make the trip.

The wine bottle rack which I ordered when I was in your shop arrived several days ago. It is just fine. A bill did not accompany it. I wish you would mail one to me and I shall send you a check promptly.

Warmest regards to you, your mother and father.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Miss Mary Jo Sternberg
The Purple Lantern
1217 25th Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

December 8, 1972

Dear Roland:

I am delighted that you and your delegation had a fine return trip to Biloxi.

I want to again express the appreciation of our Wyoming Valley to you, your party and to everyone who made it possible for you to be here last week. On behalf of an excited and grateful community, we want to thank you for your generous gifts, your concern and your presence here. The Valley is still singing your praises and will continue to do so in the months ahead. I wish you would convey to all those concerned our heartfelt appreciation.

I am enclosing some material that appeared in our local newspapers.

Seasons Greetings to you and your family and best wishes to everyone down there for a Merry Christmas and a Good, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Roland Weeks, Jr., President
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

December 8, 1972

Dear Mayor Skellie,

I want to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the community to you, your party and to everyone concerned for your presence up here this past weekend, your generous gifts and assistance. As I have indicated to Roland Weeks in a letter to him today, the Valley is still singing your praises and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Please convey our best wishes and gratitude to our mutual friends down there who played a role in your visit up here. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Southern Airways for their assistance.

Warmest Regards to you and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Honorable Wm. D. G. Skellie
Mayor of Long Beach
City Hall
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560

December 8, 1972

Dear Mayor Shaw,

I want to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the community to you, your party and to everyone concerned for your presence up here this past weekend, your generous gifts and assistance. As I have indicated to Roland in a letter to him today, the Valley is still singing your praises and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Please convey our best wishes and gratifude to our mutual friends down there who played a role in your visit up here. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Southern Airways for their assistance.

Warmest regards to you and your lovely wife and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAXRROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Mayor Phillip Shaw
City Hall
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

December 8, 1972

Dear Mayor Connor,

I want to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the community to you, your party and to everyone concerned for your presence up here this past weekend, your generous gifts and assistance. As I have indicated to Roland Weeks in a letter to him today, the Valley is still singing your praises and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

Please convey our best wishes and gratitude to our mutual friends down there who played a role in your visit up here. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Southern Airways for their assistance.

Warmest regards to you and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman, Flood Recovery Task Force

MR:cjc

Mayor D. L. Connor
City Hall
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

Work

February 20, 1973

Dear Oscar:

Thank you for sending me the Mississippi prints. They are fine and I am glad to have them, particularly since one of them reflects your handsome countenance.

Many thanks for your interest and continued kindness.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

Mr. Oscar Snead
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Region 3 Disaster Center
400 Kidder Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

FLOOD **RECOVERY** TASK **FORCE,** INC.
~~HOTEL STERLING~~ 165 South Franklin Street
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

MINUTES

FRTF Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 1973, 12:15, Hotel Sterling

Present: Steve Carter, Jim Fagelson, Dick Miller (Wilbur Smith and Associates); Andrew Hourigan, James Kenny, Lane Kilburn, Tom Kiley, Edgar Lashford, Roy Morgan, Max Rosenn, Betty Schechter, Edward Schechter, Andrew Shaw, A. J. Sordoni.

At Rosenn's suggestion, Lashford opened the meeting with a report on the visit he, Joseph Williams, Robert Masoner, and Robert Parker had made recently to Mississippi. The delegation from Wyoming Valley presented a Christmas Tree to their hosts as an expression of the continuing friendship that flood victims here feel for the people of Biloxi and Gulfport, and of gratitude for the Christmas visit that a group of Mississippians made to the Valley last year. Lashford reported that he, Williams, Masoner, and Parker were surprised to find that though the hurricane that laid waste to the Biloxi-Gulfport region occurred in 1969 the region's recovery from its disastrous effects is not as far advanced as Wyoming Valley's recovery from the effects of Hurricane Agnes.

Miller introduced Fagelson and Carter to the group and explained that Carter will be in charge of Area Appearance and Image work program that Wilbur Smith and Associates is preparing for the Task Force. Carter reveiwed the progress that has been made on this program: he said that he and his associates are currently charting visual elements prevalent throughout the Valley, and will shortly begin mapping visual factors peculiar to particular areas.

Next, Miller made several observations on the survey of local attitudes toward local government, housing, and area appearance and image that his firm recently completed for the Task Force. He said that it was a scientific random sampling of Valley opinion, and he characterized the responses to the questionnaire used as "mixed". He added that the responses contain some surprises. To questions about the methodology that was used in making the survey, Miller replied that it will be explained in detail in the final report on the survey which will be presented to the Task Force in approximately two weeks from the date of the meeting.

A discussion of how the results of the survey should be made known to the public led to agreement that release of the results would be delayed until the Task Force receives the Consultant's written final report.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
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A discussion of how the results of the survey should be made known to the public led to agreement that release of the results would be delayed until the Task Force receives the Consultant's written final report.

December 22, 1972

Dear Roland:

I am transmitting herewith some of the news items that appeared in our local press in connection with your visit here. I thought this might be of interest to you and others in the delegation. I am only sending one set to you.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you, Mrs. Weeks and your family and to all of the Gulf Coast for a Merry Christmas and a Good, Healthy and Happy New Year. We thank you again for making ours brighter.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Roland Weeks, Jr., General Manager
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

December 28, 1972

Dear Roland:

The enclosed article from the New York Times on Tuesday, December 19th may have escaped your attention. I thought it might be of interest to you.

Warmest regards and best wishes on the new year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

Roland Weeks, Jr., General Manager
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Past

January 29, 1974

Mr. Edgar Lashford, Vice President
Chamber of Commerce
South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Edgar:

Enclosed are a copy of letter and Xerox invoices covering the Christmas tree ceremonies at Biloxi, Mississippi.

You will recall Joe Williams indicated originally that the City would be willing to pick up at least $100 of the bill. I feel quite certain that if you call him the City would be willing to pick up one-half of the bill and perhaps the Chamber can pick up the difference. I doubt that the FRTF may spend any money under its grant for this purpose. If you have any questions, please call me.

I also enclose a copy of my response to John McFarland.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosures

XXXXXXXXXXX WILKES COLLEGE

ast

January 29, 1974

Dear John:

I have been out of town and returned to find your letter of January 23 enclosing the invoice for the Christmas tree and your kind comments. It will take me several days to get the funds for you and I shall transmit them with reasonable promptness.

Many thanks for your cooperation and for your generous remarks.

Edgar Lashford conveyed an enthusiastic and complete report of the ceremonies. I exceedingly regret that I could not be there but I derived some satisfaction in the knowledge that all went well.

Warmest regards to you and Roland.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Mr. John McFarland, Director
Promotion/Public Relations
Gulf Publishing Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 4567
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

gulf publishing company, inc.

MAIN OFFICES
Located on DeBuys Road · P.O. Box 4567
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531 · Telephone (601) 896-4236

BUREAU OFFICES
Located in Bay St. Louis · Ocean Springs
Pascagoula · Jackson, Ms. and Washington D.C.

January 23, 1974

Max Rosenn, Circuit Judge
U.S.Court of Appeals
Third Circuit
Federal Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Judge Rosenn:

We at Gulf Publishing Company, Inc. send our best regards and wishes for a peaceful 1974. We also send a notice that the Christmas tree and sign cost $324.90.

Net cost for tree (with 20% discount)	$302.40
Net cost for sign (with discount)	22.50
	$324.90

Now that I've gotten the crass commercial message out of the way, let me say that the tree was a real beauty (as I hope you saw from the photograph I sent Mr. Parker at the Chamber of Commerce), and we were all so proud to be connected with its display. You were greatly missed at the tree-lighting -- but you were well-toasted at the cocktail party.

Your tree remained on the mall well into the New Year. It was rather sad watching it being dismantled and stored last week. But it will remain at Edgewater Plaza to be used again next year and for years to come, as a reminder of the unique relationship developed between our two communities.

Regards from Roland Weeks to you and your Recovery Committee.

Sincerely,

John McFarland
Director
Promotion/Public Relations

JM/jc

STATEMENT

GARDNER'S

Signs, Displays & Art Studio

Art Work - Show Cards - Truck Lettering

NORTH BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI 39532

305 FIFTH AVE. PHONE 432-8357 : 432-7659

TO THE SUN PUBLISHING CO.

ADDRESS 90 JOHN McFARLAND DAILY HERALD NEWSPAPER

CITY DEBUYS RD. GULFPORT, MISS.

DATE DEC 6-1973

1-28 x 44" SHOWCARD THE FRIENDSHIP TREE A GIFT FROM THE GRATEFUL PEOPLE OF WILKES-BARRE, PA. DELIVERED TO EDGEWATER MALL	22.50
	22.50

2% added to bill after 30 days.

INVOICE

№ 1352

THE LEISURE HOURS
P. O. Box 6386
GULFPORT, MISS. 39501

864-1401

TO Edgewater Plaza Merchants Assoc.
Biloxi, Miss.
attention: Mr "Skid" Speer

DATE Dec. 3, 1973
CUSTOMER ORDER NO.
SALESMAN
VIA

TERMS:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
			$ 310 00
1	12½' Xmas tree completely decorated		62 00
	Less 20% Lic.		248 00
	Labor to instal same - 8 hours	@5.00	40 00
			288 00
	[redacted] Tax		14 40
			302 40

Thank You!

ORIGINAL

March 7, 1973

Dear Roland:

Enclosed you will find an editorial which appeared in last Sunday's issue of The Times-Leader Evening News. I thought it might be of interest to you and our friends from Mississippi.

I hope you and your family are well. Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosure

Mr. Roland Weeks, Jr., General Manager
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

dje: This relates to a conversation on the plane.
Jmhee

Registration Drive Results Here Called 'Very Poor'

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN

The city's voter registration drive achieved "very poor" results despite all the publicized efforts to place new voters on the rolls here, a Board of Elections official said yesterday.

New figures announced yesterday showed a net gain of 371,000 voters registered in the city for the general election on Nov. 7. This brings the total to 3,421,300, or about 60.5 per cent of those eligible to register, the board reported.

The percentage is about the same as it was in 1968, but several percentage points lower than 1964 and 1960. The city's 18-to-21-year-old voters — new to the rolls since last year — now are registered at about the same rate as those over 21, a board spokesman said.

The figures are approximate, the board said, because only estimates are available for the number of voters who registered earlier this year and the number of voters who have died or moved out of the city.

The four-day local registration drive, which ended Tuesday, registered 251,393 voters —nearly half of them on the last day. The borough breakdown follows: Queens, 85,441; Brooklyn, 77,094; Manhattan, 40,887; the Bronx, 32,628, and Staten Island, 15,343.

Earlier in the year about 445,000 voters were registered at special sites and at the board's offices. The breakdown was as follows: Queens, 70,000; Brooklyn, 104,000; Manhattan, 142,000; The Bronx, 120,000, and Staten Island, 9,000.

From the total of about 696,000 new registrants added this year, 325,000 are to be subtracted, according to Alexander Bassett, administrator of the Board of Elections. About 300,000 voters, or 10 per cent of the existing rolls, move out of the city each year, he said, and about 25,000 die. The precise figure will not be tabulated until the end of the year.

There were 3,050,362 voters on the city's rolls at the beginning of the year. Of the net gain of 371,000 voters, about 200,000 are between the ages of 18 and 21, Mr. Bassett said.

Why It Happened

But even the net gain of 171,000 voters is deceiving, he said, because this year the Board of Elections is not subtracting from the rolls those people who failed to vote in the last two years.

At least 60,000 voters who were supposed to have been removed from the rolls were retained because the board, behind in its work all year, was unable to notify them that they were to be removed. The board in effect has suspended the state law providing for their removal in four boroughs. In Queens, where the state law was carried out, Mr. Bassett said, the board now is weighing whether to reinstate the removed voters.

The number of new registrants is low, Mr. Bassett said, because of voter apathy. "If there hadn't been a special effort this year," he added, the total might have been way below 1968."

Although registration ended Tuesday across the state, no statewide figures will be available until November.

Beauty Salon



January 13, 1975

Mr. Roland Weeks, Jr
General Manager
The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

Dear Roland:

I was exceedingly distressed by the tornadoes that swept Mississippi this past week. The only consolation is that apparently Biloxi and Gulfport were spared the havoc that struck McComb. I hope, if our information is correct, that you suffered no damage or losses.

I am leaving today for New Orleans where I will be helping out in the Fifth Circuit. If time permits, I shall try to get over and pay you a visit. In any event, I will call.

Warmest regards to you and Mrs. Weeks and our mutual friends.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Gulf Coast visited UB on Saturday, Dec. 2nd
arriving at Avoca on Southern Airways
Travel provided by Mortz buses –
one bus carrying Choir visited mobile home sites
for carroling.
Then to Court House Rotund for Carroling &
tree lighting there at 5 30 P.M.
Then Hosted by FRTF at Green Temple
for dinner & cocktails.
Departed Avoca at 10 P.M.
Group Consisted of 40 person choir, 6 Mayors
from Gulf Coast Cities, 6 Jr. C of C. Presidents
Told about 75.
Ronnie Rubinstein, Gen Mgr. of Pomeroy, Chaired
our Committee on arrangements

N.B. Jim Lee accompanied us to Biloxi –
Mrs. edited in B T-L on Sunday Oct. 15th/72
" " " Sunday March 1/73

Roland Weeks, Pres.
Gulf Publishing Co. The Daily Herald
Biloxi, Miss., 39533
P.O. Box 4567

Donald E. Sutter, Ex. V-P, Hancock Bank, Gulfport, Miss
39501 (601) Tel. 663-1621

T-L Ed. on 11/11/73

THIS IS

BILOXI

MISSISSIPPI



City of Biloxi

On the Mississippi Gulf Coast

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEAR FRIENDS

The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint you with our charming and progressive City of Biloxi. In its pages you receive only a brief introduction to the "highpoints" of our City. We welcome further acquaintance through personal contact with our cosmopolitan citizens who work industriously toward providing a healthy economic atmosphere while preserving the City's history and charm, extending a hand of friendship to all new-comers.

The remarkable growth of this beautiful area is evidenced most significantly by the population increase of over 50% during the past ten years. Retail sales have also doubled which is proof positive of the strong economic status of Biloxi. The high percentage of citizens who settle here after retiring is indicative of the City's desirability as a place to live, and the hospitable manner of its people.

Evidence of progress is seen in all areas of historical Biloxi. It is for this reason we recommend that you browse through the following pages carefully, then follow up with an "on the spot" visit. The people of our City invite you to be a part of metropolitan Biloxi's bright future. Culturally unique, historical in atmosphere, but progressive in spirit.....THIS IS BILOXI....make it your City too.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel D. Guice
MAYOR



Mayor Daniel D. Guice

THIS IS BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

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Text by: Gwen H. Gollotte, Walter F. Fountain

Photography by: Audrey Murphy

Consultant: Anthony V. Ragusin

Published by the City of Biloxi, Mississippi
Mayor Daniel D. Guice,
Commissioners Dominic A. Fallo and J. A. "Tony" Creel
Produced by Audrey Murphy, Commercial-Industrial Photography
P.O. Box 575, Biloxi, Miss.



The City of eight flags

HISTORICAL BILOXI

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI is a city rich in history and tradition, yet modern and progressive . . . a city with a bright future. While carefully preserving its historical atmosphere, Biloxi has accomplished steady growth in commerce, industry and tourism.

Biloxi was founded in 1699 by Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville who was seeking the mouth of the Mississippi River for the King of France. One of the oldest cities in the United States, Biloxi predates Mobile and New Orleans. It was the first Capital of the Louisiana Purchase Territory.

Biloxi (meaning "First People" in Indian Language) is a blend of the many cultures and influences which have dominated its growth. Eight flags have flown over Biloxi: French, English, Spanish, Republic of West Florida, United States of America, Magnolia State, Confederate States of America and the State of Mississippi.

1720 drawing of first buildings at New Biloxi — In the Beginning



Charming old homes have survived each era of Biloxi's history. The Old French House, now a connoisseur restaurant, has preserved all the colorful atmosphere of the past. According to former owners, it was built in 1737 and was occupied by the first governor of Louisiana. Constructed around 1780, the Old Spanish House is presently being restored. It is the only surviving reminder of the Spanish rule over Biloxi.



Old French House

Ship Island, lying 12 miles offshore from Biloxi, has played a vital part in the history of the Gulf Coast area. This island's sun drenched beaches have witnessed early French explorers and settlers, swashbuckling pirates of Jean Lafitte and the English Armada of General Packenham in the War of 1812.

Fort Massachusetts on the western tip of Ship Island was begun in 1856 by the Federal Government. Confederate forces took over the fort only to have it recaptured by Union troops who used it as a prison during The War Between the States.



Fort Massachusetts

The Old Brick House on Back Bay of Biloxi is a cherished heirloom of Biloxi history. Built between 1790 and 1848, the lovely old home was nearly lost to posterity until the Garden Clubs of Biloxi restored the structure to its former beauty.



Old Brick House

The Jefferson Davis Shrine is Biloxi's most revered memorial and historical site. Here at his beloved Beauvoir Confederate President Jefferson Davis lived for 12 years. Overlooking the Gulf of Mexico the home has been lovingly restored with most of the original Davis furnishings. Preserved and operated under the auspices of the United Sons of the Confederate Veterans, Beauvoir, dating back to 1854, is visited by thousands of people annually. A library, summer cottage and Confederate cemetery are maintained. The former Confederate Veterans Hospital now houses a collection of Historical documents and items from the War Between the States.



Beauvoir - Jefferson Davis Shrine

The famous Biloxi Lighthouse, located in the center of bustling, four-lane U.S. Highway 90, has stood since 1848. Seafarers have been guided by the bright welcoming beacon since the days of graceful sailing schooners. When President Lincoln was assassinated Biloxi citizens painted the Lighthouse black to express their mourning. On the South side of the Highway the eight colorful flags which have flown over Biloxi stand.

Biloxi Lighthouse





Biloxi City Hall

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC

Biloxi has been unfolding a blueprint of progress in recent years. Under the forward looking leadership of Mayor Daniel D. Guice, Commissioners J. A. "Tony" Creel and Dominic A. Fallo the city government offers up-to-date facilities and services to citizens. The modernized City Hall contains offices of the municipal government including: Auditing, Biloxi Planning Commission, City Engineer, Purchasing, City Clerk, Tax Assessor and Traffic Control Officer. Full time building and electrical inspectors are headquartered here as well as Civil Defense, Biloxi Port Commission, Veterans Service Center, American Red Cross and Justice of the Peace.

Approximately 85,000 people reside in the Biloxi metropolitan area making Biloxi the second largest city in Mississippi. Biloxi is located on a peninsula with boundaries extending West to Gulfport, South to the Gulf of Mexico and North and East to the Bay of Biloxi. The city is accessible by automobile on U. S. Highways 90 and 49, State Highways 67 and 15. Southern Airways and Sun Airlines connect with major airlines in Mobile and New Orleans. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad carries freight and passengers. Four major deep sea ports are within easy commuting distance to Biloxi. Continental Trailways and Greyhound Bus Lines run regular schedules. Municipal Transit Lines provide service within Biloxi and between coastal cities. Major freight lines operate in the city.



Second Judicial Court House



Biloxi Planning Commission



West Biloxi Public Library

Elderly Housing Unit

The new Second Judicial District Court House provides Biloxi with dual county seat services. The Offices of Tax Assessor, Chancery, Circuit Clerk, Sheriff and Tax Collector, County Court, Circuit Court and Chancery Court are located here.

The dedicated Biloxi Planning Commission, along with the city administration, has undertaken a beautification program which has provided shady parks, safe recreational areas, extensive street and sidewalk improvements as well as new buildings to house various departments of the city government.

The progressive Housing Authority of the City of Biloxi operates six modern, low rent housing projects. The elderly housing unit is typical of the economical yet attractive buildings provided for low income families.

The Biloxi Public Library offers a wide variety of services to the community. The main branch houses 50,000 volumes and has an excellent children's department which sponsors a summer reading program. The geneological and local history sections are exceptionally good. Reference rooms as well as copy facilities for research workers are supplied. A staff of 10 full-time personnel assisted by part-time helpers operate the main branch as well as two sub branches, the newest of which features a "fine paintings" loan department. A Club Program Planning Service is available to civic groups. Additional new branch libraries are planned for the near future.





Bay Vista Fire Station

FIRE PROTECTION

The Biloxi Fire Department has seven modern fire stations located in strategic sections of the city. The 60 personnel of the Fire Department operate quickly and efficiently. All firemen have undergone rigorous, specialized training in the latest methods of fire fighting. Rolling equipment includes a 75 foot snorkel, 65 foot aerial, seven pumpers, emergency unit equipped with oxygen and resuscitator plus specially made equipment for fighting forest fires.

POLICE PROTECTION

Biloxi is noted for its courteous, well-trained and efficient Police Department. The Biloxi Police Department personnel undergo specialized training at the State Police Academy for all areas of law enforcement and crime detection as well as attend Special F.B.I. Schools conducted several times a year. Sixty full time personnel, 20 auxiliary school patrol and over 30 volunteer police protect the citizens of Biloxi. Equipment used by Police includes a central radio control center which handles calls to all units, over a dozen patrol cars, three motorcycle units and a Canine Corps under the control of specially trained officers. A full time Juvenile Officer works closely with Harrison County Youth Court and Youth Center. Juveniles who make one mistake are counselled and guided to a better direction in life.

Biloxi Police Station





Howard Memorial Hospital

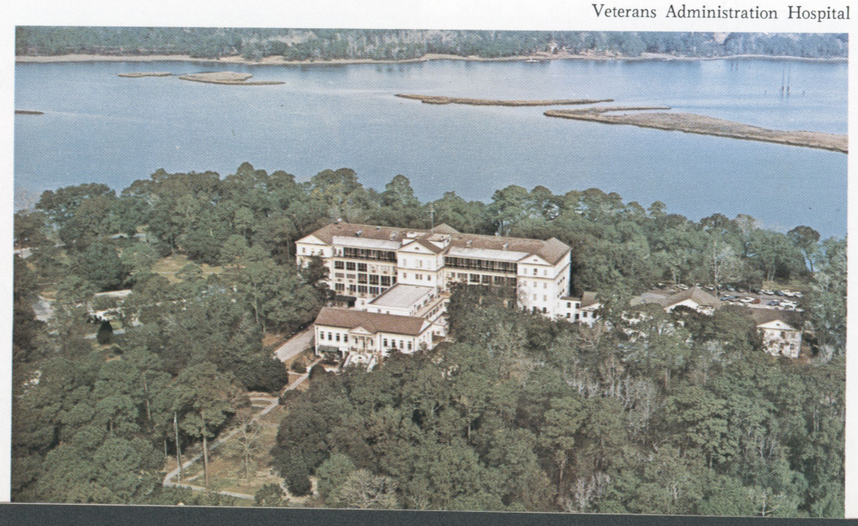
HEALTH PROTECTION

Modern progressive Howard Memorial Hospital provides Biloxians with contemporary medical and surgical treatment. Thirty eight physicians staff the 158 bed hospital and represent all fields of medicine and surgery. Nursing services include a team of professional and practical nurses, aides and orderlies. The facilities include an ultra-modern surgical recovery room, intensive care unit with emergency equipment at the patients' bedside, Red Cross Blood Bank, pharmacy, clinical and pathology laboratory and physical therapy department. The X-Ray Department is one of the finest in the South featuring a Cobalt-60 Teletherapy Unit, complete radio isotope section and equipment for complex Angiographic (blood flow) procedures. The Emergency Room section is under 24 hour attention by efficient personnel.

Coast Convalescent Center is a 72 bed facility overlooking the Gulf of Mexico and caring for elderly patients and those requiring a long recuperative period. It is considered one of the finest such centers in the State of Mississippi.

The U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital and Domiciliary covers 200 beautifully landscaped acres of Biloxi's Back Bay. The annual admission rate is 2,200 veterans. A 209 bed General Medical and Surgical Hospital provides services in general surgery, general medicine, neuropsychiatry, radiology, urology, pathology, orthopedic surgery, eye, ear, nose and throat treatment, dental and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Seventy one nursing care beds are available to former patients. Extensive restoration and community rehabilitation programs benefit the patients. Approximately 460 local residents are employed by the V. A. Center.

Veterans Administration Hospital





Biloxi High School

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

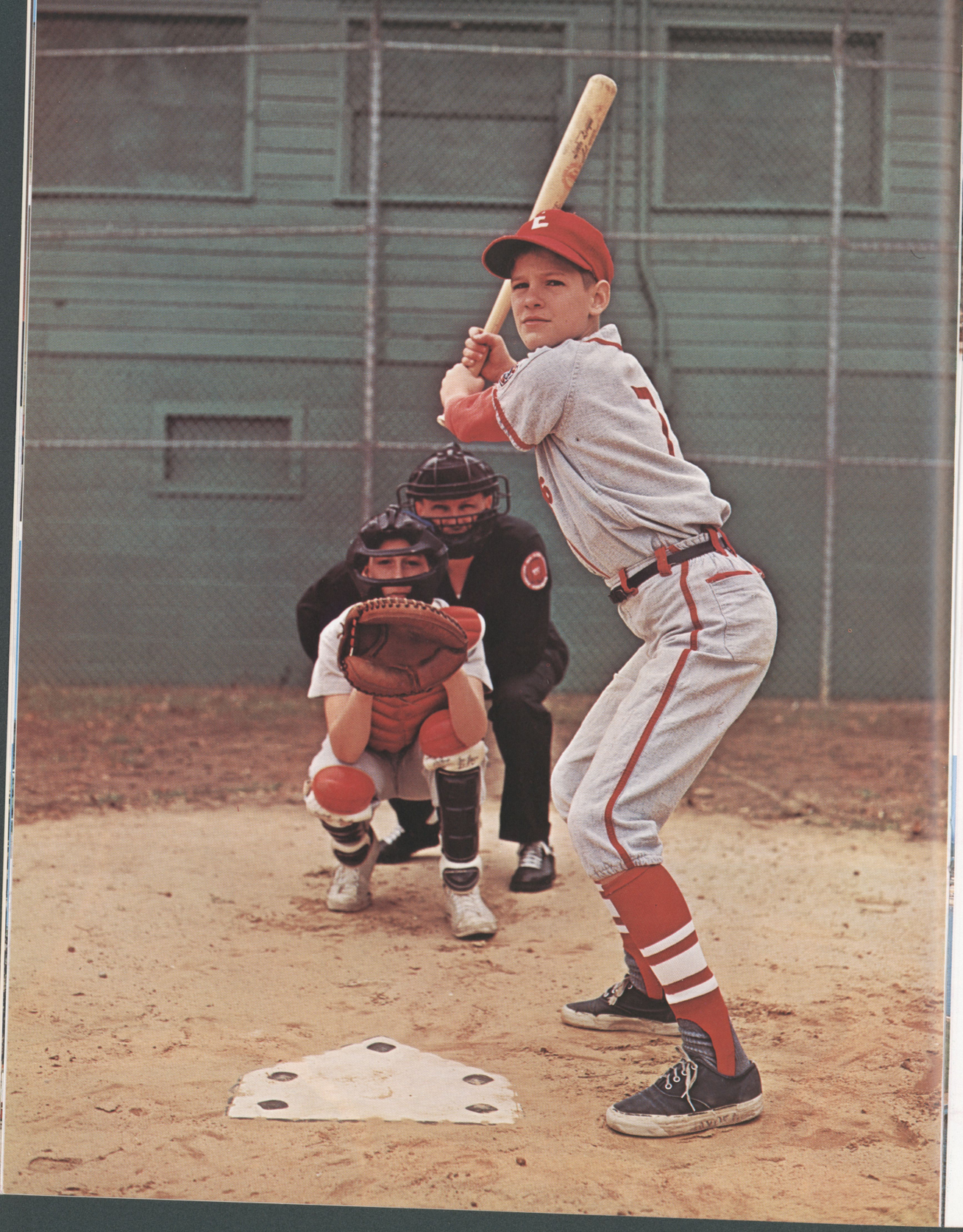
Biloxi has fourteen public schools, seven parochial and a junior college. All secondary schools are members of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges and are rated "AA" by that association. Outstanding programs in the Biloxi school system include: vocation, reading, speech therapy and health services. Coordinated guidance, academic and extracurricular programs insure a superior course of studies. Continued upgrading of staff members is a part of the long range planning that maintains the tradition of excellence in all Biloxi schools. The Sisters of Mercy of St. Louis Province staff Sacred Heart Girls High School and the five elementary schools. Notre Dame Boys High School is directed by the Brothers of the Holy Cross. A private elementary school and a military academy also serve students in this area.

Students at Jefferson Davis Junior College live at home while attending the first two years of college. The campus encompasses 120 acres of land and covers 100,000 square feet including classrooms, science laboratories, administrative offices, library, student union building, athletic area and tree shaded patios. A general academic program plus technical and vocational programs to meet the needs of Harrison County is provided.

The college, fully accredited by the Mississippi Association of Colleges and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, offers training facilities for new industries at the Manpower Training Building near the Harrison County Industrial Seaway. An excellent Hotel-Motel Course supplies employees for the rapidly expanding resort and convention industry. Registered and practical nursing programs are providing personnel for local hospitals. New educational opportunities await Biloxi students with the recent approval granted for an attendance center which will make third and fourth year college work, as well as courses for advanced degrees, available.

Jefferson Davis Junior College







Glennan Memorial Park

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

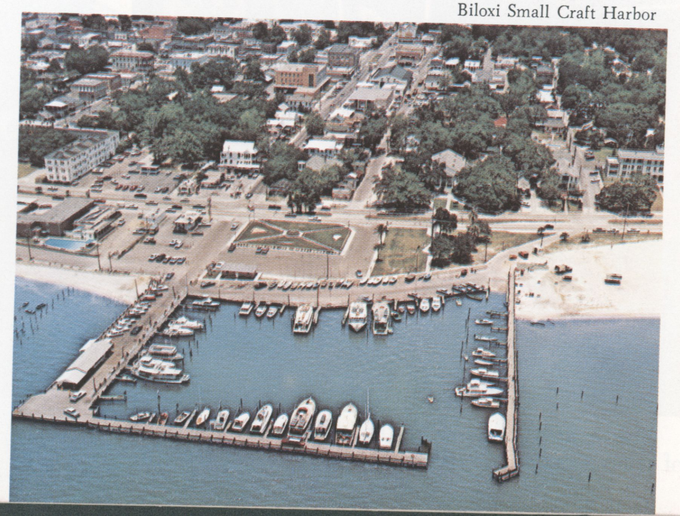
Life is truly enjoyable in Biloxi for young and old. The City Parks and Recreation Department employs 30 full time personnel dedicated to serving the recreation minded public. The recreation program utilizes eleven playgrounds, eight lighted ball parks, five recreation centers and a central office and maintenance shop. Baseball, football, and basketball teams sponsored by the city are coached and managed by volunteers of the community. Playgrounds are supervised throughout the summer by Recreation Department Personnel. Classes are taught in swimming, lifesaving, ballet, tumbling, art, ceramics and other crafts.

City parks contain tennis courts, picnic areas, playground equipment and flower gardens. The Biloxi Port Commission operates the Small Craft Harbor with launching facilities for the boating public, and also maintains the Biloxi Bridge Pier off Point Cadet for fishing enthusiasts. Modern bowling lanes operate popular leagues. Fish abound in the Gulf of Mexico, bays, bayous and rivers surrounding Biloxi. Hunting is enjoyed year 'round with an abundance of deer, duck, geese, squirrel, rabbits, turkey, quail, dove and other game in nearby woodlands. Golf, sailing and all water sports are popular. Garden hobbiests enjoy a twelve month growing season for flowers and vegetables. Hiller Park has recently been opened as a picnic and recreational area. The seventy five acre park on beautiful Back Bay of Biloxi will have tennis courts and a Recreation Center plus other facilities when completed.

Commissioners Dominic A. Fallo and J. A. "Tony" Creel inspecting progress at Hiller Park.



Biloxi Small Craft Harbor





Floundering at night is a favorite pastime for young and old along the beach.



The new Biloxi Community Center is the scene of some thirty lavish King and Queen Balls sponsored by local organizations during the Carnival Season. The modern, air-conditioned, multiple use auditorium is used for theatrical productions, teen dances, civic meetings, athletic events and many other purposes. A feature of the building is the balcony overlooking the grand ballroom.



The Biloxi Municipal Stadium, home of the Shrimp Bowl Classic, is the setting for numerous high school, junior school and semi-pro football contests as well as many other sports events.



The merry-go-round is the perennial favorite of youngsters at the Biloxi Amusement Park.



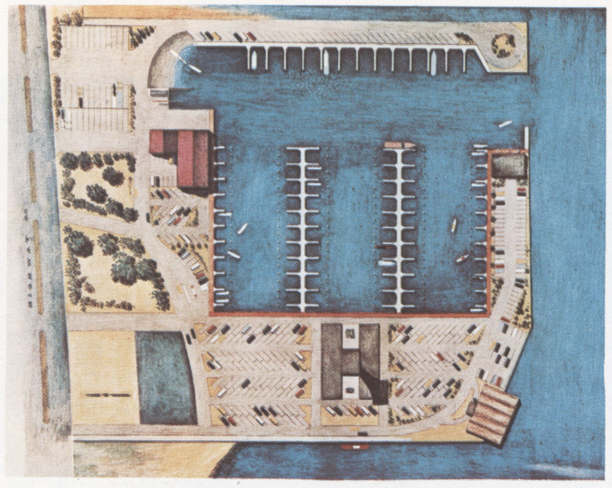
The latest recreation for Biloxians is the Super Slide. A healthy exciting entertainment for the whole family.



The Biloxi Yacht Club, a local landmark, wa organized in 1900 and has witnessed the thrillin spectacle of numerous Biloxi fishing schooner racing under full sail for coveted trophies. Toda Biloxians carry on the sailing tradition of the fathers in weekly races during the summer. Th annual Southern Mayors' Championship Sailboa Race in June is a highlight of the season.



The Biloxi Mullet fisherman is a familiar sigh along the coast, and his net is sometimes calle a "Biloxi Mullet Gun." Mullet are so plentiful i the coastal waters that natives refer to them a "Biloxi Bacon."



Proposed Plan of Biloxi Small Craft Harbor

FUTURE BILOXI

Several groups work hand-in-hand to assure the steady progress and growth of Biloxi. The Biloxi Planning Commission, Biloxi Port Commission, Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, Harrison County Development Commission, Harrison County Planning Commission and the Regional Planning Commission. The Harrison County Board of Supervisors consisting of President Laz Quave, Arlan Robinson, Rimmer C. Simpson, Francis J. Hursey and Wendell C. Lewis are an integral part of the pattern of progress which is evident in Biloxi's industrial growth. Under the dynamic leadership of the city administration Biloxi is keeping in step with the future. Biloxi Small Craft Harbor at a cost of $1,250,000 will soon offer modern accommodations for 175 boats. Deer Island of tomorrow will almost double the size of Biloxi and will provide additional residential, commercial and recreational areas plus harbor and marina facilities. Back Bay of Biloxi Bridge will soon be replaced by a new bascule span bridge at a cost of approximately ten million dollars. This will provide linkage to State Highways 67, 15, Interstate 10 and U. S. Highway 90. A Harrison County Coliseum on the Gulf front is proposed midway between Biloxi and Gulfport, with facilities for entertainment, recreation, sports events and a convention site for 10,000 delegates. The Biloxi Planning Commission has presented a carefully planned program for making the main thoroughfare of Biloxi's downtown area a Mall with beach linkage for passing travelers and with attractive parking areas. Additional libraries and recreational centers are planned for every section of Biloxi.

New developments that will affect Biloxi include the completion of Interstate 10 north of Back Bay of Biloxi. Interstate 10 will relieve U. S. 90 of much through-traffic while making it more available and attractive to local residents and visitors. The Harrison County Industrial Seaway will stimulate heavy industry employment as well as every other business activity in the region. The future of Biloxi is indeed bright. The city officials and citizens of Biloxi welcome you to — a fun place to visit — a fun place to live.

Artist's concept of Deer Island — Proposed Development



For specific information pertaining to any of the materials in this report, aside from contacting one of the City Officials, you may contact directly one of the following boards or bureaus which has helped develop our past programs and is contributing toward the future development of our community.

Biloxi Chamber of Commerce
Biloxi Housing Authority
Biloxi Port Commission
Election Commission
Howard Memorial Hospital Board

CITY OF BILOXI:

Biloxi Council on the Arts
Bridge and Park Commission
Citizens Advisory Committee
City Planning Commission
Electrical Inspection Board
Employees Civil Service Board
Employees Disability & Relief Board
Firemen & Policemen Civil Service Board
Firemen & Policemen Disability & Relief Board
Library Board
Park & Recreation Board
Plumbing Board
School Board
Stadium Board
Taxi Cab Administrative Board

Information for this booklet obtained from the following sources:

Biloxi Inventory 1967-68 (Prepared by John A. Martiniere, Director, Biloxi Port Commission, with assistance of Mississippi Research and Development Center, Jackson, Mississippi).

Biloxi Central Business District Revitalization (Planning Services, Inc., New Orleans, La.)

Keesler Air Force Base Office of Information

Biloxi Chamber of Commerce

Biloxi-Gulfport Daily Herald

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