

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

PROBATION OFFICE

JERRY T. WILLIFORD
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

2003 U.S. COURTHOUSE
75 SPRING ST., S.W.
ATLANTA 30303

April 23, 1992

REPLY TO:

2000 POWERS FERRY ROAD
SUITE 530
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30067

Honorable William W. Wilkins, Jr.
Chairman
U.S. Sentencing Commission
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1406
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Public Comment
Alternative Sentencing

Dear Judge Wilkins:

The federal prison population continues to increase at an alarming rate and much of the cost is unnecessary. Both dollars and human lives are wasted in a system which relies too heavily on incarceration to punish. Without argument, prison is an appropriate and necessary sanction for the dangerous or incorrigible. However, under current guideline application, prison sentences often represent neither a necessary deterrent nor serve to protect the community.

In the case of many non-violent first offenders, alternative sanctions could be employed to serve the traditional aims of sentencing. Offenders could be adequately punished in a manner which would simultaneously enhance their chances to be positive members of their community, victims could be made whole, and the cost to the taxpayer would be minimal. While there are creative and innovative options available which we have not had the fortitude to develop, there are some very fine options in place that are not utilized.

Prior to guidelines, the use of community service, electronic monitoring, and half-way houses were sometimes employed individually or in combination as an alternative to incarceration. The sentence fashioned for an offender was based on the severity of the offense, the offender's personal history, support systems and other factors articulated in the presentence report. The result was that sentences included sanctions which profited the community and allowed for restoration of the offender's dignity and preservation of his family.

The Commission is aware of the success and community support the U.S. Court, Northern District of Georgia, has enjoyed with its community service program. It seems unfortunate that the initiative taken by Commissioner Corrothers which proposed including alternative sanctions in the sentencing guidelines has been tabled with her resignation. It is frustrating as a criminal justice practitioner to have developed an effective community service program which enjoys broad Court and community support, and then have it principally ignored by the Commission. As a consequence of guideline practice in the Northern District of Georgia, the number of community service work hours accomplished dropped from 38,000 in 1988 to only 17,000 in 1991.

Attached are some recent newsletters and newspaper accounts which will bring the Commission file up to date on the Northern District's community service efforts and accomplishments.

Your invitation to have me make comment is appreciated, and though disappointed at this time, it is hoped these comments will have a positive result.

Sincerely,



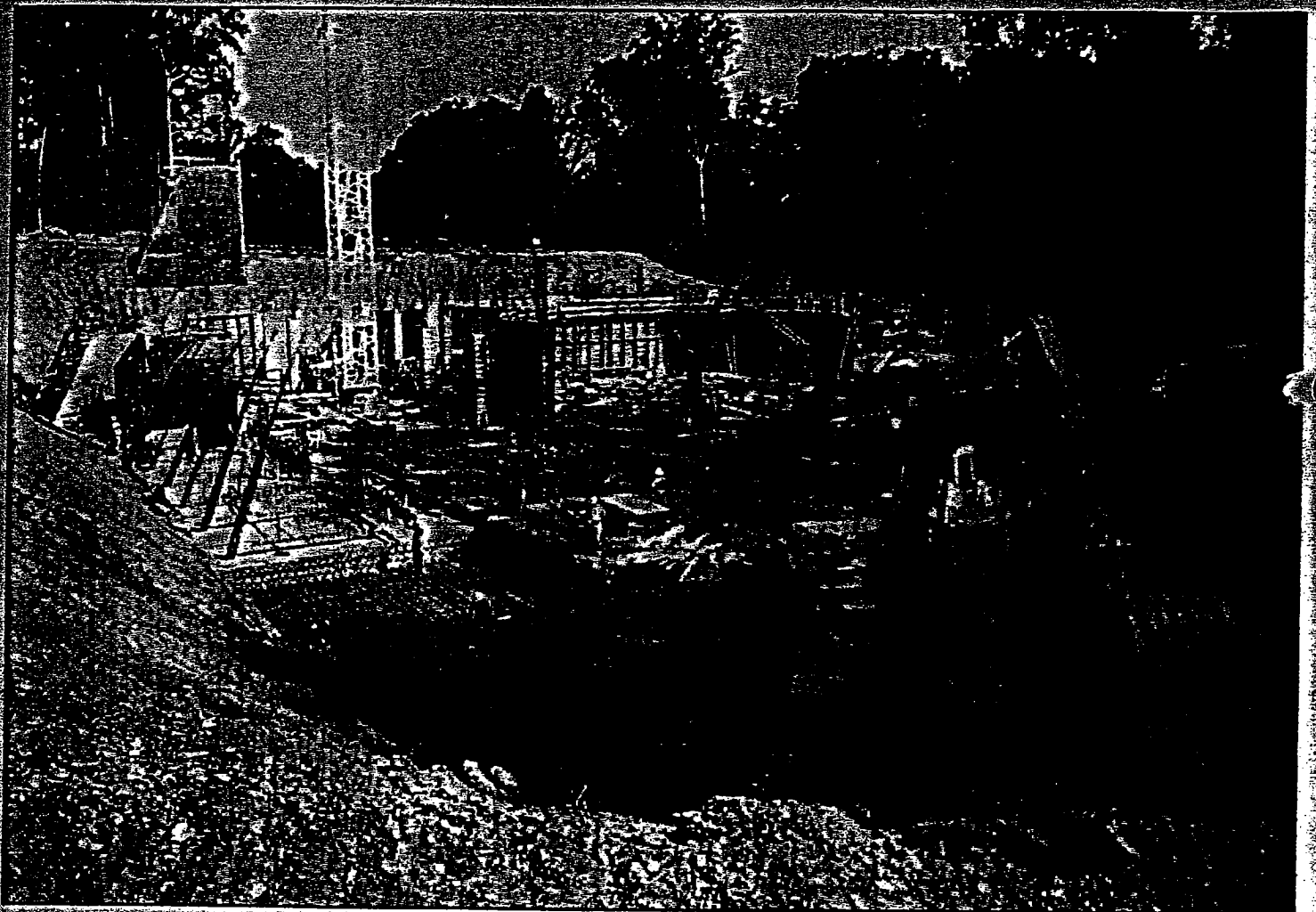
Richard J. Maher
Supervising U.S. Probation Officer

RJM:dsr

DeKalb Extra

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Thursday, June 20, 1991



Dianne Laakso/Staff

Excavation for Fembank's natural history museum (above) has produced enough dirt to fill in a lake bed and old swimming pool at the

Georgia Mental Health Institute. Also, federal probationers were put to work on the project, further saving tax dollars.

Dirty job aids 3 institutions

By Dena Smith
Staff writer

It happened because of dirt.

By trucking loads of red Georgia clay up and down Ponce de Leon Avenue and Briarcliff Road, three institutions benefited:

► Fernbank got rid of the excavations from the construction of its \$43 million natural history museum.

► The Georgia Mental Health Institute built a wildlife center and a garden area.

► And the U.S. Probation Office put its probationers to good use and helped save taxpayer dollars.

"It's been a win-win situation all the way around," said Mary Stimmel, coordinator of community relations for Fernbank. "We were able to assist with two

worthwhile projects and at the same time help ourselves."

Work on the new museum, scheduled to open in the fall of 1992, created a huge hole in the ground and several mountains of dirt near the intersection of Clifton Road and Ponce de Leon.

Not only did Fernbank not want the mounds, the non-profit institution would have had to pay perhaps as much as \$110,000 to remove the soil from the construction site.

But Richard Maher found an innovative use for the dirt.

"It was amazing," said Mr. Maher, a U.S. parole officer. "Our community service program needed soil to complete a wildlife and garden area on the property of GMHI."

At the state facility on Briar-

Please see DIRT, 5 ►



Dena Smith/Staff

Workers help build a garden area at the Georgia Mental Health Institute on Briarcliff Road near the Fulton County line.

Dirt: Truckloads of benefits are spread around 3 agencies

► Continued from 1

cliff Road near the Fulton County line, the plan was to fill the bed of a small lake and, separately, a huge swimming pool to create the wildlife center and garden respectively.

The pool, once the property of the Coca-Cola Co.'s Asa Candler Jr., had been abandoned since the 1950s.

But the cost of buying dirt would have been \$50 a load, Mr. Maher said, with as many as 250 loads needed to fill the pool, for a price tag of \$12,500. Another 2,000 loads would have been needed to fill the lake bed.

That's where Fernbank came in. It was happy to get rid of the dirt from what will be the largest museum in Atlanta and the only natural history museum south of Washington, D.C.

Sixteen months from now, the 150,000-square-foot museum will center around a permanent display called "A Walk Through Time in Georgia," which will use the geographic areas in the state as a means of telling the history of the Earth. The museum also will offer 15,000-square-foot temporary exhibition space for touring shows.

Once Fernbank provided Mr. Maher with the dirt he needed for GMHI, he turned his attention to finding the right person to turn it into the wildlife center and garden.

As the project coordinator for the parole office's community service program, Mr. Maher screened each of those on probation in an attempt to combine the needs of the participating agency with the skills of the probationer.

"I think it's such a waste to use skilled people to pick trash up from along the side of the highway," said Mr. Maher.

"Why not allow the probationers to use the skills they have?" he asked. "The result is almost always a feeling of pride... for both the community and the probationer."

Dan, one of the probationers working at the GMHI site, said he felt grateful for the opportunity.

"I think it's great that we can do something to help beautify the community," said Dan, who did not want to use his last name. "I'm glad that I can give back something productive and long term that both me and the community can be proud of."

The community service program works only with non-traditional

and government agencies.

"The program goes where there's a need in the community," said Constance Tumlin, a U.S. parole officer. "Some agencies call us, and we get in touch with other agencies that we feel we have something to offer them... a special skill."

At GMHI, the garden area will be rented out for weddings and other ceremonies, but its primary use will be for the enjoyment of patients and neighbors.

"The community at large will benefit from the wildlife center at no cost," said Ms. Tumlin.

The trees will attract birds and animals, including rabbits, foxes and other species, to the wildlife center. "It will also set up a natural barrier between the hospital and the community," she said.

Such projects are a boon for everyone involved from the government agencies to the taxpayers, Mr. Maher said. And the use of probationers is the most constructive method for the state and for those on probation, he said.

"The prison population in both state and federal institutions is growing at an alarming rate, one that requires an addition of some 900 beds per week to meet demands," he said.

"It is virtually impossible from both an economic and political perspective to accommodate the overload that exists in the prison system," Mr. Maher said. "This overcrowding has reached crisis proportions, which presents a major problem for both the criminal justice system and society as a whole."

Metro & State

SECTION F

The Atlanta Journal

***** WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1990

Work programs for non-violent felons shrinking



Michael A. Schwarz/Staff

Sentenced to 300 hours of community service, James Jordan tackles a project at the DeKalb Addiction Center.

Confinement gains favor over community service

By Michelle Hiskey
Staff writer

James Jordan's motto is, "Rehabilitation is where you find it," and on a recent chilly Saturday morning the convicted felon was hard at work remodeling a dilapidated pool house near the DeKalb Addiction Center.

"I'm an alcoholic and I have to be sober to come here," said the 45-year-old Smyrna man. Trained in construction, he was sentenced to prison and 300 hours of community service last year for selling a stolen interstate shipment of heavy equipment to an undercover FBI agent.

Jordan is one of hundreds of non-violent federal offenders who have worked for free on dozens of public service projects in the Atlanta area for the past five years, ranging from plaster work at the Fox Theatre to tutoring elementary students.

Many agencies that employ court-appointed laborers call them a godsend, and offenders say the work builds self-esteem, lets them learn or maintain job skills and sometimes leads to permanent work. But the program—a national model—is shrinking because of federal guidelines that require prison time for most offenses.

In fiscal year 1990, 136 offenders performed 24,960 hours of free labor, down 25 percent from a high of 33,000 hours by 95 offenders in 1988, according to Richard J. Maher, who heads the program for the U.S. Probation Office in Atlanta.

Mr. Maher said the "glue" of his program used to be a corps of mostly white-collar criminals who were required to do a year of full-time community service—about 2,000 hours each. Now, federal guidelines for most crimes recommend that inmates be sentenced to no

Please see **FELONS, F6** ▶



Program coordinator Rich Maher: Service sentences can do a lot of good.

Felons: Trend toward incarceration

► Continued from F1

more than 400 hours of public service. It is imposed instead of prison time only when the penalty is 16 months or less.

The federal prison population, meanwhile, is more than 50 percent over capacity and is expected to double by the end of the decade. Advocates of community service say it could relieve the burden.

"There's no reason why it shouldn't be an alternative to prison," said Mr. Maher, who envisions a huge labor force of offenders, patterned after the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps, tending to parks, hospitals, schools, roads, "you name it."

But the trend is toward incarceration, because the public wants criminals behind bars, said U.S. Attorney Joe D. Whitely.

"There are a lot of horror stories about how community service has been abused, where criminals have twiddled their thumbs for eight hours a day," he said. "The sentencing guidelines say that if you do the crime, you do the time."

The publicity surrounding those who have taken advantage of lenient sentences hasn't helped the program, said U.S. District Judge J. Owen Forrester, a strong supporter of community service.

"Every judge is going to have a Willie Horton; it's going to happen if you give community service or not," he said, referring to the Massachusetts murderer who raped a woman while on furlough. George Bush made Horton a symbol for softness on crime in the last presidential campaign.

Judge Forrester said community service, coupled with house arrest, can be as restrictive as — and far less costly than — time in a low-security prison.

"I've always considered it good for two reasons: it deprives an individual of freedom and makes them work, from which the community benefits," he said. "An awful lot of crime comes out of either poor self-image or lack of concern for other

Placement program at a glance

The community service program in Atlanta involves 115 men and women with no prior record who have been convicted of non-violent federal crimes.

Some placements:

- A chef at an upscale Atlanta restaurant, convicted on drug charges, cooked for the Cerebral Palsy Center.
- A builder in Norcross who was convicted of income tax evasion worked as construction coordinator for Gwinnett County Habitat for Humanity and did 530 hours more than the 1,920 he was required to do in a year.
- A former athlete worked with Special Olympics in South Georgia and earned the "Volunteer of the Year" award.
- An accountant kept the books for the Fox Theatre.
- Doctors convicted of student loan fraud and dentists convicted of tax evasion worked in community clinics.
- A psychiatrist was assigned to a county jail to help treat prisoners.
- An artist restored a severely water damaged antique painting at the DeKalb Addiction Center.

Some projects:

- Restoration of circa-1895 greenhouses at the former Asa G. Candler Jr. mansion on Briarcliff Road, now home to the DeKalb Addiction Center.
- Concrete poured for an elevator shaft at the GlenCastle housing project and for foundations of brick historic markers in the Morningside neighborhood.
- Bird exhibits built at the Chattahoochee Nature Center.
- Work on renovation of the Wren's Nest. While taking insulation out of the attic, the first group of community service workers in Atlanta found a stack of letters Joel Chandler Harris wrote in 1865.
- Work on construction of the Phoenix House, the state's first residential facility for mentally ill, homeless people.
- Staff assistance at Jerusalem House, a place for homeless AIDS patients.

Source: U.S. Probation Office

people, and community service, for a lot of people, is the first time in their life they've done something they're proud of."

Judge Forrester recalled sentencing the son of an officer at Fort McPherson, who had been convicted of vandalism, to community service. He was placed at the Fox Theatre, became interested in drama and enrolled in college to study acting.

The five-year program has been full of unexpected positives, said Mr. Maher. Offenders have been known to volunteer at agencies after their time is up — including a Gwinnett County developer who spent 500 extra hours building houses for Habitat for Humanity.

The first group helped clean insulation out of the Wren's Nest attic during mid-summer,

1985, and discovered a stack of letters the home's famous owner, author Joel Chandler Harris, had written.

The Atlanta program, which requires offenders to work at least 24 hours a month, is well-regarded nationally.

"In other parts of the country, the offender is on his own to find a placement," said Jud Watkins, who administers probation programs for the federal courts in the Southeast. Offenders in the Atlanta program were "properly assigned, monitored and followed up, and that can be a very rigorous sentence."

Offenders can choose to work on a highway crew, picking up trash, but few do. The program tries to match their skills to a community need, occasionally with an ironic twist.

A contractor who had

cleared a field so a plane load of drugs could land was ordered, as part of his sentence, to use his heavy equipment for public good. He has been laying pipes for a lake behind the Georgia Mental Health Institute with the same machines.

Jordan works every Saturday at the DeKalb Addiction Center, where an old pool will be filled to make a garden.

"They have to put up with hundreds of alcoholics just like me here, and I want them to have a place where they can take a break," said Jordan. "But the thing I'm most proud of isn't the work. It's that I'm sober."

Some officials at agencies that employ the offenders say their initial qualms dissipated when they discovered how handy an extra pair of hands could be.

"There was a certain amount of distaste involved, but that was more than counteracted by the work that's been done here," said Rick Flinn, the director of restoration at the Fox Theatre. He has overseen, among others, an accountant, a carpet and drapery cleaner and a sculptor who remodeled plasterwork.

"If they were in jail, we'd all be paying thousands of dollars for these services," he added. "It's more effective in rehabilitating them than if they were sitting around with other criminals."

"I hate to see them cut the program back," said Ann Wood, the director of community resource development for the Georgia Mental Health Institute, where offenders are clearing a kudzu-clogged valley for a stream and garden. "It's like having extra staff people for the day."

The U.S. Sentencing Commission, which fashioned the stricter guidelines, has a committee researching alternative punishment that may recommend community service for more felons, said spokesman Paul Martin.

"In order to have more people qualify, ... program have to be more restrictive," he said.

The Atlanta Journal

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Today's editorial page is prepared by the Editorial Board of The Atlanta Constitution.

Jay Smith
Publisher

Dennis Berry
President

Ron Martin
Editor

John W. Walter Jr.
Managing Editor

Tom Teeppen
Editorial Page Editor

First published March 1950 by James H. Smith & Company, Inc.

Punishing the criminal and the community

In metropolitan Atlanta, convicted criminals have built houses for Habitat for Humanity, worked on the restoration of the Fox Theater and helped out at Jerusalem House, a hospice for homeless AIDS patients. But offenders spend fewer hours now doing such valuable community service work. They mark time in federal prisons instead.

In 1987, harsh federal sentencing guidelines went into effect, requiring most federal crimes to carry mandatory prison terms, including many non-violent crimes committed by offenders without previous criminal records. Federal judges have been restricted from using community service as a sentencing alternative for any crimes for which the penalty is more than 16 months. Nor may judges impose more than 400 hours of public service work in most cases.

Correction

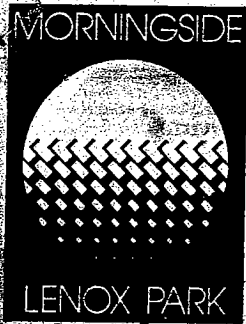
An editorial in the Constitution Friday said California's new U.S. House delegation of 52 will be a fifth of the total. Actually, as the Associated Press reported, the new census figures that increase the delegation to 52 give the state a fifth of the electoral votes needed to elect a president.

As a result, federal prisons throughout the country are bursting at the seams. The federal prison population is more than 10 percent over capacity and is expected to double by the end of the decade.

In addition, the program run by the U.S. Probation Office in Atlanta—a national model for its efficiency and organization—is shrinking. There are fewer hours of free service performed for charitable organizations and government agencies. In 1988, 95 offenders performed 33,000 hours of free labor. By 1990, 136 offenders had performed only 24,960 hours of free labor.

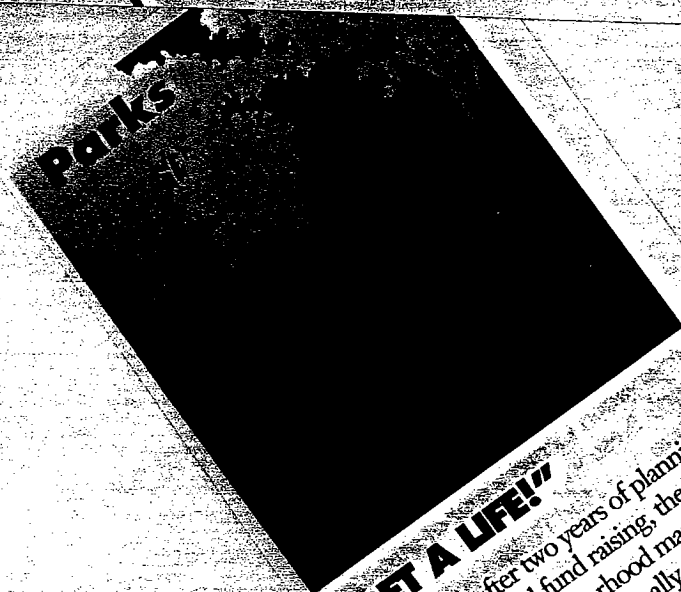
The federal sentencing guidelines were another wrongheaded political response to the nation's crime problem, much of which was spurred by illegal narcotics. Politicians wanted to prove to their constituents they were not coddling criminals. So they decided to confine even non-violent, first-time offenders in prisons, which are costly to build and maintain.

Supposedly, prison time forces the criminal to pay the price for his or her crime. But confining non-violent offenders in prison instead of letting them perform community service forces the taxpayers to pay as well.



MILPA NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF MORNINGSIDE/LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION, INC. • VOLUME 12, NO. 2 • AUTUMN 1991



"GET A LIFE!"

A

fter two years of planning and fund raising, the neighborhood marker project is finally completed. A visual identity is important to a historic neighborhood such as Morningside. These markers unite several smaller neighborhoods into an association of over 3,000 homes. With this large association, we are able to have a stronger voice at City Hall.

The "legal" placement of the twelve markers was the most difficult and most time consuming part of the project.

Marker locations had to meet state and federal setbacks and guidelines. I would like to thank Mary Davis, Jeff Petrillo, Gail Ronan, Charles Huddleston and David McAlister for their expert help in taking care of all the "red tape". I am sure they were tired of my phone calls and faxes.

Because of the varied and difficult location sites, the final design had to lend itself to fit into the surrounding site. I would like to thank the old Lenox Park marker design. Committee members were Jon Carlsten, Rick Flynn, Gail Ronan, Bill Russell, Ben Wauford and myself.

The new markers would not have been complete without the elegant plaque artwork produced by our neighborhood's own Barbara Gellner.

The limestone castings were made at "very reasonable" rates by Tony Garcia of Architectural Ornamental Castings in Decatur. He did a beautiful job in reproducing the old, crumbling Lenox Park marker castings.



Because of Rick Flynn's contact with Rick Maher of the Federal Probations, we were able to cut the construction cost of the project in half. This federal program is a great deal for taxpayers and the community—instead of incarcerating non-violent criminals they are put to work for the community. Rick Maher is a public defender with the Georgia Mental Health Institute at Emory University. The swimming pool will be repaired and the ground will be landscaped. Call Rick (980-9349) to make a donation towards materials for this neighborhood effort. Thank you for the money needed to support the project.

Some of the markers had to be located on private property. I would like to thank the following property owners for their special contribution to this project. They are Asa Bearse, Kevin and Mary Brown, Bill Cherry, Emma and Harold Dye, Jack Harich, Lem and Del Johnson, Farel and Jerry Nesmith, Diana Refsland, and Mary Beth Wallace.

Of course this project would have never started without cold, hard cash. Major thanks to our major sponsors who were Barry Doss, Metzler/Murheid, Inc. of Greystone, Kevin and Mary Brown, David Michud, and last, but not least, Zac Pasmanick, whose real estate office has also adopted the flower bed around the marker at Amsterdam and Lanier Boulevard.

Some of the fundraising was accomplished through the newsletter and the MLPA membership bulletin. Most, however, was accomplished by going door to door. Lisa Holte, who had just moved to the area, raised the funds on her street for the Smith Park location, and was able to meet her new neighbors at the same time. Mary Huntz, Janci Davis and the Johnson/Noble Estates street captains were able to raise enough money for the marker at Herbert Taylor Park on Johnson Road.

Special thanks to James Jordan and Gary McCool for their expert help in pouring the footings and forming the internal columns for the markers.

It was a long and difficult project to keep track of all those who gave money or time. I hope that the list of contributors is complete. If not, please let me know.

Over \$12,000 was raised from the neighborhood for this project with the Association paying the final difference of \$3,000 to complete the details.

We should feel pretty good about this accomplished goal. This neighborhood,

like many of Atlanta's Intown neighborhoods, has a community spirit all its own. Morningside has a very heterogeneous mix of people. Sexual preference, religion, and race are not an issue here. I was delighted to see how well we can work together when we are focused on a goal. Zoning issues and roads have been a catalyst in this unified spirit and a way of getting to know each other.

To finalize all of this and to get on with my life, I would like to dedicate the markers to those who in the past, and into the future, have found time to rally to the fight of encroaching roads, higher density, and other zoning issues. This dedication includes the countless volunteers who help on the MLPA Tour of Homes and MLPA's other projects and committees, and its tireless volunteer board members. (Please take a look at the MLPA annual budget.)

I am amazed at the effort made by the Association to do so many things that are important to the area. We are also lucky to have a very capable neighborhood planning unit who sweats the zoning details for this area of town.

The Association could do more if it had the membership support of the entire neighborhood. Of over 3,000 homes, only 900 are members. I do not understand why it is not close to 2,000. It seems to me that a resident of this neighborhood, who has an investment in property here, would, at the very least, want to support the Association by joining for a mere fifteen dollars a year. If you do not have the volunteer time, at least show your support by joining. You should not view this as just another membership in something that you really do not think you will reap any benefits from. The MLPA makes sure your tax dollars are spent in this area and assures that your voice will be heard downtown. What membership could be more important to you or easier to support by absentee?

Everyone in the neighborhood receives this newsletter free. The way to know if you are a member is if you receive a bulletin in the mail. On the address label, you will find your membership expiration date. I know we are all busy and sometimes feel like we are on the treadmill to oblivion, so here is what you should do. Tear out the membership form right now and put it in your monthly bill pile. It will be something worth stopping and making the effort for.

Other Park News

Thanks to MLPA, Smith Park, at the corner of Monroe Drive and Piedmont Road, has a new sprinkler system for the flower bed. Johnson Irrigations, Inc. graciously volunteered to install the system for us, free of charge!! They did a great job and it should make the flower bed much easier to maintain.

MLPA is sponsoring the installation of a drinking fountain at Lenox-Wildwood Park tennis courts. We are only a few hundred dollars away from completion of this project. If you would like to speed this project along, please earmark your check and send it to MLPA.

MLPA is looking for a contractor to construct a gazebo at Sidney Marcus Park. In memorial of Gail Smith, a neighborhood friend who died of cancer, \$1,400 has been raised. Please call Margo Dixon (872-9183), or myself, if you have any questions.

Neighbors at the end of Wildwood Place are enjoying the landscaping efforts of their new neighbor, Chip Brown. He has adopted the island circle at the end of the street and has planted a flower bed in front and mows the grass, too. What a great neighbor!

Thanks to MLPA, the traffic island at the intersection of Lenox and Johnson Roads is sporting a new grass groundcover. The sprinkler system upgrade and new perennial flower plants were part of the efforts of Martha Curtis and myself. The Morningside Garden Club does a great job maintaining and planting this traffic island.

Continued thanks to Ray Rowell and Tony Marcella who mow the grass under the power line at N. Pelham and Pine Ridge.

You too can be involved in neighborhood beautification. Through Park Pride Atlanta, you can help make the "one person difference."

David Roberton
874-5090

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to plant trees at Sunken Garden Park this fall. The city is supplying the trees and we are supplying the labor. You can donate unwanted small trunk diameter trees from your property. The city has a tree spade and can transplant them this fall. Call Dave Robertson at 874-5090.

Community Serviceeveryone wins

AN OVERVIEW

The prison population in both State and Federal institutions is growing at an alarming rate, one that requires an addition of some 900 beds per week to meet demand. It is virtually impossible from both an economic and political perspective to accommodate the overload that exists in the prison system. This overcrowding has reached crisis proportions which presents a major problem for both the criminal justice system and society as a whole.

Obviously, alternatives to incarceration are imperative. Alternative service should meet a number of requirements. First and foremost it should provide community based restitution. This not only is the desire of society, but is also therapeutic to the offender. The program, however, must also possess a punitive element as well as be cost effective. Some substitutionary methods have been tried with varying degrees of success. One of the most successful has been the use of reparative work projects most commonly known as community service. The degree of success of this method can best be summed up by saying that "everyone wins"the system, the community and the offender alike.

How Does Community Service Work?

The process begins when a judge and probation officer with prudence selects non-violent situational offenders that represent no threat to the community. The community interest is best served by lengthy incarceration of those offenders who are violent or habitual in criminal activity.

The probation officer then screens each individual under his direction and creatively combines the needs of the participating agency with the skills of the probationer. The director continually visits, monitors and supervises each person under his care.

The participating agency is also a key to the effective implementation of this program. They must accept each placement as an equal employee with a proper combination of flexibility and control. Thus, the most effective use of the productive skills of the individual can be achieved while providing the much needed restrictive and restorative elements of the program.

For a Community Service Program to be effective the judge, offender, probation officer and sponsoring agency must work in concert.

Who is Eligible and How are They Placed?

The system as a whole, and we in particular, are highly selective about the people who are qualified for the Community Service Program. Obviously, this selectivity has added materially to the success of our efforts in that of the first 200 participants in the program 194 completed it with positive rewards for all concerned. Through this rigorous qualification process we are able to "set people up to succeed, not to fail".

Principally, only those individuals who are first time offenders are eligible for the program. In addition, the nature of the crime and the quality of the individual must indicate that there is not only no threat to the community but to the contrary, there is strong reason to believe that the community's interest can best be served by the probationer supplying needed service to the public at large.

For the best possible results, the proper placement of the individual is critical. We attempt to match up a participating agency's need with a probationer's capabilities. Since we work with in excess of 30 such agencies there are a wide variety of needs. A specific example of how this care in placement has yielded multifaceted rewards is the case of a printer working for the Georgia Mental Health Institute. During his nine months of service at forty hours per week he taught a hospital custodian to not only operate and maintain the equipment, but also to completely oversee the printing process. When the probationer's service was completed the former custodian was given a pay raise and the elevated position of printer.

There are other notable "success stories". A chef at an upscale Atlanta restaurant was given probation and community service as payment for an offense. To satisfy this service requirement, he was given the responsibility of head chef for the Cerebral Palsy Center. Obviously, joy reigned supreme as the well deserving patients were treated to "non-institutional" food for some months. In another case, an athlete with organizational skills was placed with the Special Olympic Program. His interest grew to exceed his term of service and he was chosen volunteer of the year in that organization.

Proper matching of people with deserving organizations is a good formula....**one where everyone wins.**

Who Benefits?

Few undertakings provide benefits to all segments involved. Community Service does!

First, the public or society benefits by:

- Making invaluable services, for which there are no funds in the budget, available to the community.
- Saving taxpayers money through reduction in prison costs.
- Enabling the community to change existing attitudes toward the criminal justice system.

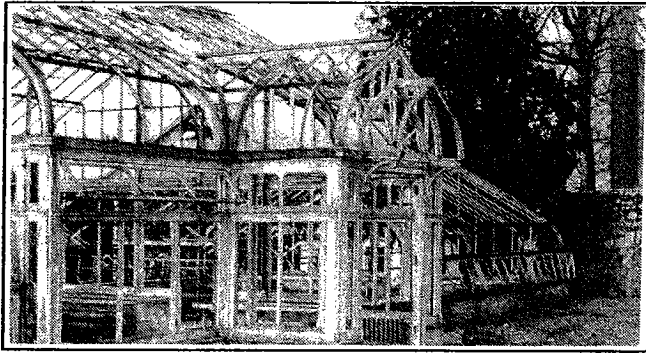
Secondly, the criminal justice system benefits through:

- Easing of the over-crowded conditions of institutions.
- Reducing the pressure for an increased number of jails and corrections personnel.

Finally, the offender benefits through:

- The provision of a positive alternative for restitution to society in a manner therapeutic to the offender.
- Keeping offender's families together.
- Providing a way to pay a debt to society while maintaining self-esteem and possibly gaining much needed skills.
- Showing tangible results for responsible efforts.

Shown below are examples of North Georgia projects that continue to provide lasting material benefit to society, the community and the offender alike.



A



B

Figures A & B. Georgia Mental Health Center Candler Greenhouse

Of the 24,000 plus man hours spent by individuals doing community service work in 1987 almost 9,000 were spent on this project. The conservatively estimated value of the work is \$150,000. Stained glass work, painting, re-construction, carpentry and iron work are among the many trades utilized on the project shown at the above right. Shown above left is a pre-construction picture of the Greenhouse indicating the overgrowth and structural deterioration.



Figure C. Cerebral Palsy Center...

Elegant food preparation at the Cerebral Palsy Center.

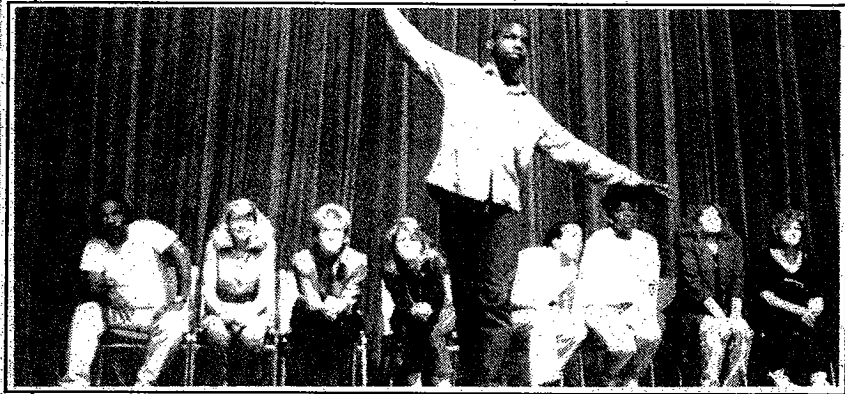


Figure D. Academy Theatre Production... ON THE EDGE

Numerous people have been influenced by the production show above. The cast and support staff for this drug rehabilitation program is largely made up of probationers in the Community Service Program in the North Georgia District.

Is Community Service Effective?

In a word, **yes**...Community Service is very effective. As shown, this type of service involves an effective use of people and skills to accomplish both material and emotional objectives. Our success rate through the project in the Northern District of Georgia has been in excess of 95%. This compares most favorably with the general success rate of the federal prison system as measured by repeat offenders of 32%. A community service program turns the system from wardens and jailers to teachers and coaches. The effects are that people are used where their talent is needed, wanted and appreciated. Through these efforts attitudes change, people are encouraged and salvaged, and needless expenditures are eliminated.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The need for alternative and rehabilitative programs is great. This need, coupled with the success of our program, gives us great hope for future expansion of our efforts. To effect this expansion we need increased support from within the system, as well as the community. Also imperative is a broad cross-section of judges willing to be creative in sentencing, as well as co-operative participating agencies. Lastly, we need funding. With the coming together of these efforts, our program and its sister programs throughout the U.S. can materially effect the thrust of the criminal justice system in America.