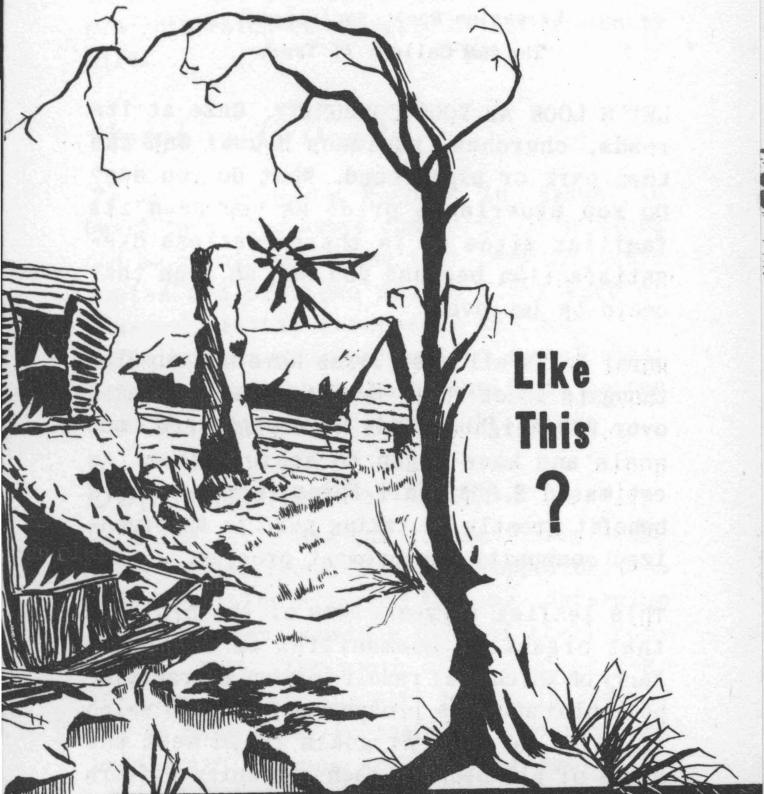


My Community

How Does It Look?



Like
This
?



Like
This
?



THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas



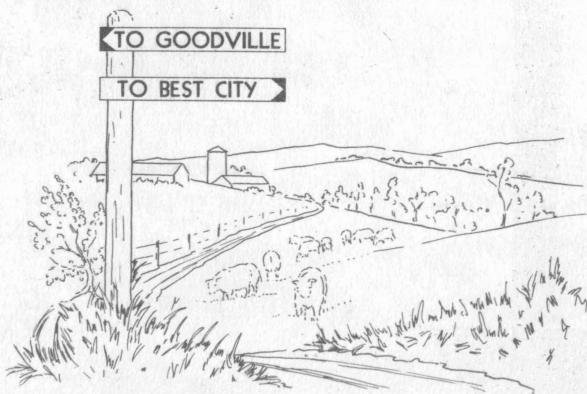
My Community -- How Does It Look?

REAGAN BROWN
EXTENSION RURAL SOCIOLOGIST
The A&M College of Texas

LET'S LOOK AT YOUR COMMUNITY. Gaze at its roads, churches, business houses and the town park or playground. What do you see? Do you experience pride as you scan its familiar sites or is there restless dissatisfaction because you see so much that could be improved?

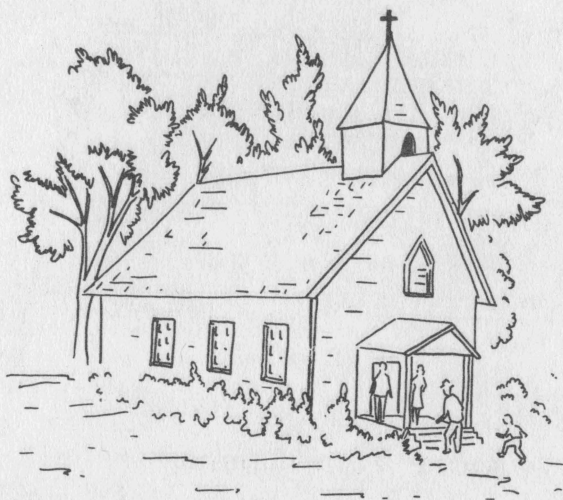
Rural folks all over Texas have had similar thoughts about their neighborhoods. In fact, over 800 neighborhoods have organized, set goals and have begun to achieve them. An estimated 2,000 small towns in Texas could benefit greatly by taking part in an organized community improvement program.

This leaflet suggests some of the projects that organized communities in Texas can carry on which will result in more attractive, healthier and more prosperous places in which to live. No list of goals could meet the needs of all because each community differs in its physical assets and opportunities. But you, as a community leader, perhaps know many needs which could be met through organized community effort. What can you do to get off to a good start? Here are a few ideas



Church Activities

Churches often are the centers of community activity. By working toward their growth and betterment, the community as a whole stands to gain. Community members might work for increased attendance at churches, sponsor Vacation Bible Schools, provide transportation for families without cars, make church surveys. Or this group might work to improve the church property -- paint, redecorate, landscape the church lawn, build walks or steps.



Just what your community needs to get started may be YOU. Get together with your neighbors, organize and appoint committees. set goals Build a better neighborhood!

Fund-raising Projects

Fund raising can be an endless headache or it can be a challenge mixed with fun. Community and county fairs . . . auctions . . . pie suppers . . . drink vending machines and outright donations bring surprising results when packed by enthusiastic community organized groups. A "Lord's Acre" project has met with big success in many communities.



Community Projects

Community-minded people can point proudly to the many improvements and facilities they have made possible through organized group effort. Obtaining new roads and repairing those that exist . . . working together for better telephone service . . . eliminating traffic hazards . . . developing a well-balanced agricultural program adapted to the needs of the community . . . these are only a few of the goals that once achieved make a community a better place in which to live. Volunteer fire departments . . . soil and water testing . . . fly and mosquito control campaigns . . . working toward the development of a medical center . . . are just a few others that make for comfort and safety in a community.

Community Centers

Community centers can mean a fuller life for rural people and they represent an accomplishment brought about through the efforts of many. Often old school buildings or farm houses are remodeled into centers.

Improvements such as providing lights, water and heat are worthy community goals. Purchasing motion picture projectors and screens, a piano and song books, a baseball diamond and community library are other projects which can inspire better community life.

Neighborly Deeds

"I am my brother's keeper" is taken to heart in a wide-awake community. Committees can be appointed to see that less fortunate youths are provided needed items such as glasses, dental treatment, therapy . . . that disaster stricken families are clothed, fed and given money. No community is better than the people who live in it.

Opportunities for Youth

Boys and girls are the finest "crop" any rural community can claim. The opportunities and activities afforded them may determine how long they remain a part of their community. Work with youth clubs such as 4-H, FFA, FHA and Boy and Girl Scouts is rewarding in many ways. Recreational programs and handicraft groups are popular among the young folks and a youth achievement day in the community helps to measure progress while at the same time it encourages youngsters to do bigger, more responsible jobs for their community.



Check Up On Results

Use All Available Help

Urge All To Take Part

Set Up Goals

Organize

Know Your Community

Believe It Can Be Done

*Ask your county extension agents today
about the community improvement program
with which they work.*