

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bio	re: Robert L. Jackson [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
002. bio	re: Vivian Presley [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
003. bio	re: Morris Rockwood [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
004. resume	re: Harry Walker [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 18996

FOLDER TITLE:

Mississippi Delta New Markets 7/99 [Folder 2]

2016-0201-S

rc1923

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

The Clarksdale Press Register

PUBLISHED BY DELTA PRESS PUBLISHING COMPANY
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July 14, 1999

TO: Mr. Joshua Gewold
FAX No. 202-456-5709

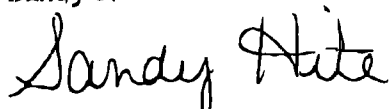
Mr. Gewold,

We were unable to contact you by phone but we wanted to make sure you received the newspaper faxes you requested. We apologize for being so late getting these to you.

Please call me at (662) 627-2201 to confirm receipt of these faxes.

Thank you.

Sandy Hite



Clarksdale Press Register

**WEATHER**

Partly cloudy Wednesday
with scattered storms. Highs
in the mid-90s.

Monday:

High - 94 Low - 74
Rain - 0.03

See Page 2 for
details.

► **Dixie Boys 14-year-olds:**

9 p.m. today at Charles Renaldo Field.

Page 5

21.5 to

The Clarksdale Press

134th Year
Number 159

14 Pages in
one Section

Clarksdale, Mississippi
July 6, 1999

TUES

President Clinton visit

By PANNY MAYFIELD
Features Editor

To the cadence of "Welcome, Mr. President," chanted by crowds lining the barricades on Issaquena Avenue, President Clinton walks beneath the marquee of the New Rocky Theatre where Sam Cooke once sang gospel music.

In animated conversation with the president as they walk down the sidewalk of the once lively New World district now peppered with vacant lots and buildings in need of repair are Clarksdale Mayor Richard Webster and U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.

Outside the Oh, So Pretty Florist Shop flanked with clusters of red, white and blue balloons on the corner of Issaquena and Martin Luther King Blvd., the president shakes hands with the owner, Shirley Fair.

Others greeting the president in the welcoming group are Johnny Newson, owner of Newson Auto Parts, Brenda Outlaw, who runs the Fashion Gallery, and Davis Goon of Goon's Grocery.

The conversations move inside for a mini-summit of neighborhood businessmen.

Asked what the president discussed with them among flower arrangements and American flags, Shirley Fair commented, "He mostly listened."

She said they poured out their problems to Clinton and pleaded, "Don't forget us."

Writing outside in the blistering heat, crowds perk up with the appearance of Jessie Jackson leading a new entourage down the middle of Issaquena.

The Rainbow Coalition founder works the crowd shaking hands and kissing babies before mingling with other dignitaries including former Gov. William Winter and Attorney General Mike Moore.

Winter label: Clinton's appear-



President greets neighborhood businessmen

On a walking tour of Clarksdale's New World District at the corner of Issaquena and Martin Luther King Blvd., President Clinton including Johnny Newson, Davis Goon, Brenda Outlaw and Shirley Fair, owner of the Oh, So Pretty Florist Shop where the president had a mini-summit.

ance in Clarksdale an historic event.

"This is the first meaningful visit of an incumbent president to Mississippi not inspecting a disaster since Woodrow Wilson came to Pass Christian in 1933," said Winter.

ter.

The former governor said he expects the presidential trip to boost the general economy and aid education.

"Education and jobs go together," said Winter.

Commenting on needs of the area and the president's visit, Jessie Jackson said, "This is not about a racial gap but a resource gap."

Following the flower shop summit, Clinton spoke to friends and officials in the street, including former Mayor Henry Espy

wife, Linda, City Attorney Twiford, Curt Presley, First National Bank of Cl and dozens of media men.

Then on to the main greeting an excited line

For eager reporters, Clinton visit was 'hurry u

By JEFF PISELLI
News Editor

Covering a presidential visit can be a matter of "hurry up and wait," as some members of the local press learned this morning.

Television crews complete with satellite live trucks and print journalists began arriving at Fletcher

Field shortly after 6 a.m. and politely began staking out positions in the press area, near the spot where the president's helicopter was to land.

As the next couple of hours passed, a television crew from WGBI in Columbus did several live satellite broadcasts from the

scene as the morning sun began to make things uncomfortable.

Meanwhile television camerapeople waited by their tripod mounted cameras as the print journalists stood around or sat on the narrow strip of grass behind sawhorse-style barricades -- waiting for something to happen.

Some were covering a president for the first time, others were veterans of at least one visit.

"This is about what you'd expect, securitywise, from a small airport," said Rick Guy, a photographer for the *Clarion Ledger*.

Guy said he was there to shoot "everything he does," but admitted

that he was looking for images and wanted no manufactured photo opportu-

"This White House press from what I've seen on TV is real good about settling up. I'll probably have 'em, although I'll try to get some I'm trying to get some

Security tight prior to Clinton's arrival here



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► **Dixie Boys 14-year-olds:**

9 p.m. today at Charles Renaldo Field.

Page 5

21.5 feet

The Mississippi River
registered 21.5 feet at 8 a.m.
See Page 2 for details.

Clarksdale Press Register

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ction

Clarksdale, Mississippi
July 6, 1999

TUESDAY

President Clinton visits city



Photo by Penny Mayfield

President greets neighborhood businessmen

ing tour of Clarksdale's New World District at the corner of Issaquena and Martin Luther King Blvd., President Clinton greets local neighborhood businessmen Johnny Newson, Davis Goon, Brenda Outlaw and Shirley Fair, owner of the Oh, So Pretty Florist Shop where the president listened to their problems inside during the mini-summit.

Clarksdale an historic
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inspecting a disaster
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Following the flower shop summit, Clinton spoke to friends and officials in the street, including for-

mer Mayor Henry Epy and his wife, Linda, City Attorney Hunter Twiford, Curt Presley, CEO of First National Bank of Clarksdale, and dozens of media members.

Then on to the main event -- greeting an excited lineup of local

folks stretched down Issaquena Avenue, hearing their stories, hugging young children, including one overcome with emotion and in tears.

See CLINTON, Page 2

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Guy said he was there to shoot "everything he does," but admitted

that he was looking for genuine images and wanted no part of manufactured photo opportunities.

"This White House press corps, from what I've seen on television, is real good about setting photo-ops up. I'll probably have to shoot 'em, although I'll try to avoid 'em ... I'm trying to get something a lit-

tle different."

Don Culpepper, a longtime reporter for WCBT, sweated through countless stand-up live shots in the brutal Delta sun before the president arrived.

"We came here to do live shots. See PRESS, Page 2

prior to
there



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Security tight prior to Clinton's arrival here

By JEFF FISELL
 News Editor

President Clinton touched down at Fletcher Field this morning for his first visit to Mississippi since his election.

Clinton was scheduled to arrive at 8:20, but before Marine One, the Marine Corps helicopter that shuttled the president from Memphis to Clarksdale landed, scores of security personnel, secret service agents and members of the press were in place.

The security presence was overwhelming a full two hours before President Clinton was scheduled to arrive.

Plainclothes and uniformed secret service agents were on the scene as others began to arrive.

Portable metal detectors were set up as a bomb-sniffing German shepherd and its handler thoroughly checked each building and eventually every piece of equipment carried by members of the press.

Then came the menacing black vans and sports-utility vehicles

bristling with communication antennae.

They joined two long black limousines with Washington, D.C., license plates and armored windows.

Federal agents in blue jumpsuits with no unit patches or external identification got out of two of the vans, spoke to several of the Secret Service agents and quickly disappeared.

One local police officer identified them as counter-snipers, expert marksmen with high-powered rifles whose task is to locate and eliminate armed threats to the president.

About an hour before Clinton was to arrive, security became tighter. Black-clad officers with large binoculars were posted on the tops of buildings, and a Mississippi Highway Patrol helicopter began circling the airport property — "perimeter check," said one veteran newsman.

See SECURITY, Page 2



On a stroll down Issaquena Avenue beneath the historic New Roxy marquee is accompanied by Mayor Richard Webster (left of Clinton), U.S. Rep. Ben

...and the Rev. John H. ...presiding. Burial will follow at the Forrest Park Cemetery in Forrest City, Ark. Visitation will be held at National Funeral Chapel from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Mr. Bradley, a retiree of Chicago Mill Lumber Co., was born on April 7, 1927 in Clarendon, Ark. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW Post #3936 and the U.S. Army.

Survivors include his wife, Loma Paulino Bradley of Clarksdale; one daughter, Anita Blaylock of Moon Lake; three sons, Larry Bradley of Madison, Ala., Robert Bradley of Clarksdale, and Richard Allen Bradley of Moon Lake; two step-sons, Dennis Lee of Oxford and Charles Lee of Oklahoma City, Okla.; three sisters, Edith Austin and June Thompson, both of Nashville, Tenn. and Francis Brown of Englewood, Fla.; three brothers, Arvel Bradley of Englewood, Fla.; Charles Bradley of Judsonia, Ark. and Roy Bradley of Rohnert Oak, Calif.; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Clinton

Continued from Page 1

Beaming with excitement, Myrtle Adams said it had been a perfect morning. "I shook the president with both hands and kissed Jessie Jackson."

The presidential motorcade followed by vans filled with local officials and scores of reporters and photographers left down Martin Luther King Blvd. to tour Waterfield Cabinets in the Industrial Park.

"Well, it's hot as a fire cracker in here, so I feel right at home," said President Clinton, referring to the stifling heat inside the Waterfield Cabinet Co. where he hosted a round-table discussion with area business people.

Clinton stopped in Clarksdale Tuesday and spoke with nine panelists about the New Markets Initiative before a crowd of several

hundred residents and an array of local, state and national luminaries.

The focus of Clinton's visit is to further stimulate the nation's economy by promoting private-sector investment in impoverished regions like the Mississippi Delta.

Clinton hopes to spur at least \$6 billion dollars in investments into underdeveloped rural and urban areas across the nation.

The panel was a diverse group, representing different segments of society. But the hope for economic progress was a common thread.

Rosedale Mayor J.Y. Trice expressed a concern over improvements for a bridge and a highway, and Greyhound Bus Lines Chief Operating Officer Jack Haugland, said he hopes to establish affordable bus transportation from the

Security

Continued from Page 1

Shortly after, three large, olive green helicopters flew in from the north and landed on one of the runways of Fletcher Field.

"White House press," said the veteran newsmen.

In a short while, three more helicopters, twin-bladed this time, flew in and landed closer than the other helicopters. "I don't know who they are," said the newsmen.

Finally a green Marine Sea-King helicopter with the words "United States of America" emblazoned on its side in white lettering landed in a swirl of dust and debris and slowly inched over to where an image-ungrudgingly press waited for the first opportunity to capture an image of the commander in chief.

"The Secret Service said this is able to go quickly," said one television reporter as the shutters waited and the dust from the still rotating blades blew into everyone's air and eyes.

Suddenly, blue trousers with the distinctive red stripe of a Marine dress-blue uniform became visible as the wearer stood on the side of the helicopter obscured from view.

The aircraft's engines wound down and Secret Service agents and members of the White House staff began ushering a long line of politicians and local dignitaries to

the press area where they could meet Clinton.

Then — the president's helicopter landed.

A smiling Bill Clinton stepped off Marine One into a crowd of well-wishers that included Mississippi Lt. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, Attorney General Mike Moore, Clarksdale Mayor Richard Webster and numerous others.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson stepped off the helicopter and walked toward the waiting motorcade as Clinton greeted and shook the hand of just about everyone in the receiving line.

Then, instead of getting directly into the waiting presidential limousine, Secret Service agents escorted Clinton through a side door of the KBH hangar.

"Bathroom," said one police officer.

Then with a final wave, the president stepped in to the back of the limousine and the motorcade, complete with helicopter escort travelled down U.S. 61 to Clarksdale, where Clinton walked along Issaquena Avenue and shook some more eager hands before attending a New Markets Initiatives meeting at Waterfield Cabinets Inc., at the Leonard Pharr Industrial Park off Mississippi 322.

Authorities await autopsy to see if body that of girl

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bolivar county authorities Tuesday await an autopsy report to confirm that child's body found in a roadway was that of a missing 6-year-old Cleveland-area girl.

We feel certain at this point and that this is the little girl, but we can't be positive until he (the examining doctor in Jackson) gives us the report," said Sheriff H.M. Jack "Grimmett.

the body is believed to be that of

...of ...and evening thunderstorms each day. Lows in the 70s. Highs in the 90s.

Press

for our morning show," said Culpepper. "We wanted to bring people in Columbus, which of course is on the other side of the state, into this exciting event — The president hasn't been here since he's been president and that's been what, eight years now?"

"This is the first president to wander through in a while and we thought people in The Golden Triangle would be real interested ... It's a good idea to pay attention to these small areas."

Andrew Bagley, with The Phillips County Progress said "First you get all excited, you come, you sit and you wait ... then you wait some more and they tell you 'this is gonna change and that's gonna change,' — like the size of the press area keeps getting smaller, but it's a once in a lifetime opportunity for a small town newspaperman like me."

"It's pretty typical, I've covered presidential visits before," said Anna Marie Hartman of WMC in Memphis.

"... but I've talked to a few people in Clarksdale and they're excited, not just because there might be some money coming their way but because the president has decided to actually physically be here. They think that is a big step in terms of national attention and they think it's going to help their area — and they really sound like it's very, very needed."

Hillary Clinton to form exploratory committee

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton must break away from being first lady if she is to have a shot at winning a New York Senate seat, say veterans of the state's political wars. And she plans to start a tour of the state to do just that.

Moving ever closer to a historic candidacy, Mrs. Clinton planned to form a Senate exploratory committee today that could lead to her becoming the only first lady to

...and evening thunderstorms each day. Lows in the 70s. Highs in the 90s.

Wednesday:
Sunrise.....5:54 a.m.
Sunset.....8:05 p.m.

Press

Continued from Page 1

Hartman said she was "anxious to see if people were skeptical" of the president's visit and "if they believe he'll put his money where his mouth is," she said.

"It'll be interesting to go about town and see if everybody agrees that once the president leaves Clarksdale if they'll see anything to back it up in the future."

Jack Zillion, with The Associated Press, said "I think it's probably a good thing that he finally got back."

"If you remember when Ray Mabus was governor of Mississippi Buddy Reimer was governor of Louisiana and he was governor of Arkansas they had this big meeting up this way about setting up improvements on both sides of the Mississippi River — and I think it's about time he got back to it."

Elliot said he believed that many in the Deep South were disappointed because the former governor of Arkansas didn't do more for the area during his tenure as president.

Elliot has been covering presidents since Richard Nixon campaigned in The South and said that press coverage of events like today's has changed over the years.

"I think the immediacy of it with all the TV stations with their live capability and satellite capability has virtually changed the whole atmosphere. The speed at which information can get back to the public is amazing," he said.

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PRISTIN/
— The first
Russian peace
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John May
Tim Puck
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Roy D. Br
Gary Chri
Paul "Skip
Andrew Tl

CIRCUIT

Charles O
Phillip A. S
CORONEI
Scotty Me
Charles S

SUPERVI

Derek D. F
Tommy Lo
Paul Pears
Manual N.

SUPERVI

Robert Ea
Charles E.
Vernon Jo
Chris Over
Vic Steen

SUPERVI

Timothy Br
Beatrice S.

SUPERVI

Johnny Ne
Smitty (D)

SUPERVI

Katherine
Brian O. Ja
Ralph Simp
E.L. "High

CONSTAB

Roy L. Davi
Grady C. Jo
Lonzy Roby
Tracy Vance
Billy Webb

CONSTAB

Ricky Fowle

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**SEASONAL
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Special souvenir wraparound section

The Clarksdale Press

134th Year
Number 2

Clarksdale, Mississippi
July 7, 1999

WEDNESDAY

Clinton visit leaves city opti

By JEFF PISELLI
News Editor

President William Jefferson Clinton's brief but historic trip through Clarksdale has city officials and local residents believing that something good may come from the visit.

The president is on a four-day tour of some of the nation's most impoverished areas to announce

his New Markets Initiatives program, which encourages partnerships between government and the private sector in pursuit of both corporate profit and the creation of good jobs.

Clinton visited the Delta city Tuesday, bringing with him the secretaries of transportation, labor, and agriculture, as well as the small business administrator and an

undersecretary of the treasury.

He also brought along the chief executive officers of Enbridge, Greyhound and Bank of America, in addition to the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The group met for a "roundtable discussion" at Waterfield Cabinets Inc. in Clarksdale's Leonard Phair Industrial Park.

Waterfield is a beneficiary of the

kind of government and private sector partnership Clinton is advocating.

"I think the president was impressed with what he saw, I think he was very impressed with the reception he received," said Clarksdale Mayor Richard Webster, who met the president at the airport and spent most of the day with him.

"In some of the conversations I was able to have with him, I learned very intently. He had some of the plans we were involved in and he seemed very interested."

"I told him that we just need to have someone — and I call him a better person than you — pick up the phone and involve..." he said.



On his walking tour of Issaquona Avenue Tuesday, President Clinton hugs and consoles a child overcome with emotion and in tears over seeing him in her home while greeting others including the legendary "Soul Man" Early Wright (right in photo above). Wright broadcast blues and gospel music nightly on WROX Radio for more than 50 years.

Entourage made

Special souvenir wraparound section

Clarksdale Press Register

Clarksdale, Mississippi
July 7, 1999

WEDNESDAY

50 cents

visit leaves city optimistic

Markets Initiatives pro-
ch encourages partner-
zen government and the
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of a better person than you to just
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involved..." he said.

George Walker, a Clarksdale res-
ident who serves on the board of
directors of the Enterprise Corpo-
ration of the Delta (ECD), which
for four years has been financing
commercial ventures that are oth-
erwise unable to get traditional
funding or venture capital was
more blunt in his optimism.

"The national spotlight has been
shined on us, and I think that we
will all see very significant benefits
coming into this area in the near
future," he said.

"There is definitely going to be a
much larger presence from the
ECD, which has already done a
great deal of good in the area — at
least five major loans in this area.
and I think you'll see a lot more."

While in Clarksdale, Clinton
announced \$15 million in commu-
nity development grants for the
Mississippi Delta. The money is
part of a \$46.5 million funding
package.

Clinton later announced a \$500
million capital investment fund,
entered into with the Bank of
America.

But bringing attention to the
Delta and Clarksdale in particular,
may have been as beneficial as
releasing the funds.

"The significance of this is that
we have been fortunate enough to
have national attention, not only
from the business community and
also from the federal government
brought upon us ... and I really
have no doubt that there are many,
many businesses that could work
here in Clarksdale — perhaps they
never heard of us, perhaps they
thought we were too remote ... I
think you'll see some really sys-
temic changes coming in the near
future," said Walker.

Webster said the key to luring
industry to the area is to establish a
level playing field with other cities
in The Delta that have been desig-
nated as economic empowerment
zones, a federal program from
which Coahoma County was
excluded.

"That developed an unlevel play-
ing field for us," Webster said he
told Clinton. "It made it very diffi-
cult if not impossible to compete
with other areas that could offer
more than we could offer, so his
comments about making it just as
advantageous to invest dollars in
the Mississippi Delta as it was to
invest dollars overseas or any other
place in these United States were
welcome."

Webster said all he wants is for
Clarksdale and Coahoma County to
be able to compete on an equal
footing.

"Then it's our baby," he said.
"The ball is in our court."



Tuesday, President Clinton hugs and consoles a child overcome with emotion and in tears over seeing him in her hometown
ery "Soul Man" Early Wright (right in photo above). Wright broadcast blues and gospel music nightly on WROX Radio for more



On his walking tour of Issaquena Avenue Tuesday, President Clinton hugs and consoles a child overcome with emotion and in tears over seeing him in her hometown while greeting others including the legendary "Soul Man" Early Wright (right in photo above). Wright broadcast blues and gospel music nightly on WROX Radio for more than 50 years.

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Entourage made Clinton visit a smooth operation

By CHARLES BROWN
Staff Writer

The President touched down at Fletcher Field a little after his scheduled 8:20 landing Tuesday accompanied by his entourage of political figures, press people, and government agents.

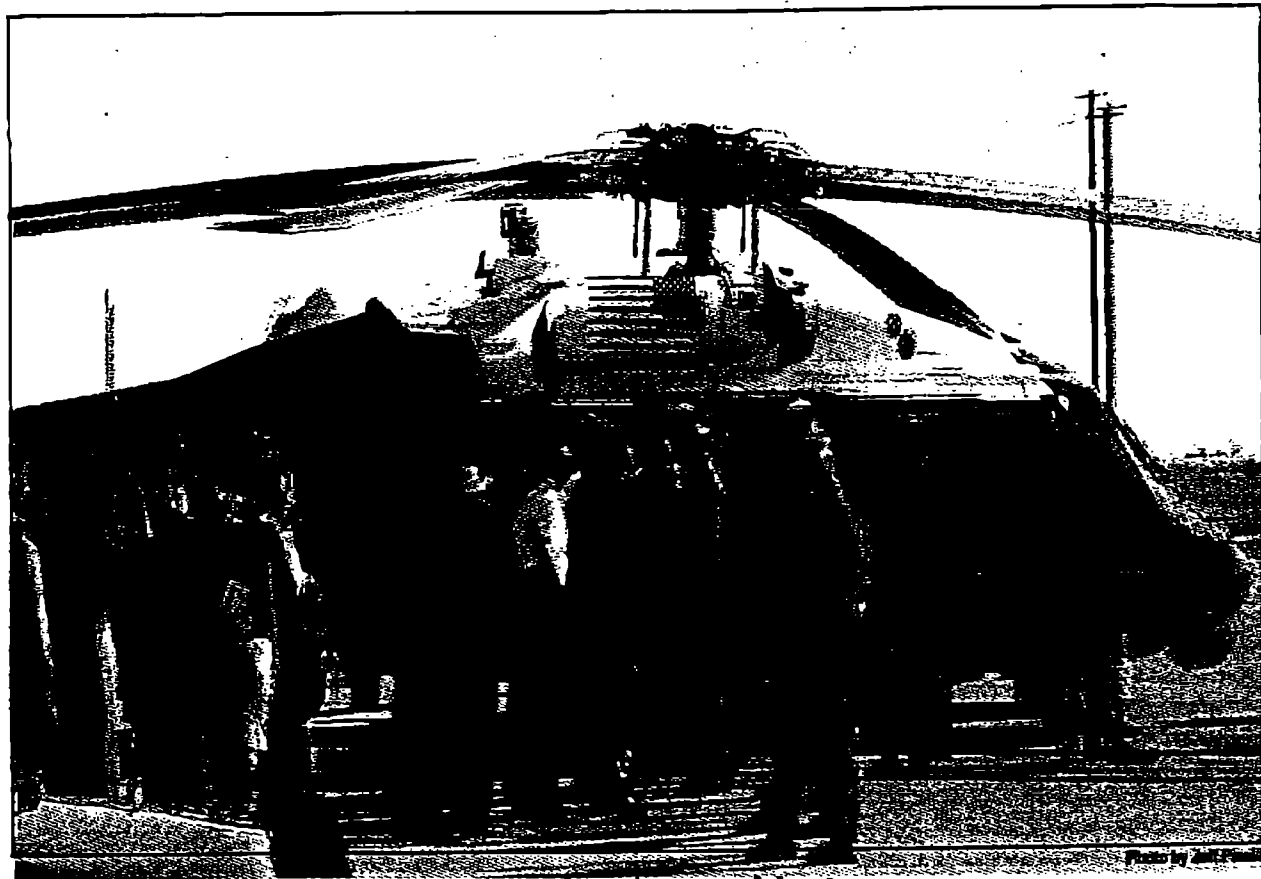
Upon his long awaited arrival to the city of Clarksdale, President William Jefferson Clinton was greeted by a large number of people including Mayor Richard Webster, U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson, Commissioner Grady Palmer, Attorney General Mike Moore, Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove, and many other enthusiastic citizens of Clarksdale.

But enough about the President and his entourage. Let's go

behind the scenes. Who were the people that helped this whole operation run smoothly?

If you noticed that Issaquena Street looked a little better than usual, that's because Clarksdale Public Works did a little sprucing up for the president's visit.

Accompanying the presidential motorcade were a group of drivers selected to chauffeur members of the Clinton entourage. There was a total of 16 vans with Tennessee tags filled with government agents and press people. Vanessa Long was the local person on the selection committee. She was not available for comment. Mayor Webster's son, Trip, Jen Waller, Candace Baron, See **ENTOURAGE**, Next Page



Welcoming the president

Clarksdale Mayor Richard Webster (dark jacket with khaki pants center) greets United States President Bill Clinton (green shirt with hands in pockets) upon his arrival here Tuesday morning. The president arrived at Fletcher Field in Marine One (background).

Crowd's mood indicates Clinton would win again

BY RAQUEL BURGOS LILES
Staff Writer

If the mood of the crowd attending President Clinton's departure was any indication, he would win the presidency hands down in 2000.

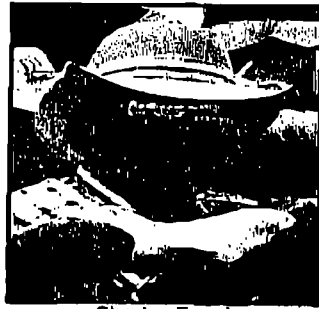
Brenda Luckett, a special education teacher at George H. Oliver Elementary School, thinks it's great that the President would come here.

"Any kind of exposure would be helpful, of course. We just need the economic help," Luckett said when asked if she thought Clinton's visit would really help.

Clinton's job rating was also high with Luckett. "He's doing all he can do. Well, all Congress will let him do. I think just to come here shows he's interested because he didn't have to come here."

Charles Fread traveled all the way from DeWitt, Ark., to see the President.

"I've been voting for him since



Charles Fread

he ran for governor of Arkansas," said Fread.

Myliro Adams, a retired teacher of 31 years with Hendstart, suggested that "we can't go too far wrong if we just do what he says. I just hope something comes out of it (his visit)."

It only he could have made it cooler.



Brenda Luckett



Myliro Adams

Entourage—Continued from Previous Page

and Vaneese Long were just a few of the drivers.

After touring some of downtown Clarksdale and attending a meeting with local officials at Waterfield Cabinet Co., President Clinton had lunch, to the surprise of many, at Hicks Superette where he and about 50 members of his entourage dined on barbecued ribs, barbecued chicken, cole slaw and a little bit of everything, according to Eugene Hicks Jr., son of owner Eugene Hicks Sr.

The Ranchero catered the White House aids and the national press. Eggs, bacon, sausages, grits, biscuits, coffee, juice and

hot tea were served to 71 people at Waterfield Cabinet Co. and the Clarksdale High School cafeteria.

The Ranch also served box lunches that consisted of barbecue, slaw, baked beans, corn, rolls, pasta and cheesecake to White House aids and national press people.

"It took a lot of help," said Chris Card, owner of the Ranchero, "considering that we don't normally serve breakfast. It was a major ordeal for us."

Mayor Webster commended the wonderful job done by all who had anything to do with the President's visit.



Photo 1

One of two

armored presidential limousines waits no more than a few yards away as President Clinton disembarks the plane with supporters and well-wishers on the tarmac at the Clarksdale airport.

President hears rare success stories of area

BY RICHARD MASSEY
Staff Writer

President Clinton listened to a few economic success stories Tuesday at a round-table talk at the Waterfield Cabinet Co. But what he heard were rare tales for an area characterized by high unemployment and low investment rates.

And though success stories like the one told by Computers Inc. owner Nita Brooks are few in this area, her road to success could become more traveled.

"They took a chance on someone who just didn't have the credit background," she said to Clinton and hundreds of sweat-drenched onlookers.

Brooks was referring to the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, the non-profit organization that gave her access to the capital she needed when all she had was "hard work, desire and sweat."

Through the assistance of the corporation, Brooks was able to expand from 5 employees to 11. The Clarksdale-based company

now does around \$1.6 million in business a year.

The BCD provides economic assistance to small businesses through grants and loans. It helps a business become and remain a business.

When Ephron Lewis, Sr., was ready to renovate and remodel Lewis and Sons Rice Processing, his business in Barlow, Ark., the BCD assembled the loan package he needed to make the needed changes.

"To a great extent, this is a money problem," said Clinton, addressing his belief that people like Brooks and Lewis could probably succeed if they only had access to crucial funding.

This is the key focus in Clinton's New Markets Initiative, to get capital into the hands of those who need it; the ones who have never

had it.

But the initiative is a system.

Clinton hopes to spur sector investment in through tax credits, debt and loans. He wants to see owners good reasons and grow in areas like which he said is not pure economic boom sweeping the nation.

"If you come to the Delta you can get at least don't as you can anywhere else."

Instead of offering the corporations to invest in the economy, Clinton said, is basic business efforts.

See PRESIDENT, Ne

Thank you, Mr.

The first
visit ever

President
of the



ood Clinton again



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Mylre Adams

ed from Previous Page

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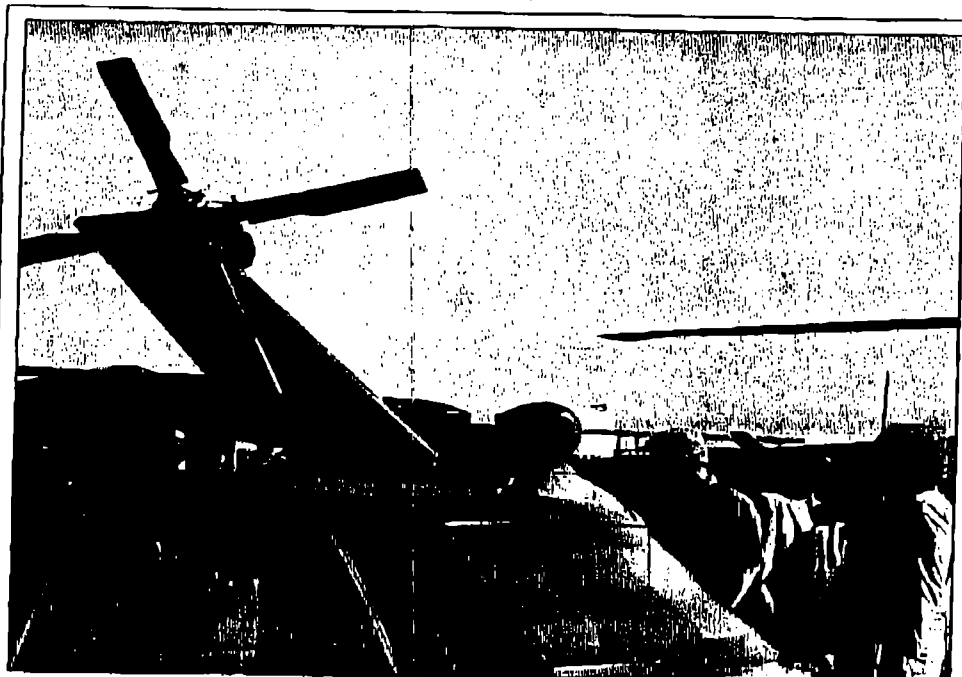


Photo by Jeff Pheul

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had it.

But the initiative is not a welfare system.

Clinton hopes to spur private-sector investment in the area through tax credits, debt financing and loans. He wants to give business owners good reasons to invest and grow in areas like Clarkdale, which he said is not part of the economic boom sweeping the rest of the nation.

"If you come to the Mississippi Delta you can get at least as good a deal as you can anywhere else," he said.

Instead of offering the tax cut to the corporations to invest in foreign markets, said Clinton, entice them to invest in the domestic economy. The new markets strategy, Clinton said, is based on bipartisan efforts.

See **PRESIDENT**, Next Page

Excitement level high at airport

By Diane Harris-Donnelly
Special Correspondent

The excitement level in the crowd at the airport while waiting for President Clinton to shake hands before he left Clarkdale yesterday was incredible.

News staff people, photographers, dignitaries, VII's, and just plain happy folks were crowded together, old and young alike, in the sweltering 99 degree heat. Everyone shared umbrellas and water jugs and gossiped and commented on everything related to the President's visit.

Overheard in the crowd:
"He's leaving as soon as he gets through eating at Hick's Superette."

"He was on Beale Street last night, and he stayed in the Peabody."

"That's Tim, the Secret Service Special Agent in Charge, and that's Paul (they can't give out his last name), another Secret Service agent."

"They said they used more helicopters and more agents here for this visit that they did with the Pope when he was in Colorado."

"See that guy? The one in the photographer's vest? He came with Clinton downtown this morning, but he was wearing a blazer. He looks like Larry Cockell!"

"Man, he doesn't miss a thing! See him watching everybody's hands and faces?" (You may recall that Cockell did not have to testify against his boss in Washington last year.)

"Those Secret Service guys have been in town checking things out for a week, but nobody knew who they were."

"You can go over to the 850th Trans. Co. building to get water or go to the bathroom. They have a ladies' room marked, 'For Women Soldiers, Only.'"

"The President got a drink of water and washed his hands in the KBI hanger when they got here this morning."

"Look at those snipers unzipping their rifle cases up there on the roof! Look at the size of those binoculars!"

"Hey, Mr. President, thank you for coming to Mississippi!"

A good time was had by all.

Thank you, Mr. President!

Thank you, Mr. President!

The first
visit ever by the
President
of the



... eggs, butter, subbags, ...
grots, biscuits, coffee, juice and ...
with nothing to do with the ...
President's visit.

expand from 5 employees to 11.
The Clarksdale-based company



Photo by Jeff Pizelli

Outstanding job

Clarksdale Police Captain Meyer Gilbert (above) stands by one of the presidential limousines at Fletcher Field Tuesday morning. Gilbert was in charge of the Clarksdale police contingent that provided perimeter security for the airport during President Clinton's visit here. According to Chief of Police Glenn Coker, the detail at the airport, as well as the city of Clarksdale itself, went smoothly and without major incident. Coker praised every member of his department, all of whom were on duty, for a job well done.

Thank you, Mr. Pres

*The first
visit ever by the*

*President
of the
United States.*

*May we ask that
you use your
good offices to
address our need*

FIRST NATIONAL



first

WIN-DELTA AIR, INC.

Butch Vance and sons, Win and Jay, kept everyone in the V.I.P. section at the airport up-to-date about the choppers on the runways and the taxiways during President Bill Clinton's departure. Vance's WIN-DELTA AIR, INC. hangar sits behind where MARINE ONE was parked.

Photo by Diane Damsally



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Welcome

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Bar - B - Que Sand

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"Service

Pres

President Bill Clinton a date during his visit he meal with local leaders including visiting chic immediately after the Field, where he boarded and then to East St. Lo

Security team ready for Clinton's visit

FROM STAFF REPORTS

By the time President Bill Clinton set foot on the tarmac of the Clarksdale airport, all the personnel and equipment required to protect a president was in place.

The story began approximately one week ago, when a small advance team of Secret Service agents began coordinating the security for Clinton's visit with area law enforcement.

Areas in which the president might travel were checked for security problems, the routes of the presidential motorcade were worked out in detail and the backgrounds of those who would come in contact with Clinton were checked.

One area that was particularly vulnerable was the airport itself and Clarksdale Police Captain Meyer Gilbert was the man in charge of providing perimeter security during the president's visit.

But it was a group effort.

While Clarksdale officers kept vigil, dozens of federal security agents moved into position. The Mississippi Highway Patrol guarded the major road routes, and the Coahoma County Sheriff's Department provided bulky deputy sheriff's for added muscle.



Photo by Richard Messer

Eagle eyes

Federal agents stand atop the hangar at Fletcher Field, surveying the scene Tuesday shortly before President Clinton left Clarksdale. Security was tight in Coahoma County, as the Secret Service, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, the Clarksdale Police Department and the Coahoma County Sheriff's Department combined to ensure that the President's historic visit was a successful one.

Counter snipers, clad in blue jumpsuits with high-powered rifles took positions in strategic spots around Fletcher Field as well as in Clarksdale proper.

Agents with "CAT" which according to Gilbert stood for counter assault team, took their places.

Plainclothes Secret Service

agents watched members of the press as they watched the president.

Clinton never appeared to be without at least three agents within arms reach.

Agents stood on buildings scanning the airport with huge, ruby-lensed binoculars as a Mississippi Highway Patrol Jet Ranger heli-

copter circled the area, looking for anything that was out of place.

When the motorcade left the airport, two armored Cadillac limousines bearing United States and presidential flags on the front fenders moved out. One of the most powerful men in the world was mobile once again.

During the entirety of Clinton's visit, aides and security agents kept the press and other spectators behind make-shift points.

"Everyone get behind that line," said an agent, pointing to a crack in the ground. Orders like that, spur-of-the-moment and arbitrary, were typical on Tuesday.

Police Chief Glenn Coker said that considering the four-department cooperation that took place, everything went smoothly.

Though Coker described a hot and tiring day that was tough on everybody involved, he was pleased with the local effort, saying the police department and the sheriff's department meshed well with the Secret Service and highway patrol.

But Coker also said he's not looking forward to doing anything so grueling in the near future. The presidential visit was a "once-in-a-lifetime" event, he said.

President

Joining Clinton at the mirail at Waterfield Cabine CEOs who may have an initio the Delta economy, an inter could improve the small bus, health care and transport

Kathy Passant of Bank of ice said that the bank is beh initiative, and she endorses partnership between the put private sector. "... we're about good business," she a Bob Cabe, with Blue Cro: Shield, said he wants to en infrastructure that will facili delivery of health care.

One potential investor s was interested in bringing into the delta to do busine increase the quality of life Executive Officer Bob C Entergy, an electric utilities New Orleans, briefly discus "team city" approach to ecc expansion, saying that di markets can work together t le economic problems.

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Hicks Superette

109 5th Street
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
(662) 624-8889
Eugene Hicks - Owner

Welcome Mr. President & Guests

Today's Menu

Hicks' World Famous Hot Tamales and Italian Sausage

Baby Back Ribs

Bar - B - Que Sandwiches: Sliced Beef or Chopped Pork

Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Potato Salad

Spinach Casserole

Rolls - White Bread

Sugar Sweet Potato Pie

Ice Tea or Soda

"Service is Our Business"

Presidential Meal

President Bill Clinton ate lunch at Hicks Superette in Clarksdale during his visit here Tuesday. The president shared his meal with local leaders as well as members of his entourage, including visiting chief executive officers and politicians. Immediately after the meal, the president left for Fletcher Field, where he boarded Marine One for the trip to Memphis and then to East St. Louis, Mo.

President — Continued from previous page

Joining Clinton at the mini-summit at Waterfield Cabinet were CEOs who may have an interest in the Delta economy, an interest that could improve the small businesses, health care and transportation.

Kathy Pleasant of Bank of America said that the bank is behind the initiative, and she endorsed the partnership between the public and private sector. "... we're talking about good business," she said.

Bob Cabe, with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, said he wants to create an infrastructure that will facilitate the delivery of health care.

One potential investor said he was interested in bringing people into the Delta to do business and increase the quality of life. Chief Executive Officer Bob Cabe of Entergy, an electric utilities giant in New Orleans, briefly discussed the "team city" approach to economic expansion, saying that different markets can work together to tackle economic problems.

Bus transportation from the Clarksdale area to Memphis could be established with a rate of \$4 per trip, said Jack Haugland, chief operating officer of Greyhound Bus Lines. The affordable fare

would allow residents here to find employment.

In what he called "internodal" transportation, Haugland described a system using multiple forms of transportation for low-income workers. "People are going to get back to their families," said Haugland.

Lt. Governor Ronnie Musgrove said the new market strategy has the strength to survive the inevitable departure of Clinton. "The program has substance, therefore it will transcend the people in office," he said.

A source close to Clinton's visit said that cabinet members are committed to the initiative. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman are in the presidential entourage.

The new markets tour headed north to East St. Louis, Mo. Clinton is also scheduled to tour the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, a Mexican barrio in Phoenix, Watts in Los Angeles and Anaheim, Calif.



Coahoma County Sheriff's Department provided bulky deputy sheriff's for added muscle.

counter assault team, took their places.
Plainclothes Secret Service

ning the airport with huge, ruby-lensed binoculars as a Mississippi Highway Patrol Jet Ranger heli-

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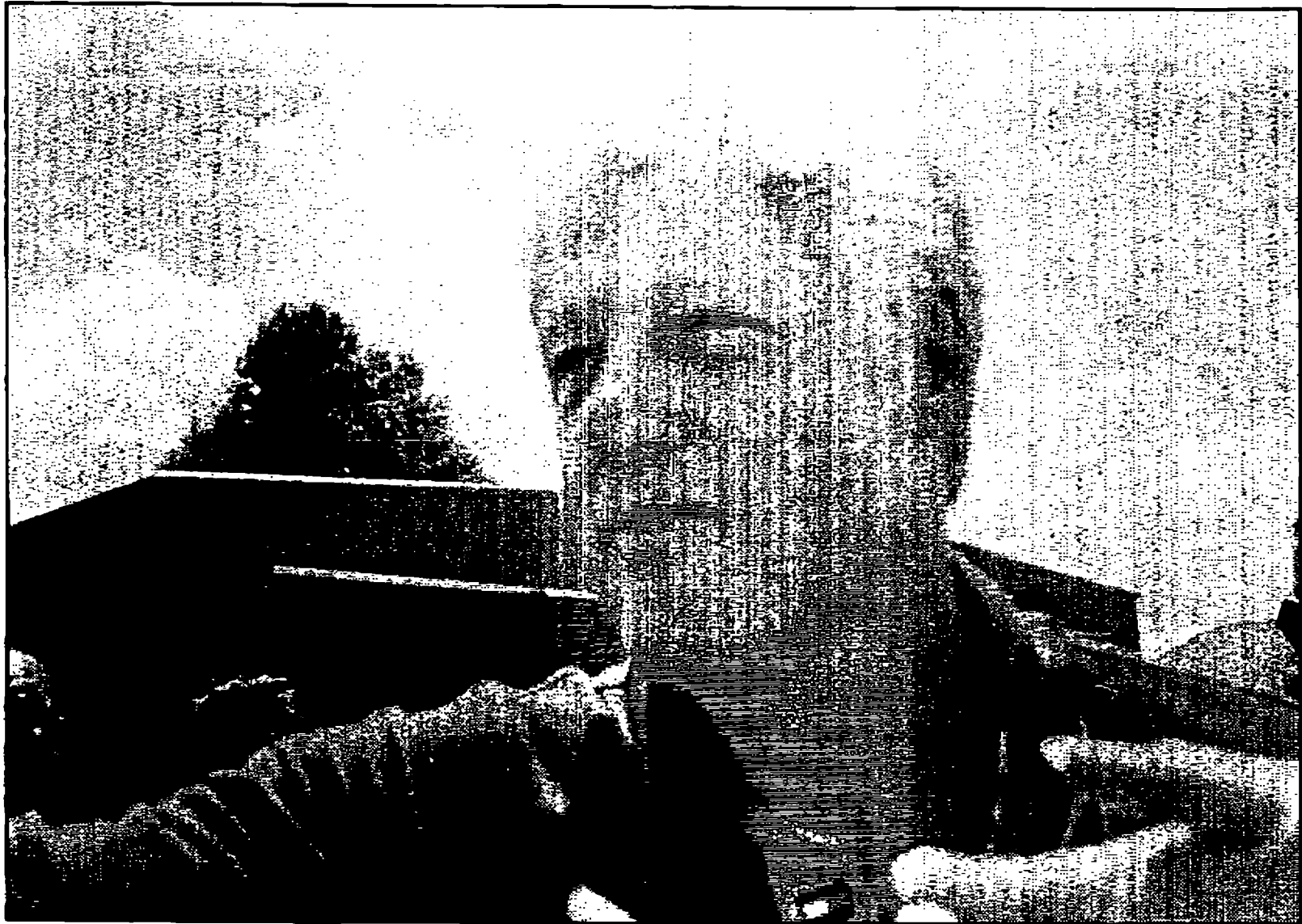


Photo by Diane Donnelly

Clinton apologizes for the heat

President Bill Clinton apologizes to everyone as he shakes their hands at the Clarksdale airport, saying, "I'm sorry it's so hot!" Hundreds applauded his visit.

Thomas Jefferson

Editorial

President did his job; it's up to Clarksdale now

President Clinton having moved on, national media in tow, to points west in his tour of poverty-stricken America, the critical question for Clarksdale becomes, "What now?"

By most any measure, the president's 5½-hour visit to Clarksdale Tuesday — his first to Mississippi since being elected in 1992 — was a smashing success. Clinton brought unprecedented exposure, an impressive audience (corporate CEOs, three Cabinet members and four congressmen, most prominently) and a timely, crucial message: that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the Delta is a great place to do business and that companies, given the right incentives, will invest here, create jobs and energize the economy.

The president's New Markets Initiative, several aspects of which need congressional approval, is a correctly balanced public-private partnership that wisely, in our view, relegates the federal government to a support role. True to the centrist, "New Democrat" philosophy that got Clinton elected seven years ago, the president didn't come to Clarksdale bearing government handouts and largess but a promise that investors willing to take a chance on the Delta will have ready access to venture capital, mostly through private, non-profit sources like the Enterprise Corp. of the Delta, and that, once established, these businesses will enjoy tax breaks and other incentives conducive to turning a profit.

As the national spotlight follows President Clinton to the West Coast, the burden now falls on Clarksdale and its civic, business and political leadership to seize the momentum and maximize the benefits of this truly historic opportunity. Otherwise, the warm, fuzzy feeling of Tuesday will last only until the next big Washington scandal or, at best, until Clinton leaves office late next year, his Clarksdale visit relegated to the bound volumes of this newspaper and the pages of children's scrapbooks.

Former Gov. Ray Mabus said it best among the countless assessments we've read of Tuesday's visit: "Today's the easy day. Tomorrow and the days that follow are what's hard and what's going to make a difference."

Clinton did his part, pounding the bully pulpit on behalf of Clarksdale and the Delta. Now the job is ours.

The first step should be a community meeting of, but not limited to, city and county elected officials, school administrators, bankers and the Coahoma County Industrial Foundation to answer the following question: "What can be done to capitalize on the momentum created by the president's visit?"

The possibilities are endless. At a minimum, we'd suggest a coordinated campaign of follow-up correspondence with every visiting dignitary to keep Clarksdale fresh on their minds.

It's also time for a new, comprehensive marketing campaign for industrial development. The "Big Frog" was clever and effective for a few years but has outlived its usefulness. Clarksdale needs a fresh approach, perhaps using the themes of Clinton's New Markets Initiative. The hardest part of industrial marketing is identifying a target audience. Ours is now ready made, with private-sector participants in Clinton's visit at the top of the list.

The president won't be returning to Clarksdale any time soon, if ever, but the community can invite other members of his entourage — including the Cabinet secretaries and corporate CEOs — back to town for a more detailed discussion of economic development that Tuesday's busy agenda and presidential safeguards prevented.

In short, Clarksdale must vigorously resist any temptation to bask in the fleeting limelight of Clinton's visit and, in turn, squander a great opportunity for economic revitalization.

How to write us:

- The Clarksdale Press Register welcomes letters from our readers. They must be signed, with address and telephone number included for verification. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be published.

Letters that are short and to the point have a better chance of being published. Long letters may be shortened. Letters should not be abusive, libelous or in bad taste. We prefer letters that express an opinion rather than letters that deal in personalities.

Mail: Editor, Clarksdale Press Register, P.O. Box 1119, Clarksdale, MS 38814

ner Musgrove.

If the lieutenant governor opposes the tax cut, he appears to be against cutting taxes days before his party's primary. If he capitulates to the tax cut Fordice has sought for eight years, he looks weak. If he calls for a sales-tax cut on food, he elevates the campaign of GOP contender Eddie Briggs and invites the immediate question from state Sen. Charlie Ross, R-Jackson, and others who tried unsuccessfully to push such a sales-tax cut through the Senate during the 1999 regular session: "Where was Ronnie?"

And Musgrove's only political cover during the special session may well come in the form of yet another back-room decision by one of his hand-picked Senate committee chairmen to simply exercise the "pocket veto" — that is, the chairman (in this case Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Hob Bryan, D-Amory) simply refuses to allow his committee, and hence the entire Senate, an opportunity to vote on any tax-cut bill referred to his committee by Musgrove.

Musgrove exercised that tactic during the other 1999 special session when Fordice called the Senate back to the Capitol to consider the

public, and the fact that Florin was a victim of a racist, political by Fordice and his political

One rather doubts that would concoct such a cal rise to defend any pocket vice of a tax-cut bill. But the he does so, Musgrove's po be the primary target of eve rial candidate under the Pavilion at the Neshoba C month.

For the record, the spe one week before those polit the accompanying statewi coverage of them — get leaves precious little time fo cise any damage control.

Most observers believe: cogent strategy would be to expand the special-session tax-cut possibilities. Fordice he has any interest in delive public.

Not likely to happen.



Bush makes money

WASHINGTON — Of course George W. Bush is going to skip the federal campaign subsidies that would limit him to spending less than he's raising to run for the White House. His opponents, of course, will try to make an issue of it.

Now that Bush has raised an extraordinary \$36.3 million for his Republican presidential campaign, federal funds would be a liability because of the restrictions that go with them.

Rival Steve Forbes, whose own no-holds spending is one of the perils awaiting the front-running governor of Texas, said Bush is beholden to lobbyists and the establishment because of their role in his fund-raising.

Forbes campaigns largely on his own fortune, making him the only other candidate who can afford to run outside the matching-funds system, in 2000 as he did in 1996.

President Clinton said that by bypassing that system and its limits, Bush would be siding with Republican congressional leaders "unanimously hostile" to campaign-finance reform. Clinton backs reform legislation that has been blocked in Congress, although his own 1996 campaign got the benefit of illicit foreign donations to the Democrats and his Lincoln Bedroom visits for big contributors became a symbol for reformers.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, sponsor of campaign-finance-reform legislation he seeks to make an issue in the Republican campaign, said "it certainly is unfortunate" that Bush and Forbes apparently are going to run without federal funds to avoid the spending limits. "Because the whole intent of the law was to prevent

Walter Mears

the same contribution limit individual. Political action c up to \$5,000.

The Bush campaign se came from more than 75,00 butions averaging \$480 ap

McCain is second amon dates in 1999 fund raising, \$2 million transferred from fund. He said he is takin acknowledging that he co anyhow.

Overall, a candidate w matching funds and qualifi can get \$16.75 million, and lited to spending about \$4 paing and for fund-mis are state-by-state spending them will be a major advan campaign likely to be set weeks of the 2000 primary

Vice President Al Gore sidered forgoing the matchi spending limits. "I support paign-finance reform, and should go further," he said. He's raised about \$10.1

Sylvester
er Ed Seals, who are black, have
voted against the reappointment of
Coker and Butler who are white.

department head.
The board members also voted to
approve an offer to purchase part of

City Attorney Hunter Twilford III
told the board "We understand the

there's been some renewed interest
from another entity," said Webster.

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and near the St. Paul Baptist
Church at Lu Rand.
Brown, a member of the Mt.
Eagle Missionary Baptist Church
in Dublin, said the Washington
County deputy told him that she
is paid "around \$1,000 per
month," and "earns more than
her salary" in fines each month.
Beat 1 Supervisor Paul Pearson
said he would like to speak to the
person in Washington County "to
see how she does it" and Beat 4
Supervisor Eddie "Smitty"
Smith told Brown the board
would take the matter under
advisement.

At the start of Tuesday's meet-
ing, the supervisors passed an
ordinance that will prohibit the
use of all tobacco products by
anyone under the age of 18 in
Coahoma County. The ordinance
takes affect August 8.
Under the ordinance, anyone
under 18 convicted of using
tobacco in any form is subject to
a fine not to exceed \$100 and/or
community service as prescribed
by a judge.
In other action, the board hired
Solutions, Inc. of Vicksburg to
serve as a consultant in environ-
See COUNTY, Page 2A

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custody."
Fortenberry said the \$1,000
reward offered by Crime Stoppers
for Judd's arrest is apparently fuel-
ing numerous tips as to the sus-
pects whereabouts.
Crime Stoppers does not require
informants to identify themselves
and issues each caller an identifica-
tion number. If the caller's tip leads
to an arrest, the caller is issued a
code word and can go to a local
financial institution and receive the
reward in cash, anonymously.
Anyone with the proper identifi-
cation number and code word can
pick up the reward, according to

Crime Stoppers officials.

Fortenberry described Judd as a
"very dangerous individual, with
no particular regard for life —
police officers, citizens he has no
regard. He's one of the most dan-
gerous individuals I've ever dealt
with," Fortenberry said.
He advises anyone who sees
Judd to avoid confronting him and
to call the police department or the
Crime Stoppers hotline immedi-
ately at 621-8191.
"It's important to get this guy off
the street," said Fortenberry.



Photo by Richard Massey

Free Speech

From left to right: Matt Douglas, Phillip Camaggio, Harriet Ashley
and Monica Baldwin, all pro-life advocates, stand on Lee Drive
across from Delta Wire in protest of President Clinton.

Not everyone pleased that Clinton was here

By RICHARD MASSEY
Staff Writer

Not everyone was pleased that
President Clinton was in Clarks-
dale or even Mississippi for that
matter.
Wherever Clinton went, protest-
ers followed, holding signs that
said Clinton endorsed the murder

of children and that he sold Amer-
ica out to the Chinese.
Driving in from as far as Jack-
son, Brandon and Greenwood,
self-proclaimed pro-life advocates
with the organization Right to Life
of Jackson endured some hard-
ships.
See PROTESTERS, Page 2A

Robert Schwartz

Robert Schwartz died Tuesday, July 6, 1999 at Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Nowell Funeral Home.

County

Continued from Page 1A

mental matters regarding the Rich Bypass Project.

The board took under advisement five bids on an ambulance for the county. The bids ranged from \$54,250 by Southeastern Ambulance Sales, to \$57,304 by Richardson, Inc., of Baton Rouge, LA.

Smith said the board wanted to study the bids to see which bid is the "lowest and best" bid.

The board took no action on the courthouse renovation/finish out, an application by Waterfield Cabinets for a tax exemption, a proposed ordinance requiring septic tank inspections and a request for support for Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU).

The board approved the hiring of Alreeka Howard as deputy clerk of Coahoma County Justice Court at the salary of \$7 per hour.

Also Tuesday, the board voided the of parcel 11940-000 at 1405 May St., as the owner of the land, John T. Long, et us, was granted disability on Oct 15, 1998.

"Smitty" opened the session by saying he had seen a former resident of the city among the entourage traveling with President Bill Clinton Tuesday morning.

"Wyoman Mitchell always stayed just one step ahead of the law" when he was living here, Smith said smiling. "Now, he's

Mich., in Washington. He's come a long way."

The board chairman recalled the story of how Mitchell once was told "not to take any pictures" of an event here and a local police officer tried to take the camera away from him.

"When they finally got the camera away from him, they found it didn't have any film in it," "Smitty" laughed.

Finally, Smith told his fellow supervisors that he "took offense" at a letter to the editor which appeared in *The Clarksdale Press Register* written by Coahoma County Prosecutor Kent Haney.

"I want the people to know what the legal facts are," Smith said. "It's not my job to tell people what to do about litigation."

County Administrator Hugh Jack Stubbs pointed out a letter he had received from County Zoning Administrator Jesse L. Ivy, Jr., which addressed the issue.

"I'd like to have the letter published stating what the law is and what the conversation was between the person issuing the permits and the person making the allegations," Smith said.

The board voted unanimously to have the letter printed in the paper. It will appear Thursday as a Letter to the Editor.

Street, where a bike was stolen, also in the 700 block of State Street, where bedding was stolen. Disturbances were reported in the 500 block of State Street, the 500 block of Leflore Avenue, the 200 block of Monroe Street, the 300 block of Madison Street and on State Street.

Beat 47:

- 22 false alarms.
- 4 simple assaults.
- 7 malicious mischief cases.
- 1 prowler case.
- 17 general complaints cases.

reported, and 17 traffic tickets were issued.

The following arrests were made:

- 1 DUI.
- 2 contempt of court.
- 6 simple assaults.
- 1 shoplifting.
- 2 disorderly conduct.
- 1 trespassing.
- 1 possession of marijuana.
- 1 failure to pay.
- 2 carrying a concealed weapon.

Seven juvenile arrests were reported.

Protesters

Continued from Page 1A

Not only did the temperature soar to nearly 100 degrees, but pro-life advocates were greatly outnumbered and faced public ridicule from a largely pro-Clinton crowd.

Clinton has been under heat for years due to the White Water investigation, the Monica Lewinsky ordeal, his impeachment by the House and the more recent accusations that he was complacent while security secrets were leaked to China.

But those moments in Clinton's tenure were not important to the

hundreds of spectators who left work only to wait for hours to shake the commander-in-chief's hand.

Southaven resident Lucretia Marshall was not shy about how she felt. "They're sick with that baby showing like that... psychos," she said.

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P. 017

LEVEL 1 - 4 OF 39 STORIES

Copyright 1997 The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
Engineering News-Record

September 22, 1997

SECTION: PULSE; CONTRACTS/BIDS/PROPOSALS; Vol. 239, No. 12; Pg. 77

LENGTH: 86 words

HEADLINE: MISSISSIPPI

BODY:

Carothers Construction has been awarded a \$ 7,981,113 contract by the Board of Trustees for Clarksdale Public Schools for a high school on a 57-acre site at Hickory and Choctaw Sts. in Clarksdale. The new school will replace the existing high school, with new classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, kitchen, cafeteria, laboratory, band hall and administrative areas. Construction is under way and scheduled to be complete in December 1998. Carothers Construction Inc., Old Highway 7 South, Water Valley 38965.

URL: <http://www.enr.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: September 25, 1997

LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 39 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.
Jet

July 29, 1996

SECTION: POLITICS; Pg. 33

LENGTH: 140 words

HEADLINE: Henry W. Espy Jr., Brother Of Former Sec. Of Agriculture, Indicted For Violating Federal Election Law

BODY:

Henry W. Espy Jr., mayor of Clarksdale, MI, who is the brother of Mike Espy, former secretary of agriculture, recently was indicted by a federal grand jury in New Orleans on charges of making false statements to get a \$ 75,000 bank loan in order to pay off part of his estimated \$ 190,000 campaign debt.

Espy, who ran unsuccessfully for his brother's Mississippi seat in the House of Representatives in March of 1993, along with New Orleans attorney Alvarez T. Ferrouillet Jr., who served as his campaign chairman, a New Orleans law firm, and a health-care firm, were charged with illegally obtaining a loan from the First National Bank of Clarksdale. Ferrouillet was also alleged to have laundered money and misled federal agents.

Both Espy's and Ferrouillet's lawyers say that each of their clients is innocent of the charges.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 31, 1996

LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 39 STORIES

Copyright 1997 A/S/M Communications, Inc.
ADWEEK

JANUARY 27, 1997; Southeast Edition

LENGTH: 278 words

HEADLINE: Lawler's Got the Blues Honoring a Musical Museum in Mississippi

BYLINE: Jim Osterman

DATELINE: ATLANTA-

BODY:

What started as a creative fishing expedition ended as a labor of love. The result is a broadcast and print public service campaign for the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Miss., by Lawler Ballard Van Durand of Birmingham, Ala.

"Things were slow so I looked in this crazy [clippings] file I keep and found one about this blues museum in Clarksdale," said agency creative director Steve Saari. "We thought it would be an easy drive, but it took us about six hours. We found out there was no easy way to get there. It gave us a sense of what life may have been like."

In one spot, "Not Forgotten," pictures of famous blues singers like Muddy Waters and Son House are shown with the the years of their birth and death superimposed underneath, then the death year fades away. It ends with the message: "As long as you're not forgotten, you're never really gone."

The other ad, "Left a Lot," shows archival photographs of the artists and the period, alternating with copy that reads: "They didn't start out with much. They didn't end up with much. But they left a lot." Scenes filmed from in and around Clarksdale are used in both spots.

Like the humble roots of the music it honors and preserves, the museum is housed in the renovated second floor of the public library and is operated by a volunteer staff. Indeed, convincing the proprietors to let the agency create the work took some doing.

"At first they didn't understand exactly what it was we did, or what we were asking permission to do," Saari said. "I think they thought we were trying to sell them something."

The PSAs were shot by Commotion Films in Atlanta and directed by John Davis.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 1997

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1989 UMI Inc.;
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Business Dateline;
Mississippi Business Journal

October, 1989

SECTION: Vol 11; No 10; Sec 2; pg 10A

LENGTH: 805 words

HEADLINE: Clarksdale: A Small Pond With Plenty to Offer Any Big (or Small) Frog

DATELINE: Clarksdale; MS; US

BODY:

You might not expect to see an annual Chinese New Year parade attended by thousands of people in Clarksdale. And you might not expect to find authentic Lebanese, Italian, Chinese or soul food restaurants in a town in the Mississippi Delta, either.

But those are only a few of the surprises that the county seat of Coahoma County has in store.

"People who look down their nose at the Delta don't see the potential here," says Mitch Stenett, chamber of commerce executive. "Coming from the Tupelo area, I can see we are 30 years behind as far as diversifying our economy from agriculture.

"If people open their eyes, they'll see the potential here."

Among the town's assets are its public school system, one of the strongest in the Delta, its large and willing available work force and its proximity to Memphis (an hour's drive away) while retaining its quiet, small-town character.

"A lot of people my age moved off, but a lot are also starting to move back," says attorney Tom Ross Jr., who is in his 30s. "Jackson and Memphis are nice to visit, but I leave for work three minutes before I get here, and I go home for lunch.

"A small-town practice is more relaxed, with less stress. I get to know people more. When someone comes in with a problem, I know their father, their reputation, their family. I get to know them on a personal basis as well as on a business basis and I think I can do more to help them."

Newcomers like George Walker, who started a wire manufacturing business that has grown to 100 employees within a decade, have helped locals realize the positive points of their town, Ross says.

"This is not a good town to do business in. This is a great town," says Walker. His company did a study of a four-state area before deciding on Clarksdale.

"This labor force has a strong work ethic that is highly trainable to produce a technical product -- fiber optic cable that goes beneath the ocean floor. The local community college provides excellent training that's customized to our operation. I'll match our productivity against any place in the country."

"The city and county work together; there aren't a lot of turf squabbles," says Billy Howell, a fourth term county supervisor who works in the city as a real estate broker.

The cooperation between diverse groups for the general welfare is one of the hallmarks of the city. Former restaurateur-turned-pork skin manufacturer Kim Wong says his growing four-year-old business would never have made it without community support. "I know the restaurant and grocery business, but I didn't have knowledge of the processing business. I learned as I went along, but people in the community were a great help, really cooperative."

With 28 employees, Wong distributes his product in half a dozen states. A member of the Clarksdale's bi-racial chamber board, Wong says the melting pot aspect of Clarksdale is one of the town's strong points. "People are accepted here; everyone is very helpful."

In a city full of surprises, the cooperation between the three banks is noteworthy. Rather than awkward silences between lenders in the presence of an industrial prospect, the three banks work together to come up with financing packages to help industries bring new jobs to town.

"The banks are extremely cooperative and really innovative and aggressive in encouraging business to succeed," Walker says. "That supportive feeling is there for business and industry throughout the town."

"We realize that industry is necessary for this community to be viable. We have an obligation to the community to help as much as possible," says Ed Peacock, president of United Southern Bank. "We (the banks) compete, we each have our own success stories, but we realize we have to work together to better our community."

"We were late in going after industry, but we are working hard at it now," says Jimmy Walker, owner of several welding businesses. "Now we have two or three prospects a week coming to town. We have a good marketing plan."

Developing a new, multi-racial leadership team isn't left to chance. The recent implementation of a Leadership Clarksdale program is an insurance policy for the future.

"By being the first black mayor (of Clarksdale) and by virtue of my brother being the first black congressman in 100 years, I will have a high profile," says new mayor Henry Espy candidly. "I want to use that to target my city, to express our needs and get programs and grants that will help our unemployment and address our poverty."

"With Memphis being so close, we have all the cultural opportunities, live theater and other things, an hour's drive away, yet we still have the atmosphere of a small town," Stennett says. "People say there's no middle class here, but

there is. We have the best of both worlds and we have a world of potential."

GRAPHIC: Photo

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

UMI-ACC-NO: 8936104

LOAD-DATE: October 14, 1995

LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 12 STORIES

Copyright 1995 Newspaper Publishing PLC
The Independent (London)

May 7, 1995, Sunday

SECTION: REVIEW; Page 65

LENGTH: 2850 words

HEADLINE: Mississippi sings the Blues: TRAVEL

BYLINE: Paul Trynka

BODY:

Across the highways from Clarksdale down to New Orleans, Paul Trynka tracked the true bluesmen. On

crumbling porches and in iron huts, with dogs and cicadas for descant, they keep alive the spirit of the South

I'M IN a chair staring at my own reflection. Behind me I can hear a cut-throat razor being stropped in a snickety-snick rhythm. Suddenly the blade glints in front of my face, and Wade Walton, the Blues Barber of Clarksdale, boasts, "I can play tunes on this, you know." I nod in appreciation, lean back in his chair, and ask for a Number One, back and sides.

Exploring the land of the Blues is an obsession for many tourists: Clarksdale, and Walton's salon, marks a first stop for many of them. The home town of Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker, Clarksdale straddles Highway 61, the traditional migration route for black Americans looking for work in Memphis or Chicago. Once a vital stopover for musicians travelling through Mississippi, the city is now depressingly quiet, and its attempts to emphasise its Blues heritage seem slightly desperate. Only vestiges remain of a once-thriving music scene - notably Walton.

A skilled guitarist, harmonica player and razor stropper, Walton remembers Clarksdale at its height, when Muddy would return in search of Mississippi cooking, or when Sonny Boy Williamson II checked in for a haircut so that he'd look natty on his King Biscuit radio show: "He'd be doing King Biscuit Time from Helena, across the Mississippi, and he'd show up for a haircut an hour before he was due on the radio. Man, the times he used to turn up late for his show! We'd get all the guys coming through, Ike Turner - that guy was always a slick dresser - BB, back in the days when he was thin. They were some good times."

Now Walton's main customers are tourists rather than musicians, and he doesn't get to wield his clippers too often. His son runs a tiny recording studio in the next room, and comes in and chats while Walton Senior douses me with pungent, doubtless eco-unfriendly potions. As the clippers buzz away, Walton tells me how he was swindled out of his old salon on Fourth Street, a sad story now commemorated in one of his songs. He is unenthusiastic about the city's remaining Blues scene: only October's King Biscuit Festival in the small town of Helena, a family occasion which reunites all the Delta musicians who

The Independent (London), May 7, 1995

played on the influential Forties KFFA radio programme, meets with his approval. Still, I'd only come for a haircut, and although my hair was set like concrete for a week, it was eight bucks well spent. With Walton's tales of Fifties Mississippi still floating around my brain, I hit Highway 61, headed 100 miles south and another 20 years back in time.

Benton, Mississippi, is a two-hour drive along dusty roads punctuated only by rusty cotton gins straight out of an Elia Kazan. In the South to research a book on the Blues, I was on the trail of Jack Owens, a fragile 90-year-old who is the only surviving exponent of the Benton Blues, a uniquely haunting minor-key style popularised by Skip James - a legendary figure who, like many Bluesmen, boasted of an unhealthily close relationship with the Devil. Owens was one of the few local musicians who owned a phone - I'd been given his number by a festival organiser who'd been trying to get hold of him for weeks without success. I pulled into Benton, a two-store town divided by the railroad tracks of The Southern, the legendary line that featured in the earliest Blues songs. One of the stores had a phone outside; I dialled his number and hit lucky. Bring a bottle of Hogmouth gin, he said, and I could come straight by. Where did he live? "Ask anyone," he replied, and the line went dead.

The owner of the one liquor store in town knew Owens' approximate whereabouts - but he didn't stock Hogmouth: "Ain't had any in 10 years." He offered a pint of Seagrams and vague directions. Turning down the first likely-looking unpaved road, I was at Owens' house within minutes. His shack conformed to type to an almost ludicrous extent: brightly painted and broken-down, with chipboard panels nailed over rotten sections in the roof and walls. The Seagrams was acceptable: "This stuff make me feel good sometimes;" he paused - "sometimes it make me feel bad." He gave me a swig and settled down with the bottle on a decrepit chair while I fetched his guitar.

Inside, the shack was even more run-down, a framed letter from Bill Clinton underlining the bareness of the furnishings. As I handed him his guitar, Owens told me he'd won a \$ 10,000 grant from the state government, and pointed out the GMC truck in his yard on which he'd spent much of the money - \$ 2,000 on an engine overhaul for a vehicle worth \$ 1,000. I didn't know whether to weep or smile as he indicated the other rusted hulks in his yard and said: "They only need a battery to get 'em going."

Today, in the Mississippi sunshine, the Seagrams made both of us feel good as Owens played guitar and sang. He said he was sorry that his regular partner, harmonica player Bud Spires, was bedbound after a heavy drinking bout. I was pleased, for without his younger accompanist, Owens reverted to a style straight out of the Thirties. Hearing his rendition of the Benton classic "Cherry ball", it was clear that he could have achieved the fame of his mentor if he'd ever chosen to leave his home town.

The life of a hobo musician was not for him, he explained. Travelling bluesmen were under constant threat of being arrested for vagrancy, particularly if plantation owners suspected they were distracting their workers from the cotton crop. For just a few seconds, Owens paused, and his face furrowed in remembrance: "We had bad times here. Bad times. They'd hang a nigger just like he was a squirrel."

Hours passed as we talked about life in the South. Owens played, and we

The Independent (London), May 7, 1995

emptied his Seagrams. With the gin inside me, I began to regret my restraint in not bringing a guitar. I'd had a good time in Chicago playing Country songs with veteran guitarist Dave Myers, who'd made my day when he called up a friend and told him: "This boy showed me some licks I ain't never seen before." On the other hand, there was the time I'd duetted with Jimmie Walker, a stalwart of the Chicago music scene since Al Capone. I was contributing a two-note bass line on the piano, but as he switched chords I got too ambitious and changed to a four-note pattern. Walker stopped playing, shot me a withering look, and said "you need to practise some". Owens' version of the Blues, though, was best played solo. The only accompaniment was the cicadas and the occasional howl of his dog, who'd turned up one day and stayed. "He don't have a name. I just call him Boy."

As the sun went down I popped back to the store to pick up some food for Boy, and cornmeal and doughnuts for Jack. I felt guilty about leaving. With only Boy for company, Owens was lonely, and paranoid about being robbed by his neighbours. But if I stayed longer we'd both be drinking more Seagrams than we needed, and I had to get to Greenville by nightfall.

Over subsequent weeks I zig-zagged across the highways of the American South, and encountered more musical riches than I'd ever hoped for. In Greenville I met Eugene Powell, who'd recorded with The Chatmon Brothers in New Orleans back in the Thirties, while over in Louisiana I found the zydeco accordion tradition in the rudest of health, with a 600-strong crowd packed into Slim's Yai Ki Ki roadhouse in Opelousas. I went to Baton Rouge clubs with Larry Garner, one of the city's finest songwriters, and was driven round Slidell by bluesman and honorary sheriff Clarence Gatemouth Brown, in full cowboy regalia and police badge, his .45 between us on the bench seat. Then there was New Orleans, despite its tasteless commercialism a magical source of jazz and R&B. But I had to get back to the real Blues, and for that I had to head north again.

Most people think of Mississippi as endless flat cotton fields, and for the most part they are correct. But the north-east boasts green fields and hills, and suffered far less from the migrations of the Forties and Fifties that emptied much of the rest of the state. So there are places where the music has survived unchanged for 60 years; around the Como area there's a tradition of fife and drum music that is a hangover from black Americans' African roots. I wanted to track down Jessie Mae Hemphill and Otha Turner, two of the best-known fife and drum players. I was given Turner's address by his daughter, Bernice, whose number I got in Clarksdale. "Turn up any day," she said. "But make sure you get there by seven in the morning. Otherwise he'll be out hunting 'coons."

I drove through a luminescent Marshall County dawn to get to Turner's house at the allotted time. It stood alone in the featureless landscape, a few broken chairs on the porch and a barking dog the only sign of life. He was already up and out, but turned up an hour later. He was brusque: his chickens and cow had escaped from his small yard and he was trying to enlist his grandchildren to catch them. My offer of help was rejected, but he'd spare me some time if I could pay for it, he said. "I'm like an old mule. Give him something to chew on and some water and he's gonna hold out. But keep working him for nothing and he's gonna fall over and die, that's right."

Turner learned how to make a "fice", or fife, from a length of bamboo before he reached his teens. Local musicians would also make their own drums from

The Independent (London), May 7, 1995

strips of tin, cow hide and hickory wood. The fife and drums were unbeatable for raising a crowd: "The fife and drums, they go back to African times. It's a calling thing. When they give a picnic, they'd get up way early, take the drums right up over that hill, and play them. Then after a few hours people would be coming from miles around, it ended up you'd get so many folk turn up for the picnic they have to turn sideways to get through."

We sat on his porch as Turner played me his favourite tunes, singing and blowing the fife. A few feet away a cockerel crowed, while Turner's two grandsons cantered up and down the road on horseback, chasing his fugitive livestock. It was hard to see how the landscape, or the music, had changed at all over the last 100 years.

Leaving Turner in pursuit of his chickens, I drove to the nearby town of Senatobia to see Jessie Mae Hemphill. The last of the area's best-known musical dynasty, Jessie was bedridden following a stroke, but was eager to share her stories of granddaddy Sid Hemphill, the legendary violinist, fife and drum player. All too aware of her own mortality, Jessie informed me that she'd turned away from the Devil's music, and would only sing spirituals now. Sitting in her caravan, with her prized yellow Lincoln parked outside and the sizzle of frying chicken accompanying our conversation, Jessie spun tales of when Sid would host picnics for blacks or conduct square dances for rich whites: "But I ain't writing no more Blues songs. All I'm playing from now on is special songs, church songs."

Jessie Mae's belief that Blues music was the province of the Devil came back to me two days later, at Al Green's Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Memphis. Green was preaching to the improvised accompaniment of a five-piece electric band - every time their music got too raucous he would berate them, and ask: "Who do you think you are, Muddy Waters?" Attempting to sneak out early from the three-hour service was an even more heinous sin. When one musician disappeared through a side door, Green yelled: "Somebody find me a hammer, and the Lord will find us some nails, then we can nail up that door!" By the end of the service the congregation was emotionally drained, several of the more impassioned participants had fallen over in a dead faint, and I was thinking of religious conversion. But not before I had a chance to check out the Devil's music one last time in America's finest remaining rural juke joint, the one place where the Blues is thriving, rather than merely surviving.

One hour's drive out of Memphis along Highway 78 I hit the small town of Holly Springs. Junior Kimbrough's Juke Joint is 10 miles out of town on Highway Four, which winds through an eerie hilly landscape populated by distorted tree stumps. The leafy kudzu vine, introduced into the region to feed grazing cattle, has over the years strangled every tree in its path, and in the dusty twilight its victims create a bizarre prehistoric skyline, seemingly populated by sinister green figures. In the dead quiet of the countryside, the Milky Way dazzingly clear overhead, it is a spooky drive until you come across 40 or 50 cars pulled up at the side of the road. Here, almost literally in the middle of nowhere, there are no lights visible beyond the glow from the front door of a wood and corrugated iron shack. Crunching through gravel, I can hear a beat over the lazy chirruping of the cicadas. I walk to the shack and hand over two dollars to a mute doorwoman.

Once inside it feels like I'm in a psychedelic church, with garishly painted

The Independent (London), May 7, 1995

wooden pillars separating off two side aisles which house ancient disembowelled sofas. I sink into one, chatting to a 16-year-old couple nursing a pint of gin. Above the pillars, where you might find the Stations of the Cross in a Catholic church, is a series of oil paintings modelled on covers of Ebony magazine, while the gaudy red and blue paint contrasts with a plain concrete floor and a huge dusty fan at the back of the room.

The club's proprietor, Junior Kimbrough, is the finest Blues artist to be discovered in the last two decades, his music a throwback to the Forties or Fifties. A sturdy man in his sixties, he takes his position in a corner, and starts to play a slow Blues to the enthusiastic whoops of a packed crowd, all black except me and one other. His music is basic, its repetitive, rhythmic structure a powerful reminder of its African origins. Song blends hypnotically into song as the audience screams its approval. Junior's singing style is powerfully moving, and I could understand why many who've been here talk about it in reverent tones for months afterwards.

Kimbrough may be in his sixties, but his club is no historical artefact: the teenagers in his joint would rather listen to him than to rappers such as Snoop Doggy Dogg or Jodeci. Kim-brough's music, audience and club represent the best possible reminder of the unique blend of cultures that comprises the United States. It reminds me of Charlie Parker's dictum: "I can definitely say that the music won't stop. It will go forward." Forget Disney, Spielberg or Ronald McDonald: Junior Kimbrough, retired farmer and musical genius, represents the true spirit of this great country. !

GETTING THERE: The nearest airport is Nashville, Tennessee. Airtours (0181-559 7797) offers flights direct to Nashville from Gatwick, starting from pounds 299 plus pounds 32 tax. Campus Travel (0171-730 2101) has flights for under 26-year-olds starting from pounds 317 return to Nashville.

ORGANISED TOURS: Trek America (01869 338 777) offers a variety of tours including 'The Southern Delights', a 21-day round trip from Miami through New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville for pounds 666 peak season, excluding flights.

FLY/DRIVE: American Dream (0181 470 1181) offers a fly/drive deal to Nashville starting at pounds 491.

GETTING AROUND: Avis (0181-848 8733) provides car hire from Nashville airport starting from around pounds 98 for 7 days, plus insurance, state and airport tax.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Lofthouse Enterprises (01462 440787) provides information on Mississippi, including brochures, maps and general attractions.

For a comprehensive "Blues Map" of the Delta area: Stackhouse Record Mart, 232 Sunflower, Clarksdale (601) 627 2209.

CLUBS AND FESTIVALS: Margaret's Blue Diamond Lounge, 4th and W. Tallahatchie, Clarksdale; Red's, 395 Sunflower Avenue, Clarksdale, (601) 627 3166;

Green's Blues Lounge, 2090 Person, Memphis (901) 274 9800; Junior Kimbrough's Juke Joint, Highway 4, Chulahoma, Mississippi, Sunday nights only. For information about the King Biscuit Festival in Helena, ring radio KFFA (501) 338 8361.

The Independent (London), May 7, 1995

BARBER: Wade Walton, 317 Issaquena Avenue, Clarksdale. Haircuts from \$ 5.

CHURCH: Al Green's Full Gospel Tabernacle, 787 Hale Road, Memphis, Tennessee (901) 396 9192. Sunday services begin at 11am. Mr Cotton, a 99-year-old bluesman in Greenville Delta forces: John Hurt Jr (far left) at the grave of his father, Mississippi John Hurt, in Avalon; Wade Walton in his Clarksdale barbershop (top); Muddy Waters' cabin outside Clarksdale (above); Eugene Powell, still playing at 90 (top right); harp player Frank Frost, a regular at the King Biscuit Festival, in Eddie Mae's juke joint Left to right: bluesman Sonny Boy Williamson's cornmeal advertised in Helena; juke joint outside Greenville; roadside caf in Greenwood, Arkansas

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: May 09, 1995

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 12 STORIES

Copyright 1997 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

October 18, 1997, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; Pg. C01

LENGTH: 2333 words

HEADLINE: History's Empty Rooms; A Delta Town Debates the Future of a Piece of Its Past

BYLINE: Linton Weeks, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: CLARKSDALE, Miss.

BODY:

"Welcome to Clarksdale," says the Chamber of Commerce sign on Highway 61. "We've got the blues and a whole lot more!" It's true in a double-edged way. This Mississippi town 70 miles south of Memphis is home to blues legends Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker and the Delta Blues Museum, but it does indeed have a whole lot more -- dust and despair, hope and humor, danger and desire and the burden of finding a future.

Aaron E. Henry, an early leader of the Mississippi civil rights movement, owned a pharmacy on Fourth Street. Hall of Fame quarterback Charley Conerly played high school football in Clarksdale, went on to glory with the New York Giants, then returned to town and opened a chain of shoe stores. Lerone Bennett Jr., executive editor of Ebony magazine, is from Clarksdale. Country music singer Conway Twitty was born nearby. And as a young boy, playwright Tennessee Williams lived in Clarksdale with his grandfather, the Rev. Walter Edward Dakin.

Williams especially loved the long-running, swirling, twirling tragicomedy commonly called the Delta. Years later, Williams populated the Broadway stage with people he had encountered here -- plumed or pouting or primping Delta-style characters like Blanche DuBois, Alma Winemiller and Maggie the Cat. He stole the Delta's principles for props, its society for scenery, its foibles for flavor, its eccentricities for accent and its accents for eccentricity.

Clarksdale was to Williams what Oxford was to Faulkner, writes Lyle Leverich in "Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams."

Now this flatland farming hamlet of fewer than 22,000 people is at a crucial crossroads. In the middle is the Cutrer mansion, an imposing white Italianate villa that sits empty on just about the only hill in this cotton- and bean-field county and belongs to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

On the eve of this week's fifth annual Tennessee Williams Festival, the church decided the deliquescent mansion should be torn down. In response, a

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group of citizens formed the Clarksdale Heritage Foundation to save it. Unless the foundation can buy the Cutrer mansion, the house is scheduled to be leveled next summer.

The preservationists -- black and white -- believe the 81-year-old building is a stark and stately symbol of the Delta's past and, perhaps, its future. They hope to turn it into one of any number of things -- a quaint inn or a multicultural museum. But, they warn, if the mansion is lost, all is lost -- including the promise of a new spirit of community.

Dwelling on the Past

The Rev. Brian Carroll wants no part of the Cutrer mansion.

On this rainy afternoon Carroll, 61, sits in the comfortable parlor of the St. Elizabeth rectory. He's a reserved man, born in Roscommon, Ireland, whose voice still carries a distinctive lilt. His brown-rim glasses make his face seem lunar. Hanging on the wall behind him is a portrait of the church's namesake, Elizabeth of Hungary. She carries a basket of loaves to feed the hungry.

On the other side of the room, a large bay window looks westward over the church's 30 acres. Beyond a pair of live oaks stands the Cutrer mansion. The home was built in 1916 by attorney J.W. Cutrer and his wife, Blanche Clark Cutrer, the only daughter of the town's founder, John Clark. Jack Cutrer was legendary for his fine parties, fiery politics and for gunning down, on a hot July day in 1890, a newspaper editor who said Jack's forebears were not all white. After the Cutrers moved on, the house fell into disrepair. Just after World War II, St. Elizabeth bought the home and converted it to a school with a classroom building and a snazzy gymnasium next to it.

To members of the Clarksdale Heritage Foundation, the mansion is one of the few remaining tangible reminders of Tennessee Williams, who died in 1983.

"One dwelling that particularly caught Tom's interest," Leverich writes, "was the Cutrer mansion, located on a knoll overlooking the Sunflower River, and its beautiful gardens, stables and servants' quarters across the road." Leverich adds that the lady of the house, Blanche Cutrer, also inspired the playwright. "She had a handsome son, John, who drowned in a boating accident on Moon Lake, an event that Williams would adapt in 'The Glass Menagerie,' and a beautiful daughter-in-law named Stella, a name he would use, like that of Blanche, in 'A Streetcar Named Desire.' "

Today, however, the grandeur is gone, the splendor spent. The house sits dark and neglected. The floors are covered with junk and dust from an asbestos abatement project. Fireplaces are nailed shut. Rafters are rotting. The floor of one room is covered with mud. Upstairs, the ceiling of a sleeping porch is caving in. In another room a plastic bucket catches dripping water.

"There's a great need," Father Carroll agrees, "to preserve anything that has some history. But who's going to pay for it?"

That is the key question. But Carroll understands the way a small town works, how promise can outshine practicality. He's been in Mississippi for 35 years and in Clarksdale for 12 of those. In January he will move on to another parish. He has told some parishioners that he doesn't want to leave the Cutrer mansion mess

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to his successor.

"When we purchased the house 50 years ago for \$ 22,500," Carroll says, "it was ugly and in bad repair. It had been stripped of everything worthwhile. There were no chandeliers. There was not even a mantel over the fireplace."

But when the church decided recently that it needed a new school, "we contacted an architect," Carroll explains. "We asked them to get plans, estimates and present them to the people. The advisory groups of the church felt that tearing it down was the most practical plan. We presented this at all three July 7 services. At that point, the controversy began."

He is obviously uncomfortable talking about this subject. After all, members of his flock come down on both sides of the conflict. He often looks away and he chooses his words carefully before answering questions. "In working with people, whatever you get set to do, there's always going to be opposition for one reason or another."

He is particularly bothered because one of his congregation, Panny Mayfield, is on the board of directors of the Clarksdale Heritage Foundation. Mayfield is also the features editor of the local newspaper, the Clarksdale Press-Register, and one of the organizers of the Tennessee Williams Festival.

"The Heritage Foundation has access to the media," Carroll says. "Because of Panny. If you're also a member of the board, it's very difficult to write an objective story about what's happening."

Last year some 300 people attended the festival. Until this year, the Cutrer mansion was its centerpiece. The interior was dolled up for tours and last year the festival's finale was a Saturday soiree on the mansion lawn. "We allowed them to use the building," Father Carroll says. "They paid us \$ 100 a year."

This year the festival will be held mostly at the city auditorium and at the county's predominantly black Coahoma Community College.

Carroll says the options are simple. "We offered the Heritage Foundation two choices. We would donate the building . . . and we would donate two acres of land where they could relocate the building. Or we will sell the whole school complex to them for \$ 2 million."

Home Improvement

Across town, in the breezy living room of Panny Mayfield, a ceiling fan whirs overhead. Tennessee Williams memorabilia fills the walls and the bookshelves.

The Clarksdale Heritage Foundation is meeting tonight in this 1894 home, supposedly the second oldest in town. Those present in Mayfield's living room include real estate wheeler-dealer W.L. "Billy" Holcomb, lawyer and former state auditor Pete Johnson, retired school superintendent Robert Ellard, former tourism commission coordinator Judy Flowers, surgeon Whit Johnson, and Ron Gorsegrner, director of the public library and overseer of the Delta Blues Museum, which was founded in 1979 and draws some 2,000 people from all over the world to Clarksdale each month.

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Lots of ideas for the Cutrer mansion have been floating around over the past few weeks. The foundation has summoned architects from historical societies and experts from universities. Someone suggested a bed-and-breakfast. Someone else proposed that the Chamber of Commerce move its offices to the house. Probably the most intriguing idea, though, is a Southern heritage museum honoring lots of people, including Tennessee Williams and Aaron E. Henry, the civil rights activist and lawmaker who died last spring. Born near Clarksdale, Henry helped found the local chapter of the NAACP in 1952 when he was 30. But for now, the primary concern of the Heritage Foundation is to prevent the church from razing the place.

"I think of all the Clarksdale landmarks that have been destroyed," Whit Johnson says, ticking them off on his fingers. "The Elks Club, the American Legion Hut, the old courthouse. . . . Where is it all going to end? We've got to bring back our heritage."

Mayfield chimes in, "We need tourism badly. The Cutrer mansion anchors the Clarksdale historic district."

For that reason -- and because any funding by state or federal historic preservation groups would be jeopardized -- the house should not be moved, the group believes.

"We're not interested in that proposal at all," Holcomb says. At 81, in a light wool suit and saddle oxfords, Holcomb is the dean of the group.

He speaks with power, passion and hyperbole of Clarksdale's shiny potential. He launches into a detailed history lesson of how the Agricultural Age gave way to the Machine Age, which is giving way to the Computer Age and now folks are stampeding out of Clarksdale. The county, he says, is losing its best minds and spirits. The people who are leaving are the doers, says Holcomb, not the talkers.

At one point Judy Flowers asks what good an improved school is if "we're educating the children . . . to leave the county. We've got to start somewhere."

These people are also clutching desperately to the shining promise of tourism. "The blues have meant a lot to Clarksdale," Holcomb says. "Tennessee Williams has meant a lot. These things have helped bring tourists in here. Now we've got to keep the tourists here."

Given to drawing grand designs in the air with his hands, Holcomb says he envisions a Clarksdale morphed into a tourist dreamland, full of "ice cream parlors, gift shops, antique shops, sports clothes stores. I don't know anything about the blues, couldn't carry a tune if I had to . . . but I know that the tourist dollar is the least expensive way a county can have income."

"This issue's bigger than a church and a building," says Pete Johnson, sounding ever more like a candidate for governor, which he once was. "This is about the community coming together or not coming together. It's about a community struggling to survive."

House of Corrections



Down the road at the state's prison, Dwight Presley is also concerned about the survival of Clarksdale. He is the assistant superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, about 22 miles south, and president-elect of the Clarksdale Chamber of Commerce. He will be the first black president the chamber has ever had.

Presley wants to preserve the history of the town and use it to build a new future that includes all people -- black and white. He and other black leaders have talked of buying the Cutrer mansion and the school buildings to use as a family life center or a youth recreation center. But he particularly likes the idea of a museum with one section dedicated to the civil rights movement in the heart of the Delta.

 Presley is the ex-husband of Vivian Presley, who is president of Coahoma Community College, one of the most generous supporters of the Tennessee Williams Festival.

This morning Presley sits at a table at The Place, a restaurant on the prison grounds. He's dressed in a gray suit and tie. His mustache is trim, his eyes sparkling.

"Imagine," he says, smiling, "black folks ultimately ending up with that mansion. The meek shall inherit the Earth."

The mansion should be spared, he believes. But "there's a small group of whites trying to maintain control of the money. That's not going to work unless you include the 60 percent of your population that's black." He says that the white people of Clarksdale must learn to share the gold and the glory. "But it's not just the whites. There are blacks who have money and are some of the worst slumlords in the town."

Ultimately, all of the people will have to work and dream together. "There's a big group of black people," Presley says, who have money and are concerned about the same things that worry white people -- "the lack of community interest, lack of courtesy, lack of educational skills among our young people."

"All this talk about tourism . . . if the local people don't have an appreciation of their community, they're going to run the tourists off anyway."

As he signals for more coffee, he is joined at the table by Leonard Benson, a penitentiary attorney. Presley tells Benson, who is white, about the uproar over the Cutrer mansion.

"The white community should know about Aaron Henry, his civil rights work and the NAACP," Presley explains. "The black community should know about Tennessee Williams."

Benson lights up at this rare and radical notion -- redesigning a dilapidated, antediluvian emblem of an ancient South, of a past that never really was, into a tourist attraction that celebrates the contemporary South as it really is -- a region of great promise and paradox.

"I'm from Indianola, just over there," Benson says, pointing out the window, "and I won't drive to Clarksdale to see that thing if it's a Tennessee Williams

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museum. But the irony of that housing a wing dedicated to Aaron Henry, now I'd drive up there to see that."

GRAPHIC: Photo, troy glasgow for The Washington Post, Michael Moloney, Tom Howorth and Stella Gray Bryant survey the Cutrer mansion, in Clarksdale, Miss., a former haunt of playwright Tennessee Williams, inset. Oxford, Miss., architect Tom Howorth inspects the Cutrer mansion to determine the feasibility of restoring it.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 18, 1997

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 7 STORIES

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 28, 1999, Wednesday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 283 words

HEADLINE: Weekend auction set for mansion

DATELINE: CLARKSDALE, Miss.

BODY:

Clarksdale's Cutrer Mansion is scheduled for the auction block Saturday.

And historians are lamenting that a new law to preserve historic landmarks has come too late to save the 1916 Italian Renaissance villa, which is on a list of the state's 10 most endangered historic structures.

Local government leaders and private groups are trying to raise \$ 750,000 to save the mansion and the St. Elizabeth School property, said Stella Gray Bryant of Jackson, director of the Mississippi Heritage Trust.

The new law will fund historic projects with interest earned on \$ 10 million of the balance of the Abandoned Property Fund. The annual interest is estimated to be around \$ 500,000.

Unless Saturday's auction brings in a minimum of \$ 750,000, the mansion will be removed to expand the school facility in its present location.

Coahoma County administrator Hugh Jack Stubbs said the county could not justify buying property merely for historic preservation. The purchase would have to be for a specific purpose, he said, because taxpayer money is involved.

The historic building had been purchased by St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in the mid-1940s and used as a convent and an after-school youth building.

The villa was built by attorney J.W. Cutrer, who helped draft the state constitution, and his wife Blanche Clark Cutrer, daughter of Clarksdale's founding father John Clark.

Architect Tom Howorth, a Mississippi Heritage Trust board member, said the structure is basically sound. He believes the Cutrer Mansion would be eligible later for preservation funds under the Landmark Grant Program.

Cutrer Mansion is a showpiece for walking tours and the Tennessee Williams Festival.

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 13 STORIES

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The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

April 13, 1999, TUESDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: APPEAL, Pg. C1

LENGTH: 1272 words

HEADLINE: CUTRER MANSION NEEDS A SAVIOR;
IF NOT SOLD ON AUCTION BLOCK, CLARKSDALE'S HISTORIC SITE MAY BE RAZED

BYLINE: Michael Kelley The Commercial Appeal

DATELINE: CLARKSDALE, Miss.

BODY:

Historic preservationists in this Mississippi Delta community are pinning their hopes on the talents of a Memphis auctioneer to help save one of Clarksdale's most important buildings.

The 83-year-old Cutrer Mansion, which has ties to the founder of Clarksdale as well as one of the century's most important playwrights, will be offered for sale when St. Elizabeth School and grounds are auctioned at noon May 1 at the site. The school is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, Miss.

Officials of the school, who hope to raise at least \$ 750,000 through the sale of the school's three buildings and 11.5 acres of land, would use the money toward construction of a new school on church-owned property within walking distance of St. Elizabeth.

Another option, discussed by church officials for the last two years, would be to raze the stately white Italian Renaissance villa to make room for school expansion on the site.

If the house isn't sold May 1, church elder Freddie Britt said it likely will be demolished.

The white, wood-frame, two-story, 8,300-square-foot villa at 109 Clark, a few blocks from downtown, may be Clarksdale's most distinctive landmark, with its clay tile roof, solariums, elegant staircase, wine cellar, coal bin room, elaborate plaster cornices and heavy millwork.

Once the anchor of a large estate, it is now crowded on two sides by a school building and a gymnasium. Nevertheless, it still holds a place in the hearts of longtime residents of this city of 20,000 that's 75 miles south of Memphis in the heart of cotton country.

"So much of our community's history started there. When you go in this house you have a warm feeling, and you feel like you're walking back in time," said former Clarksdale Heritage Trust chairman Judy Flowers. "A lot of the development of the Delta was discussed in those rooms. And you can imagine the

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN), April 13, 1999

lavish parties."

The house also is valued for its most famous visitor, playwright Tennessee Williams.

Nine-year-old Tom Williams, who spent a year in Clarksdale in 1920-21 with his grandparents, Rev. and Mrs. Walter Dakin, visited the house in the company of his grandfather, the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church for 17 years.

The house was a hub for parties and masked balls, with orchestras playing on the lawn and Japanese lanterns lighting the trees.

Some speculation has made it the model for "Belle Reve" in the Williams play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and lawyer J. W. Cutrer, who built the house with his wife Blanche in 1916, is said to have been the model for John Buchanan, hero of *Summer and Smoke* and *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*.

Williams biographer Lyle Leverich said those comparisons are dubious, but Blanche Cutrer is a likely source for not only the name but also some of the character traits of Blanche DuBois in *Streetcar*. The Cutrer name also surfaces in *The Glass Menagerie* and *Orpheus Descending*.

"And obviously Amanda Wingfield (in *The Glass Menagerie*) was modeled after a woman in Clarksdale who had boarding houses and had little glass animals in her window, where in the evening they sparkled," said Leverich.

"And at the Cutrer home, he saw preparations for the lawn parties, with all the Japanese lanterns and the rest of it. He used the lanterns in subsequent plays. They fascinated him all his life."

Sold to St. Elizabeth in 1946 by members of the Cutrer family, the villa served as the school building for two years before a new classroom building was constructed and the mansion converted to use as living quarters for a half-dozen nuns who taught at the school, with a chapel, music room and day care center on the first floor.

Gradually, most of the nuns who taught at the school were replaced by lay teachers, and the building's use as housing was phased out. Today, the building stands empty and unused, the old Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck curtains fading in the windows of what was once a sunroom, colorful animal murals still decorating the walls of a once-elegant dining room with French doors opening onto the front lawn.

Across the black-and-white tiled front hallway, religious icons anchor one end of what must have served originally as the ballroom.

Upstairs, another wide hallway, this one with hardwood floors, leads to five bedrooms, three solariums and three bathrooms. An attic where servants once slept is dark and musty.

The magnolia-lined front lawn holds swing sets, monkey bars and a set of soccer goals.

School officials said in 1997 that the building would be razed unless preservationists can raise \$ 2 million to buy it and other school buildings, or,

as an alternative, buy the house and move it off the site by July 1, 1998.

The newly formed Clarksdale Heritage Trust offered \$ 750,000 contingent on a developer's plan for an assisted living facility. Church officials were content with the deal, but when that plan fell through, started over with plans to dispose of the property and contracted with Memphis auctioneer John Roebuck to handle the sale.

"I hope they can save it," Leverich said. "I wrote to the bishop and rose hell there. It's strange how people are about things like this. They'll spend all kinds of money for the most ridiculous things, and when something is really worthwhile it's hard to get people with the money to do the right thing. It's very puzzling."

A variety of uses have been suggested for the building, from a multicultural museum with wings dedicated to Williams and Clarksdale civil rights activist Aaron Henry, a bed & breakfast, welcome center or YMCA.

Oxford architect Tom Howorth, who has estimated basic preservation costs for the mansion, not including the finishing touches, at \$ 200,000, said the building needs work on the roof, the drainage system, doors and windows.

"It's a good building, very sound, and it seems to have a lot of potential," said Howorth.

Its siting, adjacent to the other school buildings, is an obvious consideration, he said, as is its historical relationship to Tennessee Williams.

However, "Historic preservation always comes down to being a local initiative," Howorth said. "It has to be supported on the ground there. Many communities and people labor under the erroneous impression that there's a lot of money, federal money or foundation money, available for the bricks and mortar of historic preservation, and that's just not a fact. There's very little outside money available for something like that.

"At the same time, if a community has got the resolve to start the process, that building has an unusual global appeal," Howorth added. "I think the potential to attract funds for that building's preservation is greatly leveraged by its relationship with Tennessee Williams. But the initiative has to be local. Nobody's going to descend from outside to save that building."

Flowers said supporters of the building are still hoping someone will come forward with the funds to save the building and a plan for its use.

"We've chased every lead we could in trying to locate someone to take it over," she said. "We realize the needs of the school, but we also realize that the entire history of Clarksdale centers around that location. That's where Clarksdale began.

"Personally, I would love to see maybe a museum and an arts facility for children, or something like that," she said. "But our community is not a very wealthy community. It's going to take some outside help. Some wonderful people have tried their very best to come up with a plan. It's just a sad situation."

To reach Michael Kelley, call 529-2392 or E-mail kelleyfgomemphis.com

GRAPHIC: photo (5);

Photographs by Dave Darnell;

(Color) No doubt, many a ball guest of old gave an excited sigh upon crossing the threshold of this entry hall when Cutrer Mansion in Clarksdale, Miss., was a home. Later, it became a school. Today, the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, Miss., owns the 83-year-old building that's slated for auction May 1.;

(Color) St. Elizabeth School used this downstairs room of the mansion as a chapel. Oxford architect Tom Howorth calls Cutrer "a good building, very sound, and it seems to have a lot of potential.";

(Color) A variety of uses have been suggested for the 8,300-square-foot Cutrer Mansion, a distinctive landmark in Clarksdale: a multicultural museum, bed & breakfast, welcome center or YMCA.;

(Color) But yes, the mansion needs work, says architect Howorth: doors, windows, roof and drainage system.;

A statue of Christ, the Sacred Heart, greets visitors to the mansion that served as a Catholic school.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 1999

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 1 STORY

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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October 16, 1998, Friday, AM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 383 words

HEADLINE: Transportation secretary skirts Interstate 69 questions

DATELINE: CLEVELAND, Miss.

BODY:

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater skirted issues surrounding proposed routes for Interstate 69 in an appearance in Cleveland.

Instead, Slater praised President Clinton and his host, U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.

During a question-and-answer session, Scott Nelson, the transportation chairman of the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, asked for a completion date on I-69.

The road from Port Huron, Mich., to Laredo, Texas, would cut through northwest Mississippi and into Bolivar County.

"When are we going to get to drive it?" Nelson asked.

Slater said, "We are actually making resources available for that investment now."

Mississippi and other states are getting 30 to 40 percent more transportation funding, which they can devote to I-69 or anything else, Slater said. Without the new transportation act, fewer dollars would be available for the proposed construction, he said.

"We also have some unique provisions in the law that deal with international trade corridors," Slater said. "That's what I-69 would be. It comes down now to Indianapolis. Our object now is to build it further into the Delta."

In July, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., defended the decision to build only one route of the proposed I-69 through Arkansas.

The \$ 7.2 billion project, as included in the highway bill passed this year, is to run from Mexico to Indianapolis, where the interstate already stretches to the Canadian border.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire, October 16, 1998

As proposed, it would enter Arkansas near Magnolia and exit the state at Rosedale. The plan also includes a 52-mile spur linking the interstate to Pine Bluff, Ark., which Lott allowed as a compromise to a plan backed by Rep. Jay Dickey, R-Ark.

Dickey had proposed adding a second crossing further north, near Memphis, Tenn., that would have given Arkansas more highway mileage.

But Lott, R-Miss., was among those opposed to Dickey's idea, saying its expense would have jeopardized the whole project.

Lott has emphasized that the proposed interstate would run through eight other states besides Arkansas and Mississippi.

"Anything we do down here that makes our portion of this cost more could mean that some of it has to come from other states," Lott said at a Little Rock, Ark., gathering. "Well, they don't like that."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: October 16, 1998

FOCUS - 1 OF 3 STORIES

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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April 10, 1999, Saturday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 1151 words

HEADLINE: Transportation Secretary talks rail safety; UMC dedicates hospital

DATELINE: RAYMOND, Miss.

BODY:

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater says Mississippi and other states need to invest more money in safety programs on railroad grade crossings.

"Record levels of investment are bringing about improved rail safety. We need to do more by continuing to work with state and local officials to increase state and local investment and enforcement on grade crossings," Slater said Friday in Raymond.

The round-table discussion with officials in Raymond was among several stops Slater made in the state's 2nd Congressional District on Friday. The transportation secretary was accompanied by U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, who represents the district.

Last year in Mississippi, 23 people were killed and 63 were injured in rail grade crossing accidents, according to state transportation officials.

In fiscal 1999, the federal government provided \$ 154.8 million to the states for highway-rail crossing improvements. Mississippi's share was \$ 2.2 million.

Slater, in a later telephone interview with The Associated Press, pointed to the recent Amtrak derailment in Illinois and the deaths of five Mississippians to stress the importance safety programs and rail crossing improvements.

Thompson and Slater, a Tutwiler native, also stopped Friday in Greenville where they briefly discussed the prospects of Interstate 69 extending through the Mississippi Delta city.

Federal transportation planners want to build the road - which already runs from Port Huron, Mich., to Indianapolis - through Evansville, Ind.; Memphis, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; and Houston, Texas, before it hits the U.S.-Mexico border.

The route I-69 will take from Memphis to Shreveport has not yet been made clear.

Slater told Greenville officials that "we want to be good partners with you to build the I-69 corridor."

Wiser Hospital

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - The University of Mississippi Medical Center on Friday dedicated the \$ 37.7 million Winfred L. Wiser Hospital for Women and Infants.

The facility includes a 64-bed newborn intensive care unit, an eight-bed newborn transition unit, a newborn surgical suite, a neonatal intensive care unit, respiratory therapy and a clinical laboratory.

The six-story, 160-bed hospital is named in honor of Dr. Winfred L. Wiser.

Wiser, named Surgeon of the Year in February by the Society of Gynecological Surgeons, was professor and chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at UMC from 1976-95.

"This is something that usually doesn't happen until after somebody is dead," said Wiser, 73. "It's the greatest honor I've ever received."

When Wiser came to Mississippi from Tennessee, the OB-GYN department was housed on one floor and had only five full-time faculty members. The annual budget was \$ 284,000. The department now has 21 full-time faculty members with an annual budget of \$ 3.8 million.

Students Charged

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) - Four University of Southern Mississippi students face sexual assault charges after being arrested for a March 27 incident at a campus fraternity house.

Rob Stroup, 19, a freshman from Cordova, Tenn.; Jonathan Paul New, 23, a senior from New Orleans; Brock Whitson, 22, a junior from Mandeville, La.; and Michael Trouard, 21, a senior from Metairie, La.; were taken into custody by campus police late Thursday.

"We were saddened to learn of these allegations," said Eddie Holloway, dean of students at USM. "We will continue to stress to our students the importance of responsible behavior."

A former student, 21-year-old Scott Walley, was also charged with sexual assault.

Holloway said all of the suspects are members of Kappa Sigma fraternity. The alleged assault on female student occurred at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house following an off-campus party.

The victim, who was not physically injured, apparently could not remember how the incident occurred, school officials said.

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 3 STORIES

Copyright 1998 The News and Observer
The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC)

April 26, 1998 Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. H7

LENGTH: 1125 words

HEADLINE: If you go

BODY:

Around Memphis:

Music: B.B. King's Blues Club, 143 Beale St., (901) 524-5464. The biggest and best spot to catch blues acts in Memphis.

Rum Boogie Cafe, 182 Beale St., (901) 528-0150. Blues and music from the blues/soul Stax Records era (that's the studio's old sign over the stage).

Willie Mitchell's Rhythm and Blues, 326 Beale St., (901) 523-7444. Mitchell's, owned by a former Hi Records executive, keeps alive the "deep soul" sound exemplified by Al Green, who stops in to sing when he isn't too busy preaching.

Museums: Beale St. Blues Museum, 329 Beale St., (901) 272-3253. Tiny museum in the Old Daisy Theater tells the story of the blues. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Center for Southern Folklore, 130 Beale St., (901) 525-3655. A bit too serious with its academic/nonprofit bent, the center is nonetheless a sometimes outstanding exhibitor of the culture and politics that spawned the blues. Rotating shows. Some concerts. Good collection of locally produced blues CDs. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5:30 p.m.

Memphis Music Hall of Fame, 97 Second St., (901) 525-4007. Covers black and white artists who contributed to the city's fame. Check out the organ Booker T. used on "Telstar."

Sun Records, 706 Union St., (901) 521-0664. Tiny studio where Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins recorded some of their early tracks. Sun left in 1959, but the studio was restored in the late 1980s as a tourist attraction and sometime recording spot (U2 recorded here in 1988). Sun Studio Cafe next door serves decent soul food.

W.C. Handy House, Beale and Fourth streets, (901) 396-3914. Tiny wood-frame home of the "father of the blues." Now a museum. Mondays-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Lorraine Motel, 450 Mulberry St. Best-known as the place where the Rev. Martin Luther King was assassinated April 4, 1968, it was the place where many blues musicians stayed when playing in Memphis. It's now home to the National

The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC) April 26, 1998 Sunday,

Civil Rights Museum.

Graceland, 3763 Elvis Presley Blvd., (800) 238-2000. Elvis' former home is the centerpiece of a collection of museums, including one showing Elvis' jets and cars. Admission to Graceland: \$ 9. Combination ticket for all museums, \$ 17.

For a special Sunday: Full Gospel Tabernacle, 787 Hale Road, Whitehaven, (901) 396-9192. Soul singer Al Green is the resident reverend - when he's in town.

HANG YOUR HAT: Wilson World Hotel, 3677 Elvis Presley Blvd., (901) 332-1000 or (800) 945-7667. Combination hotel/shrine to the King across the street from Graceland. Shows Elvis movies 24 hours a day on closed-circuit in-room television.

GREAT EATS: Jim Neely's Interstate Bar-B-Que, 2265 S. Third St., (901) 775-2304. One of the best rib joints in the United States. Opens at 11 a.m. and stays open sometimes to 2 a.m. - if the supply of ribs holds out.

Arcade Restaurant, 540 S. Main St., (901) 526-5757. Somewhat scruffy neighborhood makes this 80-year-old soul-food eatery best visited during daylight. Just off Beale Street.

Rendezvous, 52 Second St., (901) 523-2746. Home of "dry barbecue," a Memphis specialty. Pork ribs with more seasoning but less sauce is the secret. An acquired taste - you'll either love them or leave them. Around since 1948, so the kitchen must be doing something right.

HAPPENINGS: Memphis Music and Heritage Festival, each July, features Southern music, food and arts. (901) 525-3655.

National Civil Rights Museum Culture in the Courtyard Concerts, in August. (901) 521-9699 for dates and details.

WLOK Radio Stone Soul Picnic, in September, an outdoor festival of soul, gospel and R&B. (901) 543-5300 or (800) 864-6744.

INFORMATION: Memphis Convention and Visitor's Bureau, (901) 543-5300. Web site: www.memphistravel.com

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In Mississippi:

Clarksdale: Delta Blues Museum, dedicated to preserving the music of the Mississippi Delta. Recently moved into renovated quarters in the old Carnegie Library, 114 Delta Ave. A small but excellent selection of compilation CDs and tapes of local contemporary blues musicians. Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Web site: www.clarksdale.com

Stackhouse Records, 232 Sunflower, (601) 627-2209. A good place to get both hard-to-find back catalog records of blues greats and unknown works by contemporary blues musicians of the Mississippi Delta. It's also a good place to find out where to catch live blues acts on the weekend.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC) April 26, 1998 Sunday,

Abe's Ribs, at Highways 61 and 49, (601) 624-9947. Ancient barbecue pit with great pork ribs and pork tip sandwiches.

Wade Walton's Barbershop, 377 Issaquena Ave., (601) 624-6067. Walton, a local veteran blues man, cuts hair and sometimes plays guitar. We heard he had given up "the devil's music" a few years back after an evangelical conversion. But word is he's found room for the blues again in his life. Walton can be wary of strangers - he's been ripped off by "fans" in the past. Some of Walton's contemporary blues classics such as "Leaving Fourth Street" and "Close Shave Boogie" are on the Delta Blues Museum's compilation tapes.

Dockery Farms, Highway 49 West, about a half-hour south of Clarksdale. Just outside of Ruleville - look for an abandoned white gas station on the left side of the road. Generally agreed as the birthplace of the blues, the plantation is where early blues men Henry Sloan and Charley Patton developed their styles early in this century.

Stovall Plantation, seven miles northwest of town. Famous as the home of B.B. King. His former shack is on a world tour sponsored by the House of Blues restaurant chain. It returns in 2001.

Greenville: Doe's Eat Place, one of the legendary country soul-food restaurants - try the great ribs. 502 Nelson St., (601) 334-3315.

Delta Blues Festival, third Saturday in September.

INFORMATION: Mississippi Department of Tourism, P.O. Box 1705, Ocean Springs, Miss. 39566-1705; (800) 927-6378.

LOOK IT UP: "Rock 'N' Roll Traveler USA," by Tim Perry and Ed Glinert (Fodors, \$ 16.50). Excellent guidebook to rock and roots music sites around the United States. Gives you all the lowdown on blues spots in Mississippi and key Elvis sites in Memphis but doesn't short-change more modern sounds, either. The book tells of a Sex Pistols concert site in Memphis where police told the band they could vomit or strip nude on the stage but not simulate sex acts. Instead, Sid Vicious sliced himself with a knife. The concert site is now a Taco Bell.

"The African-American Travel Guide" by Wayne C. Robinson (Hunter, \$ 15.95). Excellent city-by-city look at key black heritage sites. Memphis gets a long look (and the cover photo), but the book unfortunately deals only with cities - so there's nothing about the rich African-American cultural influence of the Mississippi Delta. n

GRAPHIC: c photo; c graphic; Staff A barn displays a memorial to Will Dockery and Joe Rice Dockery in southern Mississippi, birthplace of the blues. Knight Ridder Newspapers

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 26, 1998

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 3 STORIES

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Newsday

August 7, 1994, Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: TRAVEL; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 1610 words

HEADLINE: Groovi' at the Blues Fest;
Annual event celebrates music born in the Delta's juke joints

BYLINE: By William Bunch. STAFF WRITER. William Bunch is a reporter for this newspaper.

BODY:

THIRTY YEARS after Mississippi's famed "Freedom Summer," as many as 40,000 people - a salt and pepper mix sprinkled with sons of sharecroppers and blonde sorority sisters from nearby Ol' Miss - will once again form one nation under a groove.

They will gather on an 80-acre farm clearing near Greenville, under a relentless sun and surrounded by scrub pine, for the 17th annual Mississippi Delta Blues Festival, Sept. 17, an all-day and all-night affair that celebrates the rhythms of Bobby "Blue" Bland, Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes and dozens of others whose music is rooted in the silty soil.

Held every year on the third weekend in September, the Delta bluesfest is a spectacular one-day introduction to a uniquely American region where juke joints, barbecue pits, old plantations and graveyards still echo with the cadences of the blues.

Those downbeats have lured me twice in recent years to vacation in the Mississippi Delta, once for the blues festival and a second time to explore the juke joints around Greenville and Clarksdale, where musical descendants of the legendary Robert Johnson still carry on his traditions in small, weather-beaten clubs.

The Mississippi Delta Blues Festival is still a raw affair, especially when compared to much slicker cousins like the six-day New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, which boasts 10 stages. When I attended the Mississippi affair several years ago, thousands sat patiently under a blistering midday sun while James "Son" Thomas, an aging blues legend, played country blues on acoustic guitar.

The music heated up when the sun went down. Chicago's Koko Taylor, the so-called "Queen of the Blues," brought the crowd to its feet with her "Wang Dang Doodle." She was followed by Bland and by Clarence Carter, the blind

Newsday, August 7, 1994

Alabama soul singer who - when he wasn't telling ribald jokes - belted out a stirring rendition of his 1970 hit, "Patches."

Started in 1978 by an antipoverty group called Mississippi Action for Community Education, the festival began as a largely homegrown affair for just a couple thousand fans, mostly African-Americans.

"We just felt that the blues was not being promoted," recalls MACE's Catherine Courtney. "So we got a flatbed trailer and took it out to the site, and we rented a T-shirt machine, and brought that out to the site, and we had a festival."

Today, the festival attracts a racially mixed crowd from around the region and around the world. It boasts not only a main stage for well-known recording artists but a smaller "Juke-House Stage" where local acts perform. Local community and church groups offer the regional cuisine - that would be catfish and barbecued ribs - while artisans sell their crafts.

But on blues festival weekend or any other time of the year, visitors can always see the blues performed in juke joints that - for better or worse - have changed little since the 1930s, when these small clubs gave the jukebox its name and when itinerant musicians such as the legendary Johnson would play on a Saturday night.

In Greenville, the Delta's largest city (pop., about 50,000) and home to comfortable chain hotels such as Ramada and Holiday Inn, the best way to check out the music scene is to visit the city's famed Nelson Street and a club called Perry's Flowing Fountain. A mild-mannered 66-year-old mortician, Perry Payton, owns the club, which boasts the best working blues jukebox in the Delta. Although Payton occasionally books live bands, he's more likely to direct you to other joints that feature live music. It was Payton that directed us to Little Blue's Cafe, an authentic Mississippi backwoods juke joint, about 15 miles south of town.

Inside a dimly lit two-room shotgun shack, where fans sit on benches ripped out from a broken down school bus, a combo with the modest name of the Special Occasion Band was ripping through old standards like "They Call Me the Rocker," joined in midset by a local harmonica player known to all as Ol' Blind Jebby. On the edge of the rice field outside, dozens of people tapped their toes to the music while the smell of barbecued ribs and chicken lingered in the thick air of a Sunday afternoon.

Just a few blocks up Nelson Street is a restaurant mecca of the Deep South - Doe's Eat Place, a one-of-a-kind steak joint that's popular with low-culture gourmands from Jane and Michael Stern to President Bill Clinton (who used to frequent the Little Rock branch).

Doe's is rustic in a wonderfully unplanned way, with floors that rise and fall and badly warped tables. But the food is really out-of-this world: Spicy appetizers like hot tamales and barbecued shrimps, followed by Texas-sized steaks. (One small warning: The prices, at least by modest Mississippi standards, are also gargantuan: Dinner for two can easily cost \$ 60 or more.)

In every direction, ambitious travelers can find old plantations, graveyards

Newsday, August 7, 1994

and other historic sites where the blues is rooted deep in the black, muddy soil. One such site is the Dockery Farms, in Dockery, a still working plantation where Charley Patton, a forerunner of Robert Johnson, helped give birth to the music. About three miles outside of Tutweiler is Sonny Boy Williamson's grave, which is marked - unlike many old bluesmen - and where countless visitors have deposited harmonicas.

Clarksdale, about 45 minutes to the north, is even deeper into the heart of the blues. The downtown - which with its Greyhound bus terminal and striped barber poles looks like a set for a 1950s movie - is home to the growing Delta Blues Museum.

The museum, sheathed in unassuming brown brick, is a small but growing branch of Clarksdale's Carnegie Public Library. Inside, visitors are greeted by a lifesize replica of bluesman Muddy Waters, brandishing his guitar, and an authentic 1950s' Rock-Ola jukebox. Display cases and wall-size montages show off classic 78s on labels such as Chess Records as well as ads for records like "Spoonful Blues" by Charley Patton. Exhibits trace the history of the great musicians, and the museum also boasts perhaps the largest collections of blues books anywhere. The museum also sponsors the annual Sunflower County Blues Festival in August, preceded by a seminar to help keep the music alive.

"This music is still important to the black community - it's a part of their lives, almost like a religion," said John Ruskey, the curator who moved from New Mexico to be closer to the blues.

A couple of blocks away is another transplant, Jim O'Neal, an unapologetic child of the 1960s who became enamored with the blues during the 1960s on Chicago's South Side and who moved to Clarksdale a decade later. In a bizarre two-story structure that resembles a Mississippi River steamboat, O'Neal runs the Stackhouse / Delta Record Mart, where blues lovers can find thousands of rare 45s, 78s and LPs featuring the music of Mississippi.

Some of the newer 45s were put out by O'Neal's own record label, Rooster Records, that were recorded in a tiny studio in the back of his store and that feature local artists like Jack "Oil Man" Johnson, who drives a fuel truck by day.

O N THE OTHER side of town is another oddity: Wade Walton's Barber Shop, where barbering meets the blues. Walton, the 16th of 17 children, has recorded 45s for Rooster Records and has performed the blues as far away as Europe. He's also cut a lot of famous musical hair in his career as a barber, including Sonny Boy Williamson and Charley Pride.

Under a railroad pass you'll find Fourth Street, another well-known blues drag and the main street of Clarksdale's African-American community. Behind an unassuming brick facade is Fourth Street Drugs. Dimly lit and cluttered from floor to ceiling with products, at first blush the pharmacy looks like an outtake from "The Last Picture Show." But it's also a museum to Mississippi's civil rights movement befitting the store's owner, Aaron Henry. Henry, now in his 70s, endured beatings and other abuses as head of the NAACP in Mississippi to become Clarksdale's state representative. On one side of his store are giant blowups of Andrew Goodman, James Cheney and Michael Schwerner, the young civil rights workers whose murders inspired "Mississippi Burning."

Newsday, August 7, 1994

A couple of doors down is Fair's Restaurant, a real southern soul food joint. There, you can order a catfish dinner for \$ 4 as a jukebox plays the latest tunes by Clarence Carter and other local favorites.

For the best eats in Clarksdale, however, head to the outskirts east of downtown and Abe's Bar-B-Q Drive-In, a restaurant with an unusual history. Abe Davis, an immigrant from the unlikely origination of Lebanon, opened the joint in 1924, and his sons continue to operate it. A modest drive-in with Formica tables and orange benches, Abe's offers not only great pulled dry barbecue, with a mild but flavorful sauce, but three killer tamales for under \$ 2, mounds of slaw and baked beans, and lemonade in giant Styrofoam cups. Abe's is just a couple of blocks north of the legendary "Crossroads" of Highways 61 and 49, immortalized in the Robert Johnson song covered by Cream, Lynyrd Skynyrd and others. Since then, interstate highways and jet traffic have passed the Delta by, leaving a people - and a music - in a raw but pristine state.

The 17th Annual Mississippi Delta Blues Festival warms up with a jazz tribute to "The Legendary Billy Taylor" on Sept. 15 and a Tribute to the Blues on Sept. 16. The festival itself starts at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 17 with a line-up including B.B. King, The Muddy Waters Legendary Blues Band and Denise La Salle, among others, and local artists. For info, call (601) 335-3523.

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PD:

GRAPHIC: Photo by Barbara Gauntt- Started in 1978, the festival now attracts big names, too, such as Butch Mudbone, above, who performed at the 14th annual event in Greenville. 2) Photo-Left, local favorite Elder Roma Wilson is set to play his gospel harmonica at the festival again this year. 3) Photo- by William Bunch- ol' Blind Jebby, a local harmonica player, blows his melodies at Little Blues's Cafe, a two-room shotgun shack that is an authentic backwoods juke joint. Newsday map by Tom Redmond- Mississippi

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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LEVEL 1 - 30 OF 100 STORIES

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February 09, 1997, Sunday, Final Edition

SECTION: MAGAZINE; Pg. W17; DINING

LENGTH: 850 words

HEADLINE: Arkansas on the Potomac

BYLINE: Phyllis C. Richman

BODY:

DOE'S EAT PLACE -- MUSIC CITY ROADHOUSE, 1050 30TH ST. NW. 202-337-4242.

Open: Tuesday through Sunday 4:30 to 10 p.m. Closed Monday. AE, D, DC, MC, V. Reservations accepted. Smoking in downstairs bar only. Prices: appetizers \$ 3.95 to \$ 10.95, entrees \$ 9.95 to \$ 15. Full dinner with wine or beer, tax and tip \$ 15 to \$ 30 per person.

It took four years, but we in Washington have finally gotten a taste of Little Rock. Doe's Eat Place -- which originated as a four-entree eatery in Greenville, Miss., in 1941, then expanded to a full-menu branch in Arkansas in the '80s -- has taken over a back room of Georgetown's Music City Roadhouse.

To create just the right mood, it's been furnished with decrepit shutters set askew and two screen doors. The tables are covered with checkered cloths in three different colors, and mismatched dinner plates are stacked on them for portioning out the family-size platters of food. In case you're seeking an hors d'oeuvre, there are baskets of saltines for nibbling. The wine list (10 choices) is taped onto a bottle. Jeans aren't required, but . . .

Like the original Doe's in Mississippi, the menu is so short it could be recited without taking a breath. Just about everyone orders tamales to start (or as a whole meal); they're a tradition.

Doe's tamales are more Deep South than Tex-Mex, a brown mush of cornmeal with beef and suet, formed into little logs and steamed in parchment wrappers, accompanied by a cup of soupy sweet-hot chili. The other typical starter is gumbo -- a soup the color of chicken gravy, with red and green peppers, okra, chicken shreds and hot sausage. It's floury but heart-warming, particularly since its chili heat sneaks up on you and blooms in your mouth.

Steaks are the specialty among the entrees, and up North Doe's has had a hard time procuring them cut to its trend-snubbing specifications: This means 1 1/2-inch-thick porterhouses, untrimmed, with the tail left on and enough fat to flavor the meat as it melts in the cooking. They're a minimum of two pounds -- priced at \$ 15 a pound -- and after they are lightly dusted with Cajun seasonings, these steaks are seared on the bone, to emerge chewy and magnificently meaty.

The Washington Post, February 09, 1997

The shrimp entree consists of a dozen jumbo-size examples per \$ 14.95 order, broiled with enough garlic-lemon-paprika butter to leave a pool for dunking. Or you can order them floured and fried. The one departure from the original Mississippi menu is chicken -- which has been substituted for Southern spaghetti and meatballs. A \$ 9.95 order is made up of nine pieces, Southern fried. Whatever the chicken lacks in flavor it makes up in texture: The crust is crisp, and the meat is bursting with juices.

The meal is rounded out by brown-and-serve rolls and a salad with no pretensions whatsoever -- it's just curly lettuce with red onion and out-of-season tomatoes in a plain, though oily, vinaigrette.

And that's it -- Doe's on the Potomac, an unadorned Mississippi/Arkansas tradition, with the added bonus of the great blues music that drifts in from the Music City Roadhouse dining room next door.

TURNING TABLES

Washington is arming for Bread War II. Newcomers won't remember when Mark Furstenberg opened Marvelous Market six years ago, but as soon as lines formed around the block, other bakers started firing their ovens to make crusty, European-style breads. Now phase two seems to be at hand.

Eric Himy, a young American concert pianist who was living in France, married into a Parisian bread-baking family. He returned to the States and installed one of his father-in-law's French bakers and a wood-burning brick oven in Savage, Md. , and last month began producing French baguettes, boules and petits pains. Since his father-in-law has been celebrated as a Napoleon look-alike, Himy named his bakery Buonaparte Breads. Although the flavorful breads tasted the first week were doughy and pale, they are making something of a splash among French chefs in this area.

Meanwhile, at Tysons II, the Corner Bakery is producing 20 to 30 kinds of bread. The bakery, which shares space with Maggiano's restaurant, is a chain with Chicago roots. The breads are a stunning array, most of them puffed, well-browned loaves with a nice aroma and a light yet chewy crumb. The company has plans to open a commissary and 12 to 20 locations in the Washington area -- starting this year with Montgomery Mall, Union Station, Georgetown and Reston.

And there's more to come. Marvelous Market, now with four locations and under new ownership, is discussing a merger with Baker's Place, which has six retail bakeries and a commissary in the Washington area. Uptown Bakery, with locations in Cleveland Park and Ballston, is looking for space in Bethesda. Firehook has added a brand-new Farragut Square site to its two others. And Mark Furstenberg, the original D.C. bread celeb, is planning to open the Bread Line, a restaurant and carryout featuring bread-based hand-held foods, in the 1700 block of Pennsylvania Avenue this spring. The troops are massing.

- P.C.R.

GRAPHIC: Photo, chad dowling, Doe's eats include Southern-style tamales, center, served with a cup of sweet-hot chili.



Cross Road Blues



- "Nature and Robert Johnson" by Carter Neil

Cross Road Blues (take 2)

I went to the crossroad

fell down on my knees

I went to the crossroad

fell down on my knees

Asked the Lord above "Have mercy, now

save poor Bob, if you please

Mmmmm, standin' at the crossroad

I tried to flag a ride

Standin' at the crossroad

I tried to flag a ride

Didn't nobody seem to know me

everybody pass me by

Mmm, the sun goin' down, boy

dark gon' catch me here

oooo oooo eeee

boy, dark gon' catch me here

I haven't got no lovin' sweet woman that

love and feel my care

You can run, you can run

tell my friend-boy Willie Brown

You can run, you can run

tell my friend-boy Willie Brown

Lord, that I'm standin' at the crossroad, babe

I believe I'm sinkin' down

speaker:	a man at the point of no return
dramatic situation:	he's recovering from his encounter with the devil
tone:	desperate, alone, scared
mood:	chilled
alliteration:	• "save poor Bob, if you please" • "Didn't nobody seem to know me"
assonance:	• "fell down on my knees" • "Asked the Lord above 'Have mercy'" • "I tried to flag a ride" • "Didn't nobody seem to know me" • "I haven't got no lovin' sweet woman that" • tell my friend-boy Willie Brown"
imagery:	crossroad, falling, knees, sunset, darkness
symbolism:	The crossroad is where things happen because they have to--there is nothing but absolutes. Falling is a kind of helplessness; knees usually have to do with penitence or pleading. Sunset is death or dying. Darkness is death, ignorance, and the Devil's time.
metaphor:	
simile:	

scan:	
theme:	
plot:	The speaker is alone and cannot find either a friend or a sympathetic passerby.
comment:	The speaker is giving up when he falls to his knees--he is turning himself over to the stronger forces echoed when he calls to God. He doesn't say what is going to happen when the darkness arrives, but it can't be anything good. In the last line of the third verse he says he doesn't have a woman. Usually when darkness falls (lines 1 and 2) he can be protected within the circle of a woman's arms. This night, however, he is alone and unprotected. In the last verse he speaks to someone who, apparently, is not a good enough friend to give him a ride. He tells this person to tell his friend what happened to him. In facing death or destruction he seeks an epitaph--some part of him to live on.

Back

LEVEL 1 - 9 OF 12 STORIES

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The Houston Chronicle

January 24, 1993, Sunday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: ZEST; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 1652 words

HEADLINE: Delta blues revival;
Humble Mississippi town still beckons music fans

BYLINE: RICK MITCHELL; Staff

DATELINE: CLARKSDALE, MISS.

BODY:

CLARKSDALE, MISS. -- If you're ever at the crossroads of highways 61 and 49, and you notice an unnatural chill in the air, remember Robert Johnson's last request in the song "'Me and the Devil Blues: ''

""You may bury my body down by the highway side/So my old evil spirit can get a Greyhound bus and ride. ''

Legend has it that Johnson sold his soul to the devil down at the crossroads to become the greatest blues singer and guitarist of his era. The old-timers in the Delta swear that one day Johnson was just another itinerant bluesman with a guitar, and the next he was the best any of them had ever heard.

Johnson suffered more than his share in his short life. He was born in 1911 on a plantation in Mississippi, the grandson of slaves. He married at 18, but his first wife and baby died in childbirth. He abandoned his second wife in Clarksdale.

Johnson died in 1938, poisoned by a jealous lover who put strychnine in his whiskey. He was 26. But his legend has had an afterlife of its own. The tale of the crossroads has been repeated so many times that it no longer matters if it's based on a true incident or strictly apocryphal.

The concept of the crossroads as a mysterious place where the spiritual and physical worlds intersect has its roots in African religion. The Yoruba people of Nigeria have a guardian saint of the crossroads, Legba, whose name lives on in the hoodoo rituals of the American south.

Whether Johnson made an alliance with Satan, a sacrifice to Legba, or simply went home and practiced like a demon, there's no denying that he played and sang as if he heard hellhounds on his trail.

The Houston Chronicle, January 24, 1993

Although his career was brief, he brought several classic songs to the blues repertoire: "'I Believe I'll Dust My Broom, Sweet Home Chicago, Rambling on My Mind, Walking Blues, Love in Vain, From Four Till Late, Stop Breakin' Down Blues and, of course, Cross Road Blues. '"

The Rolling Stones and Cream introduced rock audiences to Johnson's music in the '60s. In 1990, Columbia reissued a two-CD set containing his entire recorded catalog of 29 songs and 12 alternate takes. The box, one of the first of its kind, astonished the music industry by selling more than a half-million copies to be certified gold.

The intersection

There are many crossroads in the Mississippi Delta. But the intersection of state highways 61 and 49 on the outskirts of Clarksdale, is the blues crossroads.

For serious music fans, the 75-mile drive down Highway 61 from Memphis, Tenn., to Clarksdale is a spiritual pilgrimage.

Although Memphis claims bragging rights as the home of the blues, Clarksdale is a more likely birthplace. The town's small size and humble appearance belie its importance in the history of American music.

Many blues artists besides Johnson lived in Clarksdale, surrounding Coahoma County or just across the Mississippi River in Helena, Ark. Among them are W.C. Handy, Charlie Patton, Son House, Sonny Boy Williamson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker, Junior Parker, Sam Cooke and Ike Turner.

Bessie Smith died in Clarksdale. The great blues and jazz singer was injured in an automobile accident after a concert. She died en route to a black hospital, after the nearby white hospital would not admit her.

For years, there wasn't much to see around Clarksdale besides sharecropper's shotgun shacks and the highway signs at the blues crossroads. The Delta is one of the poorest regions in the country.

It's been called "'America's third world. '"

While Clarksdale might be economically poor, it's culturally rich. And in recent years, the city has rediscovered its musical heritage.

Delta Blues Museum

The Delta Blues Museum, located in an upstairs room at Clarksdale's Carnegie Public Library, is a shrine to the blues.

The Houston Chronicle, January 24, 1993

The museum features educational exhibits with photos and text illustrating the history of the blues and its relationship to other forms of American music. There are books and records for sale and historic artifacts on display, as well as a lifelike wax statue of Muddy Waters, who was born a few miles north of Clarksdale on the Stoval Plantation.

The blues museum is the brainchild of library director Sid Graves.

"It seemed somebody should do something to honor the blues artists here in the Delta who started America's original music," Graves said. "I couldn't believe no one was doing anything like that."

It took awhile for the idea to catch on. In 1979, when the museum opened, it had 30 to 40 visitors a month. Last year, that was up to 600 a month, including tourists from all over the United States, Europe and Japan.

Some well-known rock artists have been spreading the word -- ZZ Top, Bonnie Raitt, John Fogerty. Graves says ZZ Top has been especially helpful. Houston's famous rock group has done several benefits to raise money for the museum, and plugs the museum frequently in interviews and in album liner notes.

ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons paid to have a guitar built out of wood from the shack where Muddy Waters was born. The so-called "Muddywood" guitar, symbolizing rock's indebtedness to the blues, is on display at the museum.

"They've really paid their dues in tribute to the blues," Graves said. "They've made millions of people more aware of Muddy Waters and Robert Johnson, which in turn has provided more opportunities for blues artists to perform."

The Delta Blues Museum received a \$ 1 million challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. If its funding goal is reached by 1994, the museum will be expanded. Graves has plans to construct a replica of an authentic Mississippi juke joint, which will present live blues.

A vital art

The Delta blues revival comes at a time when blues is enjoying broader acceptance than ever. Although pure blues is rarely played on commercial rock, pop and soul stations, there is a thriving network of nightclubs, independent record labels, publications and non-commercial radio programs devoted to the blues.

Big outdoor festivals, such as the touring JVC Blues Festival, have had a huge impact on exposing rock audiences to blues. And young black musicians are rediscovering it as a vital art, when once they might have linked it to a downtrodden past.

The Houston Chronicle, January 24, 1993

Blues guitarist Robert Cray, 39, is mining the vein of classic blues and soul. His 1986 album, *Strong Persuader*, sold more than a million copies. Branford Marsalis' most recent album, *"Heard You Twice the First Time,"* is an ambitious attempt to cover the blues spectrum -- from chain-gang chants to free jazz blowing.

Authentic Delta blues once was considered a lost art. In the 1940s and '50s, Memphis, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston and Los Angeles developed as recording centers for modern rhythm and blues.

The lifestyle of the Delta bluesman, roving from town to town with a guitar and harmonica, was archaic.

But while many of the most talented Mississippi musicians moved north during or after World War II, younger artists such as Clarksdale's Lonnie Pitchford have kept alive the acoustic blues tradition of Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson and Son House.

Electric approach
At the same time, Mississippi blues musicians have developed their own approach to electric juke-joint blues. The sound is rougher and looser than the post-war styles of Memphis, Chicago and Houston, but more modern than the traditional Delta blues.

Juke-joint blues can be heard in Clarksdale and other Delta towns on any Saturday night. It might be played in a little dive on the outskirts of town or the back room of somebody's house -- anywhere blues people get together to party.

"Everybody figured that there was nothing left here except old guys sitting on the front porch playing guitar," says Jim O'Neal, who runs Clarksdale's Rooster Blues record label.

"But all along new generations of musicians have been coming along playing in juke joints. It's been the most neglected (style of blues) and, in a way, it's the most relevant. "

O'Neal founded *"Living Blues,"* a respected magazine of blues criticism, in the early '70s. When he grew tired of editing, he moved to Clarksdale and opened Stackhouse Records, just a few blocks from the Delta Blues Museum. The store, named after blues musician Houston Stackhouse, has become an international mail-order clearing house for rare blues records.

O'Neal says the Delta remains a fertile breeding ground for blues talent, and he records that talent in the tiny Rooster studio behind his store.

"We've made it our mission to record the kind of Delta blues that's been overlooked," he says, sitting in Stackhouse's cluttered warehouse.

The Houston Chronicle, January 24, 1993

Rooster's compilation album, "Clarksdale, Mississippi: Coahoma the Blues," offers a true taste of Mississippi's living blues tradition. Wade Walton, Big Jack Johnson, Sam Carr, Frank Frost and others demonstrate the range of blues to be heard in the Delta. All the musicians heard on the album live in or near Clarksdale or play in bands led by Clarksdale artists.

Hearing the blues

Walter Linegar, curator of the Blues Archive at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, argues that the blues still speaks to people's everyday experiences.

"Nobody can escape the blues," said Linegar, who moved from his native Switzerland to be closer to the music he loves. "The blues can be found in music; in poetry, such as Langston Hughes; in prose, such as Richard Wright; in dance; in art."

Linegar takes issue with those who equate the blues with pain and sorrow. Although the lyrics might be sad, this is music created by survivors.

"The blues shows us a source of strength, and it shows us ways of overcoming," he said. "I've always said the blues was music for a strong people, by a strong people."

GRAPHIC: Photos: 1. Muddy Waters; 2. Robert Johnson; Map: 3. Location 'Clarksdale Mississippi; Photo: 4. Robert Jackson against a map showing the south (color, p. 1); 3. Chronicle, 4. Cover design by K.B. Sanford

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 26, 1993

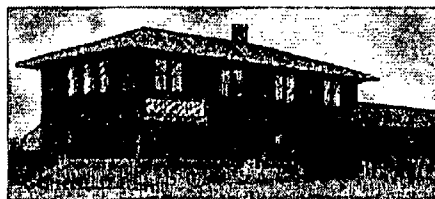
WELCOME TO CLARKSDALE



WHERE WE'RE GOING

After 19 years in our library, the Delta Blues Museum is moving to the newly restored Illinois Central Railroad Freight Depot in downtown Clarksdale, Mississippi, the legendary birthplace of the blues.

(See the New Museum and the Birthplace of the Blues.)



WHAT WE'RE DOING

We're asking you to become a new Museum member:

1. to help construct our new permanent collection of EXHIBITS
2. to help develop our important ARTS & EDUCATION PROGRAM

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. **Become a member** and support the Delta Blues Museum.
2. **Make a donation** if you like FROM THE BIRTHPLACE (if you're already a member).
3. Look around our site to see if you'd like to be a part of what we're going to be.
4. Click the MEMBERSHIP button now!

WHAT'S REALLY COOL

"FROM THE BIRTHPLACE" is a monthly online music and education series produced by the Delta Blues Museum and lalive.com. Each episode is a concert performance by a celebrated musician who was influenced by the heartfelt blues music that came from our land, and a documentary film that provides a deeper meaning about the blues and rock n' roll and its origins.



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THE NEW MUSEUM



THE RENOVATION

What it was like before and what it was like now — restoring an historic building back to



THE NEW EXHIBITS

Concept sketches and chronological story-line for our new permanent collection, by



OUR FIRST 20 YEARS

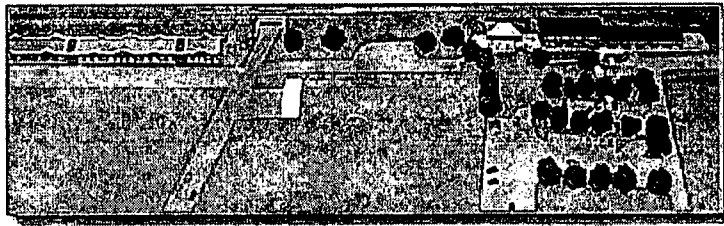
When we began, where we were, how many people came, Z.Z. Top and the Muddywood Guitar.

THE NEW DELTA BLUES MUSEUM. Formerly the Yazoo and Mississippi River Valley Railroad Depot, and later the Illinois Central Railroad Freight Depot, this circa 1918 brick building has been totally rehabilitated to serve the Clarksdale community and the world of blues music. It has been restored to historical standards with the help of the architect, Dixon Tyson and Associates and the Department of Mississippi Archives and History. The area is approximately 11,800 square feet. Featuring exposed wood timber trusses, the old freight area of 5,760 square feet is a perfect exhibit area for the Delta Blues Museum's permanent collection of exhibits. The two-story east end was the freight offices, and the ticket offices before the 1926 Passenger Depot (See Blues Alley) was built about 200 yards east of this structure.

Inside the newly renovated Depot, a new elevator was designed to provide accessibility. Original materials and design of reconstructed items were based upon archive drawings obtained from the Illinois Central Railroad in Chicago. Although the street in front of the building had been lowered since the 1920's, new access and a permanent stage for outdoor events was needed. The theme of the exterior is brick, with sliding doors, a railroad platform and bumper timbers skirting the building. The exterior slider doors were fully restored, but fixed in place to preserve the historical appearance.

BLUES ALLEY

HISTORIC DISTRICT & DEVELOPMENT



"Blues Alley" is the name for Clarksdale's Historic Blues District. With historic renovation completed for both the Delta Blues Museum and Clarksdale Station, Blues Alley now enters the second phase of its planned development to transform downtown Clarksdale to attract the increasing number of tourists in the region (particularly via Memphis and the 16-million annual tourists in nearby Tunica), and to foster a new range of educational and economic development initiatives for the community. The Delta Blues Museum is the cornerstone of this concept.

For a diagram of the Blues Alley, [CLICK HERE](#).



CLARKSDALE STATION

The newly renovated Illinois Central Railroad Passenger Depot — The Blues spread from here.



THE GREYHOUND BUS STATION

A stone's throw from the Railroad Depots, and soon to be refurbished. The blues spread from here too.



THE RAILROAD TRACKS

At the end of the line was Chicago, jobs, and a nightlife that was midwife for the blues.



JOHN LEE HOOKER LANE

The first street named after one of our Native Sons — want to guess who will be the next?



THE STAGE

Next to the Museum and the railroad tracks — the heart of the Birthplace — with room for 25,000!



OTHER COOL BLUES ALLEY SPOTS

Issaquena Avenue, Wade Walton's Barbershop, the Walk of Fame, the Tower and more!



OUR DEVELOPMENT — IN THREE STEPS

Where we are in our plan, and other business opportunities.



TOURISM — "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!"

Our growth is a solid business and cultural opportunity for the Birthplace and our Sponsors.

D.C. Blues Society

Ramblin' on My Mind

by Stuart Davis

*The following is a two-part article that appeared in the January 1998 (Part 1) and February 1998 (Part 2) issue of the **D.C. Blues Calendar**. Following his third trip to the Mississippi Delta, Blues Society member, Stuart Davis, shares with other Society members some ideas on how to visit the birthplace of the blues. All photos are copyrighted by Stuart. Anyone having comments or wishing additional information can contact Stuart at sdavis@madeira.org.*

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Clarksdale

No place on earth is more connected to the blues than the Mississippi Delta, that corner of Northwest Mississippi between Memphis and Vicksburg that was the home and musical incubator for most of the greats in blues history. Clarksdale, Mississippi is the epicenter of the blues creative explosion. Within a sixty mile radius of this small cotton-service city one can find the roots of bluesmen such as Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Son House, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson II, B.B. King, and a list that would fill this entire page. For a blues-lover, a trip to Clarksdale, a little more than an hour's drive south of Memphis, is a unique opportunity to walk this hallowed ground, to meet people who have connections to that legacy, and to listen to some excellent contemporary Mississippi blues musicians. Washington visitors should be prepared for one important bit of culture shock. People in the Delta love to talk and they always find time for it. They are curious about who you are and where you come from and they will share stories from their own lives, often for hours on end.



Stackhouse/Delta Record Mart
232 Sunflower Avenue
(601) 627-2209

Stackhouse records is owned by Living Blues founding editor Jim O'Neal and his wife Selina. It is the obligatory first stop on any trip to the Delta as the O'Neals are a fountain of information of the local blues scene. The O'Neals also run Rooster Records which emphasizes local Mississippi artists. Their ninety-minute cassette *Clarksdale, Mississippi: Coahoma The Blues* is an excellent introduction to the local music and travels from the traditional to contemporary soul-blues. The store has a collection of Mississippi-oriented CD's, some rare vinyl, back issues of *Living Blues*, and mojo hands of John the Conqueror root. Most useful to the blues traveler is O'Neal's *Delta Blues Map Kit* which he publishes for \$7.50. It is indispensable for anyone visiting this region. Call ahead and have them send you a copy.

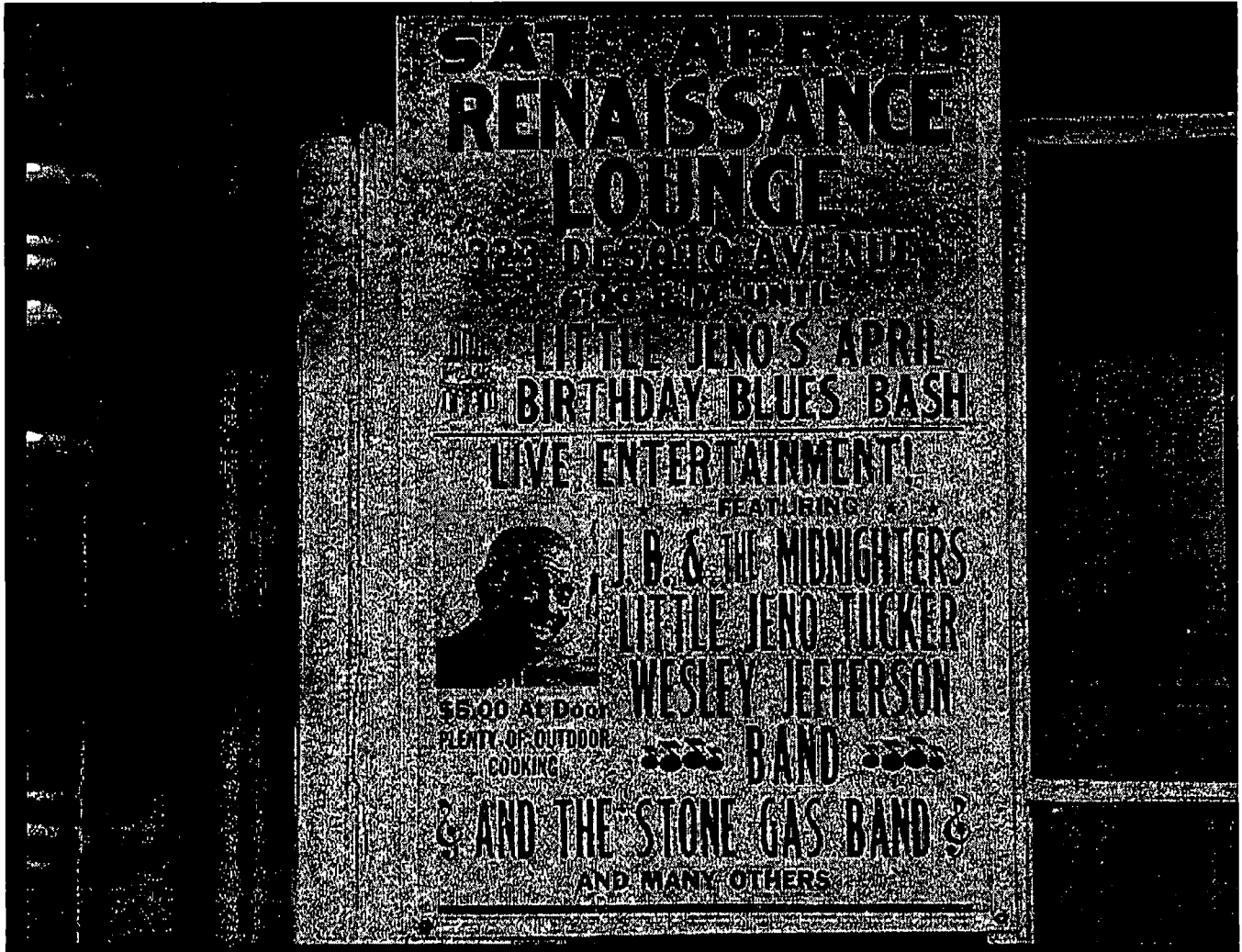
Delta Blues Museum
114 Delta Avenue
(601) 627-6820

Located in the old Carnegie Library in downtown Clarksdale, the Blues Museum is open 10-5, Monday through Friday, and 10-2 on Saturday. It documents the history of the Delta blues from its origins to the present. Among the items that will catch the attention of blues travelers are Muddy Waters in a life-size wax figure, the funerary sculpture of Son Thomas, the sign from the Three Forks store where Robert Johnson was allegedly poisoned, and a photo gallery of contemporary Mississippi blues musicians.

They also have an outstanding collection of books for sale on the blues and on the history and culture of

the Delta. Visitors can often catch a rehearsal of students from the Museum's Delta Blues Education Program, run by blues guitarist, Johnnie Billington. This program seeks to keep the blues alive by giving instruction to local at-risk youth. The Museum can also provide you with a complete list of Mississippi's annual blues festivals.

Jooks and Clubs



Saturday Night in Clarksdale

The most regular venue for music in Clarksdale is Blues Crossroads at 224 Sunflower; Tel: (601) 624-8261. Run by Evelyn Turner, Crossroads is a pleasant and friendly place that attracts a nice mix of locals and visitors, black and white. It has live music every Friday and Saturday night and often on Sunday and Monday as well. Most regular performers are Rooster recording artist, James "Super Chikan" Johnson, Little Geno Tucker, singer Josh Stuart, and Johnnie Billington, whose 1950's Chicago-style set often closes the evening. Regardless of who is formally on the bill, Crossroads is the kind of club where other musicians will drift in to take a turn on the bandstand. Frank Frost and Sam Carr play here also, as does Big Jack Johnson when he is back home.

Margaret's Blue Diamond Lounge, scene of the film *Jook Joint Saturday Night*, used to be Clarksdale's quintessential juke joint. But the Blue Diamond's roof caved in and Margaret left for Chicago, so blues travelers are forced to look in other directions. Traditional clubs like the Red Top Lounge (377 Yazoo), Red's (395 Sunflower), and the Rivermount (911 Sunflower) still have live bands from time-to-time, but

it is irregular and hard to predict. The Rivermount, however, is a great place to drop by for a beer and a chat with its owner Melville Tillis. Mr. Tillis is a musician who played with Ike Turner in his early days, taught in the Clarksdale public school system for thirty years, and had been running the Rivermount since the 1960's. A great conversationalist and a fountain of information on Clarksdale music and history, Mr. Tillis is also a major force behind the Sunflower River Gospel Festival which is held on the Sunday of the Sunflower River Blues Festival. The Blues Festival is held the first weekend in August (when better to truly appreciate the Delta!) in front of the old railroad depot. Headliners for 1997 were Little Milton and Clarksdale homeboy, Ike Turner. Mississippi musicians included Big Jack Johnson, Frank Frost and Sam Carr, Robert Walker, Lonnie Pitchford, and Wade Walton. Clarksdale has received a major grant to convert the depot (from which Muddy Waters and thousands of other Afro-Mississippians departed for Chicago) into a blues store and performing space.



Clarksdale's Elder Statesmen

Clarksdale and Washington have in common distinguished bluesmen-barbers. Clarksdale's Archie Edwards is Wade Walton, whose shop at 317 Issaquena is just across from where W.C. Handy lived in the early 1900's. Mr. Walton has been barbering and playing blues in Clarksdale since the 1940's. In the 1960's he made a fine recording for Kenneth Goldstein and the Bluesville label, *Shake 'Em on Down*. I was able to hear this now-rare LP at the Blues Archive in Oxford. It should be a prime candidate for re-issue on CD. Wade Walton's barber shop makes a fine place for some afternoon conversation -- and a good haircut.

Another Clarksdale legend is Early Wright who has been spinning the blues on WROX (AM 1450) since 1947 when he became one of the South's first black DJ's. Mr. Wright was managing the Four Star Gospel Quartet when he caught the eye of the owner of Clarksdale's fledgling radio station. Before accepting the job, he went to his pastor at the New Bethlehem Baptist Church to make certain that playing "devil's music" wouldn't endanger his status with the congregation. Since getting the green light fifty years ago, he has been going strong, as "The Soul Man" playing blues from 6-8, and as "Brother Wright", playing gospel from 8-10. At one time he hosted live musicians, including Sonny Boy Williamson II, Pinetop Perkins, Robert Nighthawk, and even Elvis. Now his live shows consist of Sunday morning gospel groups such as the Myles family (who recently performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.) These wonderful downhome programs with their mix of music and local ads are a window on what local radio sounded like in its early years. Mr. Wright welcomes visitors who show up for his weeknight programs at the studio at 317 Delta Avenue. Be prepared, however, for being put before the microphone.

Sunday Morning

Clarksdale is a great center for gospel music. On my recent visit I saw a gospel festival at the local community college which featured the national group The Mighty Clouds of Joy, as well as local groups such as the Myles Family and the Sensational Voices of Hope. The Rev. Willie Morganfield, cousin of Muddy Waters, is a noted preacher and musician at the Bell Grove Baptist Church, 831 Garfield Street. The Church of God in Christ on Fourth Street is also noted for its fine music. I have discovered that black churches in Mississippi are very welcoming to visitor; but proper dress and decorum are necessary to avoid the ugly tourist scene that has developed in many of Harlem's churches.

Come On In My Kitchen

Vegetarians or those watching their cholesterol will find Clarksdale a difficult place to find a satisfactory meal. Those seeking down home food are in for a treat. For breakfast and lunch, the Pink Barrel at 123

3rd St has soul food that is hard to top. Try their chicken livers in gravy. Boss Hog's at 1410 N. State St. (Highway 61) is tops for barbecue. The Ranchero (1907 N. State St.) is a bit more upscale and excellent for chicken and ribs, lunch and dinner. The Delta has a sizable Lebanese community and its cuisine is represented at Chamoun's Rest Haven (419 S. State St.). Try the kibbie and stuffed grape leaves. Also look for the reopening of Sarah's Kitchen on Sunflower Avenue, a few doors down from Stackhouse.

Clarksdale has a wide selection of unmemorable motels. There was talk a while back about a B&B for blues lovers but nothing has come of it yet. The Uptown Motor Inn at 305 E 2nd St. (601) 627-3251 is cheap and clean and within walking distance of Stackhouse Records, the Blues Museum, and Blues Crossroads. A bit more upscale is Day's Inn on Highway 61 (601) 624-4391. A Holiday Inn is under construction. More of a rooming house than an actual hotel is the Riverside Hotel at 615 Sunflower Avenue. Bessie Smith died there following her auto accident on Highway 61 when the building served as the city's black hospital. The Riverside--(601) 624-9163--does rent our room to visitors and competition for "the Bessie Smith room" can be fierce. I know a couple who had reserved the room but were bumped by New Orleans newlyweds who "just had to have it" for their wedding night. Mrs. Z.R. Hill ran the Riverside for decades until her death this April. Her son continues the business and the tradition of entertaining visitors with tales of the bluesmen who have stayed here.

My Home Is In the Delta

For the blues-lover few things are more satisfying than driving the back roads of the Delta at dusk with a Charley Patton or Robert Johnson tape coming over the car stereo. Flat and open, still heavily planted in cotton but with soybeans, rice, and corn playing a larger role in the region's economy, the Delta's horizon seems endless. Mechanization has long since driven the tenant farmers and the pickers from the fields, but one can still get the feel of the land that created America's most powerful music. A favorite drive used to be out Stovall Road to the site where Muddy Waters was living when he was discovered by Alan Lomax in 1941. The cabin has now been packed up by the House of Blues for a national tour. It will be back in Clarksdale in 2001. In the meantime the HOB is paying a sizable fee to the Sunflower River Blues Festival.

Two of my favorite drives are the Friars Point road and Old Highway 61 north of Lula. Friars Point is a small town that used to be the ferry landing to Arkansas. Hirsberg's Drugstore is one of the few businesses still operating and Robert Johnson was supposed to have played to Saturday crowds out front. The town stands in the shadow of the levee. A drive at dusk along the levee, Mississippi's Great Wall, with the cotton fields one side and the tangle of the Mississippi River lowlands on the other is like a Delta Skyline Drive. Or take any of the dirt roads that run over the levee. The land between the levee and the river teems with animals and contains one of the small remnants of wilderness in this part of the world.

To get to the Old Highway 61 of the 1930's, follow the modern 61 north to Lula, turn off and take the road to Tunica. This route passes through little hamlets, past old stores and abandoned cotton gins, and through swamps and prime agricultural land. No stretch of road is better at bringing the Mississippi of Robert Johnson back to life.

Southbound Train



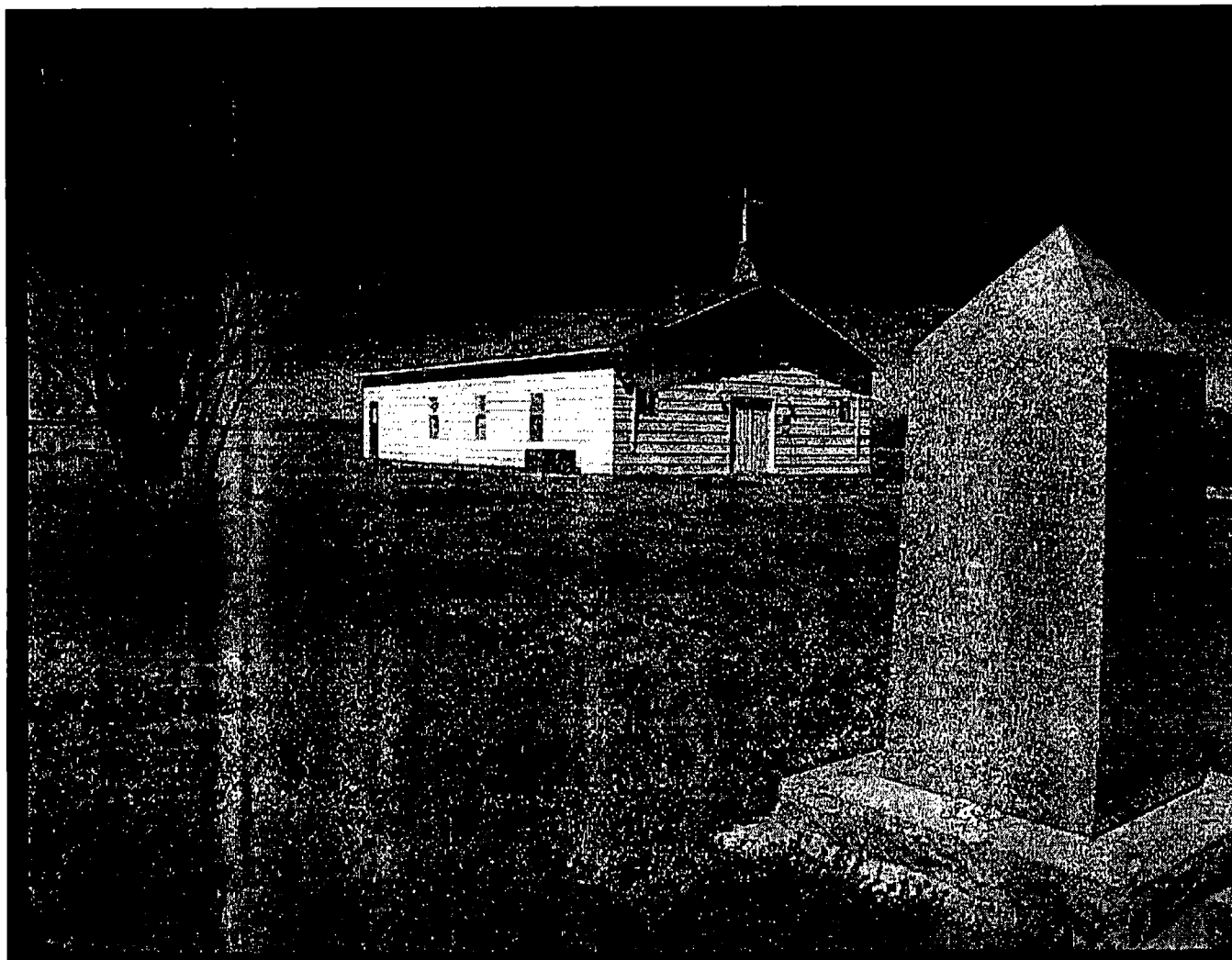
Sonny Boy Williamson II's Grave

It is fifteen miles south of Clarksdale to the small town of Tutwiler. There, in 1903, W.C. Handy was waiting for a train when he heard "the weirdest music I had ever heard." This encounter, which led to the first publication of blues music, is commemorated in a beautiful mural painted across from the location of the depot by local artist Cristen Craven Barnard. Nearby (directions on the mural) is the grave of Sonny Boy Williamson II. The site is a regular stop for blues pilgrims and harmonicas and spare change are often left behind. I contemplated the spot listening to Sonny Boy's *She Brought Life Back to the Dead* from his classic 1951 Trumpet session.

A few miles south of Tutwiler is Parchman State Penitentiary, the notorious Parchman Farm that served as the residence for bluesmen such as Bukka White and Son House and the inspiration for some of the greatest of all blues lyrics. It is possible to drive on the road which cuts through this vast prison complex that covers a large section of Sunflower County. But leave your weapons and cameras behind lest you become a resident yourself.

On Highway 8 between Ruleville and Cleveland lies Dockery Farms, home to Charley Patton and, according to Robert Palmer, possibly the birthplace of the blues. A large barn is painted with a sign that announces that the farm was founded by Will Dockery in 1895.

Fixin' To Die Blues



Robert Johnson's Grave

The blues traveler of a certain persuasion can spend many happy days scouring the Delta for the graves of his favorite bluesmen. Searching out the Robert Johnson legend is a journey of its own. There are two Robert Johnson tombstones: at Payne Chapel in Quito and at the Mt. Zion Church near Morgan City. Both are south of Itta Bena (birthplace of both B.B. King and Marion Barry) off Highway 7. There are more complete directions in the *Delta Blues Kit* which are helpful enough to get you there eventually, but confusing enough to make it an adventure. The Three Forks Store where Johnson was supposedly poisoned by a jealous husband is also nearby. To make the Johnson story even more confusing, John Hammond in his film *The Search for Robert Johnson*, proposes that Johnson's burial site is actually at another nearby church, Little Zion; and Jim O'Neal suggests yet another possibility.

Poor Charley Patton, who did everything he could to flee the cotton fields, finds himself in a grave at Holly Ridge, about fifteen miles west of the Johnson sites. He lies in the shadow of a huge cotton gin, surrounded by dozens of cotton rigs. The *Delta Blues Map Kit* can take the more obsessive blues fan to the graves of Memphis Minnie, Mississippi John Hurt, Son Thomas, Elmore James, Jack Owens, and Fred McDowell. In future years even more bluesmen will have proper memorials thanks to the efforts of the Mt. Zion fund.

Greenville

The largest and most elegant town in the Delta, Greenville is best known for the Percy family and

Hodding Carter's *Delta Democrat-Times*. But Greenville has a flourishing blues culture as well. Nelson Street is the center of blues activity, but it can also be a rough place. (A former student of mine was robbed at gunpoint on Nelson Street.) But that should not deter the determined blues traveler. I spent a glorious evening at Perry's Flowing Fountain at 816 Nelson. The origin of the name may be suggested by what happened inside the club during a spectacular Delta rain shower. I was attending a memorial concert for the late Booba Barnes. The testimonies suggested that he was a difficult person; but, as his one Rooster recording proves, he was an outstanding exponent of the Delta tradition. Greenville bluesman, Dave Thompson, put on a fine evening of music. At the other end of Nelson Street (502) is Doe's Eat Place, one of Mississippi's best known restaurants. While governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton used to come across the Greenville bridge to attack Doe's hubcap-sized steaks. Greenville puts on the Delta Blues Festival on the third Saturday in September.

King Biscuit Time



Helena Cultural Center

Helena, Arkansas, just across the Mississippi River bridge north of Clarksdale, was one of the great pre-war blues centers in the country. That legacy is continued by Sonny Payne in his King Biscuit Time program broadcast every Monday through Friday (when there is no Cardinals game) from 12:15-12:45 on KFFA (AM 1360). The show is broadcast from its remote studio at the Delta Cultural Center, a wonderful museum located in the old railway depot. Some argue that the music that became known as Chicago blues was actually created by the musicians who played in Helena's juke joints and levees and on

King Biscuit time. Sonny Payne's tenure with KFFA goes back to the early 1940's when he traveled with Sonny Boy Williamson and Robert Lockwood to grocery stores in the Arkansas hinterland peddling King Biscuit Flour and Sonny Boy Meal. The original King Biscuit wagon is still on display in front of the KFFA studios in the hills above Helena. Again, be warned that Sonny Payne likes to put his visitors on the air.

Live blues activity in Helena is somewhat spotty; but check at the Cultural Center, at the Sonny Boy Blues Society at 301 Cherry or at Bubba Sullivan's excellent Blues Corner record store at 105 Cherry. The King Biscuit Blues festival held on the second weekend of October is the biggest in the region and usually has a spectacular line-up. Information can be obtained from (501) 338-9144.

Oxford and the Hills

★ Oxford is the home of the University of Mississippi which is the publisher of *Living Blues* and the home of the Blues Archives. Located in Farley Hall, the archives has an extensive collection of blues recordings and publications. Archivist Ed Komara is very helpful in locating materials. Among their collection is B.B. King's record collection, Jim O'Neal's collection from the early years at *Living Blues*, and the collection of one of the country's premier folklorist, Kenneth Goldstein. I spent a very happy day at the archives pouring over their back files of *Living Blues* and listening to some of their rare recordings.

Blind Jim's on Oxford's beautiful square is the most regular venue for blues. Proud Larry's around the corner at 211 S. Lamar sometimes has national blues acts. (I saw Junior Wells and Rory Block in the same week.) Smitty's, across from Proud Larry's, has the best biscuits in Mississippi. Square Books next door is one of the truly great independent book stores in the country.



Junior Kimbrough With His Son, David

For the ultimate Mississippi juke joint experience, all blues travelers should go to Junior Kimbrough's. Located on a country road deep in the hills, Junior's can be reached by driving twenty-nine miles north from Oxford on Highway 7 to Holly Springs and ten miles west on Highway 4. Junior's is on the right. There is no sign, but on Sunday nights by about nine there should be a lot of cars along the road. Junior Kimbrough is one of the great exponents of his style of rough and traditional Mississippi blues. His current juke is a former church whose murals could provide a dissertation topic for a folklorist. One night I was there the line-up included Junior Kimbrough, R.L. Burnside, David Malone (now known as David Kimbrough), and the Ray Drew band from Oklahoma. What a night!



R.L. Burnside at Junior Kimbrough's

In nearby Holly Springs, Rust College professor and ethnomusicologist, Sylvester Oliver, produces the Northeast Mississippi Blues and Gospel Music Folk Festival, the state's most traditional festival, on the second Saturday of September.

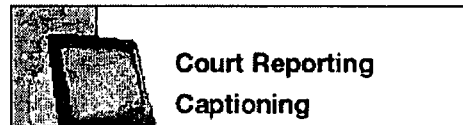
Memphis

Anyone visiting Clarksdale will probably also be visiting Memphis where, it is said, the Mississippi Delta begins in the lobby of the Peabody Hotel. Beale Street is, of course, still the main blues venue; but the street is bracing for the opening of a Hard Rock Cafe and a new Elvis restaurant. B.B.King's hosts the national acts; but the Black Diamond next door which is a my favorite listening room. The Center for Southern Folklore has traditional blues from Wednesday to Sunday and exhibitions on Memphis musical history. Although I have never been there, Dorothy's Lounge (formerly Green's) is supposed to be Memphis's answer to a Mississippi juke joint. At 2090 S. Person St (not a great area) Saturday nights with the Daddy Mack Blues Band and Wilroy Sanders are supposed to be memorable. After your visit to Graceland, don't miss a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum. Built in the old Lorraine Motel, the museum takes the visitor through the civil rights era until it ends at the balcony where Dr. King was assassinated.

So blues lovers, get yourself to the Delta where the blues comes seeping up from the ground. And while you are preparing for that trip, let me suggest two books that will enlighten your journey: Robert Palmer's *Deep Blues*, an outstanding account of the development of the Delta Blues and James Cobb's *The Most Southern Place on Earth*, a history of the Mississippi Delta.



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Posted at 08:36 p.m. PDT; Sunday, July 5, 1998



Travel

Exploring the musical heartland in the Mississippi Delta

by David Standish
Universal Press Syndicate

It's a big, plain, hand-painted sign on the side of an old barn. The words on the ramshackle building, on a country road a few miles east of U.S. 61 outside Cleveland, Miss., say:

"Dockery Farms, Est. 1895." This was the source, the cotton plantation where, in the early part of the 20th century, Charlie Patton, the first great delta bluesman, worked and lived - and influenced generations of blues musicians.

Robert Johnson, a key figure in early delta blues, learned from him. His music also inspired Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and others who moved to Chicago in the 1940s, where their music became the "electric urban blues" that were the headwaters of rock 'n' roll.

Without them, Elvis would never have become The King, and Mick and the other Rolling Stones wouldn't be counting their money in villas on Mallorca today.

A gravel road not far from the Dockery barn cuts straight across empty fields for nearly a mile before ending at a tree line. The dark ground was newly plowed in this spring season.

Until the machinery that displaced them started coming along after World War II, this road had been lined with the wooden shacks of more than 2,500 black farm laborers and their families.

Ghosts now. They lived here, working some of the richest earth on earth left by eons of Aprils when the Mississippi River overflowed its banks and its water spread for miles, leaving behind more topsoil each time it withdrew.

That's what the Mississippi Delta is. Not the fan of land that accumulates at the mouth of the river when it reaches the Gulf

of Mexico. Rather, it is the vast flood plain that stretches nearly 200 miles from Memphis to Vicksburg and extends as much as 30 miles on either side of the river's course.

Until the Civil War it had been soggy ground covered with hardwoods. But in the years that followed, nearly all the trees were cut and levees were built to control the river.

By the time Charlie Patton came to work at Dockery, the delta was becoming as it is now, farmland as far as the eye can see. There is a stark beauty to the unrelentingly flat landscape, which has nurtured the blues as lovingly as it has cotton and other crops.

I began my pilgrimage in Memphis. My first stop, since it's 10 minutes from the airport, and somehow as inevitable as death and Disney World, was Graceland.

Elvis' famous mansion seemed unexpectedly dinky as mansions go, but I was glad I took the tour. The increasingly garish - and increasingly large - jumpsuits on display in the memorabilia room adjoining the mansion attest to his long, sad fall, but for a while there Elvis was as cool as it got.

Soon, I was out in the country, beginning the stretch of Highway 61 known as "Blues Alley."

Many of the fields were a bright yellow sea of wildflowers. The utility poles were the skinny, slightly crooked, old-fashioned kind, the power lines drooping to the horizon. Everywhere were freshly plowed fields, furrows flooded with spring rain.

Probably the single thing I enjoyed most about the whole trip was taking these semi-lost excursions off Highway 61 into the countryside.

On back roads so back that some have no number, the nostalgic faded signs, abandoned farmhouses, outbuildings overgrown with kudzu vines and the fresh clean air are peaceful and redolent of more tranquil times.

Tunica, three miles from U.S. 61, looked to be fast asleep, its main square practically empty. Most of the storefronts - relics of an earlier and more prosperous time - were closed, so I drove to the river a few miles west.

Beyond the levee, along the riverbank, was a fishing camp of the truly down-home variety. More than a few of the riverside "cabins" were old aluminum mobile homes, on stilts to protect them from flooding.

As I got out to stretch my legs and admire the sun going down over the river, I felt happily far from home.

The next morning I explored Clarksdale, 40 miles south on U.S. 61. With 15,000 people, Clarksdale is one of the bigger

cities in the delta. And it's ground zero when it comes to delta blues. Even former Led Zep rockers Jimmy Page and Robert Plant know it - their most recent semi-reunion album is titled "Walkin' to Clarksdale."

The roster of important blues artists that came from around here includes Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker, Son House, Ike Turner and many others.

The sharecropper's cabin on the outskirts of town where Muddy spent his childhood is, after a fashion, still standing - usually, that is. While I was there last spring, it was on tour, being taken around to various House of Blues clubs for display, though it's back home now.

The most notorious spot is the intersection of Highways 61 and 49. Other places in the delta make the claim, but this is generally accepted as the crossroads where Robert Johnson is said to have made his unholy deal with the devil.

One dark midnight, the legend goes, he sold his soul here in exchange for playing guitar and singing the blues like a tormented angel.

It's the one in his "Crossroads," arguably the quintessential delta blues of the '30s, updated with a vengeance by the band Cream into one of the most powerful rock songs of all time.

Today the intersection, for a non-blues fan, is unremarkable or worse. It's not a spooky rural meeting place of gravel tracks, but rather a face-off of a Fuel Mart, a Church's Chicken, the Delta Donut Shop and Abe's Barbecue. Still, for me at least, it was kind of a thrill to see after all these years of listening to the song.

So was the green rusty metal "Three Forks Store" sign hanging on a wall of the Delta Blues Museum, housed in part of the Carnegie Public Library downtown. This is the actual sign from the juke joint where Johnson died in 1938 at the age of 27. He was poisoned - according to most accounts - by drinking from a bottle of whiskey laced with strychnine, generously offered him by the owner for flagrantly fooling around with his woman, the final payoff of Johnson's deal with the devil.

'King Biscuit'

Even though it involved a small detour, I decided I couldn't miss Helena, Ark., about 25 miles northwest, just across the Mississippi River. The trip seemed worthwhile because Helena is a charming old river town that was known as "Little Chicago" during its pre-railroad heyday.

Helena's connection to delta blues is strong. It was here that the "King Biscuit Flour Hour" radio show began in 1941, broadcasting the blues to a large rural black audience. The show is still on the air, as is "Sunshine" Sonny Payne, the disc

jockey who started it.

Today he's a gnome-like senior citizen, his love of the music undiminished. Two years ago he won a Peabody Award. He does his show from the Delta Cultural Center, a former rail depot right by the levee, which has a long mural of local music greats painted on it, starting with Payne himself, tipping a bowler hat.

And the big field in front of the center is home every September to the King Biscuit Blues Festival, one of the best.

From Helena I headed back to Route 61 and south to Cleveland, 50 miles down the road.

The next day was Saturday, and it rained pitchforks. But I didn't mind because I'd lucked out.

There was an all-day, into-the-night indoor blues festival at the Airport Grocery, on the road toward Rosedale. The former grocery store is now a funky bar/restaurant with a stage at one end.

The decor suggests a museum, with old metal Texaco Skychief, Drink Barque's and Dr Pepper signs on the walls, dangling lights with rusty gray tin buckets as shades, tables covered with green oilcloth.

I spent most of the day there. The Grocery has a good-time family atmosphere, and the food is as authentic as the music. A heaping platter of boiled crawfish (known as mudbugs in these parts) and an oyster po' boy was my choice for lunch. When I wasn't eating, or sitting back soaking up the music, I struck up easy conversations with other blues fans.

A bluesman's end

The next morning - sunny, with soft clouds and a mild breeze - I went in search of bluesman Robert Johnson's grave in Morgan City, 30 miles southeast of Cleveland.

Morgan City must have been named in a fit of optimism. It's just a blip on a blue highway, little more than a cotton gin, a grocery store and a small clump of houses. I had to ask directions at the grocery for the Mount Zion churchyard.

On a side lane a mile past town, the church seemed nearly forgotten. The little white church, hardly bigger than a double garage, was closed tight on this Sunday morning, nothing but farm fields in every direction.

But I found the gray granite grave marker and stood looking at it for a while, the quote on it from one of his songs come true: "You may bury my body down by the highway side, so my evil old spirit can get a Greyhound bus and ride."

It seemed fitting that Johnson, so mysterious and elusive

during his short life, had come to rest in this out-of-the-way place.

More information

For information on travel in Mississippi, contact the Division of Tourism Development, P.O. Box 1705, Ocean Springs, Miss. 39566. Phone 800-927-6378.

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David Standish is the author of "Playboy's Illustrated History of Jazz & Rock."



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Agriculture

Coahoma County encompasses 357,760 acres or 559 square miles of land with agricultural enterprises utilizing approximately 76.5% of the land area. Principal crops of the County - cotton, rice, soybeans, sorghum, and wheat, comprised 315,000 planted acres in 1994, and their production was valued at \$127.7 million. Peanuts are also grown in Coahoma County and the County is the leading producer of spanish peanuts in Mississippi. In 1994 approximately 4,200 acres were planted with spanish peanuts and 3,700 tons produced. The gross revenue to farmers was \$2.7 million. The only peanut elevator in Mississippi, Jonestown Peanut Elevator, is located in Coahoma County. Cattle are raised in the County on a minor scale and contribute to the area's general economy.

Aviation

Clarksdale's Fletcher Field Airport is a general purpose aviation facility with a 5,400 foot asphalt, lighted runway. Charter service is available, as well as maintenance, fuel and flight instruction by the FBO.

Banking

Banks and branch banks are located in the majority of Coahoma County communities. First National Bank has a main office and two branches located in Clarksdale and in Quitman County. Union Planters Bank is a branch of Union Planters Bank of Tennessee and has a main office and two branches in Clarksdale and one in Friars Point, Jonestown, and Lula. Deposit Guaranty Bank is a branch of Deposit Guaranty Bank of Jackson, Ms, and has offices in Clarksdale, Jonestown, and Lula.

Churches

There are 48 Protestant churches, 2 Catholic churches and 1 synagogue.

City Government

Clarksdale operates under a commission form of government in which 4 commissioners and a mayor are elected. The other five incorporated communities in Coahoma County have a mayor-alderman elected from wards and the mayor elected at large.

County Government

Coahoma County is governed by a five-man Board of Supervisors. The supervisors are publicly elected by district but designate their own president.

Climate

The average normal temperature in January is 41 degrees and in July 83 degrees. Total normal rainfall is 51.19 inches. Estimated

Highways

U. S. Highway 61 runs in a north-south direction through Coahoma County connecting it with Memphis, Tennessee to the north and Baton Rouge, Louisiana to the south. U. S. Highway 49, also a major southern artery, connects Coahoma County to Jackson, Mississippi (the state capital) and the Gulf Coast area. State Highways 1, 6, 316, and 322 traverse the County and connect with paved roads offering quick and convenient access to all points in the area.

Library

The Carnegie Public Library/Delta Blues Museum at 114 Delta Avenue serves the Coahoma County area with a collection of 90,000 books, records, periodicals, and other library material. The library is the official Visitors Center of Clarksdale and Coahoma County.

Manufacturing

Coahoma County is considered a prime industrial location due to its geographic, economic and political advantages. The six incorporated communities in Coahoma County are: Clarksdale, Coahoma, Friars Point, Jonestown, Lyon, and Lula. In 1984 Coahoma County gained status as an Enterprise Zone. Coahoma County has been certified as a Mississippi Key Community. Manufacturing plants in Coahoma County employ over 1,730 persons. Two industrial parks contain available sites in the county. The Sunbelt Industrial Park and the Pharr Industrial Park consist of over 400 acres.

Medical Facilities

Northwest Mississippi Reginal Medical Center serves the Coahoma County area with a 194-bed capacity. There are 3 nursing homes with a total 306-bed capacity. The Coahoma County Health Department in Clarksdale provides personal and environmental services to all residents of the County.

Motels

There are eight motels in Coahoma County with a total of 552 rooms.

Population

The official 1990 census estimate gave the city population as 19,717 and the county population as 31,665.

Recreation

Hunting and fishing on DeSoto Lake, Stovall Old Road and Moon Lake are within 30 minutes of Clarksdale. Numerous ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts and parks are accessible to all residents of the county. Among other recreational facilities, there is a movie theater, one skating rink, a 16-lane bowling alley, and an auditorium. Two private clubs are

average annual snowfall is 2 - 3 inches. Prevailing wind is southwest. The average elevation is 175 feet.

Education

Coahoma County has two school districts: Coahoma County and Clarksdale Municipal Separate School Districts. Both districts provide elementary and secondary levels of education, and all schools are accredited by the Mississippi Commission of School Accreditation. Seven private and parochial schools serve Coahoma County, with all seven schools located in the Clarksdale area. Each school is accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Education and offers standard, traditional studies. Six of the schools are religiously affiliated and provide elementary levels of education. The seventh, Lee Academy, is non-denominational and college preparatory. Coahoma Community College, a 2-year community college, provides not only academic courses, but also industrial training, vocational-technical courses and adult education.

located in Coahoma County. The Clarksdale Country Club is located on Friars point Road with an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse. The Coahoma County Country Club is located on U. S. Highway 61 and operates a 9-hole golf course and clubhouse.

Water

Four major slack-water ports, within a 100-mile radius, are accessible to Coahoma County: Memphis, Helena, Greenville, and Rosedale. All four ports operate barge, warehouse, and harbor facilities and maintain a minimum nine-foot channel depth. Ports at Greenville and Memphis are U. S. Customs Ports of Entry. A privately-owned port facility is located in Friars Point and provides tug, fleet, crane and off-loading services to the public.

Additional Information

Publications, information and demographic data relating to Clarksdale, Coahoma County, and other towns in the country can be obtained by calling the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce at 601-627-7337. Technical information on industrial sites and incentives can be obtained by contacting the Industrial Foundation at the same number or by writing to P.O. Box 160 Clarksdale, Ms 38614.

Thanks to Richard Crisman for help with these pages. <http://www2.clarksdale.com/thedad>

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 39 STORIES

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Guitar Player

November, 1997

SECTION: No. 11, Vol. 31; Pg. 41; ISSN: 0017-5463

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LENGTH: 1631 words

HEADLINE: Why like Ike? guitarist Ike Turner; includes related article on
Turner's technique; Interview

BYLINE: Rubin, Dave

BODY:

His postwar electric blues roots run deep through the Delta, and his influence as a musician, band-leader, talent scout and producer is unparalleled. His energy, intelligence and ability led him to remarkable accomplishments during the '50s, yet Ike Turner's name will be forever linked with that of his ex-wife, Tina Turner. It's unfortunate that the startlingly original music that he ripped from his Fender Stratocaster has been overshadowed by his tempestuous relationship with Tina.

Izear Luster Turner was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, on November 5, 1931. In high school he organized a 32-piece orchestra with some friends who would go on to become the Kings of Rhythm. This seminal blues combo recorded the landmark "Rocket 88" in Memphis in 1951. Though owing a debt to Jimmy Liggins's earlier "Cadillac Boogie," the raw, distorted electric guitar of Willie Kizart and the rocking energy of Ike's pumping piano have led some historians to hail this track as the first rock and roll record. The release brought Ike the opportunity to become a producer and field scout -- first for Sam Phillips of Sun Records, and then the Bihari brothers of Modern/RPM Records. Howlin' Wolf, Little Milton, Roscoe Gordon, Junior Parker, Johnny Ace and B.B. King were just a few of the legendary acts who came under Ike's tutelage.

In 1955 Ike relocated to St. Louis for what would prove to be the pivotal point in his life and career. Meeting Tina (born Annie Mae Bullock) in 1956, he spent the next several years developing her obvious potential while still hustling in the music business, including sessions for Cobra Records in Chicago with Otis Rush (that's Ike's chilling solo on "Double Trouble"). In 1960, Ike and Tina Turner scored with the Top 40 hit "A Fool in Love," followed by "It's Gonna Work Out Fine" and "Poor Fool." In 1966, Phil Spector produced their "River Deep, Mountain High" single. Ike and Tina recorded ferocious, stripped-down blues for Blue Thumb during the late '60s -- some featuring Albert Collins leads -- and scaled the charts again during their early-'70s "Proud Mary" era. Their 22-year marriage ended in 1976.

Ike's career stalled and then hit bottom. Despite his troubles, which involved drugs and a jail term, he's now poised to begin another chapter. Ike's wife Jeanette sings with him on his self-produced cassette Without Love I Have Nothing [C-YA Records, San Marcos, CA 92069], which spotlights Ike's piano and razor-sharp guitar. He's currently touring with Joe Louis Walker, as well as with the new Ike Turner Revue. I would like to thank Anthony Roger and Dick Shurman for their help with setting up this interview.

Growing up in Clarksdale, what blues musicians did you hear?

Robert Nighthawk and the Sonny Boy Williamson [Rice Miller] Band with Pinetop Perkins on piano and Joe Willie Wilkins on guitar. There were many others, but, oh, man, that was a long time ago!

What attracted you to your first instrument?

Seeing Pinetop play piano made me want to play. I knew pianos existed, but I had never seen anyone play in person until Pinetop. My friend and I were coming home from school one day. On our way to his house -- what we called "over town," on Yazoo Street -- we heard this band playing. We looked through this window and saw this cat playing piano, man, and it just fascinated me to death. Now, this was before the police broke his hand, and he was so fast on that piano with boogie-woogie and stuff So I went home and told my mother about it, and she told me if I be promoted to the third grade, she would get me a piano.

And did you get promoted?

Yeah! With flying colors! She had the piano waiting for me when I got home. Then she would give me a dollar -- that's all it was in those days -- to go take music lessons. But it was always the same old crap [sings major arpeggio]. It was boring to me because I wanted to play what I heard across the street! Anyway, we kept passing by the joint where Pinetop was playing on our way home from school, and finally he noticed us and let us come in. He started showing me a little bit [sings boogie-woogie base line], and then how to double it. Then I stopped going to my lessons and took the dollar to go to the pool hall!

When did you get your first guitar?

I had been having troubles with my guitar players, so I went to Memphis and bought a new Fender Stratocaster [circa 1954].

You just went straight to the electric?

Yeah!

You had a really vigorous approach with the whammy bar

Yeah. And kids today think that the way I use the whammy bar is the most fascinating thing in the world. But, see, that's what I thought it was for! I didn't know you were supposed to use it like a tremolo. People always ask me when and why I started playing that way, and I tell them I always did like that because I thought that was the way to do it. I am still not that sure today that it is not the way it is meant to be played. [Laughs.] When they made the next Fender with a tremolo on it [the Jazzmaster], it didn't make that sound like the

Stratocaster. I bought one, but I never used it.

After you got the Strat how did you learn to play?

Actually, the first guitar I touched belonged to a blind man I used to lead around Clarksdale when I delivered papers. His name was Mr. Brown, and he had an old guitar with just the top three strings on it. He would be picking while I did my paper route. I held that guitar, but I couldn't play anything.

Back in those days when I got the Strat, Roy Milton and Joe Liggins were famous. Milton had a guitar player [Johnny Rogers] who played this song called "Junior Jives." It was like a fast boogie, and I really wanted to learn that, man. I think that was about the first thing I started learning on the guitar. And then I saw Gatemouth Brown play, and I said I will never play guitar like that. [Laughs.]

Nobody else will, either

Let me tell you something -- that guy is the baddest. You see people run up and down the neck of the guitar with speed, but that old man can play. As far as coming from the heart and not from the head, Gatemouth Brown is the baddest guitar player there is. He plays with that darn pipe up onstage, and man, he will run you through the wall listening to him. He is super bad!

Those young kids in his band have trouble keeping up with him.

Yeah, yeah. He used to do "Okie Dokie Stomp," man, and that was the second or third thing I learned on the guitar.

You started with the hard stuff.

Yeah, well, that's the way I started. After I got "Okie Dokie Stomp," everybody used to like to see me do it, and in those days I would jump up in the air and do backwards flips with the guitar. But I didn't do it that much, because I figured if I started traveling across the country and people see me do that, they will expect it all the time. If I don't do it, then they'll be mad.

Is it true that you used to switch from piano to guitar mid-song while recording at Sun Studios with the Kings of Rhythm?

Yes, that's true. I did whatever I had to do to make the thing work. You know, I did so many different things in those days, I don't remember it all. I remember playing with Otis Rush or Buddy Guy [at Cobra], but I didn't know I was supposed to remember all that.

Do you remember what equipment was being used back then?

I think Robert Nighthawk used Gibsons, but once we started with Fender, that was it. We were so popular that once people saw what we were using, they wanted it too. I'll tell you one trick we used to do. Remember those tremolo and re-verb units that sat on top of the amps? We would turn them upside down and they would sound like a Leslie.

Can you tell us about when Jimi Hendrix played with you?

I can't remember the year [probably 1965], but I met little Richard in St. Louis. After Richard left, his guitar player, name of Jimi, showed up, and I put him in my band. But I had to fire him. He had all these pedals sitting on the floor. When it came time for him to solo, by the time he got the guitar to stop squealing, the solo would be gone. When I met him again in L.A. after he got to be a big star, he reminded me of when he was in my band. He said that what he had been doing back then wasn't that bad, but look at him now. I was proud for him, because he had chicks climbing the walls.

What have you been doing recently besides the recording?

I have been doing dates with Joe Louis Walker. He keeps telling me that the old stuff I did was great So I have been playing it, like "Rocket 88" and "How Many More Years," and people really like it.

Do you like playing it again?

Now I do, mainly because of Joe Louis. At first I was trying to play it on the piano, and I was playing it too fast, instead of putting it in the groove that I recorded it in. Joe told me, "Hey, man, you need to slow it down." I did, and now it's gotten so that I really, really like it.

When I first started back in after that drug thing, I thought I had to get back into what's happening now, and you lose yourself. But now I'm back to myself. I was looking for what I already got

What do you think of blues guitar players today?

I hear people playing the blues, and I don't mean this in the wrong way, but all I hear is B.B. and Albert King. You know, with a lot of guitar players, it's like, "This is the blues sound." Well, if that's it, then I don't know how to play the blues. [Laughs.]

You don't sound like B.B. or anyone else.

I know, but that's what got me to feeling inferior about my guitar playing.

You shouldn't because what you have is original

Today it's different. What I was doing and what I do -- "This is the shit," pardon the expression. [Laughs.]

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LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 12 STORIES

Copyright 1994 Newspaper Publishing PLC
The Independent (London)

December 10, 1994, Saturday

SECTION: INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE; Page 26

LENGTH: 1561 words

HEADLINE: BLUESVILLE, USA; There may be a blues revival, but in Clarksdale, it's business as usual. For here, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, men like Frank Frost (pictured below) have kept it alive.

BYLINE: RICHARD WILLIAMS

BODY:

Once upon a time, the town of Clarksdale had a dentist who specialised in heart-shaped gold crowns with a diamond inset. 'You didn't buy your girlfriend a gold ring in those days,' a blues guitarist called Greasy Simmons once said. 'You bought her a gold tooth, whether she needed it or not.'

That was 50 years ago, when the blues was the popular music of the Mississippi Delta's black cotton-pickers. Nowadays Clarksdale has its gangs and its crack dens, mostly on the south side of 4th Street, which still delineates the town's ancient racial divide. But it still has something else - Lonnie Pitchford twanging his home-made one-string guitar on a street corner, perhaps, against the slapping of dominoes from inside a bar, or David Porter serenading his favourite pig with the two strings remaining on his store-bought instrument - that makes it the epicentre of the blues.

Once declared dead, the blues has managed to outlive its heyday. Against all odds, the music that provided the deepest, strongest root of the post-War pop music explosion was not, as its chroniclers once feared, killed off by the successive assaults of soul, disco, house music or hip-hop. If it was rendered obsolete in the Sixties and Seventies, when young blacks found their aspirations more accurately reflected in the upbeat sophistication of the Supremes or Shalamar than in the dark poetry of the blues, the damage turned out to be limited and transient.

Examine the racks of any decent record shop anywhere in the world. Turn on the television. Walk into a cinema ten minutes before the main feature and watch the ads. Pick up a glossy magazine. The message is simple: the blues sells. It sells everything from liquor to life assurance. Why does it sell? Because it represents authenticity, integrity, nonconformity, a realistic attitude to a hard and troubled world. Around the world, the blues may never have been healthier.

In Clarksdale, where Highway 61 crosses Highway 49, the blues is not big business, not on the agenda of the local chamber of commerce. Yet, as it does elsewhere in the southern states, the idiom survives in men like Porter and Pitchford, in surroundings - captured here in Gnther Menn's photographs - different only in detail (the cars, the fly-posters) from the scenes that must

The Independent (London), December 10, 1994

have greeted pioneering ethno-musicologists like Alan Lomax and John Work when they journeyed south in the late-Forties, searching for such near-mythical figures as Robert Johnson and Charley Patton, making recordings for the Library of Congress using primitive portable equipment. In upper Mississippi, Clarksdale was their base.

Greasy Simmons's little story about the dentist evokes the sort of picturesque image beloved of Covent Garden advertising agencies, whose art directors have turned the sights and sounds into sentimental clichés: the blunt-nosed pick-up truck raising dust on a dirt road, the fat harmonica-play

er rocking on the front porch, the snuffling pigs and skinny dogs in the yard, the high whine of a bottleneck stroking the steel string of a cheap guitar. The true measure of the blues' strength is its ability to ride out such waves of fashion with its essence undiluted.

At one time or another in the past 80 years, probably every significant Delta bluesman has trodden the sidewalks of 4th Street. Greasy himself was one of scores of musicians who were born or spent formative years in Clarksdale. Many of them became famous far beyond Coahoma County, taking Highway 61 through Memphis and St Louis all the way to Chicago. Greasy tried it, before giving up the life of an itinerant musician for a steady career as a public housing administrator. The great Muddy Waters, born down the river in Rolling Fork, was raised by his grandmother three or four miles from Clarksdale, on Stovall's plantation, where as a youth he brewed moonshine whiskey and played in a juke joint on Saturday nights, with no thought of European concert halls.

"The people lived scattered way apart," Muddy told the musicologist Robert Palmer about pre-War life on the plantation. "Our little house was way back in the country. We had one house close to us, and then the next one would've been a mile. If you got sick, you could holler and wouldn't nobody hear you. We had our own horses, mules, cows, goats and chickens, and I watered 'em from the time I was a kid. Had to pump the water, and that pump would put blisters in my hand. Even for one cow, you gotta pump a lot of water. She'd take two draws out of one of those big tubs, swallow twice, and that'd be it."

Muddy, born McKinley Morganfield and rechristened in infancy after his fondness for playing in the farmyard mud, took against the harsh plantation life. Lured by the call of older men such as Charley Patton and Son House, he learned the "French harp" - the harmonica - and exchanged the blisters from pumping for callouses raised on his fingers by the strings on his first guitar, a \$ 2.50 purchase from the Sears-Roebuck catalogue. Up the river to Chicago he went, leaving Clarksdale behind as he matured into the first great figurehead of the electric blues, a presence in his world as potentially symbolic as that of Louis Armstrong in jazz.

You could take the boy out of Clarksdale, but you couldn't take Clarksdale out of the boy. Muddy Waters may have plugged his new guitar into the Chicago mains, but his music held on to the lonesome sound of the Delta country. Standing tall, his huge head topped by a wave of processed hair, his voice harsh and gaunt against the urgent clatter of his marvellous band, he never ceased to embody the voodoo-driven mythology of the rural blues. He was the Hoochie Coochie Man, the seventh son of a seventh son, the one who'd got his mojo working. For decades, Muddy Waters was the blues. Now his status has passed to

The Independent (London), December 10, 1994

one of the last great survivors of the Delta diaspora: John Lee Hooker, a real native of Clarksdale.

Born just outside the town in the late summer of 1917, Hooker grew up on William Moore's farm, where his parents were sharecroppers; one of 11 children, he sang in church on Sundays and made his first instrumental music by twanging an inner tube nailed to a barn door. Sharecropping was the continuation of slavery by others means: a system of renting cotton-growing land and charging for seeds and implements by such rates as to ensure that the tenants could do no more than eke out a subsistence living, and were rarely able to get out of debt.

Hooker, who was 31 years old before he made his first record and became a professional musician, is the most 'African' of surviving bluesmen. His menacing whisper and a unique style of guitar playing - blending sudden spasms of violence with great complexity of phrasing - seem to have little to do with Western culture. He pays scant attention to the niceties of the 12-bar structure, which can make life interesting for his accompanists. Like Muddy, he escaped up Highway 61, spending time in Memphis and Cincinnati before settling down in Detroit in the early Forties. 'Boogie Chillen' became a big hit among black record-buyers across America in the late Forties, but even that sort of fame was circumscribed by the nature of the market. Hooker found away of improving his earnings by recording for a variety of different companies under various aliases: he was Johnny Lee, Delta John, Boogie Man, Johnny Williams, Texas Slim and Birmingham Sam. In the Sixties he was worshipped by a generation of British musicians: Eric Burdon, Van Morrison, Steve Winwood. On tour in English dance-halls early in that decade, waiting to get up and sing songs of violence and seduction like 'Boom Boom' and 'Dimples', he would sit quietly while schoolboys clubbed together to buy him a bottle of Scotch and the chance to ask about life on the other side of the tracks.

Now, at last, he is a rich man. A winner of platinum discs and Grammy awards, a fixture on the international concert circuit, the owner of a big house in California, John Lee Hooker is the apex of an expanding pyramid: beneath him are modern bluesmen like the gifted singer-guitarist Robert Cray, older but still vigorous veterans of the British blues boom such as Eric Clapton (whose new CD From the Cradle is an all-blues collection). Related phenomena include the US Mail's new stamp depicting Robert Johnson (his cigarette airbrushed away by the PC police) and the fat harmonica-player crashing through the front porch floorboards in the Heineken beer commercial.

Meanwhile, back in Clarksdale, the blues remains where it always was: in the Blue Diamond Bar and Smitty's Red Top Lounge, on the streetcorners, in David Porter's farmyard. And, of course, just beyond the city limits, where two dirt roads intersect and in the midnight hour, the ghost of Robert Johnson will be singing the blues 'til Judgement Day come. And did those feet? Every major bluesman has trodden 4th Street in Clarksdale, the epicentre of the Mississippi Delta blues. We're a garage band: the first practice for a new electric blues line-up in Clarksdale (left); Big Jack Johnson (above) with his ukelele; and (below) the audience at the Blue Diamond Bar Clarksdale brothers: John Lee Hooker (above), now rich in his old age, and Lonnie Pitchford (right), still playing on 4th Street

The Independent (London), December 10, 1994

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FOCUS - 3 OF 4 STORIES

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HEADLINE: SOUTHERN LEADERS CAST EYES ABROAD

BYLINE: By GEORGE VOLSKY, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: MIAMI; Sept. 7

BODY:

Southern governors will be focusing their attention on doing business with foreign countries at their annual meeting, which begins here Sunday.

'The nation is on the verge of entering a global economy where doing business in Asia or in Latin America will be as common as doing business in the South,' Gov. Bob Graham of Florida, chairman of the Southern Governors Association, said this week. 'We in the South recognize the tremendous indications this change will have in our everyday lives.'

International ties as a regional policy matter is regarded as a new concept for most states in the South. 'But the idea has been enthusiastically received by all governors,' Marta V. Goldsmith, deputy director of the Southern Governors Association, said in a recent telephone interview. 'Each Governor can identify with internationalism, seeing the impact of world events on their states. Today all our Governors are knowledgeable in foreign affairs, something that only a few would be interested in a decade ago.'

The theme of the three-day governors' meeting will be 'The South Going Global - The Internationalization of the South.'

Governors Gaining Attention

A more global outlook by the states could have significant impact on the national scene, said Charles J. Zwick, chairman of the board of the Southeast Banking Corporation of Miami, one of the South's largest banks.

Mr. Zwick, who was director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Johnson and who has worked as an adviser in preparing the governors' meeting, said: 'Our politicians tend to view foreign issues in terms of the East-West competition, and traditionally state governors have had little or no say in these matters. Now the governors might be listened to with more attention before foreign affairs decisions that might adversely affect their region or states are made.'

Over the last two years, Southern governors have begun to travel abroad regularly to promote their states, their products and the advantages of

investments there.

Later this month Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas plans to visit the Far East, where he will soon open a state promotion office. Governor Graham interrupted a promotion trip to South American to return last week when Hurricane Elena threatened Florida.

Public Slowly Changing View

Although the importance of foreign trade and tourism, as well as political understanding, has been accepted by elected officials in the South over the last several years it is only beginning to be accepted by the general public, according to those interviewed.

An aide to Governor Clinton said: "A few years ago to tell a farmer in Arkansas to go to China was like telling him to go to the moon. But now we are selling soybeans and rice to the Republic of China."

Governor Clinton, whose state already has a promotion office in Brussels, said: "Traditional Southern labor-intensive industries like textiles, lumber and apparel have experienced the toughest competition from foreign exports. Because this trend will probably continue, the South must squarely face the question of internationalization."

Gov. Charles S. Robb of Virginia, who recently was in Japan for the second time promoting the advantages of investment in his state, said: "Individual states, particularly those in the South, have to be more aggressive in pursuing international trade opportunities."

While Arkansas, Virginia and North Carolina, among other states are seeking a larger share of the Far East market and investment funds, states such as Florida, Louisiana and Texas are expanding their already close economic, political and cultural ties with Latin America.

In their dealings with foreign countries, Southern governors have stressed not only their economic and tourist appeal but also their cultural assets as attractions to visitors and to potential investors. North Carolina's top cultural official invariably accompanies Gov. James G. Martin on his foreign missions.

Artistic Activities Important

"Our cultural representative is the most sought-after member of our delegation," said Jesse L. White Jr., executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, a research group in Durham, N.C., with ties to the Southern Governors Association. "Foreigners are very interested in our artistic activities," he said, because they make sites more attractive as places to live.

Mr. White, whose research organization has worked for the past four years on various aspects on the region's international policy, said: "The provincialism of the South is eroding rapidly as more and more persons understand internationalization. It is a new development in the South, and one of the most important trends of the 1980's. We promoted economically with states like

Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and South Carolina offering export assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses.

'In addition, all over the South we are introducing foreign language and international studies programs in our schools and universities. We are essentially teaching students to think globally. I believe that the new generation of Southerners will be more sophisticated and more knowledgeable of the rest of the world than that of other areas of the country.'

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

CDFI on Delta - shut or withheld - low for ju

Mississippi - email before

- see ju x
① BOB CABE - ^{invest or capture} Blue Long / Blue Steel - Jay
Arkness. YES
- ② Cathy Bessant - head of Bank of America. YES
- ③ Wayne Leudel Leonard - ENERGY. YES
- ④ ~~Donald Bondurant - FedEx (Jay)~~ YES
JACK ~~Hatekano~~ MAUGSLAND ^{call 366-2223 800-800-7754 BA Raleigh}
- ~~Stuart Springfield~~ Maybe
- ⑤ Ephron Lewis - AA YES
- ⑥ Anita Brooks YES
- ⑦ ~~Shelly ~~Loan Porter~~~~ Watchful (AA) Tk YES
^{relissa} instead - Watchful employee
- ⑧ Bill Bynum AA YES
- Tk Benchy Morrow - sud AA YES

Sybil Jordan Hampton, Ed.D.
President
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

A native of Little Rock, Dr. Hampton received her bachelor's degree in English literature from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana; a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Chicago; a master's degree and her doctorate in higher education from the Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, New York.

Dr. Hampton's professional career includes serving as Special Assistant to the President at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas; Assistant Dean of Student Academic Affairs with the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Contributions Manager, Education and Culture at GTE, Stamford, Connecticut; and Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Science at Iona College, New Rochelle, New York.

Dr. Hampton has been involved in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the Georgetown Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the Madison Committee for the Arts, the Eastern Association of College Deans and Advisors of Students, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the Southeast Council of Foundations and the Earlham College Alumni Council.

Her awards and honors include: *Arkansas Business* Top 100 Women in Arkansas 1997 and 1998; Women of Achievement, Iona College, 1986; Who's Who Among Black Americans, 1980-81 and 1985-86; Minority Fellowship, Teachers College, Columbia University; NAACP Education Award, 1978; An Outstanding Young Woman of America, 1976, 1977, 1978; and an Experiment in International Living Scholarship to Japan, 1983.

Current professional and community affiliations include: Winrock International Board of Directors; Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation Board of Directors; Arkansas Women's Leadership Forum; and Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield Board of Directors.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. bio	re: Robert L. Jackson [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 18996

FOLDER TITLE:

Mississippi Delta New Markets 7/99 [Folder 2]

2016-0201-S
rc1923

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Bio of
Robert L. Jackson

P.O. Box 386
RR 1 BOX 71A

Marks, MS 38646

(662) 326-3637 (h)

(662) 326-4000 (w)

(662) 326-3904 (fax)

rjacksonqcdo@yahoo.com

Robert L. Jackson is a life long resident of the Mississippi Delta. He was born in (b)(6) to Weddie and Mary Jackson of Vance, Mississippi on (b)(6). The seventh of nine children, Robert was the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree. Robert received his education from the Quitman County High School having graduated in 1973. He received his Associates in Business Degree from Northwest Junior College, Senatobia, Mississippi in 1973. **His Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi in 1977.** He has done further study towards a Master's Degree in the Field of Community and Economic Development at Antioch University, Yellow Stone, Ohio. [001]

Robert was a John Hay Whitney Fellow from 1981-1983, where he was assigned to the Quitman County Development Organization, Inc. (QCDO), to develop and establish a commercial real estate venture and a community development credit union. He was successful at developing both and they exist today to provide much needed community services to low and moderate income families and individuals in the North Mississippi Delta today. **Robert was awarded the prestigious W. K. Kellogg Foundation, National Kellogg Leadership Program Fellowship in 1993-1996**, where he honed his leadership skills and studied creative financing models for addressing community economic development in rural and poor communities. **Robert was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Quitman County in 1988 and served in this post until 1995.** He is currently a candidate for this post in 1999. Robert has established a number of nonprofit and cooperative enterprises to serve principally the low income in his home County of Quitman and throughout the Delta, which is the poorest county in the entire United States.

Robert currently serves and has held the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Quitman County Development Organization located in Marks, Mississippi for over twelve years. He is the Treasurer of the Quitman County Federal Credit Union and has held this position since inception of this community development financial institution for almost 18 years. He was one of the principal founders and incorporators. He serve as President of the Twenty-First Century Investment Club, a newly organized partnership of less than one year old, and is affiliated with the National Association of Investment Clubs.

Mr. Jackson has created and established many community development initiatives during his twenty one years in the community development field. He serves at the local, state, and national levels on many boards of directors where their primary business of these institutions is community based development. **Robert serves on the loan committee for the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, Jackson, Mississippi and is a newly re-elected board member of the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions headquartered in New York, New York, where he has served nine years.** Robert is a Baptist and has two children, Nikara (17) and Reginald (13).

Beverly A. Morrow
6203 Timber Ridge
Pine Bluff, AR 71603
501-879-4703

Professional Experience

Arkansas' State Representative Election, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Fundraiser Chairman, 1998
Raised funds for Rev. "Hank" Wilkins' campaign for the 73th District of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Simmons First National Bank, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Director, 1996 to Present
Oversee bank's operation. Member of the Community Reinvestment Act Committee and the Bank's Investment Committee.

TLM Management, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Owner, 1987 to Present
Operate four McDonald's.

Autodynamics, Inc., Freehold, New Jersey
Project Manager, 1985 to 1987
Supervised project budget and schedule, as well as completion of project in accordance with contract specifications. Perform as primary customer interface.

Project Engineer, 1984 to 1987
Supervised the design, process, definition, and development of real-time training simulations for such operating facilities as hydrocrackers, synthesis gas purification units, CO₂ and H₂S absorption units, etc.

Customized Research, Freehold, New Jersey
Owner, 1982 to 1984
Operated a fee-based information service, specializing in the sciences and technical information. Provided both manual and computerized literature searches with or without a written analysis of the information retrieved. Computer consulting and instructions also provided.

Amoco Oil Company, Chicago, Illinois
Process Engineer, 1976 to 1978
Simulated refinery processes on computer for expansion purposes. Worked extensively with alkylation units.

Standard Oil of California, San Francisco, California
Design Engineer, 1973 to 1975

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. bio	re: Vivian Presley [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
VIVIAN M. PRESLEY**

Vivian Presley was appointed fourth President of Coahoma Community College on July 1, 1992, after serving as interim president for six months. Dr. Presley is the first and only woman president of a public - supported two year college. She has served Coahoma Community College for 22 years as Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Coordinator of the Title III Programs. In 1991 she was name executive Vice President.

Dr. Presley is a native of (b)(6) where she [002] attended the public schools. She is a graduate of West Point High School and received her Ed.D., Ed.S., M.Ed., and BA from Mississippi State University. She presently serves on the Board of the National League for Nursing, Deposit Guaranty Bank Advisory Board of Directors, Board of the Northwest Miss Regional Medical Center, Board for the Mississippi Higher Education Achievement Program and the Northwest Mississippi District Board for Girl Scouts Council. Her professional affiliations include the Clarksdale Rotary Club, Inc., Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation.

Dr. Presley is a member of Haven United Methodist Church in Clarksdale, Miss., where she serves in various auxillaries of the church.

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003. bio	re: Morris Rockwood [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

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Morris "Rocky" Rockwood

A native of (b)(6) Mr. Rockwood worked as a U. S. Government civil servant for more than 30 years in Europe, Asia, and the U.S. After leaving the civil service, Mr. Rockwood moved to Branson, Missouri where he operated and then owned a Commercial Laundry business for about 10 years. A few years after selling the Branson laundry, a laundry equipment dealer introduced him to the potential of the northern Mississippi market. Mr. Rockwood spent close to a year exploring the market demand for commercial laundry services in northern Mississippi and even obtained one hotel contract prior to opening Delta Laundry as an indicator his ability to obtain business. Mr. Rockwood has been operating Delta Laundry since October 1998. Mr. Rockwood is married to Nancy Rockwood, who is in charge of quality control and dry cleaning at the laundry, and they reside in Sumner, MS.

[003]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. resume	re: Harry Walker [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

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**RESUME OF
HARRY M. WALKER**

ADDRESS: 148 St. Andrews Dr.
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
(601) 956-9687 (Home)
(601) 354-5871 (Work)

DATE OF BIRTH: (b)(6) [004]

SPOUSE: Deery Mott Walker

CHILDREN: Anna Deery, 18 years old
William Moore, 16 years old

EDUCATION: B.S., Finance
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS 1972

M.B.A., Business
Mississippi College
Clinton, MS 1977

Graduate Certificate
LSU School of Banking of the South
Baton Rouge, LA 1979

Graduate Certificate
University of Oklahoma Commercial Lending School
Norman, Oklahoma 1986

Basic, Standard, and Advanced Certificates
American Institute of Banking Courses

WORK EXPERIENCE: June 1972 - Present - Trustmark National Bank
Currently President and Chief Operating Officer
Has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Lending
Officer, Real Estate Department Manager, Head of
Municipal Investments in the Investment Department

Designed and purchased refinery equipment. Worked extensively on pumps, piping, and waste water treating.

Education

Graduate of McDonald's Hamburger University, Oak Brook, Illinois, 1991.

M.S., Chemical Engineering, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey, 1982.

B.S., Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1973.

Civic Organizations

1999 Member of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Business School's Advisory Committee.

April 1996 Elected Board Member of the Arkansas Community Foundation.

1996 President-Elect of the United Way of Southeast Arkansas.

June 1995 Arkansas Governor's appointee to the Arkansas State and Public School Employees Insurance Board

Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Chemical Engineers. The Society of Women Engineers.

Awards and Honors

1996 Arkansas Business-Top 100 Women in Arkansas

1994 Finalist for the Black Corporate Executive Award

REFERENCES AND FURTHER DATA UPON REQUEST.

Handwritten notes: "Nurdal T" and "DELT MVT" with a signature.