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A Survey of Residents' Attitudes Toward the Parke County Long Time Planning Committee

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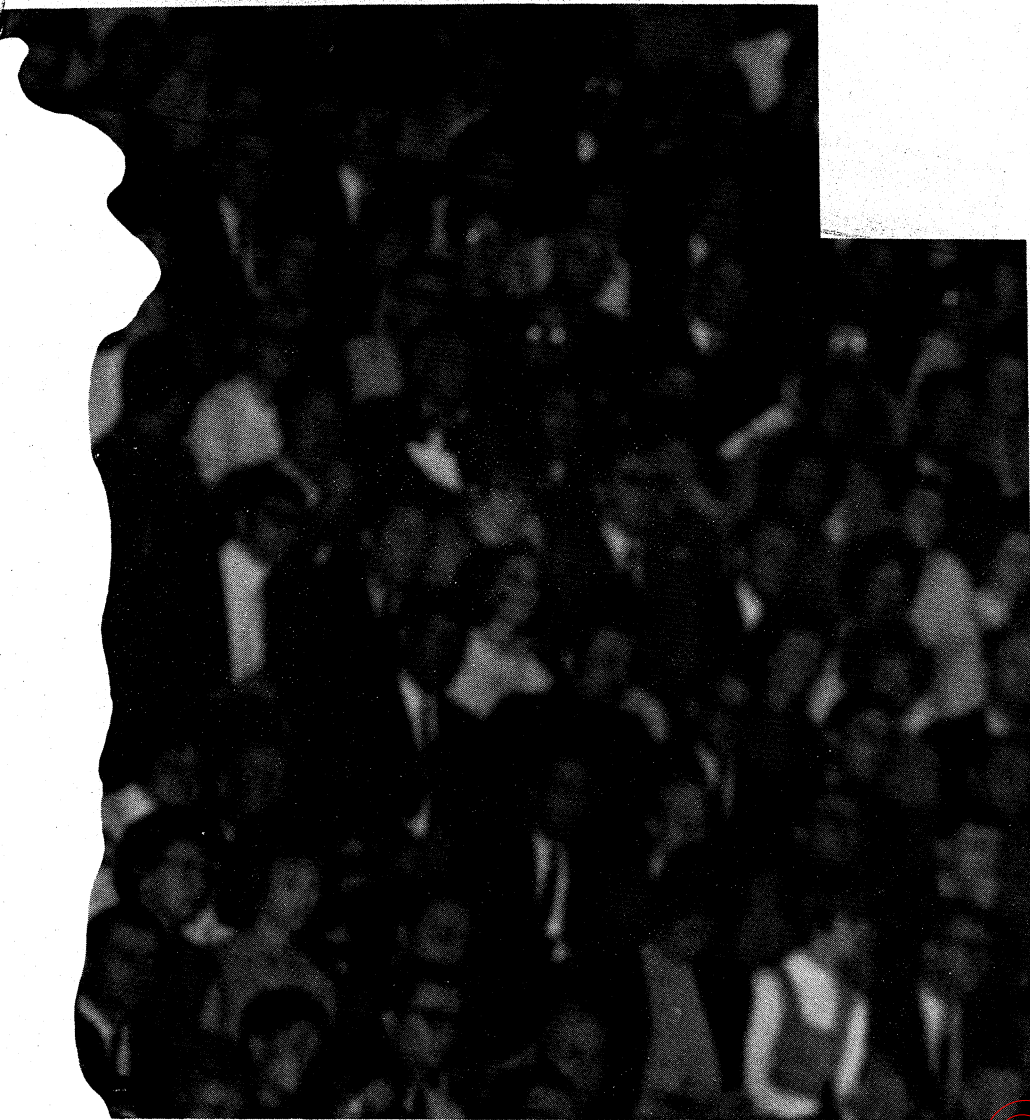
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EC431



**a survey of
residents' attitudes
toward the
PARKE COUNTY
long time planning
committee**

Cooperative Extension Service
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Historic Document

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This is one of three publications that resulted from a comprehensive study of the Parke County Long Time Planning Committee and its activities. Others in the series are *Economic Impact of the Parke County Bridge Festival*, EC 432, John M. Huie and Kenneth C. Clayton, Indiana Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University; and *Parke County's Long Time Planning Committee*, ID 94, R. L. Reeder, Indiana Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University. The publications and study were made possible in part by special funds from the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

a survey of residents' attitudes toward the parke county long time planning committee

John M. Huie and Kenneth C. Clayton. Department of Agricultural Economics

Introduction

Indiana Cooperative Extension Service has a history of supporting local community development committees.^{1/} The committee approach has proved to be one of several effective means to assist local communities in determining local development and objectives and solving community problems which hinder the attainment of those objectives. While the exact selection procedure used and the type of individuals serving on committees vary, the reputational technique for leader identification is the general model used for selecting individuals to serve on county-wide committees.^{2/}

^{1/} Community development in its broadest context can include any activity which contributes toward achievement of the general goal of developing a better place in which to work and live. The Extension Service has a unique educational role to play in this context. As viewed in Indiana the Extension Community Development program focuses on those aspects of problems and opportunities which require or imply a public decision.

^{2/} For a description of this and other techniques see Rogers, E. and Cartano, D., "Methods of Assessing Opinion Leadership," Public Opinion Quarterly, 1962, Vol. 26, pg. 435-441.

The Parke County Long Time Planning Committee, a community development committee that has been in existence since March 19, 1954, was selected for this study because of its longevity and proven effectiveness.

This publication summarizes the results of a survey of Parke County residents designed to determine their degree of knowledge and attitudes toward the committee and its activities.^{3/}

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which Parke County residents were familiar with the Long Time Planning Committee and to obtain information which would indicate their attitude toward the existence of the committee and

^{3/} This study is a part of an overall evaluation and documentation of the committee's activities over the past 19 years. It is one of three publications designed to provide a comprehensive study of the Parke County Long Time Planning Committee and its activities.

their evaluation of its effectiveness. Specifically the objectives were:

(1) To determine residents' degree of familiarity with the committee and its members

(2) For residents who were familiar with the committee to determine their perception of the committee role and value to the county

(3) To determine residents' perception of the benefits received from projects and activities initiated by the committee, benefits evaluated from the individual perception of family benefits as well as benefits to the county as a whole.

SURVEY PROCEDURE

A random sample of 225 Parke County households taken from a telephone listing of the county composed the initial sample. This represented a 5.6 percent sample of residential households with a telephone.

Each household was contacted and a personal interview held. The interviewers were instructed to alternate between the husband and wife in their interviews in order to obtain approximately an equal number of responses from each sex. The questionnaire used in these interviews is included in Appendix A of this report.

In total, 116 of the 225 households in the sample were interviewed.^{4/} Respondents

^{4/} Circumstances outside the control of the study team and unrelated to the survey itself made it necessary to discontinue further interviews.

represented an effective cross-section of the various areas of the county and the sample was equally divided between the county seat of Rockville and rural residents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

Descriptive information pertaining to those interviewed was obtained to provide an evaluation of the representativeness of the sample and to use as a basis for analysis of survey results. This information is summarized in Table 1.^{5/} Generally, the respondents were:

(a) Relatively old. The average age was 51.

(b) Long time residents in the county. The average length of residency was 31 years. However, 28 percent had lived in the county less than 10 years.

(c) Forty percent were Parke County natives, 86 percent were Indiana natives.

(d) Almost half (44 percent) were wage earners, one-fourth were retired, 15 percent were self-employed and 17 percent housewives.

(e) Forty-three percent were employed out of the county.

(f) They had a median education attainment of 11.7 years.

(g) Only a small percent (14 percent) of them were actively involved in community affairs.

^{5/} In some cases total responses are less than total sample size. This situation resulted from incomplete data for specific questions.

Table 1. Summary of Selected Characteristics of Survey Respondents, Parke County, Indiana, 1972.*

Characteristic	Number	Percent	Characteristic	Number	Percent
<u>Age</u>			<u>Sex</u>		
18 - 30	19	17	Male	54	47
31 - 50	36	31	Female	62	53
51 - 70	41	35	Total	116	100
Over 70	20	17	<u>Work Status</u>		
Total	116	100	Housewife	19	17
Average age 51			Self-employed	17	15
<u>Place of Residency</u>			Wage earner	48	44
Rockville (County seat)	59	51	Retired	26	24
Other	57	49	Total	110	100
Total	116	100	<u>Place of Employment</u>		
<u>Length of Residency in County</u>			In county	54	57
10 and under	33	28	Out-of-county	37	39
11 - 20	15	13	Out-of-state	4	4
21 - 30	19	16	Total	95	100
31 - 40	11	10	<u>Education</u>		
Over 40	38	33	Less than 8	14	12
Total	116	100	9 - 12	75	65
Average length 31			Over 12	27	23
<u>Previous Place of Residency</u>			Average 11.7		
Always Parke County	46	40	<u>Community Involvement</u>		
Adjacent county	27	23	Slight	63	54
Indiana but not adjacent county	27	23	Some	37	32
Adjacent state	11	9	Moderate	13	11
Midwest but not adjacent state	1	1	High	3	3
U. S. but not Midwest	3	3	Total	116	100
Foreign country	1	1			
Total	116	100			

*For a description of each question see interview schedule Appendix A.

Familiarity with the Long Time Planning Committee and Its Projects

The community development model around which the Indiana committees are developed is by definition a "behind-the-scenes" source of influence and direction within the community. As such, it is quite likely that many residents will be unaware that the group exists. Moreover, it is probable that in many cases no connection will be made between the group and its projects (see Table 2). As can be seen, approximately one-third (32 percent) of those questioned asserted their familiarity with the group. Twenty-six percent of the respondents were able to name one or more members of the committee. Approximately one-fourth were able also to name projects that had been initiated by the group.

A somewhat clearer explanation of familiarity responses can be gained when the responses are analyzed according to: (1) respondent's place of residency within the

Table 2. Respondents' Familiarity with Committee and Its Projects.

Response	Familiar with committee	Familiar with members	Familiar with projects
	percent		
Yes	32	26	26
No	68	74	74
Total	100	100	100

county, (2) length of residency, and (3) community involvement.

Place of Residency. As indicated in Table 3, a considerably larger proportion (43 percent compared to 21 percent) of Rockville residents are familiar with the Long Time Planning Committee. This would be expected due to better formal and informal communications in the county seat town.

Length of Residency. As expected there was a relationship between length of residency and familiarity with the committee. Although the relationship was not strong, it was statistically significant (Table 4). Forty percent of those who had been in the county over 40 years were familiar with the committee compared with only 22 percent of those who had lived in the county less than 10 years.

Degree of Community Involvement. As the degree of community involvement increased, the incidence of familiarity also increased (Table 5). All of those who were highly involved in community activities were familiar with the committee. On the other extreme, only 18 percent of those who were slightly involved knew about the committee.

Respondents' Concept of Committee's Value

Those who asserted their familiarity with the committee were further asked to

provide a general assessment of its value to the community. As indicated in Table 6, responses were very favorable. Eighty percent indicated that the committee contributed significantly to the betterment of Parke County; only 10 percent responded that it was of very little value.

Respondents' Concept of Committee's Role

In order to evaluate residents' concept of the role in which the committee functions within the county, each person who indicated familiarity with the committee was asked to

Table 3. Percent of Respondents Familiar with Parke County Long Time Planning Committee by Place of Residence.

Response	Place of residency		Total
	Rockville	Non-Rockville	
	percent		
Yes	43	21	32
No	57	79	68
Total	100	100	100

Table 5. Percent of Respondents Familiar with Parke County Long Time Planning Committee According to Degree of Community Involvement.

Response	Degree of involvement				
	Total	Slight	Some	Moderate	High
	percent				
Yes	32	18	46	46	100
No	68	82	54	54	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4. Percent of Respondents Familiar with Parke County Long Time Planning Committee by Length of Residency in Parke County.

Response	Total	Length of residency				
		10 or less	11-20	21-30	31-40	Over 40
	percent					
Yes	32	22	33	26	45	40
No	68	78	67	74	55	60
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6. Number and Percent of Respondents Familiar with the Committee Who Indicated Specified Value of Committee to the County.

Value level	Number	Percent
Great	18	50
Much	11	30
Some	4	10
Very Little	4	10
Total	37	100

respond to four alternative roles. One of the following responses was accepted: (1) agree, (2) disagree, or (3) undecided. The four roles were as follows:

Role 1: Plays an overpowering leadership role which tends to dictate what should or should not happen in the county.

Role 2: Plays a leadership role which tends to give guidance and direction to county development.

Role 3: Gives some leadership in developing and carrying out specific project activities.

Role 4: Plays no effective leadership role in the county.

Table 7 summarizes the responses. There was strong agreement that the committee functioned by giving guidance and di-

rection to county development (Role 2) and in developing and carrying out specific project activities (Role 3). Six persons interviewed (18 percent) felt that they played an overpowering leadership role in the county. Of those familiar with the committee all felt it functioned in some effective leadership capacity.

Influence of Long Time Planning Committee's Projects on Personal Situation

Even though many Parke County residents are unfamiliar with the Long Time Planning Committee and its role in various local projects, they are aware of the projects. All persons interviewed were asked to provide a general appraisal of several projects initiated by the committee. They were first asked to evaluate each project as it affected the subject's personal or family well-being.

Responses are summarized in Table 8.

As can be seen, the changes instituted at the county poor farm were generally regarded as having little effect on the subject's personal well-being. The more general recreational facilities (Raccoon Lake, swimming pool) were viewed with greater favor. Strong satisfaction was expressed with the tourist promotion activities (Billie Creek Village, Covered Bridge Festival, Maple Fair).

On the average, 36 percent of the respondents indicated that they or their family had

Table 7. Percent of Respondents Familiar with the Committee Who Agreed with Indicated Committee Roles in the County.

Item	Role 1*	Role 2*	Role 3*	Role 4*
	percent			
Agree	18	82	77	0
Disagree	74	3	6	85
Undecided	8	15	17	15
Total	100	100	100	100
Number of responses	34	34	34	34

*Role 1 -- overpowering leadership; Role 2 -- guidance and direction to county development; Role 3 -- developing and carrying out specific projects; Role 4 -- no effective leadership role.

benefitted (4 or 5 ratings) directly from the projects. Some 48 percent indicated no direct effect (2 and 3 ratings) of any consequence. Finally, only two percent indicated that they were worse-off (rating 1) as a result of the projects.

Individual Projects by Place of Residency, Length of Residency, and Degree of Community Involvement

To determine the degree to which the projects are evaluated differently by different groups, each of the project ratings was analyzed according to the respondent's place of residency, length of residency and degree of community involvement. This analysis becomes important in evaluating the degree to which projects do represent the interest of a wide variety of residents in the county, as opposed to being of benefit primarily to select groups.

The 4-H Fairgrounds. In general, it was found that non-Rockville residents tended to be more favorable toward this project. These residents are probably more involved in 4-H programs than are the residents of Rockville.

There did not appear to be any difference in the rating of this project with respect to length of residency. Similarly, community involvement levels did not seem to bear any

noticeable relationship with attitudes toward the project.

Golf Course. The golf course tended to be utilized more by Rockville residents. Again, there was no discernible relationship between either length of residency or community involvement and ratings of the golf course.

Table 8. Percent of Respondents Indicating Alternative Levels of Family Well-being by Project.

Projects ^(a/)	Rating					
	No information or unaware	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*
	percent**					
1. Change in the county poor farm						
(a) Fairgrounds	7	2	16	35	24	16
(b) Golf course	10	0	24	33	18	15
(c) County park at golf course	13	2	22	38	14	11
(d) County farm	28	0	28	35	3	7
(e) Nursing home	17	3	24	31	13	13
2. Little Raccoon Conservancy District & County Park	10	1	10	21	35	24
3. Billie Creek Village	5	1	19	27	29	24
4. Covered Bridge Festival (1956)	1	3	4	20	29	24
5. Maple Fair (1965)	5	2	11	29	27	26
6. Dormeyer Industries	13	2	21	32	14	19
7. Swimming pool (built 1959)	3	1	16	18	35	28
8. Retarded children's school assistance	11	0	22	34	16	17
9. Securing doctors for county	10	12	25	33	18	3
10. Nursing home (private industry)	13	6	24	32	21	4
11. Development at Mecca Park	54	3	15	11	10	8
Average	14	2	19	29	20	16

*Note: 1 -- Worse-off; 2 -- Little different; 3 -- About the same; 4 -- Somewhat improved; 5 -- Definitely better.

**Percent based on 116 responses in all cases.

^(a/) A brief description of each project is provided in Appendix B.

County Park. A higher proportion of Rockville residents indicated they benefitted directly from the county park than was true of the non-Rockville residents. The park's proximity to Rockville is one obvious reason. There was no significant difference in attitude toward this project among residents with different lengths of residency or community involvement.

Leasing of Farmland. The leasing of part of the county poor farm land to a local farmer was met largely by indifference from both Rockville and non-Rockville residents. If anything, the non-Rockville residents felt that they were slightly worse off. There was no difference in ratings according to length of residency.

There did appear to be some relationship between extent of community involvement and attitude toward this project. Those who were most heavily involved in community affairs apparently realized that the county poor farm, which had been continually operated at a deficit, was now a paying operation.

Nursing Home. The take-over of the house on the poor farm by a private nursing concern was greeted with a higher degree of favor in Rockville. A larger percentage of Rockville's residents are over fifty years old, which is one probable reason.

Also, as might be expected, there was a definite relationship between length of residency and attitude toward the nursing home.

The older residents of Parke County tended to be more favorable.

There was no difference in attitude with respect to degree of community involvement.

Raccoon Lake. The development of this recreation facility was met with greater favor by the non-Rockville residents. Reasons for this response are not apparent. Length of residency and community involvement did not seem to influence attitudes toward this project.

Billie Creek Village. The development of a restored village was more highly approved by the residents of Rockville. They apparently saw some advantage in the tourist potential of such a venture. Length of residency bore no discernible relationship with the ratings given this project. Those with greater levels of community involvement tended to give higher ratings.

Covered Bridge Festival. An important asset to the local economy, this two-week festival was rated about equally by all respondents. There were no obvious relationships between ratings and place of residency, length of residency and community involvement.^{6/}

^{6/} For a more detailed evaluation of this project see pages 13 through 15 of this report and John M. Huie and Kenneth C. Clayton, Economic Impact of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, EC 432, Indiana Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University, 1973.

Maple Fair. The residents of Rockville tended to portray a more favorable attitude toward this project. Possibly they were more aware of its economic significance. Length of residency and degree of community involvement did not seem to affect the responses.

Dormeyer Industries. A more favorable rating was given to this project by the residents of Rockville. The fact that this plant is located near Rockville is probably an important reason for this response. Length of residency was of no importance in the ratings. Those more deeply involved in community affairs did provide higher ratings.

Swimming Pool. The swimming pool, which is open to all residents of Parke County, is located at Rockville. As might be expected, therefore, the residents of Rockville tend to make greater use of the facility. Responses appeared to be unrelated to length of residency and extent of community involvement.

Retarded Children's School. Again, this project is located at Rockville. The responses of Rockville's residents indicated that they are more familiar with it and rate it more highly. There was no indication among respondents that length of residency or community involvement levels affected their attitudes.

Doctor Securement. There was general dissatisfaction with the doctor situation in

Parke County. As in many rural areas a doctor shortage exists. There were no apparent trends according to place of residency, length of residency or community involvement.

Private Nursing Homes. There were no discernible patterns in responses to committee efforts to attract additional nursing home facilities to the county.

Mecca Park. The development of a park in the town of Mecca apparently affects few people outside of that town. There were no obvious relationships between the ratings given this project and place of residency, length of residency or degree of community involvement.

SUMMARY

The most significant finding of these questions is that a high proportion of all residents received direct benefit from many of the projects, (36 percent on the average and ranging from a high of 63 to a low of 18 percent). It was also of interest to note a higher probability for Rockville residents to benefit directly from many of the projects. Two projects, the 4-H grounds and Raccoon Lake, were more likely to provide direct benefits to non-Rockville residents.

In general, length of residency and degree of community involvement did not affect the degree to which families indicated they directly benefitted from the projects. The exceptions were: Billie Creek Village, in

which those who were highly involved in community affairs indicated greater personal satisfaction; the nursing home, older residents were more likely to obtain personal benefits; Dormeyer Industries, which tended to benefit a higher proportion of those who had strong community involvement.

Influence of Projects on Parke County's Situation

The preceding section explored the respondent's impression of how his personal situation was affected by the Long Time Planning Committee's projects. Apart from

Table 9. Percent of Respondents Indicating Degree Specific Projects Benefitted Parke County.

Projects	Rating					
	No information or unaware	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*
						percent**
1. Change in the county poor farm						
(a) Fairgrounds	4	1	4	11	37	43
(b) Golf course	13	0	1	10	32	44
(c) County park at golf course	15	1	2	17	33	32
(d) County farm	24	0	2	20	28	26
(e) Nursing home	11	3	2	14	37	33
2. Little Raccoon Conservancy District & County Park	9	1	1	5	30	54
3. Billie Creek Village	4	2	3	10	28	53
4. Covered Bridge Festival (1956)	2	1	1	8	17	71
5. Maple Fair (1965)	2	0	1	13	25	59
6. Dormeyer Industries	6	1	2	13	22	56
7. Swimming pool (built 1959)	4	1	1	10	24	60
8. Retarded children's school assistance	10	0	1	8	26	55
9. Securing doctors for county	8	13	12	22	19	26
10. Nursing home (private industry)	15	4	5	17	29	30
11. Development at Mecca Park	37	1	2	9	22	29
Average	11	2	3	12	27	45

*Note: 1 -- Worse-off; 2 -- Little different; 3 -- About the same; 4 -- Somewhat improved; 5 -- Definitely better.

**Percent based on 116 responses in all cases.

how the individual or his immediate family was affected, we obtained their impressions of each project's impact on Parke County as a whole.

Responses to this inquiry are presented in Table 9. Again, a rating system of one to five was used: (1) worse-off, (2) little different, (3) about the same, (4) somewhat improved, and (5) definitely better.

All projects, with the possible exception of "Securing of Doctors," met with approval. Approximately 72 percent of the respondents viewed the committee's projects as beneficial (ratings 4 and 5) to the county. Only 15 percent of those interviewed regarded the projects as having no direct value (ratings 2 and 3) to the county. Less than two percent saw them as detrimental (rating 1).

There did not appear to be any obvious relationships between project ratings and personal characteristics of the respondents such as place of residency, length of residency and extent of community involvement. This, of course, was due primarily to the high degree of acceptance by all residents.

It is of interest to note the projects which received the highest degree of support. The following projects all received ratings of 4 or 5 from more than 80 percent of the respondents: The Covered Bridge Festival, Little Raccoon Conservancy District, Maple Fair, Swimming Pool, Billie Creek Village, and the Retarded Children's School.

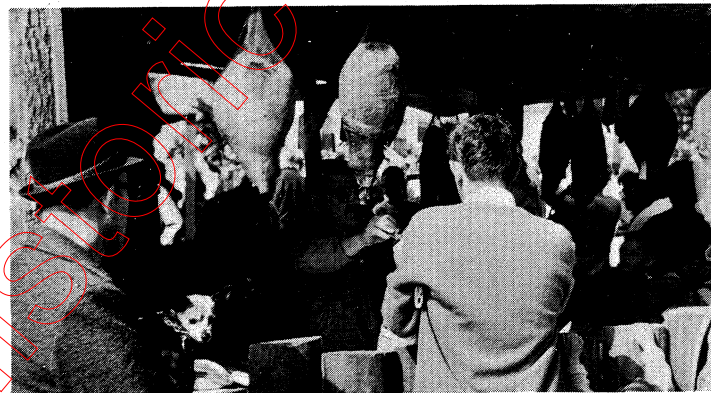
The one project receiving the least support was securing of doctors. Even here,

45 percent gave a high rating. One explanation may be the continued feeling that, in spite of recently acquired doctors, a need still exists.

A Specific Project: The Covered Bridge Festival

The two preceding sections of this report highlighted attitudes of Parke County residents toward several important projects in which the Long Time Planning Committee was highly involved. It was felt that these attitudes should be explored further through a more detailed analysis of one particular project. The Covered Bridge Festival was chosen because of the high degree of involvement by a large number of residents.

The Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, a two-week festival held during the fall of each year, has been functioning annually since 1957. It is one of the county's most notable success stories. More than 72 percent of the respondents indicated their fami-



ly had benefitted directly from this project; nearly 90 percent indicated the county had benefitted.^{7/}

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

Since participation in the festival is fairly wide-spread, an initial question concerned the subject's personal or family involvement. Responses indicated that 52 percent participated in the festival. Of those participating, 45 percent were involved in the farmers market and 24 percent acted as concessionaires.^{8/} The remainder were involved in a number of miscellaneous projects and activities.

Benefits. In order to determine why those who participated in the festival did so, they were asked to indicate the primary benefits they received. Table 10 summarizes their responses. It is interesting to note that only 20 percent were interested in the monetary returns. Sixty-five percent indicated primarily social benefits from their involvement.

^{7/} For a detailed description of the Festival, see: John M. Huie and Kenneth C. Clayton, Economic Impact of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, EC 432, Indiana Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue University, 1973.

^{8/} The farmers market participants sell various handicraft items and food through the festival with the festival sponsors handling the sales. Concessionaires sell similar products but do so themselves under the auspices of the festival sponsors. Various civic groups participate as concessionaires.

Table 10. Number and Percent of Respondents Indicating Specific Family or Personal Benefits from Participation in the Festival.

Benefit	Number	Percent
Money income	17	20
Pleasure	30	37
Contact with fellow residents	17	20
Pride in Parke County	5	6
Meet new people	7	8
Others	10	9
	86	100

Table 11. Number and Percent of Respondents Indicating Specific County Benefits from Participation in the Festival.

Benefit	Percent
Publicity and/or prestige	11
Money income	79
Esprit de corps among residents	4
Preservation of covered bridges	3
Others	3

COUNTY BENEFITS

Festival benefits also accrue to the county or groups within the county rather than to the individual families per se. (Table 11). As indicated, individual benefits resulting from the festival tended to be of non-monetary nature, and tended to be related to the social interaction among individuals.

County benefits, on the other hand, tended to be primarily financial in nature. (Estimates of the economic impact of the festival are reported in a companion publication.)^{7/} Seventy-nine percent of those responding indicated the money income as the primary benefit to the county. It is interesting to note that committee members see the social benefits and the greater willingness of people to work together as more important to the county than is the income.

Disadvantages. While the Covered Bridge Festival contributes significantly to the well-being of Parke County and its residents, it is not without some difficulties. Accordingly, respondents were asked to consider any disadvantages that had arisen in conjunction with this project. The one overwhelming personal complaint was the heavy traffic. Given a county perspective, the responses were somewhat more varied but again they emphasized the heavy traffic on local roads.

Summary

The Long Time Planning Committee is composed of individuals who were selected because they were respected by their peers as individuals who were interested in the total development of the county. Their judgement in the past had indicated an ability to accurately reflect the important values of Parke County residents. Because of these recognized traits they had gained influence in the county. They also were willing to de-

vote the time necessary to study and evaluate alternative directions for the county.

The results of this survey indicate that some two-thirds of the residents are unfamiliar with the committee while three-fourths are unaware of its membership and unable to identify the committee with specific projects. There was some indication that familiarity was higher for those residing in Rockville, the county seat. Also, familiarity tended to increase as the degree of community involvement increased.

Those individuals familiar with the committee were in 80 to 90 percent agreement that it had contributed significantly to the well-being of Parke County residents.

In addition, fifteen specific projects initiated by the committee were presented for consideration by all respondents. It was apparent that a high degree of satisfaction prevailed with regard to the projects that had been initiated by the committee. These responses were made by persons, the majority of whom were unaware of the association between the projects and the committee. Attitudes toward the projects did not seem to bear a strong relationship with length of residency or degree of community involvement. Although the degree of satisfaction was high in all areas, Rockville residents showed a somewhat higher degree of satisfaction with some projects than did non-Rockville residents. Generally, respondents felt that the county had benefitted more from the projects than they personally had.

Attitudes toward the committee's projects were explored further through a more detailed analysis of Parke County's Covered Bridge Festival. Some 72 percent of the respondents indicated personal benefits resulting from this project. Nearly 90 percent agreed that the county had benefitted.

More than 50 percent of those interviewed acknowledged some personal involvement in the festival. Reasons for participation included pleasure, contact with fellow residents, income, pride in Parke County and the chance to meet new people. Basically, the non-monetary benefits seemed more important to the individuals.

The primary benefit of the festival for the county was the income it generated,

primarily for non-profit community organizations. Also mentioned, however, were publicity, esprit de corps among residents, and the opportunity to preserve the historical covered bridges that are located throughout the county.

It is thus the conclusion of this report that the residents of Parke County strongly support the activities which have evolved from the committee even though only a small proportion are actually aware of the committee and its role. Secondly, of those who are familiar with the committee, strong support for the committee and its role exists. A small committee has found an effective and important role for itself in this rural county.





APPENDIX A
Parke County Questionnaire

I. Personal Information

A. Place of Residence

1. How long have you lived in Parke County?
2. If not always a resident of Parke County, where was your previous residence?

B. Number of children in family living at home (including children in school but not at home)

C. Occupation

1. What is your (spouse's) occupation, if retired or unemployed what was your last occupation? (i.e., specifically what do you do?)
2. Work Status
 - a. Housewife
 - b. Retired
 - c. Self Employed
 - d. Wage Earner
3. Where do you (spouse) work?
 - a. _____ in county
 - b. _____ out-of-county
 - c. _____ out-of-state

D. What is your age?

E. How many years of school have you completed?

- F. To what extent are you involved in community affairs in your:**
- Local Community?
 - Local School?
 - County Issues?
 - State Issues?

II. Parke County Planning Committee

- A. Are you familiar with Parke County's Long Time Planning Committee?
- B. Do you know any of the members of the committee? Please list.
- C. Do you know of any projects in the County in which the committee was involved? Please list.
- D. What value do you think the committee has been to the County?
- E. Here are some statements describing possible roles of the Long Time Planning Committee. Please tell me if you agree or disagree.

The Long Time Planning Committee:

1. Plays an overpowering leadership role which tends to dictate what should or should not happen in the county.
2. Plays a leadership role which tends to give guidance and direction to county development.
3. Gives some leadership in developing and carrying out specific project activities.
4. Plays no effective leadership role in the county.

III. Quality of Life

- A. Considering everything, how well satisfied are you with this
 - a. Community
 - b. County
- B. How well satisfied are you with the general quality of the following in your community and county?
 - a. Local Schools
 - b. Local Government
 - c. Recreational Facilities
 - d. Job Opportunities for Youth
 - e. Local Housing
 - f. Medical Facilities
 - g. Participation of people in County affairs
- C. Suppose you could live anywhere you wanted, would you:

Stay where you are?

Move to another location within the county?

Move out of the county?

Move out of the state?

- D. Do you feel your overall family situation is (1) worse, (2) little different, (3) about the same, (4) somewhat improved or (5) definitely better as a result of the county projects?
- E. Now, would you respond as to whether or not the county situation is (1) worse, (2) little different, (3) about the same, (4) somewhat improved or (5) definitely better as a result of the same county projects.

IV. Future Development

- A. In your opinion what are the three most important things that happened in Parke County in recent years? (5 to 10 years)
- B. How would you rate the present emphasis of the following areas in Parke County?

Industry

Business

Tourism (for others)

Recreation (for own use)

Agriculture

Schools

Health Services

Churches

Civic Organizations

Local Government

Participation of People in Community and County Affairs

Other

- C. Considering the above list, which areas do you feel should be emphasized in the future development of Parke County?
- D. What do you think are the three major problems that will be facing Parke County in the next 5 years? (List in order of priority)

V. The Covered Bridge Festival

- A. What is your opinion of the County Covered Bridge Festival?
- B. Are you or members of your family directly involved in the festival activities?
- C. If 'yes' to "B" explain the usual role.
- D. What are the greatest benefits you as an individual (family) receive from the festival?
- E. What do you believe are the greatest benefits the county receives from the festival?
- F. Do you or members of your immediate family receive income from the festival activities?
- G. Are you a member of an organization or group that receives income from the festival?
- H. What do you consider to be the major disadvantages of the festival to you as an individual?
- I. What do you consider to be the major disadvantages of the festival to the county?



**APPENDIX B
Parke County Projects
1954-1971**

1) Former County Poor Farm -- Now:

a) Fairgrounds

--Parke County Commissioners leased 47 acres to 4-H Building and Grounds, January 1954 - buildings added over a period of years with much volunteer labor, last year a trailer was provided so the custodian and family could live on the grounds.
--Now comprises approximately 30 acres

--10¢ tax established to build grounds
- later 2¢ rate to maintain

b) Golf Course (9 hole)

--Started in 1959 - first game played 1960

--Practically everything donated to construct the course

--Comprises approximately 70 acres
--Administered by a board elected by membership

--Membership cost (1969) \$35 for adults, \$15 for junior members, \$100 for family membership

--About 300 members

--Green fees to others - \$2.00 week days, \$3.00 week-ends. Golf Association has never had a financial problem, recently built new building to house golf carts and installed irrigation system for fairway

--Problem: Becoming crowded on week-ends partly because of use by out of county people

c) County Park at Golf Course

--In 1967 was turned over to the golf course with the understanding that they should maintain it and it would remain open to the public

--County Park Board maintains small parks at Covered Bridges. Near Rose-dale, Bridgeton, West Union and Mecca

--Recently hired former manager of Raccoon Park as park manager full time

--Park Board has an agreement with Indiana Department of Corrections to use boys from correction center, boys work for 25¢ per day. Park Board has an agreement with Covered Bridge Tourist Association whereby Park Board is reimbursed when manager, equipment and boys are utilized for tourist association work. Example: Construction of Billie Creek Village

d) County Farm

--Farm itself turned over to County Extension Committee April 1, 1966

--Lease fee \$1.00 per year-County Agent to manage, used for demonstra-tion work and 4-H work

--Comprises approximately 63 acres, 50 acres tillable

e) Nursing Home

--County Commissioners now lease

home as a privately operated home
@ \$175 per month = \$2,100/yr.

--Commissioners maintain and repair
facilities

--Five year cost = \$32,308 or average
of approximately \$6,000/yr.

- 2) Little Raccoon Conservancy District and
County Park at Structure Site 2C North-
east edge of Rockville

--County park to be operated by County
Park Board through lease agreement with
Little Raccoon Conservancy District

--Park to contain 95 acres, camping,
boating, picnicing

--Construction expected to start in 1970

--Little Raccoon Project includes 98,306
acres and 13 water holding structures,
12 of which are in Parke County - one
large lake and park near Waveland (just
over county line in Montgomery County)

--One dam was completed in 1968, two
will be completed in 1969

- 3) Billie Creek Village

--Idea first evolved in 1964

--Discussed in Long Time Planning Com-
mittee, then at a larger special meeting

--First opened for business at Covered
Bridge Festival 1969

--Land cost approximately - \$27,000
Building and properties and
other costs to date

November 1969 70,000

Approximate cost to date \$97,000

--Purpose: Help extend the tourist sea-
son and provide more space and facilities

for Covered Bridge Festival and Maple
Fair

- 4) Other Tourist Promotions

--Covered Bridge Festival started in
1956

--Gross receipts and income of Associa-
tion has increased sizably every year.

Receipts were \$98,052.21 in 1968

--Maple Fair started in 1965

--Now have full time Executive Secretary
with time divided between Covered Bridge

Tourist Association and Chamber of Com-
merce

--Currently administered as a part of
Parke County Inc.

- 5) Dormeyer Industries

--Makes small electrical components

--Employs approximately 250

--Over \$100,000 raised quickly to fi-
nance building when this industry was
ready to come to county

--These funds raised by a special group
which was formed namely Parke County
Development Corporation

--Plant expanded moderately about 5
years ago

- 6) Swimming Pool

--Built in 1959 utilizing much volunteer
labor

--Pool charges small fee for swimming
and gets some financial assistance from
town of Rockville

- 7) Retarded Childrens School

--Local effort to secure training program
for retarded was initiated about 1963 af-

- ter fire destroyed a children's home in Rockville
- Group called themselves Parke County Parents and Friends of Retarded Children
 - Used Baptist Church basement for first organized training program
 - Present building built in 1965 using 10¢ county tax rate
 - Presently administered by a county wide board of directors
 - Have a full time professional man in charge currently
 - Have about 35 children from Parke County and 20 from other counties
 - Working with other counties and state with plans for a complete program on a multi-county basis
 - Parke County ranks with top five in the state in terms of day care retarded program
- 8) Securing Doctors
- Long Time Planning Committee actively worked and was successful in securing two doctors - one 8-10 years ago - the other about two years ago
 - Both are active and successful
 - Modern clinic now being built by this newest doctor
- 9) Red Cross Chapter
- Not everything is a tremendous success
 - Have had much difficulty in keeping an active chapter
- 10) School Consolidation
- Early success at Turkey Run
 - Much failure and bloodshed later and
- still no agreement with de facto three-unit system
- 11) Nursing Homes
- Much study and effort given this in last two-three years
 - Committee considered public not for profit facility administered by local board
 - Finally went private industry route with first home near completion
 - Land has been purchased by another group interested in building a private nursing home
- 12) Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Former FBI agent, Don Lash, whose wife is from Parke County is very active in this organization
 - F.I.C. plans to build national resource and training center and an additional site for athletes training camp sessions
 - Considerable local publicity has been given to this project and a local committee formed which is ready to assist with a local fund drive at the proper moment
- 13) Development at Mecca
- County Park Board established a park at Mecca Covered Bridge 1965
 - Local group decided to do things on their own
 - Moved, restored and equipped one room school at other end of bridge
 - Secure community water supply through FHA
 - Built a ball diamond for Little League
 - Starting using former church for serving meals during Covered Bridge Festival

--Local citizens decorate the Mecca Covered Bridge for Christmas, have a carol sing utilizing the Parke County Band

Some Other Efforts, Studies and Activities

United Fund

Pasture, Fertilizer and Forestry programs

Parke County Products - crafts trademark program

Use of Welfare recipients for county labor

Proposed Sugar Creek Reservoir

Program to purchase land between Billie Creek Village and County Park north of Rockville for park expansion

Rural Church Needs

Post High School Vocational Education

Percent of High School graduates going to college

Use of former Air Base by Ivy Tech

Use of former Air Base by Department of Corrections

Helped launch Economic Opportunity Program in county and area

Helped organize a multi-county tourist promotion effort

Helped launch county planning and zoning in four townships several years ago and expand to remainder of county two years ago

Reviewed County sewer and water plan

Explored possibilities for joint health operation with Vermillion County including hospital, nursing homes, and health boards

Studied possible joint Parke - Vermillion Extension Service

Studied and worked with state people concerning use of facilities at State hospital for chest diseases

Helped with Penn-Central Railroad holding action

Discussed local request for humane society and county dog pound

Used State Library people to discuss adequacy of local libraries relative to other communities

Discussed and helped secure removal of part of the abandoned housing at east edge of Rockville

Discussed Extension re-organization

Discussed trash disposal needs

Senior Citizen organization and needs

Possibilities for off street parking in Rockville

Highway improvement in Area

Civil Defense Needs

Area Mental Health Hospital promotion

Chamber of Commerce purchase of theatre in Rockville

Members went to Flint, Michigan - discussed possibilities for open door school program

Expand crafts program for county

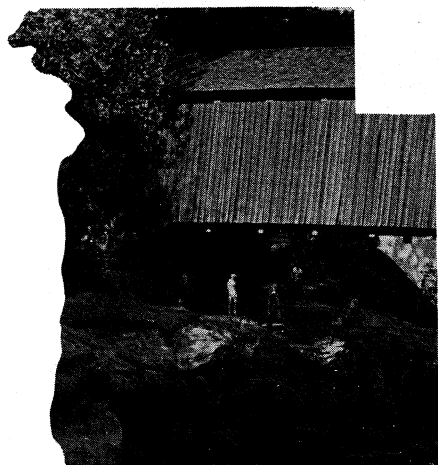
Parke County may have first and only active county wide band which plays for local events

County Beautification program

Town of Rockville now working on Planning and Zoning and plans for additional sewers and sewage disposal system

Federal Housing Authority (County-wide) established in 1970

Merits of Food Stamp Program vs. surplus commodities



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