

THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE GREATER
WEST COLUMBIA - CAYCE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By

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This, we hope, will be an informative and miniature account of the Greater West Columbia - Cayce Chamber of Commerce during its first twenty-five years. In this account will be shown both the high and low points of prior years and would hope that the years to come will be just as interesting.

First of all, just what is a Chamber of Commerce? A Chamber of Commerce is an association of businessmen which promotes the interests of its members and of business in general. Chambers of Commerce have been organized in towns, cities, regions, and countries. In many European countries, Chambers of Commerce are official agencies, supported by taxes. Chambers of Commerce are sometimes called boards of trade, merchants's associations, or even associations of commerce.

Chambers of Commerce carry on many types of work to aid its members. An important part of their activity is bringing in new industries to their community. They also furnish information about their community. This information may be useful and helpful for those planning to move, visit, study, or possibly a sampling of community activities for relocation of businesses.

The first group to use the name "Chamber of Commerce" was organized in Marseilles, France, in 1599.

During late 1956 or early 1957, a group from the Columbia Chamber of Commerce contacted David Bryan, Jr. about the possibility of a unit from this side of the river joining their Chamber. This invitation was given most likely because of the very strong Triangle City Merchants Association of which Dave Bryan, Chick Compton, Coy Brickle, Jennings Stroud, Jack Reely, Dan Ott, Dan Shumpert, and others were the principal leaders.

With the interest of the Columbia Chamber in hand, Dave Bryan called a meeting to test the waters on forming a West Columbia - Cayce Chamber rather than direct affiliation with Columbia. This meeting elected Dave Bryan Chairman and the move was underway for the formation of our Chamber. Ann Callison was hired as Secretary and her kitchen served as the first office. Businesses in West Columbia, Cayce, and wholesalers in Columbia were contacted. Dues for West Columbia and Cayce were set at twenty-five dollars while wholesalers in Columbia were assessed thirty-five dollars. As dues came in, they were held in an escrow fund for the establishment of the Chamber at the Congaree Bank.

A formal organizational meeting was held December 11, 1957, at which time By-Laws were adopted and officers elected. Mr. Wyman Trotti was nominated and elected as the first President of the newly organized West Columbia - Cayce Chamber of Commerce. Other officers elected were Dave Bryan, Vice President, Jack Callison, Secretary, and Willis Henry, Treasurer. Mr. Henry reported that he had collected to date the sum of two thousand six hundred sixty dollars and expenditures to date amounted to fifty-four dollars ninety-five cents leaving a balance of two thousand six hundred five dollars and five cents. Some eighty firms were listed as members at this time.

The formal organizational meeting over a committee was appointed for office space and the employment of an Executive Secretary. On July 1, 1958, David Buyck was employed as the Executive Secretary. He was presently employed as Manager of the Walterboro Chamber of Commerce. Office Space was leased in a new office building on Knox Abbott Drive. The space consisted of two

offices, eight feet by sixteen feet and twelve feet by sixteen feet at a rental cost of seventy-four dollars and fifty cents per month.

In order to have a more smoothly run organization, motions were made and passed for various committees to be headed by Vice-Presidents. The first Vice-Presidents and the committee assignments were as follows: C. M. Compton, Membership, Alan Rose, Tourist, Jennings Stroud, Merchants, Paul Harmon, Education, L. V. Bruno, Industrial, L. H. Buff, Agriculture, and Dr. Robert Utsey, Civic Development.

The second year of the Chamber under the leadership of David Bryan, Jr. brought out the work and cooperation of all members. This year saw the petitioning for a new town around the area of Hook's store or, at least if not the actual petition, much talking, thinking, and organizational planning. The Council of West Columbia did not particularly like this idea and they convinced many of us that because of the threat of this new town on the borders of West Columbia that it would be a good time to propose a merger of West Columbia and Cayce. The Chamber appointed a special committee under Wyman Trotti's guidance to study the finances and assets of the two cities. The Chamber set about publicizing the advantages and disadvantages of a merger. The big issue was the name of the new merged town which was to be decided later by a referendum. Cayce voted for, West Columbia voted against the merger. At that time the towns were about equal in value and debt and a merger would have been economically feasible. Since then, these towns have improved water lines, sewer lines, water and sewer plants, police departments, and it would be hard to assess the economics of a merger

for either city now.

Kitty Riley was hired as full time Secretary for the Chamber during 1959. David Buyck resigned effective November 1, 1959.

C. M. Compton succeeded David Bryan, Jr. as President in 1960 and being primarily West Columbia oriented, or at least having his business in West Columbia, did much to soothe the ruffled feathers of those in West Columbia who did not want the two cities to merge. Although most of them would say that we were impartial in promoting the study, they did not want the thing brought up to begin with. Chick was thereby able to capitalize on the publicity that we had gotten for at least doing something and it did not appear that the Chamber was hurt at all by the effort due to his leadership.

The year 1960 is clearly described by Chick in the annual meeting address when he said, "The Chamber of Commerce has led the way in several directions as your progress reports indicate. It is a happy experience to see people of a community working diligently for their common good. Some seem to be in the news more than others, however, I would like to pay tribute to the silent partners of the Chamber and its accomplishments of 1960. The names of those many who have worked hard would take some time to read. Some of these men would stand out like the name "Paul Revere", but who remembers his horse. We had many horses on which we have ridden. What constitutes progress in your mind for last year? I believe we are on the verge of undreamed progress. Our future is still ahead of us if we've got the courage to accept the challenge."

Alan Rose, 1961 President, had a very different approach

to his year's work which he started by giving his definition of progress.

"Productive - in that it means the ability and willingness of a community to work together to produce a better place, not for themselves alone, but also for their children in which to live and learn."

"Righteous - in that we are fair and ethical in our every day's transactions with one another."

"Observant - in that we should be aware of what our community has to offer and we should strive to improve ourselves rather than regress."

"Good - so that the true value of good people working together is sincerely exploited."

"Also respectful - for we must recognize and consider the needs of the community and act accordingly as ladies and gentlemen for the benefit of all."

"Expressive - in that our concentrated and cooperative efforts advertise the secret of successful teamwork."

During the years 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1965 under the leadership of Cyril B. Busbee, Willis W. Henry, Durham Boney, and Marion B. Robinson, several long range programs were instituted. Dr. Marvin Efron was asked to head a committee and report on development of recreational program for the area. The group began their survey by taking an inventory of present recreation facilities in the area and found that this community was far behind other towns of comparable size. A booklet was prepared of the survey and copies were made available from the Chamber office. An informational meeting was then scheduled for the purpose of formally presenting the survey to see if a

cooperative effort was desired in continuing this project. The study group, Mayors of Cayce, West Columbia, Springdale, South Congaree, and Pine Ridge, including recreation chairman, Councilmen or staff members, and chairman of planning commissions were invited to attend with a view toward coordinating efforts of meeting a vital community effort. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored only the survey made by the study group and did not make any recommendations on the subject.

A study was also made on the maintenance of segregation and desegregation in cities of this and other states and the committee made the following resolutions which were passed:

Many self instituted acts have been taken by Columbia firms and organizations to diminish discrimination among the races. Broader employment opportunities have been provided, civic and public areas have been desegregated.

We recognize in certain highly competitive enterprises, dependent upon wide public support, that moves to desegregate are facilitated when they are coordinated. This is particularly true at this stage in Columbia among motels, hotels, and theaters. Representative of these particular interests are aware that they are in the critical areas of consideration.

As a first statement, we reiterate our belief that the final judgement must be made by business concerns and that it must be a voluntary act.

We cannot be oblivious to the peaceful progress that has been made in Columbia and the potential disunity which may result if we do not move steadily along.

Another resolution expressed the appreciation of the Chamber to the trustees and the administration of our school system for

their self sacrifice, their competent and honest service, and their gentlemanly restraints in the face of vicious and unwarranted public attacks.

A committee was appointed to be known as the Lexington County Hospital Committee. The prime purpose of this committee was to cultivate and protect the interest of the general area with regard to the county hospital and its location. The committee would assist in the dissemination of information pertaining to the hospital to the people of our community. Those persons serving on this committee were: W. W. Howard, Lonnie Shull, Stanley Goodwin, Jennings Stroud, and Robert Livingston.

Chamber of Commerce signs were purchased and installed along the main highways entering the area.

Durham Boney and George Crowe, Tourist Chairman, attended a meeting for the purpose of discussing projects pertaining to the development and beautification of Guignard Park on Knox Abbott Drive. The Executive Committee recommended that the Chamber endorse, publicize, and promote the park development through means that are available, and encourage members to take an active part in this program. It was pointed out that the Chamber had absorbed the expense of a professional study and plat, and secured the knowledge and services of Mr. K. B. Simmons, landscaper architect-engineer, a few years ago.

June 1965 saw the dedication of the new Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The Chamber supported the airport location and M. B. Robinson was appointed Chairman of the Airport Committee in 1960 by Chick Compton, Chamber President at that time. Mr. Robinson, as Chamber President, represented our area in 1965 at the presentation awarding Columbia as an All American City.

Kitty Riley was promoted to Executive Secretary of the West Columbia - Cayce Chamber effective September 1, 1963.

The Board of Directors was informed of the seven hundred fifty thousand dollar school bond issue which was to be voted on Tuesday, November 23, 1965, by residents of the B-C school district. If approved, it would provide one new school and improve existing facilities within the system.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the Chamber, representing the business interest and overall community, endorse the bond issue for Lexington County District 2.

New industry coming into our area got the 1966 year off to a most impressive start. The announcement was made by Carolina Eastman of their fifty million dollar plant and pointed out that this will have a very dramatic effect on the future of the entire area. Also mentioned was the recent announcement of Tamper, Incorporated and their three million dollar facility. Marvin Efron, President, welcomed Jack Fuller, President Columbia Chamber, to the organizational meeting and he pledged continued area cooperation and support.

One of the welcome signs had to be removed due to Love Chevrolet purchasing the property on Knox Abbott Drive. It will be stored at Colonial Hites Sign Company until another location for installation can be secured.

Al Rose and Durham Boney were named to study advantages and disadvantages of merger with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Their evaluation study was viewed at the Executive Committee meeting on May 10. Directors were informed that the study was on file in the Chamber office and could be viewed by any who desired to do so. Dr. Efron suggested that the directors

consider the subject during the month and stated it would be discussed further at the June Board meeting. At the June meeting, a motion was made and passed to accept the report as information only.

L. V. (Red) Bruno was elected President for 1967. Transportation studies, zoning studies, and implementation of a Community Fair for the community were begun. Sixty exhibits were displayed at the Community Fair held October 27 - 28.

Consideration of the Riverbanks Park System Project started off the year 1968 for President, Robert N. Hubbs. Al Rose presented the proposed plans for this project. He stated that it would be a significant recreational complex which would serve the residents of the entire Midland's area of South Carolina, as well as a major drawing card for tourists. After some general discussion, the Board endorsed in principle the Riverbanks Project.

Additional new industries coming into our area: John H. Harland Company, Revco Incorporated, and Allied Chemical Corporation (expansion). It was unanimously agreed that a committee of our Chamber be established for the purpose of sponsoring events to introduce new industry and its people to the community.

The West Columbia - Cayce Chamber, considering its advances over the past years and analyzing its program of action, made plans to submit application to the United States Chamber for accreditation. Robert N. Hubbs was appointed to serve as Chairman of this committee. Henry Heriot, President for 1969, asked the Directors to submit suggestions for new action programs to the Chamber office for consideration.

Kitty Riley was promoted from Executive Secretary to Executive Vice President effective March 1, 1969.

A Speakers Bureau was organized to cover such subjects of community interest as transportation, Riverbanks Project, industrial development, tourism, educational benefits, etc. Letters were mailed to local civic groups informing them that such a service is being sponsored to enable citizens to become more informed of its community and Chamber sponsored programs.

New maps for West Columbia, Cayce, Springdale, and vicinity have been undertaken by the Chamber. Some three thousand maps were ordered. Ten thousand community brochures were also authorized.

The Executive Committee recommended that a committee be appointed to look around for a small available lot for a Chamber building.

Bob Hubbs reported that the Chamber's evaluation study has been reviewed by the National Chamber's Accrediting Board and that two essentials will need to be submitted.

These essentials are (1) orientation program, and (2) procedures and policy manual. Hubbs presented a draft on each of these for Board consideration. The orientation program contained a detailed outline for the orientation of officers, directors, committee chairman, committees, and new members. It indicated when orientation will take place, who the participants will be, and what will be distributed.

He then presented the draft for a policy and procedures manual, which covered administrative policy as well as the Chamber's position on local, state, and national issues.

After a brief discussion, Hubbs recommended these two items for development and distribution to the National Chamber Accrediting Board, officers, directors, committee chairman, and staff.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the orientation guide, policy and procedures guide be implemented.

The new officers and board members for the 1970 year under President R. B. Antley were reminded of an orientation luncheon to comply with the accreditation recommendation.

Again this year, members and directors were asked to submit suggestions for new programs of action to the appropriate Vice-Presidents for consideration.

The Chamber went on record as opposing the Hills's Directory Company decision to publish the city directory under two separate covers and ask that they publish the information for the entire area under one cover. The Greater Columbia and Lexington Chambers are also supporting a one volume directory.

Mrs. Riley reported on plans for the Optimist Convention, scheduled August 14 - 15 in West Columbia's Ramada Inn. She stated that the Chamber staff would assist with registration and a planned tour for the ladies. Monroe Marlowe, International Optimist President, is guest speaker for Saturday evening in the National Guard Armory on Augusta Street, West Columbia.

Our 1971 year began with President R. N. Funderburk stating that consideration will be given to a program of action that will cover community needs backed by a realistic and workable budget. The new officers and directors orientation was scheduled for November 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Due to the expanded area of Chamber coverage, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the name of our organization be changed to The Greater West Columbia - Cayce Chamber of Commerce effective December 1, 1971.

A study is now underway for a proposed water system using

Lake Murray to supply water to Lexington, Batesburg - Leesville, West Columbia, Cayce, etc. The study will furnish information concerning cost, distribution, etc.

The staff assisted the Carolina Collectors Association's Annual Meeting. Letters of welcome and community brochures were mailed to those attending the meeting throughout the Carolinas prior to their arrival. President Funderburk gave the welcome remarks and the Chamber has received numerous favorable comments on the cooperation and service rendered during this two day meeting at the Sheraton Inn.

Several meetings with the city councils in our service area were held to try to improve the communication and cooperation between these groups. This proved to be most beneficial.

With the election of Wyman C. Sox as President 1972, the staff believes that the Chamber this year will be an action group. Enthusiasm proves that people are interested in getting involved and getting things done. Mr. Sox certainly has the necessary enthusiasm to convey this message to the membership.

Colite Industries was contacted concerning renovation of their welcome billboard signs. These will be refinished at a cost of five hundred seventy-five dollars each.

The West Columbia - Cayce - Springdale brochures on "What To See and Do" are being mailed daily to newcomers in the area along with a welcome letter from Chamber President Sox. These brochures are also available at the SC Welcome Centers.

New maps showing West Columbia, Cayce, Springdale, and the St. Andrews section of Lexington County are now available. The Board voted to purchase fifteen hundred of these maps for resale.

A three man committee was appointed to investigate a site

for a Chamber of Commerce building. Wyman Sox will serve as an ex-officio member of this committee and has asked Billy Lynn Williams to serve as Chairman. Others named to the committee were Stan Goodwin and Mortimer Smith. This committee has been requested to report their findings to the Board of Directors.

Billy Lynn Williams reported that a site has been offered to the Chamber of Commerce for a Chamber building. The size of the lot is one hundred feet by one hundred and fifty feet in depth. It is located adjacent to Cayce City Hall and has been offered to the Chamber with gratuity from two donors. The title on the property will not be changed until the Chamber definitely decides that a Chamber building will be constructed on this location. The only stipulation is that the Chamber utilize the property for a Chamber building. Stan Goodwin stated that this is a good piece of property and suggested that the Chamber accept the offer as it is adequate for a building and parking is available.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to accept the land offer.

With the site of a new building behind him, the 1973 President, B. L. Williams, assumed as one of his first tasks the selection of a Building Study Committee: Stan Goodwin, Chairman, John Drafts, Bryant Jennings, Mort Smith, Charles Millen, Wyman Sox, and Carroll McGee. It was the hope of President Williams that a building could be erected and occupied by the end of February 1974. The Building Committee Chairman, Stan Goodwin, reported at the July 11, 1973, Board meeting that his committee had come up with a set of plans that would make a nice chamber building. This building will have approximately twenty-four

hundred square feet and will cost between forty-five thousand and fifty thousand dollars. This two story building will have a reception area, office space, reference room, rest room facilities, work room, and storage space on the first floor. The second floor will be designed for a meeting room with kitchen facilities. The new building will be built on a site on Twelfth Street Extension near Cayce City Hall. Goodwin recommended that the Board approve plans for the new colonial style building and grant the Committee permission to let the plans out for bids.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the Board approve the building plans, allowing for some minor changes, and grant permission for the Committee to let bids for construction.

The report of bids for building construction were read at the August 8 Board meeting. Murrah-McGee bid forty-five thousand dollars and their bid was accepted. A motion was then made to borrow fifty thousand dollars at an interest rate not to exceed eight percent for construction, furnishing, paving, and landscaping. Twenty-five thousand dollar loan from First Federal Savings and Loan and twenty-five thousand dollar loan from Lexington County Savings and Loan.

Carroll McGee, 1974 President, stated upon his election that this should be a very challenging year for the Chamber as they begin their operations in the new Chamber building.

The United States Chamber of Commerce wrote and asked permission to run an account of the West Columbia - Cayce new Chamber building in the National Newsletter. Mrs. Riley prepared a three page story written in a "how to do" fashion and mailed it along with an architectural drawing of the building. Mrs. Riley

has since heard from Mr. Maulsby stating that the account will appear in the National Newsletter this fall.

Robert N. Hubbs again headed an Accreditation Committee. W. Bryant Jennings, President 1975, was given a report of this committee at the March 12 Board meeting. Mr. Ralph Shelton, Accreditation Chairman of the National Chamber, will meet with Kitty Riley and Nikki Setzler when they attend the National Chambers Meeting, April 27 - 30. Ralph Shelton, Director of Accreditation, National Chamber, has scheduled the overview of accreditation for Tuesday, September 30. Eight individual interviews will be scheduled with community leaders at the Chamber office. Mr. Hubbs urged everyone called on to participate in the overview to make every effort to be present.

At the November 12 Board Meeting Mrs. Riley reported that the Chamber had been accredited by the National Chamber. Mrs. Riley noted that the Chamber had to meet stiff requirements and demonstrate that high standards are maintained. She stated that she was very happy to announce that accreditation had been reached as many hours of time and effort were spent by the Committee, directors, and staff to reach this coveted goal.

With the beginning of the new year and Nikki Setzler, President 1976, in charge, he reported to the board that Mr. and Mrs. Mort Smith had offered a strip of land 34.9 feet by 286 feet for additional parking space and exit drive. A letter of thanks went to Mr. and Mrs. Smith thanking them for this generous donation. Mr. Setzler also reported the receipt of the framed Certificate of Accreditation from the National Chamber. It will be officially presented to the Chamber at the annual dinner meeting January 23, 1976.

The Directors were asked to consider the request made by Granby Society for an endorsement of their efforts to preserve and restore the William J. Cayce House. The Executive Committee recommended that the Board go on record in support of their effort. Nikki Setzler stated that the Granby Society had applied for a Federal Grant and that an endorsement by the Chamber could assist them in securing the funds.

A motion was made and carried to endorse the efforts of the Granby Society.

On April 3, the Chamber participated in the Lexington County Bicentennial parade held at 3:00 p.m. in Lexington. A float was entered by the Chamber and four Chamber officials appeared on the float in authentic attire of the period. The float depicted the "Battle of Granby".

The Executive Committee has endorsed support on Twelfth Street Extension coordinated with the development of the southeastern beltway and recommends that it be endorsed by the Board. His recommendation was unanimously approved by the Board.

During the year 1977 with Marchant Harmon, President, the Chamber had very serious personnel problems. The entire staff including Kitty Riley, Executive Vice President, submitted resignations. This was not of course a result of Mr. Harmon since the resignations were submitted January 18, 1977. The motion was made to accept the resignations as of the dates indicated in the letters.

President Harmon said a plaque was being secured honoring Kitty Riley for her eighteen years of service to the Chamber.

To insure that there would be no loss of continuity in Chamber activities, President Harmon said part time help would

be hired during the interim period until a new executive could be hired.

A special committee was formed to consider applicants for the executive director's position. This committee consisted of R. N. Funderburk, Chairman, Wyman C. Sox, B. L. Williams, Nikki Setzler, and Al Rose.

President Harmon opened the meeting of March 14, 1977, by reporting that the search committee and the Executive Committee recommended the hiring of Mrs. Ada M. Jumper. A brief history of her background and qualifications was presented. A motion was made and carried that the recommendation of the committee and Board be approved.

The year 1977 shows a total membership of three hundred eighty-nine.

James A. Compton, 1978 President, had his work cut out for him during his year to train the new staff, re-evaluate programs, and re-sell the Chamber to the community.

Our 1979 year under Elmer F. Frick, President, was a year of struggle for the Chamber. In addition to the mortgages on the property, we were faced with the added burden of paying off a ninety day note for five thousand dollars at the beginning of the year, which had been borrowed in late 1978 to meet current expenses. Compounding this problem was a low level of interest in the Chamber by the business community, with the membership dropping below three hundred twenty-five members in March.

A concerted membership blitz was held on March 22, with good cooperation from the news media, culminating in the addition of thirty-one new members to the rolls. Two additional membership drives were held during the year, but met little success.

The Chamber ended the year with about three hundred eighty-five members, with this figure being achieved only through the hard work of a very small group of dedicated members. We did however, manage to end the year without borrowing any outside funds.

We had an active Governmental Affairs Committee, sponsoring an Elected Officials breakfast on May 11, with Governor Riley as the speaker. The committee kept the Board informed of proposed legislation in the General Assembly, and the Chamber made its views known to the delegation on some of the bills.

The Chamber's conference room was made available to members, clubs, and other organizations for meetings for a nominal fee; however, there was little response.

In an effort to retain new members and get them active in the Chamber's programs, a Hospitality Committee was formed. This committee was charged with visiting new members as soon after their acceptance as possible, welcoming them to the Chamber, explaining the organization and programs, and soliciting their participation.

Work was begun on a car pooling program for the county, with the Chamber to coordinate the program. This involved securing parking spaces, erecting signs, preparing safety regulations, and securing information concerning liability insurance for sponsors. This program carried over into subsequent years.

Mayors of the municipalities in the Chamber's service area were made members of the Board, provided they were already members of the Chamber.

Members of County Council were made members of the Chamber in return for Council's financial support.

Coffee Club meetings were held on schedule, as were the

Christmas Parade, and the Carolighting Service. Although, as we stated at the beginning, it was a year of struggle, we did feel that we had made a slight upturn in the Chamber's fortunes, as we prepared to enter 1980.

The 1980 year proved to be another very low point in our Chamber's history. Mr. William D. Hunt, President, had to cope with declining membership because of the economy and also the resignation of the Executive Vice President, Mrs. Ada Jumper. Mrs. Jumper's resignation was submitted effective October 1, 1980. It was necessary to borrow seventeen thousand dollars from the Lexington County Savings and Loan at twelve percent interest for a ten year loan.

With all these problems, a study was made to see if the present building facilities could be maintained. Several appraisals of the building and land were gotten and several new locations were inspected.

The city of Cayce even made a firm offer for the property with permission for the Chamber to use the upstairs included in the deal.

However, the decision was made to keep the building, hire a new Executive Vice President, and bring the Chamber back to a viable organization. Mr. Hunt and his search committee interviewed candidates, and on December 15, 1980, Margaret Hart came to the Chamber as the Executive Vice President.

In the year 1981, under the capable leadership of Robert D. Hazel, the Chamber revived. Membership rose to an all time high, a Membership Buyers Guide was published again, the monthly newsletter revived, seminars for small business were held, a Small Business Person of the Year award was established, as was the

Citizen of the Year award. The Chamber was the catalyst for the support that enabled Lexington County to secure a new psychiatric hospital that will open in 1983. The Granby Development Corporation was sponsored by the Chamber until they could be chartered, and still provides support. This corporation will oversee the building of a Civic Center in our area.

On community oriented projects this Chamber took the lead in establishing the Lexington County Sportsarama, assisted the area in hosting the Dixie Youth Baseball League State Tournament, produced the Annual Christmas Parade and Carolighting, and supported the new Heyward Moore Fine Arts Center.

Elizabeth S. Keisler, the first woman President, took office in 1982. In this our twenty-fifth year, the economy was in a slump. The Chamber, however, continued to be active, the membership remained stable, the Coffee Club had meaningful and interesting programs, an annual Tennis Tournament was started and a Free Enterprise Day was held at the two high schools. The Lexington County Sportsarama was successful with this Chamber again taking the lead on a first, the Miss Lexington Sportsarama Pageant which will become a regular part of the Sportsarama.

This year the Chamber affiliated with the United Chambers Insured Plans, which will provide affordable insurance programs for our smaller businesses. The Chamber supported the Act I Theatre groups, the first that will appear in the Heyward Moore Center. The Annual Dinner will be an Anniversary Party honoring our past Presidents. The Christmas Parade and Carolighting will round out our year as usual.

I would like to express appreciation to Dave Bryan, Chick Compton, Robbie Robinson, and Al Rose for supplying data to make this possible.

EXCERPTS FROM
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The backbone of the Chamber over the years has been the work of the committees. Without these committees, little would have been accomplished. Some of those committees will be listed here with a brief outline of duties.

MEMBERSHIP: This group took as their task the selling of the Chamber to the community and enlisting new members. Once the budget was adopted, this group had their work cut out for them to meet this budget with membership. Over the years, with the ups and downs of the economy, this has not been an easy job. Various incentives such as salesman of the month recognition, prizes for various number of sales, dinners for top salesman, and even a weekend for two at Hilton Head for the Top Salesman for the Year. All these things have made the membership grow and most of the time enabled them to meet the budget.

COFFEE CLUB: It was not often that all Chamber members were involved in Chamber activities, but for this committee which has met monthly for many years, it was an activity for all members. Over the years this committee has been very fortunate in obtaining outstanding speakers and good attendance has resulted. Once a year, a fashion show is made a part of this committee and the ladies really turn out for this. Rish Florist has gone to great lengths to properly decorate the show area and our thanks go to him for his great efforts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: This committee is given the task of telling the members and the community about the Chamber's action program. There is a very great need for members to participate and become informed of these programs and support these programs. The avenues for publicizing the Chamber's programs that have been

are press, radio, clubs, churches, schools, members, Chamber Officers, staff, PTA, and television. New members have been contacted and welcomed into the organization and invited to attend Coffee Clubs with the hope that they will become actively engaged in the Chamber's activities.

ANNUAL MEETING: We feel that in all probability, this is the high point of the year for Chamber members. All members are encouraged to attend this activity. Again, it has been the feeling of this committee and Chamber Officers to obtain the best possible entertainment and best speaker for this occasion. Two people responsible for making this a very complete affair was the piano music preceeding the program by Lois Shirly and the decorations by Harold Rish. These two people over the years have done a superb job and the Chamber is most grateful for their services. Along with the guest speaker and outside entertainment, it is also a serious time when the past President gives a report of his accomplishments and the incoming President presents to the group an outline of his goals and objectives. Commendations plaques for retiring directors and other special awards are also made at this meeting. We would be remiss if we failed to thank our school system for their gracious act in allowing us to use their facilities for this most festive occasion.

SOCIAL OUTING: Annually and sometimes semi-annually this committee will arrange a special outing for the Chamber members and spouses. This has been in various costumes; western, Hawaiian, and casual. Dinner is mostly barbecue catered by Oakgrove. A period of fellowship followed by dancing is the order of the night. Attendance has been from great to very disappointing.

EDUCATION: The prime purpose of this committee is to promote

education in the community and to promote a means of communication between the education field and the business community. This group sponsors business day and also open house in the schools. Business leaders are encouraged to visit various schools during particular days and speak to the students on various subjects. Several members of the student council and/or student body are encouraged to attend the Board meetings at the Chamber in an endeavor to impress on them some of the problems they will meet in the real world. This committee also keeps abreast of legislative issues affecting education and urges the Chamber to either endorse or not endorse these issues, at least go on record as taking a stand.

BEAUTIFICATION: Plant sales, workshops, and training seminars have been held by this committee. They have worked very closely with state, county, cities, and garden clubs in the beautification projects in our area. Guignard Park, Chamber office building, street and highway projects have been studied and much progress made in improving the appearance of our area. Yard of the month plaques have been presented to both individuals and businesses for the greatest improvement and most well kept lawns in the area. Various garden clubs have decorated the Chamber for the holiday seasons. Spring garden tours and clean up campaigns have been sponsored. This has over the years been a very busy and hard working committee.

TRANSPORTATION: With the implementation of the Coates Plan and completion of the Hampton Expressway through our area, the main thrust in years ahead will be the Southeastern Beltway. The Chamber is working closely with the City and Highway Department with the hopes of keeping the community informed on all plans

and public meetings affecting this project. Car pools have been discussed. Improvements to Ninth Street have been completed from Augusta Street to Highway One.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: This committee reports on legislative issues affecting the citizens of the community. It has a speaker's bureau to speak to clubs, groups, and individuals on the good and bad features of pending legislation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: Stanly Goodwin being a member of the committee of one hundred promotes our county and community for industrial development to prospective businesses.

MERCHANTS: Several seminars have been held for business to better inform them of problems in the industry; shoplifting, security, taxes, estate planning, and bad checks. These seminars have been well received throughout the business community.

CHRISTMAS PARADE: As a community project, the Chamber sponsors the annual Christmas Parade. This parade has been judged one of the best in the state. It attracts spectators from all of central South Carolina and is made up of over a hundred units. The cities of Cayce and West Columbia cooperate with traffic control along Knox Abbott Drive and the parade always gets underway promptly at 10:00 a.m. for the three and one-half mile route. Awards are made to the two best bands and two for the best floats. Airport and Brookland-Cayce Bands alternate the leading of the parade bands and are not eligible for an award. The Chamber has always been able to come up with outstanding individuals to serve as the Parade Marshall. The Santa Claus float is sponsored by the Chamber. It is the highlight of the yuletide season. The weekend following the parade is the annual Carol-Lighting service held at Guignard Park. The Chamber has a very interesting and seasonal program for this event.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, AND DIRECTORS

1958

Officers

President	-	Wyman Trotti
Vice President	-	Dave Broyar
Secretary	-	Jack Callison
Treasurer	-	Willis Henry

Board of Directors

Cyril Busbee
Ray Matthews
Forest Abbott
C. M. Compton
Earl Thompson
Jennings Stroud
L. H. Blackville

1959

Officers

President	-	Dave Bryan
Vice President	-	Chick Compton
Secretary	-	J. T. Brittingham
Treasurer	-	Willis Henry

Committee Chairman

Annual Dinner	-	Cyril Busbee
Merger Committee	-	Wyman Trotti
Membership	-	Chick Compton
Tourist Committee	-	Alan Rose
Industrial Committee	-	L. V. Bruno

Board of Directors

Cyril Busbee
Ray Matthews
Al Rose
Chick Compton
Willis Henry
M. B. Robinson
W. W. Howard
Earle Dupriest
Harold Wessinger

1960

Officers

President	-	C. M. Compton
Vice President	-	Al Rose
Treasurer	-	Willis Henry
Secretary	-	J. T. Brittingham

1961

Officers

President	-	Al Rose
Vice President	-	Cyril Busbee
Treasurer	-	Willis Henry
Secretary	-	J. T. Brittingham

Board of Directors

J. T. Brittingham
Willis Henry
M. B. Kittrell
Ray Matthews
Dr. Robert Utsey
L. V. Bruno
Dave Bryan, Jr
Cyril Busbee
Jack Callison
Earl Jones
Earl Dupriest
M. B. Robinson
W. W. Howard
H. W. Wessinger
Dr. C. L. McEachern

1962

Officers

President	-	Cyril Busbee
Vice President	-	Willis Henry
Treasurer	-	Durham Boney, Jr
Secretary	-	J. T. Brittingham

Board of Directors

Al Rose
L. V. Bruno
Dave Bryan
Jack Callison
George Crow
Preston Callison
George Hartness
Jennings Stroud
Wyman Trotti
H. S. Caughman
Guy Lipscomb
E. L. Thompson
Marvin Efron
Robert M. Wise
C. Stanley Smith, Jr

1963

Officers

President	-	Willis Henry
Vice President	-	Durham Boney, Jr
Secretary	-	
Treasurer	-	

Committee Chairman

Annual Dinner	-	Al Rose
Civic Development	-	Harold Wessinger
Coffee Club	-	Carl J. Ott
Education	-	Preston H. Callison
Membership	-	Durham S. Boney, Jr
Tourist	-	Jennings Stroud
Navigation	-	L. V. Bruno
Merchants Committee	-	Arthur Snyder
Finance	-	J. T. Brittingham
Lexington Co. Hospital	-	John Parrish

Board of Directors

Durham Boney
J. T. Brittingham
B. L. Williams
Cyril Busbee
D. A. Childs
W. D. Bachman
H. W. Wessinger
John A. Broom, Jr
Robert D. Utsey
Jennings Stroud
Robert Hudson
M. B. Robinson
L. V. Bruno
Marvin Efron
Arthur Snyder
John Parrish

1964

Officers

President	-	Durham S. Boney, Jr
Vice President	-	B. L. Williams
Secretary	-	Ray Matthews
Treasurer	-	M. B. Robinson

Committee Chairman

Business Development	-	W. B. Bachman
Coffee Club	-	Al Rose
Education	-	Forrest Abbott
Finance	-	D. A. Childs
Civic Development	-	W. T. Mixon
Industrial	-	L. V. Bruno
Legislative Committee	-	Jack Callison
Lexington Co. Hospital	-	Cyril B. Busbee
Membership	-	B. L. Williams
Merchants	-	Carl J. Ott
Navigation	-	Norman Adams
Obscene Literature	-	Dr. Bob Utsey
Publicity	-	Felicia Sisk
Tourist	-	George Crowe

1965

Officers

President	-	M. B. Robinson
Vice President	-	Marvin Efron
Secretary	-	Jack R. Callison
Treasurer	-	L. V. Bruno

Committee Chairman

Business Development	-	W. B. Bachman
Coffee Club	-	Lamar G. Hammett
Education	-	W. T. Lander, Jr
Finance	-	Robert N. Hubbs
Civic Development	-	Ted C. Reynolds
Industrial	-	Roy E. Broughman
Legislative	-	Jack R. Callison
Membership	-	Marvin Efron
Merchants	-	J. A. Hert
Navigation	-	Ted L. Morphy
Publicity	-	Alan P. Rose
Tourist	-	Robert A. Minick