

Hillsville, Virginia
June 30, 1959

ANNUAL REPORT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Carroll County, Virginia

(Period July 1, 1958 - June 30, 1959)

I. Summary *Begin*

The county people who have been closely associated with the Carroll County Rural Development Program during the past year are not satisfied with the results obtained. They realize that considerable progress could be made if the leadership of the major organizations, agencies and governing bodies would give strong support to the effort.

The effectiveness of county agency programs is directly dependent upon local cooperation and initiative. Local agency personnel displayed a remarkable degree of cooperation during the past 12 months. This group stands ready to join with local county leaders in promoting worthwhile county and community projects.

Probably, the Rural Development Program in Carroll County has been most effective in two areas of activity. They are:

1. Resource Studies and Surveys: Completed during the year were the Water Resource Study; Area Labor Survey; Area Youth Study and the Industrial Sites and Economic Data Survey of Carroll County. In addition, the Progressive Soil Survey of Carroll County is underway. Also, a County Pictorial Industrial Brochure is due to be completed by September, 1959.

2. Education: We are certain that a greater number of local citizens now possess a better understanding of rural and farm economic problems. These folks understand that a scientific agricultural revolution is in progress --- and that drastic changes are taking place in commercial agriculture today. This situation is encouraging them to accept new integrated intensive agricultural enterprises and to see industrial growth as a necessity for the economic well-

being of the area.

No outstanding projects or achievements can be reported at this time for Carroll County. *end*

I. General Organizational Information

A. Organizational Data

The Rural Development Program in Carroll County, Virginia was organized and initiated on April 11, 1957 on a pilot county basis. However, unofficially on November 7, 1957, and to a limited degree, the program was expanded to a trade-area-basis when the Carroll-Grayson Planning and Economic Development Commission was organized.

B. Organizations

Currently, three committees are carrying on Rural Development responsibilities in the Carroll County area. They are:

1. Carroll County Resources Development Committee.
2. Carroll Resources Advisory Council.
3. Carroll-Grayson Planning and Economic Development Commission.

Membership of the three organizations is as follows:

Carroll Resources Development Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Vocation</u>
Robert E. Montgomery (Chairman)	Agriculture
(Re-signed from committee effective March 2, 1959)	
S. L. Sisson (Vice Chairman)	Appalachian Power Co.
G. M. Adams (Secretary)	County Agent-at-Large
Ernest E. Gardner	Agriculture
Emmett Gardner	Vocational Agriculture
Barton Harmon	Businessman
John Messersmith	Agriculture
Raleigh Cooley	Attorney

Richard Slate
S. D. Vaughan
G. C. Price

Rural Mail Carrier
Industry
County Agent

Carroll Resources Advisory Council

Name
Mrs. Marion Knobloch (Chairman)
Paul R. Batchelor
R. F. Reynolds
Edsel Rudy
Mrs. Emma Martin
T. M. Branner
O. L. Parsons
G. C. Price
Mrs. Glenna Runion
G. M. Adams
Mrs. Annie E. Payne
Claude Webb

Agency or Organization
Welfare Department
Soil Conservation Service
School Superintendent
Farmers Home Administration
Agr'l Conservation Program
Health Department
Carnation Milk Company
County Extension Agent
Extension Service
Extension Service
Employment Bureau
Forestry Service

Carroll-Grayson Development Commission

Name
Raleigh Cooley (Secretary)
S. L. Sisson
W. G. Stoneman
Emmett Gardner
Hardin Higgins
Raymond Beamer
Dr. Mont G. Cox
Neal Bedwell
James Hampton

Representing
Town of Hillsville
Town of Hillsville
Town of Hillsville
Carroll County
Carroll County
Carroll County
Town of Independence
Town of Independence
Town of Independence

Letcher C. Wingate (Chairman)	Grayson County
Winton Phipps	Grayson County
Kemper Liddle	Grayson County
Devis Winesett (Vice Chairman)	City of Galax
Milo Cockerhan	City of Galax
Harvey Vaughn	City of Galax

C. Scope of Program

Essentially, the Carroll Rural Development Program is being operated on a county basis. However, the area approach has been taken in such studies and surveys as: labor supply; migration of youth; industrial development resources; vocational-technical school needs, etc.

The "area approach" was taken relative to the above listed studies and projects because:

1. The economy and development of the "twin" county area (Carroll and Grayson Counties) is closely interwoven and dependent upon the economy and growth of the City of Galax---the industrial and trading center of the area.
2. The Galax employment office serves both counties and the City. The labor supply is concentrated in an area of approximately 25 miles in radius with Galax as the hub.
3. Projects such as "vocational-technical schools" generally are more successful if they serve the needs of an area (two or more counties). Costs can be proportionally divided and minimized.
4. An "area or regional development commission" can usually obtain assistance and guidance more readily than can a small county group.

D. Agency Workers - Rural Development

Thus far, the Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, is the only agency serving Carroll County that has seen the need to employ additional personnel to assist with the Rural Development

Program on the local level. The additional Extension Agent was assigned to Carroll County as of November 1, 1956---and has been devoting full-time to the Rural Development Program.

E. Agency Advisory Committee

A County Resources Advisory Committee was established on April 11, 1957 at the same time the County Rural Development Committee was organized. The committee is composed of twelve (12) members.

II. Contributions of Private Firms and Organizations

Appalachian Power Company: Representatives of the Company have contributed to the Carroll Rural Development Program by: (1) Conducting chemical analyses of water samples collected from surface streams that have potential industrial development possibilities. (2) Assisted in taking photographs of county resource assets. This material is to be included in an "industrial brochure" that will be partially financed by the Company.

Hillsville Chamber of Commerce: Soon after the Rural Development Program was initiated in Carroll County, the decision was made to not duplicate efforts or functions of existing organizations. Therefore, the Hillsville Chamber of Commerce continued to head up industrial development activities in the county. The Rural Development Committee cooperated with the Hillsville Chamber in every possible way. Resource information was collected, assembled and made available to the local Chamber of Commerce.

Direct contributions made by the Hillsville Chamber of Commerce during the year were:

1. Cooperated with the State Division of Industrial Development in preparing an Industrial Sites and Economic Data Publication relative to Carroll County. Purchased 150 copies of the publication to distribute to prospective industrial officials in various states.

2. Cooperated with industrial development representatives of the

Appalachian Power Company on the preparation of an "industrial brochure" of Carroll County.

3. Contacted various industry officials in an effort to secure new plants for the county.

4. Encouraged and supported highway construction projects in the area.

IV. Research, Resource Studies and Inventories

A. Research Activities

(No activities to report)

B. Surveys and Inventories

A total of four (4) resource surveys and inventories were completed during the past twelve months. Also, the augmented county soil survey, which was initiated on July 1, 1957, is still in progress.

A brief report of the surveys follows:

1. Labor Survey: A survey of the existing labor supply in Carroll and Grayson Counties and the City of Galax was conducted by the Galax Office, Virginia State Employment Service, under the guidance of Mrs. Annie E. Payne, Office Manager. Results of the study were released in August, 1958.

2. Youth Survey: This study attempted to include all youth that graduated from the seventh grade in 1947 in the counties of Carroll and Grayson and the City of Galax. Purpose of the study was to determine (a) the extent of out-migration of the youth, (b) why they moved away, and (c) to obtain their views about the Carroll-Grayson-Galax area. The study was completed and a report released on January 12, 1959.

The study was conducted by the Carroll-Grayson Development Commission in cooperation with Dr. Donald R. Fessler, Extension Sociologist, Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

3. Water Resource Survey: Discharge measurements of selected streams in Carroll County were determined during period July 8 - 24, 1958. The flow of nine (9) streams were measured at thirteen (13) different locations. Personnel assisting with the survey included:

David H. Pugh, Agr'l Engineer, U. S. Soil Conservation Service

Paul Batchelor, Soil Conservation Service (Carroll County)

R. S. Gardner, Soil Conservation Service (Carroll County)

Foy Webb, Soil Conservation Service (Carroll County)

G. M. Adams, Extension Service (Carroll County)

In conjunction with the water discharge measurement study, water samples were collected from the various streams and chemical analyses made by Mr. E. V. Harris, Plant Chemist, Appalachian Power Company, Pulaski, Virginia.

4. Industrial Sites and Economic Data Survey: The "industrial sites and economic data survey" of Carroll County was initiated on April 15, 1958 and completed on May 13, 1959. The survey was conducted by Mr. Earl Scott, Survey Chief, State Division of Planning and Economic Development, Department of Conservation and Development, Richmond, Virginia, in cooperation with the Rural Development Committee, Hillsville Chamber of Commerce, and the Carroll County Board of Supervisors.

The 70-page publication was released on May 13, 1959 and contains information relative to: Industrial Sites; Population; Labor Available for Expansion; Employed Labor; Wage Rates; Manufacturing Industries in Carroll County; Labor Laws; Water; Electric Power; Communications; Fuel; Transportation Facilities; Taxes; Weather; and County Economic Data.

5. Augmented Soil Survey: The "county soil survey" was initiated on July 1, 1957 and is being conducted by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, under the guidance of Mr. William Thomas, survey chief, S. C. S. Currently,

the "survey party" consists of three members. Approximately 85,000 acres of land area has been mapped by the group. About 233,720 acres remain to be mapped.

C. Use of Material

Information obtained through the labor survey, water resource study and the industrial sites survey has been compiled, published and made available to the Chamber of Commerce organizations in Hillsville and Galax. These organizations use the information in answering inquiries from prospective industry officials and in promotional work.

The "youth study results" were made available to news media in an effort to educate and stimulate local initiative and action. The information obtained was also valuable to local school officials ---and will probably assist in securing the establishment of a vocational-technical school in the area.

D. Copies of Reports, Questionnaires, etc.

Copies of the various survey and resource studies are enclosed with this report.

V. Agricultural Development

A. Special Projects, New Enterprises, etc.

Intensive Enterprises: During the past year, increased emphasis has been placed on the introduction of intensive agricultural enterprises on small farm units in an effort to increase total volume and up net income. The "commercial egg" production program and the "feeder pig" project made their appearance in the county. Currently, there are seven (7) commercial laying flocks---that range in size from 1000 to 6000 birds---in operation. One "feeder pig" production unit was established during the reporting period. Feed Company representatives, Extension Agents and interested farmers co-operated in developing this phase of the program.

Changed Emphasis in Educational Work: Perhaps a listing of "educational features" that were held in Carroll County during the past twelve months will point out the shift of emphasis in this field of activity. Subjects discussed at public meetings were:

September 29, 1958 -- "County Economic Problems and Possible Solutions"

Speakers: Dr. Harry Love, Agricultural Economist, V. P. I. and Mr. Murray Via, Vice President, Farm Credit and Service Department, First National Exchange Bank, Roanoke, Virginia.

November 24, 1958 -- "Farm Management and Intensive Agricultural Enterprises"

Speaker: K. E. Loope, Agricultural Economist, V.P.I.

February 16 & 17, 1959 -- "Farm Management Extension School"

Speaker: K. E. Loope, Agricultural Economist, V.P.I.

August 7, 1958 -- "The Role of Vocational-technical schools in Rural Areas"

Speaker: J. D. Hopkins, Principal, Washington County Technical School, Abingdon, Virginia.

May 27, 1959 -- "Town and Country Institute"

Moderator: Dr. Donald Fessler, Extension Rural Sociologist, V.P.I.

Agricultural Activities and Progress Not Attributed to Rural Development:

It would be foolish and unethical to assume or claim that the 2 year old Rural Development Program in Carroll County is causing major and dramatic improvements to be made.

Much progress has been made---and will continue to be made---by the efforts of existing agency and commercial company representatives that have responsibilities to the citizens of Carroll County. Approximately thirty-five (35) professional agricultural and home economic workers---representing the various agencies, departments, commercial firms and

organizations, etc. have been striving to bring about improvements on the farms and in the rural homes for several years.

This effort assisted in shifting the county from an livestock to a dairy economy during the past fifteen to twenty years. Currently, there are 86 producers of Grade A milk and more than 1000 producers of manufacturing milk in Carroll County. In 1958, a total of 1,872 dairy cows and heifers were bred artificially to the nations' outstanding bulls. The "brucellosis (Bangs Disease) testing program" was initiated in Carroll County as a part of the State-wide clean-up program.

For several years now, livestock farmers in Carroll County have had the opportunity to sell their beef steers and feeder calves through organized cooperative livestock sales; their wool clip through county and area "wool pool" sales. Dairy men have cooperative milk marketing associations to market their milk. (However, we must admit that past efforts have failed to solve the marketing problems of fruit and vegetable producers in Carroll and adjoining counties).

Also, the acreage devoted to alfalfa production in Carroll County has increased from 840 acres in 1949 to approximately 5,413 acres in 1958.

Example after example of progress made in Carroll County during the past 15 to 20 years can be presented that will tend to indicate that no specific program can claim to be the instigator---or cause for such development.

B. Contributions of Credit Agencies

Farmers Home Administration has not made any changes in its loan program as a result of the Rural Development Program, except that operating loans can be made to part-time farmers. The primary objective of operating loans to part-time farmers is to enable established bona fide part-time farmers to more fully utilize their land and labor resources in order to

make needed improvements in their living conditions and economic situation.

The FHA now has 12 loans to part-time farmers in Carroll and Grayson counties. The majority of these loans were for the purpose of purchasing dairy cattle.

The FHA, through its regular loan program, has made loans to build and improve dwellings and other farm buildings, buy and improve farms, and buy livestock and machinery.

C. Contract or Integrated Agricultural Enterprises

During the past year, a commercial feed company serving the Carroll County area introduced two integrated, intensive agricultural enterprises to the farmers. The enterprises are commercial laying flocks and feeder pig---market hog production.

Company representatives stated they desired to place a minimum of 20,000 layers in the Carroll area during the first year---and then expand to 100,000 layers. During the past twelve months seven(7) commercial flocks have been established with flock sizes ranging from 1000 to 6,000 birds. Trained fieldmen visit the units on a regular basis to provide supervisory assistance. The eggs are held under refrigeration from the time they are produced and cleaned until they are picked up by company-owned refrigerated trucks and delivered to the central egg grading station on a weekly basis.

On March 11, 1959, the same feed supply company presented their "Integrated feeder pig---market hog program" to Carroll County farmers. Under this plan, the farmer will be required to care for a minimum of 24 sows and two (2) boars of the meat-type breeding. The cooperating farmer will be required to have two approved buildings---a farrowing and a fattening house. Multiple farrowing is to be practiced. The operations will be closely supervised by company representatives. Financial and marketing

assistance is also included in the over-all plan. Thus far, only the local feed dealer has developed a complete demonstrational or pilot unit in the county. At this time, it is difficult to predict just how successful the project will be.

VI. Agricultural Marketing.

Prior to the introduction of the Rural Development Program in Carroll County, satisfactory marketing arrangements had been worked out relative to the selling of beef cattle, wool, and both manufacturing and grade "A" milk.

However, the fruit and vegetable producers haven't been able to work out satisfactory marketing arrangements for their specific crops. Studies and surveys have been made in an effort to define the nature and extent of the problem. The growers haven't reached the point where they are willing to cooperate together to achieve stability in the marketing field.

During the summer and fall period of 1956, repeated attempts were made to provide a market for cull and/or undesirable species of hardwood timber. Investigations were made relative to the feasibility of utilizing the low grade timber by converting it into charcoal products. A committee---composed of Carl Holcomb, V.P.I. Extension Forester; John Bowenkamp, representative of Freeport Sulphur Company, New York; John Messersmith, Carroll County farmer, and G. M. Adams, Carroll Extension Agent, spent three days (June 4,5, and 6) in Asheville, North Carolina, conferring with forestry utilization specialists and managers of wood using industries. Officials of one company expressed interest in establishing a "charcoal and briquetting plant" in the Carroll County area. However, to date, this development has not materialized.

VII. Conservation and Forestry

A. Soil Conservation Service and Rural Development

A "progressive soil survey" was started in the county on July 1, 1957. To date, approximately 85,000 of the 318,720 acres have been surveyed. A party of three Soil Scientists are now working on this project.

County Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted the Extension Agents in planning four Extension-TVA Pilot Demonstration Farms in the county.

A "Water resources survey" of several major streams in the county was initiated in July, 1958. It is planned that the water flow will be measured at the same locations for five (5) consecutive years in order to determine the average flow. Soil Conservation and Extension Service personnel cooperated with this project.

B. Agricultural Conservation Program and Rural Development

The Carroll ASC County Committee at regular monthly meetings discussed the cost-share rates of each practice in an effort to determine if any adjustments were needed. No major adjustments have been made because the existing program seems to be adapted to the needs and desires of the farmers in the county.

In view of the fact, for the past several years the participation in Carroll has been the largest in the State of Virginia, and approximately 40 per cent of the total number of farms in the county are enrolled in the ACP, no major changes were deemed necessary at the "county level". However, an adjustment whereby the "county allocation" could be increased would be recommended by the County Committee.

After deducting the ineligible, and those unable to perform a practice, the disinterested farmers are very few. The request for cost-sharing has always exceeded the "county allocation by several thousand dollars each year.

Through the Rural Development Program, farmers were encouraged and informed about the advantages of ACP. However, no known farmers enrolled due to Carroll being a pilot county.

C. Forestry

Considerable emphasis is being placed on reforestation and other related forestry projects in Carroll County, Virginia. Existing agency programs and efforts appear to be doing an effective job in this field of endeavor. During the 1958 planting season, approximately 400 acres (402,000 seedlings) of idle land were reforested. During the 1959 planting season, 500 acres (500,000 seedlings) were reforested.

The agencies and organizations greatly responsible for this increased reforestation program, are namely, the Virginia Division of Forestry, S.C.S., A.C.P. (payments), Extension Service, F.F.A. Chapters, and 4-H Clubs.

It is felt that the educational program and consolidated efforts of the Carroll Rural Development Program assisted, indirectly, in obtaining substantial progress in this particular field.

D. Conservation Reserve

Due to Carroll being a Pilot County, the Conservation Reserve Program became better understood and some interest was created. However, since the farms are small and have only a few acres of cropland, it was not practicable or profitable for farmers to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program in Carroll County.

E. Small Watershed Program

The "small watershed program" has been discussed with the Soil Conservation District Supervisors. It is anticipated that a survey will be started in the near future to determine its possibilities in Carroll County.

VIII. Youth Programs

A. Youth Projects

The major youth organization in Carroll County is the 4-H Club Program. Currently, there are 1816 4-H club members enrolled in the county. The

last report on 4-H club activities shows 3,038 projects were carried with 2,301 being completed. During the spring of 1959 the 4-H club members enrolled in forestry projects planted a total of 225,000 white pine seedlings on their home farms and, in addition, planted 30,000 seedlings for other landowners in the county. (This program is considered a regular Extension Service activity).

B. Vocational Guidance Programs

Vocational guidance is a part of the guidance program in each high school. Teachers are encouraged by the school board to attend guidance clinics and conferences.

C. Higher Educational Potential

(1) "College Day" has been established for an early fall date on an annual basis for high school seniors to help them select the college best suited to the course they expect to pursue.

(2) Several conferences have been held between superintendents of schools in three adjacent divisions and the Carroll-Grayson-Galax Economic Development Commission relative to establishing a Trade-Technical School in this area. Further planning is necessary and underway toward this project. A survey has been made through a questionnaire sent to a selected group of students (students completing the seventh grade in 1947) to help determine why these youth left this area, why they left school, and their views on the job opportunities this area furnishes. Data from this survey will be used to support plans for the Trade- Technical school and the regular school program in this area.

D. Local Vocational Training Programs

In one high school (Hillsville High School) a work-training program has been introduced covering Distributive Education and Diversified Occupations. Earnings by students in these programs seen substantial, and

the training is directing most of the students into permanent work.

E. Specific Responsibilities of Educational Officials

The school board employs the coordinator of the Distributive Education and the Diversified Occupations program.

The staff in the school board office assisted in the survey described in "c".

IX. Health

During the period of June 1957 to June 1959, the following extra health programs were carried out by the Health Department. A mass x-ray survey clinic was held with 1,345 people being x-rayed. Mass Polio immunization clinics were held until all the free vaccine was used. After a rabies epidemic during 1956-1957, mass dog rabies vaccination clinics were sponsored. A mass burial plot for Civil Defense purposes was secured.

A Dental Health Program was instigated but the necessary appropriations were not met. The fluoridation of Hillsville's water supply was encouraged but no action was taken. A sewage disposal ordinance was introduced but no action was taken.

The Rural Development Committee took an active part in a program which tried to set up 5 Sanitary Landfill areas for the need and convenience of the County people. Plots were secured and approved but the necessary appropriations to carry out the project were not authorized by county officials.

A cleanup and beautification program was carried out by the Rural Development Program. Many home owners profited by taking advantage of reduced prices offered by dealers during this time. Beautification of several schools and communities resulted from this project also.

X. Church and Religious Activities

Generally speaking, church and religious leaders in Carroll County haven't been responsive to the County Rural Development Program. The reasons for this reaction are unknown with the possible exception that it is human nature to

work and push for ones' individual organization or project.

Efforts are now being taken to overcome this particular weakness. On May 20, 1959, two local town ministers met with the Carroll Rural Development Advisory Council to discuss mutual problems and programs. Then, on May 27, 1959, a group of five (5) local ministers met with Agency workers in what was known as a Town and Country Institute. At this time, the entire county Rural Development Program was reviewed and evaluated. It now appears that the younger, more aggressive ministers will actively support the program.

XI. Industry and Other Enterprise Development

A. Industrial Development

During the reporting year, there was no industrial expansion in Carroll County. Business remained relatively stable.

However, Mr. Russell Farnsworth, Manager, Galax Chamber of Commerce, reports the following for the City of Galax: quote --- "Industrial and business development has been on the increase in Galax, Virginia for several years. 1957-1958 saw the location of three (3) new industries and the expansion of one other industry. Retail business has been on the increase over the same period. Retail establishments have increased by three and two have remodeled and enlarged. A new industrial plant will be erected here in the spring of 1960, financed 50 per cent by local people" --- end of quote.

B. Assistance Rendered by Rural Development Program

The development in the City of Galax, Virginia, has in no way been assisted by the Rural Development Program but solely by the citizens of Galax and the businesses concerned.

In Carroll County, Rural Development personnel assisted members of the Hillsville Chamber of Commerce with the erection of "industrial site signs" at two favorable locations.

C. Improvement of Community Facilities

Again, we desire to place the Rural Development Program in Carroll County in its proper perspective. In so far as we can determine, the program had no effect in obtaining any significant improvement in community facilities within the county.

However, some improvements were made by established organizations and groups. The more significant ones are listed as follows: One new elementary school constructed and an addition made to another junior high school---Carroll County School Board and County Board of Supervisors; extension of sewer system and sidewalks in Hillsville---Hillsville Town Council; construction of one new street in Hillsville---Town Council.

Russell Farnsworth, Manager, Galax Chamber of Commerce, reports on progress in the City of Galax, quote---"There have been no improvements in community facilities within the City of Galax activated by the Carroll Rural Development Program. Galax has completed and has put into operation a \$375,000.00 sewage disposal plant, planned and executed by the Galax City Council. With the combined efforts of the Carroll County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors, the State Highway Department and the Galax Chamber of Commerce, a new \$85,000.00 bridge is now 50 percent completed over New River. This will cut in half the distance between Fries and Galax, Virginia. Plans are now underway to erect a new Health Center in Galax with funds obtained under the Hill-Burton Act. Road and highway improvement is being done as funds are available and at the continued insistence of the citizens of this area. A new addition to the high school in Galax was completed in 1958 in time for the opening of the school term in the fall"---(end of quote).

D. Off-Farm Employment - Up-Grading Skills, etc.

Regular functions of the Employment office (~~Virginia State Employment Service~~) in Galax, Virginia, include the following:

1. Registers, classifies, screens, and refers qualified applicants to various employers according to the specifications of the Employer.
2. Conducts a "testing program" which assists in the selections of applicants for jobs.
3. Assembles and makes available "labor market information" such as number of applicants available according to sex, skills, education, experience, training and potentialities of applicants.
4. Assists in setting up employee training programs for specific industrial positions.

The Carroll-Grayson Planning and Economic Development Commission (in conjunction with the Rural Development Program) has worked intensively for the past seven to eight months on a project that is designed to establish an area Trade-Technical School in or near Galax, Virginia. Such a school---if established---will permit adults as well as youths to up-grade their skills through specialized training in mechanical and office skills.

E. Handicrafts, Production and Marketing

Thus far, in Carroll County, Virginia, no emphasis has been placed toward the development of handicraft projects.

F. Resource Promotion

Considerable work has been done in Carroll County, Virginia, relative to the preparation of resource brochures. Completed thus far are the following listed publications:

August 12, 1957 -- Industrial Fact Sheet on Carroll County (2 pages).

May 13, 1959 -- Industrial Sites and Economic Data - Carroll County (70 pages).

Agencies and organizations cooperating with the resource studies and publications included; Appalachian Power Company; State Division of Industrial Development; Hillsville Chamber of Commerce; Galax Employment Bureau, and the Carroll County Rural Development Committee.

A third resource publication is currently being prepared---and will contain several photographs of important county resources. It is anticipated this publication will be completed in September, 1959.

Prospective firms visited or contacted by members of the Hillsville Chamber of Commerce during the past twelve months consist of the following:

Textile industries - 3; Wood-using industry - 1; electronics - 2; and milk processing - 1.

Rural Development personnel assisted in exploring the wood-using and milk manufacturing industries.

G. Tourist Promotion

Both the Hillsville and Galax Chamber of Commerce are cooperating with the Virginia Travel Council in an effort to attract the tourist trade. The local organizations assist the State Council in financing tourist promotional literature that is distributed widely by the State organization.

H. Community Improvement Clubs and the Rural Development Program

Currently, there are four (4) rural community improvement clubs in Carroll County. These local organizations are doing an effective job in making improvements within their respective communities and this results in a better county.

Since most of their limited resources are utilized within their immediate areas, little support can be given to county or area projects. Extension Service personnel work closely with these local community organizations and the results are gratifying.

I. Assistance from Government Departments

Thus far, only the Department of Labor (Virginia State Employment Service) has been requested to render direct assistance to Rural Development efforts in Carroll County. The Department has cooperated wholeheartedly. The local Galax Employment Unit conducted a survey of available labor in the city of Galax and Carroll and Grayson Counties in 1958. In addition, the local office has assisted---on numerous occasions---in supplying labor market information to prospective industrial representatives.

It is quite likely the Small Business Administration will be able to assist local development programs by providing funds for industrial plants, remodeling business establishments, etc.

II. Program Information

A. News Media (Newspaper, Radio, and TV)

Two local newspapers---The Carroll News (Hillsville) and The Galax Gazette (Galax)---serve the county and trade area. The managements of both papers have been very cooperative and helpful to the development program by featuring various phases and activities of the total effort. Rural Development personnel assist by providing appropriate photographs and project information relative to the program.

Radio Station WBOB, Galax, Virginia, provides radio coverage for the area.

B. Special Advisory Assistance - Extension Service

D. Upton Livemore, Agricultural Economist, V.P.I., served as coordinator of the Rural Development Program in Virginia during the past year.

C. Informational Materials Desired

The attempted Rural Development Program is so broad in scope that it

is difficult to determine just what type of informative material is needed at the local level to assist in promoting the program.

D. State News Media

Carroll County has no comment to make.

III. Comments - Local Citizen Leader

All too frequently, it appears, agency reports are prepared by professional county personnel and tend to report only the successful parts of a program. The failures or shortcomings very seldom find their way into a report. We are grateful that this particular Rural Development Progress Report of Carroll County, Virginia, provides a place whereby "local citizen leaders" can express their thoughts and views relative to the merits of the program--good or bad.

Mr. Robert E. Montgomery, Route 1, Box 158-A, Hillsville, Virginia, was requested to comment on and evaluate the Rural Development Program in Carroll County, Virginia. For the record, Mr. Montgomery's qualifications are: A retired Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army; a progressive-minded civic leader; a part-time farmer, and chairman of the Carroll County Rural Development Committee during the period July 1, 1958 to March 16, 1959.

Mr. Montgomery's response is quoted verbatim for the benefit of all who are associated with the Rural Development Program.

Route 1, Box 158-A
Hillsville, Virginia
June 15, 1959

Mr. G. M. Adams
County Agent-at-Large
Hillsville, Virginia

Dear Mr. Adams:

In reply to your request for comments on the Rural Development Program, I appreciate the opportunity to express my honest opinion on this subject.

I shall make my remarks as brief as possible and will endeavor to make my comments as frank and free from bias as possible.

1. The aim and purpose of the Rural Development Program recognizes the need for raising the below-average living and economic conditions existing in certain areas of the United States to a level which will permit the citizens of these areas to enjoy a standard of living on a par with the average in the United States. This is a noble cause and I believe a desirable and just one. However, the approach has been too idealistic and has failed to consider the basic causes and realistic remedies.

2. Let us consider briefly the causes for chronic depression in certain areas in times when adjacent areas either enjoy a continuous prosperity or fluctuate with the general prosperity of the United States as a whole.

a. In the areas where prosperity exists, we find aggressive leadership existing in business and political fields. We find a higher degree of academic education. We find a higher percentage of skilled workers and many other things in which the prosperous area excels.

b. In the areas in which chronic depression or below average economic development exists, we find a lack of these basic things that are necessary to a sound economy.

c. When we consider the above contrasts, we can agree with the findings of certain Senate Committees which determined that lack of leadership, lack of education, and the lack of desire for improvement were the basic causes.

3. When we consider the basic causes, can we logically say that the leadership must come from within the below-average areas? If the type of leadership necessary to make the Rural Development Program a success existed in these communities, the problems that the Rural Development Program is trying to solve would never have existed in the first place. It is my

opinion that the leadership necessary to show any marked degree of progress in these areas must come from outside the area itself. What is the best way to introduce this leadership into the affected areas? Can we get results by detailing government workers into these areas? Government agencies, both state and federal, have been at work in these areas for many years without obtaining the degree of progress necessary to advance them to the desired status. These agencies have made a certain amount of progress but not enough. Apparently then, governmental agencies are helpful, but inadequate, for the areas in question. The reason for this seems to be that these agencies are dependent upon local cooperation in order to be effective. Local control has been written into the policies of many of these agencies. F.H.A. is a good example of this. Can you expect F.H.A. to be progressive unless the local committee is made up of progressive persons? If the local people were progressive enough to provide the proper type of committee then the need for F.H.A. assistance is not great enough for F.H.A. to do its best. The same line of reasoning can be applied to almost all other governmental agencies.

We must now go back to the question of "How and from where must the leadership come?" In my opinion, the leadership must come from business and industrial leaders. They must be offered an inducement to come into these areas. How can this be done? One way that I can think of is to offer them special tax advantages. Over a period of time the increased taxes secured from local citizens, whose economic standings have been raised, would exceed the initial loss.

Another possibility would be to locate manual arts or trade schools in these areas to teach the younger generation a skilled trade. By creating a pool of skilled workers in an area, industrial leaders would, of their own volition, locate new plants where they could take advantage of the skilled labor pool. These schools might be made a part of our National Defense

Program by giving youth of draft age a choice of learning a skill needed in event of future war or the alternative of military service. Those physically or otherwise unfit for military service might be drafted into attendance at these schools.

4. The progress reported from most areas now under the Rural Development Program have been, in my opinion, the accomplishments that one would normally expect, and have not reflected any unusual advancements for which the Rural Development Program can take direct credit. As long as the Rural Development Program is subordinate to and forced to work through existing agencies, this will continue. If the Rural Development Program is to be a part of any existing governmental agency, it should come under Health, Education, and Welfare. The basic problems involved will eventually be solved only through educational processes.

5. In summary, I would like to say that I consider the Rural Development Program in Carroll County a failure. I believe it failed because of the following reasons:

a. Lack of local leadership and failure to accept responsibility on the part of local business and political leaders.

b. Failure of the general public to understand and support the program because of the low educational level of the populace.

c. The desire of certain leaders in local affairs to retard progress for selfish reasons. This condition has existed for decades and it will take decades to overcome the damage done.

d. Failure of those controlling and implementing the Rural Development Program to recognize the basic causes for chronic depression in Carroll County. This resulted in attempting to attain objectives for which the proper foundation did not exist. The failure to attain the original objective caused the general public to reject the Rural Develop-

ment Program as another worthless scheme. Local political and business leaders have done nothing to correct this erroneous idea nor to assist the Rural Development Program.

Very truly yours,

Robert Earl Montgomery

XIV. Major Trends - Carroll County, Virginia

1. Source of Income:

The 1954 Census of Agriculture reported that agriculture in Carroll County employs more people than any other industry, but in recent years the value of products added by manufacturing has exceeded the value of farm products sold. From all indications, this trend towards more non-farm income seems to be increasing at a rapid pace. Part-time farmers ---or members of their families---are going in all directions from Carroll County to industrial or non-farm positions in Mt. Airy and Winston-Salem, North Carolina; to Galax, Fries, Pulaski, Radford, Floyd and Stuart, Virginia. Studies recently completed by personnel of the State Division of Industrial Development indicate that a current labor supply of approximately 6,050 persons within a 20-mile radius of Hillsville is available for industrial employment.

2. Agriculture:

a. Age of Farm Operators: A survey conducted by a commercial milk processing company that purchases milk in Carroll County indicates that the average age of their producers is approximately 38 years. This verifies our observations. Very few young men are entering the agricultural field in Carroll County.

b. Size of Farms: The 1954 Census of Agriculture reports that Carroll County farms averaged 61.9 acres in size. This size seems to be remaining about constant---and, if anything, is becoming smaller due to the fact that parents often provide their children with a few

acres of land when they marry.

c. Enterprises: The dairy enterprise continues to grow in importance. In 1954, milk production was nearly five times as large as in 1939. During the past year, the integrated commercial egg production enterprise was introduced to Carroll County farmers by a commercial feed supply company. Currently, seven farmers have signed contracts with the company. If the price level holds, it is quite possible that these intensive enterprises will expand rapidly.

3. Industrial Development

Considerable emphasis is being placed on industrial growth in Carroll and adjoining counties. Chamber of Commerce organizations are heading up this particular activity. The nearby cities of Mt. Airy, North Carolina and Galax, Virginia, are making remarkable growth in industrial development---and citizens of Carroll County stand ready to fill the job openings.

XV. The Rural Development Program and Local Economic Adjustments in Carroll County, Virginia

Any organization or program (Rural Development or otherwise) that could obtain the wholehearted support and leadership of the following individuals, organizations, and groups could and would make substantial progress in Carroll County, Virginia---or practically any county or area in the nation: Agricultural Agencies; farm groups; co-operatives; civic clubs; industry; womens club; bankers; clergymen; press and radio; Chamber of Commerce; school authorities; health groups; youth groups and County and City officials.

Conversely, if these same individuals, organizations, and groups are not willing---or do not see the need---to work together as a team, then the effectiveness of such an approach will be nil.

It is doubtful if the Rural Development Program in Carroll County has made a significant contribution to needed economic adjustments. The program isn't likely to make a significant contribution until it has the active support of the key leadership in the county and area.

Probably, more than normal progress can be made if even three or four of the primary agencies and/or organizations see fit to plan and to work together as a team. This has been done---to a limited degree---in Carrell County during the past two years.

Also, several of the more prominent and influential citizens of the county are of the opinion that it will take large amounts of research, education, capital and specialized technical assistance to bring about real economic development in areas such as Carroll County and other "pilot counties" in the nation. These folks question the soundness of the theory back of the Rural Development Program.

Whatever the reason, the Program has not become rooted in the institutional setting of the Town of Hillsville---or the County of Carroll, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

G. M. Adams

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County Agent-at-Large

Acknowledgment:

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