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EC2002 The Place You Live

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The PLACE YOU LIVE

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" THERE IS NO HELP THAT HELPS FOLKS LIKE THE HELP
WHICH HELPS THEM TO HELP THEMSELVES."

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, AND UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING.— W.H.BROWAW, Director. Lincoln

THE PLACE YOU LIVE

T. H. Alexander

A community has been defined as a place where people who have a common bond of interest live. It is the best place to develop patriotism and loyalty. Loyal people are the real builders of any community.

The place you live, your own community--is different from any other place in the world. Fosdick says it's the most neglected piece of real estate in the world. Maybe it doesn't appeal to you. Maybe it's all wrong, as far as you are concerned. Maybe it's "dead" so to speak. It really isn't though, it's full of opportunities.

The GOOD OLD days are gone--NEW DAYS are ahead. Whether they are good or bad depends upon what the people in the community do. Things happen fast now days. Communities seldom stand still. They grow or dry up.

Every community has certain natural advantages which are often hidden. It has people with talents, which if expressed would make that place a better place in which to live. Community development is a rural as well as an urban responsibility.

Are you satisfied with the community in which you live? Do you know the advantages and disadvantages of your community? What is your community doing to hold it's young folks? Does it offer a program that will attract them or must they go to some nearby city for their entertainment and social life? What is it doing about the health problem? Does it have adequate educational facilities? These are only a few of the many questions that people are asking about communities.

The first step in studying any community is to make a survey of it's resources, its people, the means of earning a livelihood, the educational facilities, churches, communication systems, recreation, health, and many others. This survey will show you the good and bad points, but don't stop there. The next step is to plan an action program with other interested organizations to build up your community so that it will be the kind of a community that you want it to be.

If you want to live in the kind of a community
Like the kind of community you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip and
start on a long long hike.
You will only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing that's really new.
It's a knock at yourself
When you knock your Community,
For it isn't the Community, it's you.

Real Communities are not made of men afraid
Lest somebody else gets ahead.
Where everyone works and nobody shirks,
You can raise a community from the dead.
If while you make your personal stake,
Your neighbor can make his too,
Then your Community will be what you want it
to be,
For it isn't the Community, it's you.

The following topics are suggested as a basis of a survey. Other questions should be added until a complete survey has been made. They should be discussed and plans can then be made to provide some of the things that your community lacks.

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

HISTORY

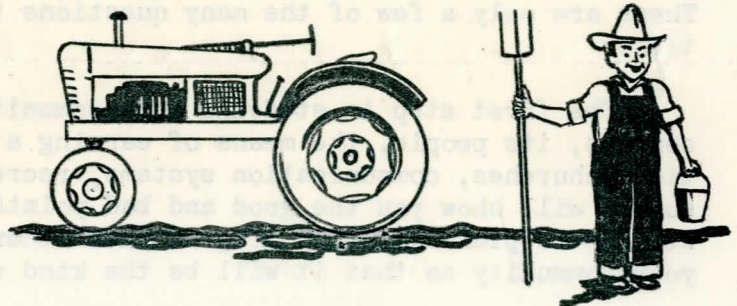
The people are the most important part of any community. Their attitude toward the community and toward the changes going on in it play a major part in what that community does. What kind of people live in your community?



1. When did the first settlers come to your community?
2. Did they give permanent character to your community?
3. What has been the trend in population?
4. What percentage of your community are foreign born?
5. What nationalities are represented?
6. Do the foreign born live in compact groups or are they scattered through the community?

OCCUPATIONS

The means of earning a livelihood are important to every community and they should be studied and evaluated, since the standard of living plays an important part in every community activity. What facts do you know about the various occupations, industries, farming or other means of earning a living that are common in your community?



1. What is the major occupation in your community?
2. How large are the average farms in the community?
3. Can the average family accumulate enough to retire at the age of 60?
4. Has the average young person a chance to get started in this community?
5. How much capital is necessary to get a start?
6. What industries are there in your community?
7. What chance is there for earning a living outside of farming?
8. What work is there for young people?
9. What help is available in locating jobs?

E D U C A T I O N

Democracy is at its best only when the citizens are educated. Changing conditions, faster methods of transportation, and communication made education more vital to the success of every individual. The day of the isolated community is past. World affairs have an effect upon every community. Is your community equipped to educate its people so they can take their rightful place in local, national, and world affairs?



1. Are there enough schools in the community?
2. Are the buildings adequate?
3. Are the schools well equipped -- books -- equipment -- etc.?
4. How well are the teachers trained and paid?
5. Are the people interested in the schools?
6. Is vocational guidance or vocational training offered in the community?
7. Should the schools be consolidated?
8. Is there a public library?

C H U R C H E S

The church and its teaching has played an important part in the development of the country. In fact many of our settlements and communities were founded by people in search of religious freedom. Christian teaching is one of the major factors in the development of any community.



1. How many churches are there in your community?
2. Do they have adequate facilities to carry on their program?
3. Are they interested in rural problems?
4. Which percentage of the people go to church?

H E A L T H

Disease is very old and nothing about it has changed. It is we who have changed. Health is the concern of the whole community. Communicable disease and the danger of epidemics are historic reasons for community action. Prevention is the goal for all of us. The community's health resources should be studied.



1. What is the annual death rate -- How does it compare with other countries?
2. What diseases are most common?

3. Are there sufficient hospitals in your community?
4. Are there clinics where persons of small means may get medical attention?
5. What is being done to build better health?
6. What is the housing situation?
 - a. How many homes have running water?
Sinks? Flush toilets? Tub or shower?
Central heat? Electricity? No toilet
or privy?
7. Do the people consume the right amount of foods for an adequate diet?

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

The communication systems play an important part in the activities of any community. Highways, roads and telephones are closely linked with the community life. Are these communication systems adequate in your community?

1. What per cent of the rural people in your community have telephones?
2. What per cent of the people live on good, all weather roads?
3. What per cent of the roads are graded and surfaced?
4. Can all families get to town or to a doctor in time of emergency?

R E C R E A T I O N

A survey of the talents of your neighbors will help you in planning a program. It is surprising what folks can do. What do you know about their interests? Are they interested in sports? Have they hobbies? Are they musical? Do they like to dance? In short, what are the recreational talents and facilities of your community?

1. What are the organizations that are doing something to furnish recreation?
2. Are meeting places available?
3. Are there trained recreational leaders?
4. What are the interests and abilities of the various people in the community?
5. Are the commercial amusements desirable?
6. Are there enough suitable parks and playgrounds?
7. Are they properly equipped?



A survey of your community, its people and its resources, should give one a good idea of its advantages and its disadvantages. The next step is to do something about it, for a survey, in itself, is useless unless something is done about it.

Definite plans for the improvement of the community should be made based upon the knowledge gained through the use of the survey. Since community improvement is a community job, leaders of the various organizations within the community should be called together to discuss the results of the survey. Greater results will be obtained by enlisting the cooperation of all groups interested in community development.

Community development is a long time project, therefore definite plans should be made. This plan should include the list of improvements needed, the assigning of responsibility, the action to be taken, and when the project should begin. The most important projects or the ones that the group is most interested in, may then be selected to work on first. The following example shows how a plan may be outlined.

EXAMPLE

Problems	Whose Responsibility	Action	When
Roads	County Supervisors	People prepare map showing location of needed roads	As soon as material is available
Community Hall	Committee on which all organizations are represented	Take leadership to get committee organized. Have facts available for committee	By _____ date

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

HISTORY -

County Clerk's Office
Public Libraries
Historical Associations and Museums
Newspaper Files
Early Settlers

OCCUPATIONS -

County Extension Office
Farm Security Administration
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
United States Employment Service
United States Census Reports
Local Commercial Clubs

EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

County Superintendents
Local Schools
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
United States Census Reports

CHURCHES -

- Local Churches
- County or City Ministerial Associations
- Y.M.C.A.
- Y.W.C.A.

HEALTH -

- State and County Health Departments
- County Extension Office
- Local Doctors
- Local Medical Associations
- Local R.E.A.
- Extension Bulletins
- United States Census Reports

COMMUNICATIONS .

- United States Census Reports
- County and State Highway Departments
- County Surveyor
- County Engineer
- State Highway Resident Engineer
- Telephone Companies
- Local Commercial Clubs

RECREATION -

- State Game, Forestation & Parks Commission
- Schools
- Local City Park Departments
- Y.M.C.A.
- Y.W.C.A.