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1945-1946

Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission

612 CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Austin, Texas

July 1, 1946

Hon. Amon G. Carter  
Ft. Worth Star Telegram  
Ft. Worth, Texas

Dear Commissioner Carter:

Enclosed you will find our program for suggested plans. We are planning a little brochure to send out and would appreciate it if you will let us have a photograph of yourself and your permission to use same. Of course, any comment about the program will also be welcomed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Garland Adair".

A. Garland Adair  
Vice-Chairman

AGA/c  
Enc.

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*A Program*  
*for*  
**REVITALIZING RURAL LIFE**  
*in Texas*



*By*  
THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL  
*of*  
STATEHOOD COMMISSION



1846 - 1946

*A Statement by the Chairman of the Board of  
Directors, Texas Centennial of Statehood*



The forty-seventh Texas legislature in regular session at Austin in 1941 authorized the formation of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission, and instructed it to plan a statewide observance of Texas' entrance into the Union, but did not at that time authorize any funds to implement such a program. Your Chairman sought the best advice available from all quarters and an early decision was made not to sponsor any celebrations, fairs or perishable memorials, but instead to try to develop a program which would be constructive, long lasting, and ultimately benefit the greatest number of our people. I think it is apparent to the layman and the city dweller, that in general, our rural economy and our rural life has wasted away and deteriorated with the years. The days of the neat white farm house and its fat red barn, to symbolize an era, are almost gone. Many people are moving away from the farm. We submit that this whole trend should be a matter of supreme concern to all Texans, because . . .

*First:* The culture and tradition of our State are deeply rooted in the soil and its products;

*Second:* If our towns and cities are to thrive, our agriculture and rural life must be attractive and profitable; and

*Third:* Sound, straight-thinking, courageous Texans have always come from the farm and ranch. A sound, healthy and happy rural life will always act as a bulwark against "isms" which are contrary to our American way of life.

The war necessarily delayed such a program, but, in the early part of 1945, there was set up a Technical and Planning Committee, under the able guidance of Dr. Ide P. Trotter of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, and comprising other gentlemen who are either technicians or specialists in some phase of agriculture in our State.

This Committee met several times, both in Austin and in Dallas, and after a great deal of effort, study, trial and error, finally suggested a program designed to help revitalize rural life in Texas. This program was then submitted to the Board of Directors of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission in Austin on February 19, 1946, where it was unanimously adopted in its present form.

The Centennial Commission has been profoundly gratified by the high praise which has greeted this Plan from every quarter, and it is to be hoped that with the whole-hearted and vocal support of all Texans, the Legislature which convenes in 1947 will embrace the Plan and provide the funds necessary to make the proposed "Texas Rural Development Commission" an actuality.

KARL HOBLITZELLE.

March 1st, 1946.

## *Preamble*

Under four flags, our pioneer forefathers established their humble homes in the wilderness of the Southwest to lay the foundation of a new empire. These heroic men and women came to Texas with high courage to endure bitter hardships and desperate adventures.

To these immortal men and women, we owe the greatness of our state, its unique culture, its distinctive institutions, its great communities, large and small. From the broad expanses of wilderness—the forests, prairies, plains and mountains—the hardy pioneers of all races and creeds welded a state mighty in the councils of the nations. Through valor the state was born. Valor has ever remained its protective shield on the battlefields of the world.

One hundred years ago, our pioneer forefathers wisely sought and were granted admittance in the United States of America. The Republic of Texas proudly merged its destiny with the great commonwealth of citizens under the Stars and Stripes.

Through a living monument, greater than any of perishable stone—one which will endure throughout time to keep alive those heroic virtues and sterling precepts of our forefathers—we are dedicated to commemorate one hundred years of statehood.

The culture and tradition of the state, deeply rooted in the soil and its products, shall be preserved. It is to continue those basic principles, and the courage, enthusiasm and independence of the pioneers who laid the sturdy foundation of Texas, that this commemorative program is submitted.

Our agriculture and rural life, the mainspring of the culture of Texas, shall seek new horizons. Through science and research, agriculture and industry and rural life are destined to reach new heights.

The attainment of such a destiny will constitute a continuing living monument in which all people will share.

## *The Plan*

We propose to commemorate 100 years of Texas statehood in a long-time program designed to revitalize rural life; to rebuild the land; and with the land, the man; and through the man, the state.

The future well-being of Texas is dependent primarily upon a sound economy and the happiness of our rural communities. The life of our rural communities must be attractive—economically, socially, spiritually, and physically, so that our people will be drawn to the land.

The Centennial of Statehood Commission has knowledge that there are vast accumulations of useful and vital data on file and otherwise continuously available from many varied and widely separated sources relating to the rural community in all its phases. In its present form, the usefulness of these data to the local community is severely limited because the community has not the means to assemble, nor the technical talent capable of interpreting these data into a workable local plan of self-improvement.

Accordingly, the Centennial of Statehood Commission proposes that the State of Texas create and finance a co-ordinating and fact-finding commission to assist farmers through rural community planning. This service would not duplicate, but rather, co-ordinate and augment the work of numerous governmental, state educational, and private agencies to bring about the planned local application of selected and related data from a great mass of widely separated data.

Thus, local rural communities, or counties, would be enabled to make a realistic examination of their resources, advantages, disadvantages, needs and opportunities, but at all times, the initiative to carry out any project would rest entirely in the hands of the people of the community or county.

Local planning would be based on studies dealing with:

1. NATURAL RESOURCES
2. SOIL AND CROP PRACTICES
3. WATER RESOURCES
4. LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT
5. FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS
6. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND RURAL TELEPHONES
7. LOCAL INDUSTRIES
8. MARKETS AND COST ANALYSES
9. FINANCIAL RESOURCES
10. LABOR
11. HEALTH
12. CHURCH AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT
14. SCHOOLS
15. BEAUTIFICATION
16. MODERNIZATION NEEDS

## *Organization*

The Centennial of Statehood Commission proposes that the plan be activated through the creation of a "Texas Rural Development Commission." This new commission is to consist of eleven commissioners who are to be nominated by the governor and approved by the legislature. Their terms are to be for four years, with their initial appointments to be of such duration as to perpetually stagger their replacements through the years.

The commissioners of the "Texas Rural Development Commission" are to serve without salary, but they are to be paid per diem and expenses for actual time served in official capacities.

The commissioners are to be selected as follows: One from the University of Texas; one from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas; one from the Texas Technological College; one from the State Department of Agriculture; one from the State Department of Education; three to be nominated by the executive com-

mittees of the three regional Chambers of Commerce of Texas; and three laymen, one of whom shall be a dirt farmer and one a cattleman.

The Commission is to be a policy-making body. All administrative matters are to be delegated to a board of administrators.

It is proposed that the board of administrators consist of three full-time employees. Its members are to be appointed by the commissioners of the "Texas Rural Development Commission," and subject to removal for cause by the commissioners.

Of the three administrators, one is to be selected from each of the following: (1) Agriculture; (2) Engineering and Industry; (3) Business Administration, Economics and Social Welfare. Each administrator must be qualified in one of the fields of activity enumerated. They are to be college trained in their field of specialty, and have administrative experience. Their reputation is to be national rather than local as evidenced by special recognition, publications, and recommendations of authorities in their fields of specialization.

One of these men is to be designated executive administrator, and be responsible for the administration.

The technical staff and other employees of the board of administrators are to be hired by the administrators.



Under the board of administrators, there are proposed six major research and planning divisions, as follows:

**ENGINEERING DIVISION:**

(utilities, roads, water, minerals, etc.)

**ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND BUSINESS**

**ADMINISTRATION DIVISION:**

(labor, marketing, etc.)

**AGRICULTURAL DIVISION:**

(land use, crops, livestock, fisheries, wildlife, forestry, etc.)

INDUSTRIAL DIVISION:

(small industries, chemurgic development, etc.)

SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION:

(education, recreation, beautification, health, etc.)

INFORMATION DIVISION:

(editors, photographers, draftsmen, librarians, etc.)

*Respectfully submitted,*

KARL HOBLITZELLE, *Chairman, Board of Directors, Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission.*

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