

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

JAN - 8 1992

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:)
)
Amendment of Section 73.202(b))
Table of Assignments) RM-
FM Broadcast Stations)
(Dumas, Arkansas))

To: Chief, Mass Media Bureau

PETITION FOR RULE MAKING

ALAN W. EASTHAM & CRAIG EASTHAM d/b/a KXFE-FM ("KXFE"), by Counsel, and pursuant to Sections 1.401 and 1.420(g) of the Commission's Rules, hereby respectfully Petitions the Commission to institute a Rule Making Proceeding with a view toward amending the FM Table of Allocations to substitute Channel 295C3 for Channel 296A at Dumas, Arkansas as follows:

<u>City/State</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Dumas, Arkansas	296A	295C3

In support whereof, the following is shown:

Background

1. Alan & Craig Eastham are the licensees of FM Broadcast Station KXFE, Dumas, Arkansas, which presently operates on Channel 296A. Attached hereto as

No. of Copies rec'd 075
List A B C D E
8010

Exhibit A is the Engineering Statement of Bromo Communications, Inc., wherein it is stated that Channel 295C3 may be substituted for Channel 296A presently assigned to the community of Dumas, Arkansas, save one condition. As will be more fully discussed below, in order to effectuate the channel substitution at Dumas, Arkansas, Channel 287A must be substituted for Channel 295A at Marianna, Arkansas, *which is presently a vacant allocation.*

Economic and Demographic Factors

2. Now operating KXFE, a Class A FM station, on Channel 296A in Dumas, Arkansas, KXFE suffers a competitive disadvantage inasmuch as many of the competing FM stations licensed to the Dumas - Pine Bluff area are Class C stations. The Easthams have long desired to upgrade the services of KXFE-FM so that the station could serve additional areas and populations in a rapidly growing tri-county area. Accordingly, the Easthams have been investigating the most efficient and prudent means to upgrade KXFE-FM's facilities.

3. Dumas, Arkansas is located in Desha County. U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that the Dumas area and Desha County as a whole have experienced tremendous population growth since 1970. In 1970, Desha County hosted a population of 18,761. By 1980, the county's population increased to 19,760. As of 1990, the county supported an estimated population of 21,262 -- a 13% increase since 1980.¹ Similarly,

¹ The 1970 and 1980 populations statistics were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. The 1990 estimate, derived from 1988 Census Bureau statistics and local growth analysis, was obtained from the Dumas Chamber of Commerce.

the population of the City of Dumas has increased from 4,600 in 1970 to 6,170 in 1988 -
-- a 34% increase!

4. Besides the significant growth in resident population that Desha County and the City of Dumas has experienced, the area has recently become an industrial hub with principal plants manufacturing commercial refrigeration (Hussmann), furniture (Dantan Company & Bassett Industries), automotive parts and ignition cables (Belden), trailer slides (Binkley) and sportswear (Dantan), as well as processing farm products and fabricating steel buildings (Smith Steel). Located in the center of the Mississippi River Delta, the area's principal agricultural products are rice, cotton, soybeans, wheat, feed grains and farm-raised catfish. Dumas has the largest cotton warehouse in the south and extensive grain drying facilities.

5. As further evidence of the areas recent economic boom, the Chamber of Commerce has identified the following eight projects that recently has or soon will result in new or expanded industrial and business opportunities to the City of Dumas:

1. Arkat Feed Mill - a \$ 4,500,000 facility that was completed on or about June 1, 1990, creating 45 new jobs.

2. USDA Cotton Classing Facility - a \$ 1,000,000 project completed on or about May 1, 1990, creating 150 to 160 seasonal jobs.

3. Belden Corporation - a \$ 3,000,000 expansion completed in 1990.

4. Dumas Industrial Park - a \$ 750,000 complex completed in the Summer, 1990.

5. Age Industries - a \$ 500,000 facility that opened in 1989, creating 10 new jobs.
6. New Motel - a 15 room facility on the Arkansas River, opened February, 1990.
7. City of Dumas Auditorium - planning began in 1990 on the new \$300,000 to \$400,000 facility.
8. Desha County Library - an application is pending for a \$ 300,000 library grant for a complex to be built in Dumas.

Recent newspaper articles from The Dumas Clarion indicate that the area's long range plans include the construction of the Great River Bridge, estimated to cost approximately \$ 125,000,000 and create between 1,200 and 3,500 new jobs. See, Exhibit B.

6. In addition to serving Desha County, KXFE also serves neighboring Drew and Lincoln Counties. Should the Commission permit the requested upgrade, KXFE-FM would provide expanded service to both counties. Since 1970, these counties have also experienced modest growth. In 1970 the population of Drew County was 15,157. The U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that the county's population grew to 17,600 as of 1988 --- an increase of 16% since 1970. Lincoln County is also growing, although at a slower pace. In 1970, 12,913 persons resided in Lincoln County. As of 1988, the county's population was 13,300 --- a 3% increase since 1970.

Commission Policy Favors Upgrading of Facilities

7. During the past eight years, there has been a growing recognition by the Commission of the need and societal advantage in upgrading broadcast facilities in general. The first incentive towards upgrading came when the Commission enunciated

its goals and guidelines in Modification of FM and TV Station Licenses, 49 FR 34007

(August 28, 1984):

13. Commission policy encourages FM and television licensees to upgrade their facilities. Upgrading enables these licensees to provide better service to their audiences without the cost and delay of a comparative hearing. We believe that, by amending the Commission's Rules to provide a procedure whereby licensees of stations seeking to upgrade can do so within the context of the rule making proceeding to amend the FM and television tables of assignments, we will encourage upgrading. This is so, because modification at that time will reduce costs and risks associated with comparative consideration of competing applications.

8. The second incentive towards upgrading the facilities of stations such as KXFE-FM came when the Commission released its First Report and Order in MM Docket No. 88-231, **Implementation of BC Docket No. 80-90 to Increase the Availability of FM Broadcast Assignments**, 50 Fed. Reg. 3514, published January 25, 1985. This action amended the FM Table of Assignments, §73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, by adding new FM channels to 689 communities throughout the country. In addition, however, the Commission explicitly addressed the issue of existing Class A stations seeking to upgrade to a higher class of service:

4. The Commission has received forty-four (44) objections styled as petitions for reconsideration pertaining to our failure to accept certain counterproposals these requests also involved the desire of existing Class A stations to upgrade to a higher class of channel and have their licenses modified accordingly. The question of modifying licenses in the rule making context was unsettled during this period as a result of a pending Application for Review to the Helena Montana, case, 50 R.R. 2d 70 (1982), recons. 48 FR 59025, published November 30, 1983, and no such requests were being considered. The Commission's policy was recently established in Modification of FM and TV Station Licenses, MM

Docket 83-1148, **enabling us to now consider requests which involve modifying a station's license to a higher class.**

* * * * *

14. The majority of unacceptable counterproposals were returned because they involved a Class A station desiring to upgrade. **The Commission generally favors such upgrades.** However, an increase in coverage for an existing station is usually not the same import as the provision of new local service. **We have nevertheless treated such proposals as comments and attempted to allot alternate channels than those proposed in order to accommodate the desire of those stations to upgrade in the future.** Finally, where commenters requested the allotment of a higher class of channel than that proposed in the Notice, we attempted to do so with due regard to the comparative weighting system and the optimization process. (emphasis added)

9. The instant proposed allocation is in accordance with the above Commission precedent in that the proposed allocation cannot be made, absent deletion of the existing channel, and that the new allotment is not otherwise available for application by others. Accordingly, since KXFE-FM seeks upgrade to C3 status on adjacent Channel 295C3, no showing of the availability of a second C3 channel is required.

Compliance with Allocation Standards

10. The reference coordinates for KXFE's proposed upgrade [North Latitude 33 - 55 - 34 and West Longitude 91 - 38 - 04] clear all allocation constraints with two theoretical exceptions: WMJW at Cleveland, Mississippi and KVNZ at Marianna, Arkansas. With respect to WMJW at Cleveland, the Commission's *Order* in Docket 89-415 requires that station to vacate Channel 295A and relocate on Channel 298C3. WMJW has, in fact,

filed an FCC Form 301 application seeking a construction permit for Channel 298C3 facilities. See, *BPH-911030IE (application still pending.)* Since the WMJW frequency change has not only been ordered by the FCC but also applied for by that licensee, WMJW was only considered on Channel 298C3 for the purposes of the instant upgrade analysis. With respect to the Marianna, Arkansas allocation, the Commission should take official notice of the fact that the Construction Permit of KVNZ at Marianna was *canceled*, and the call sign *deleted* on 15 October 1991. See, *FCC Report No. 15112*. Thus, the Marianna allocation is presently vacant.

11. KXFE's newly proposed substitution of Channel 287A at Marianna is usable at North Latitude 34 - 47 - 01, West Longitude 90 - 46 - 03. This new site is only approximately one kilometer from the former site and this location will allow the 3.16 mV/m city grade signal to cover the entire city of Marianna.²

12. KXFE has no choice but to utilize the coordinates proposed herein for its upgrade. No other site is available that would permit KXFE to cover all of its city of license with a city-grade signal and also comply with applicable FCC minimum-distance requirements. Whereas KXFE is an existing, operating entity, the Marianna allocation is vacant. Therefore, the public interest requires FCC consideration of the channel substitution at Marianna so that the facilities of an existing FM facility be upgraded.

² Additionally, from KXFE's requested 295C3 reference coordinates, the entire city of Dumas, Arkansas will be served by its new proposed 3.16 mV/m city grade contour.

Statement of Interest

13. As required by Commission Policy, the Easthams hereby state, that in the event the proposed substitution in allocations is made, they will apply for a modification of the KXFE-FM license to reflect operation on Channel 295C3.

WHEREFORE, the above premises considered, Alan & Craig Eastham respectfully request that the Commission institute Rule Making proceedings proposing to amend Section 73.202 of the Rules with respect to the assignment of FM Channels to Dumas, Arkansas, as follows:

<u>City/State</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Dumas, Arkansas	296A	295C3

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN W. EASTHAM & CRAIG EASTHAM
d/b/a KXFE-FM

By: _____
Cary S. Tepper

Their Attorney

Putbrese, Hunsaker & Ruddy
6800 Fleetwood Road
P.O. Box 539
McLean, Virginia 22101

(703) 790-8400

January 8, 1992

KXFE EXHIBIT A

**(Technical Statement of
Bromo Communications, Inc.)**

RADIO STATION KXFE (FM)
REQUESTED RULE MAKING
295 C3 - 106.9 MHZ
DUMAS, ARKANSAS
January 1992

1. This Technical Exhibit supports the request of Alan W. and Craig L. Eastham, KXFE (FM) licensee, to change the FM Table of Allotments, 73.207 of the Commission's Rules, by substituting Channel 295 C3 for the presently assigned Channel 296 A at Dumas, Arkansas and ordering KXFE (FM) to the higher power channel.

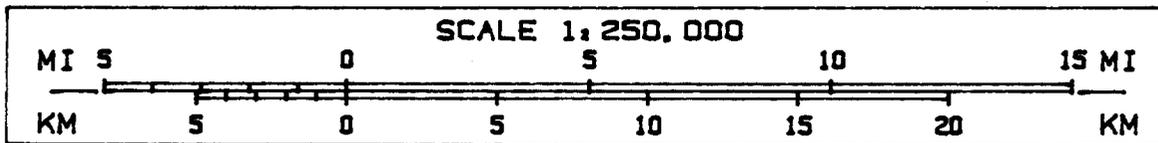
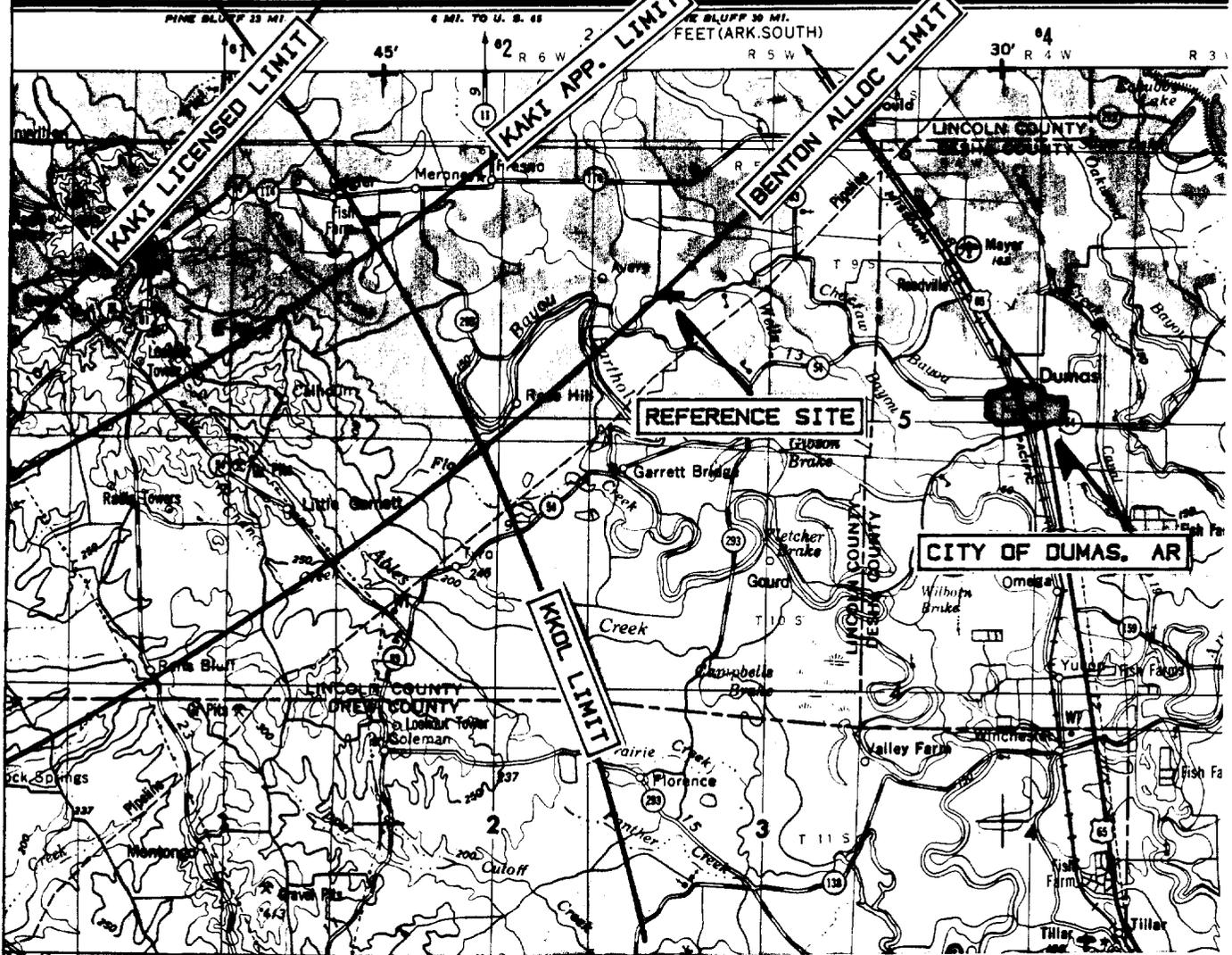
2. The reference coordinates of 33 55 34 North Latitude and 91 38 04 West Longitude clear all allocation requirements with two exceptions: WMJW, Cleveland, Mississippi and KVNZ, Marianna, Arkansas. Docket 89-415 ordered WMJW, Cleveland, Mississippi to vacate Channel 295 A and relocate on 298 C3. Therefore, WMJW was only considered on 298 C3. The Construction Permit of KVNZ, Marianna, Arkansas was cancelled and the call sign deleted on October 15, 1991 through Report No. 15112. Because 295 C3 at Dumas Arkansas cannot coexist with 295 A at Marianna, it is requested that Channel 287 A be substituted. Since the KVNZ Construction Permit was cancelled, the Marianna allocation is vacant. The newly proposed substitution of 287 A is usable at 34 47 01 North Latitude and 90 46 03 West Longitude. This site is only approximately one kilometer from the former site and

this location will allow the 3.16 mV/m city grade signal over the entire city of Marianna, Arkansas. Additionally from the requested 295 C3 reference coordinates, the entire city of Dumas, Arkansas will be served by the 3.16 mV/m city grade signal.

3. Exhibit #1 is the Usable Area for Channel 295 C3.
Exhibit #2 is the computer Allocation Study for 295 C3.
Exhibit #3 is the Allocation Study for 287 A at Marianna, Arkansas.

4. When 295 C3 is assigned to Dumas, Arkansas, Alan W. and Craig L. Eastham will file a timely application (FCC Form 301) to construct the expanded facility.

STATES 1:250,000



295 C3 USABLE AREA

Reference Site:
33 55 34 North Latitude
91 38 04 West Longitude

Map is USGS Greenwood, Miss 250,000
scale

EXHIBIT #1
KXFE (FM) RADIO STATION
REQUESTED RULE MAKING
295 C3 - 106.9 MHZ
DUMAS, ARKANSAS

January 1992

BROMO
COMMUNICATIONS

St Simons Island, Georgia

BROADCAST
TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Washington, D.C.

BROMO COMMUNICATIONS INC.
St. Simons Island GA / Washington DC

Dumas, Arkansas
Searching at Reference Site

REFERENCE 33 55 34 N CLASS C3 DISPLAY DATES DATA 11-27-91
91 38 04 W Current rules spacings SEARCH 01-03-92
----- CHANNEL 295 -106.9 MHz -----

CALL TYPE	CH# LAT	CITY LNG	STATE PWR	BEAR' HT	D-KM D-Mi	R-KM R-Mi	MARGIN (KM)
KXFE LI CN	296A 33 53 27	Dumas 91 31 38 Alan W. & Craig L. Eastham	AR 2.750 kW	111.6 49M	10.67 6.6	89.0 55.3	-78.33 *
KVNZ.C CP CN	295A 34 45 41	Marianna 90 43 14 Ramblin Communications	AR 3.000 kW	42.2 100M	125.12 77.8	142.0 88.3	-16.88 *
ALOPEN AL N	294C2 34 42 05	Benton 92 30 00 87-73	AR 0.000 kW	317.2 0M	117.22 72.8	117.0 72.7	0.22 <
KAKI.A AP CN	294C2 34 47 56	Benton 92 29 44 Bridges Broadcasting Service	AR 9.500 kW	320.7 341M	125.08 77.7	117.0 72.7	8.08
KKQL LI CN	296A 33 32 23	Hampton 92 34 59 Southern Arkansas Radio Compa	AR 3.000 kW	244.0 96M	97.80 60.8	89.0 55.3	8.80
KAKI LI CN	296A 34 30 30	Benton 92 32 42 Bridges Broadcasting Service	AR 2.500 kW	307.6 101M	105.87 65.8	89.0 55.3	16.87

C3 ALLOCATION STUDY

EXHIBIT #2
KXFE (FM) RADIO STATION
REQUESTED RULE MAKING
295 C3 - 106.9 MHZ
DUMAS, ARKANSAS

January 1992

BROMO
COMMUNICATIONS

St Simons Island, Georgia

BROADCAST
TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Washington, D.C.

BROMO COMMUNICATIONS INC.
St. Simons Island GA / Washington DC

Marianna, Arkansas
Alternate Channel

REFERENCE 34 47 01 N CLASS A DISPLAY DATES DATA 11-27-91
90 46 03 W Current rules spacings SEARCH 01-03-92
----- CHANNEL 287 -105.3 MHz -----

CALL TYPE	CH# LAT	CITY LNG	STATE	BEAR' HT	D-KM D-Mi	R-KM R-Mi	MARGIN (KM)
KCLT LI CN	285A 34 30 56	West Helena 90 40 13	AR	163.3 91M	31.05 19.3	31.0 19.3	0.05 <
West Helena Broadcasters					BLH850103LB		
WGKX LI CN	290C 35 09 17	Memphis 89 49 20	TN	64.5 303M	95.65 59.5	95.0 59.0	0.65 <
Kix Broadcasting, Inc.					BLH891221KC		
KXDX LI CN	288A 34 25 52	Stuttgart 91 26 08	AR	237.4 105M	72.68 45.2	72.0 44.8	0.68 <
Arkansas County Broadcasters,					BLH871221KE		
KJIWFM LI CN	233A 34 30 52	Helena 90 38 18	AR	158.3 79M	32.13 20.0	10.0 6.2	22.13
Elijah Mondy, JR.					BLH900226KF		
KMJX LI CY	286C1 34 47 53	Conway 92 29 33	AR	270.6 321M	157.87 98.1	133.0 82.7	24.87
Magic Broadcasting of Little					BLH871223KB		

MARIANNA ALTERNATE CHANNEL

EXHIBIT #3
KXFE (FM) RADIO STATION
REQUESTED RULE MAKING
295 C3 - 106.9 MHZ
DUMAS, ARKANSAS

January 1992

BROMO
COMMUNICATIONS

St Simons Island, Georgia

BROADCAST
TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

Washington, D.C.

AFFIDAVIT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT

State of Georgia)
St. Simons Island) ss:
County of Glynn)

CLIFTON G. MOOR being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an officer of Bromo Communications, Inc. Bromo has been engaged by Alan W. and Craig L. Eastham, licensees of KXFE, to prepare the attached Technical Exhibit.

His qualifications are a matter of record before the Federal Communications Commission. He has been active in broadcast engineering since 1966.

The attached report was either prepared by him or under his direction and all material and exhibits attached hereto are believed to be true and correct.

This the 3rd day of January, 1992.

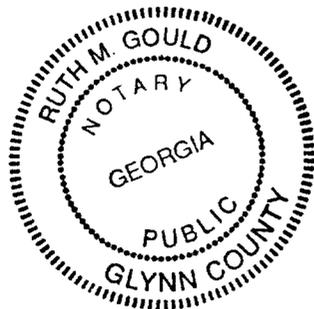


CLIFTON G. MOOR
Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this the 3rd day of
January, 1992.



Notary Public, State of Georgia
My Commission Expires: August 21, 1995



KXFE EXHIBIT B

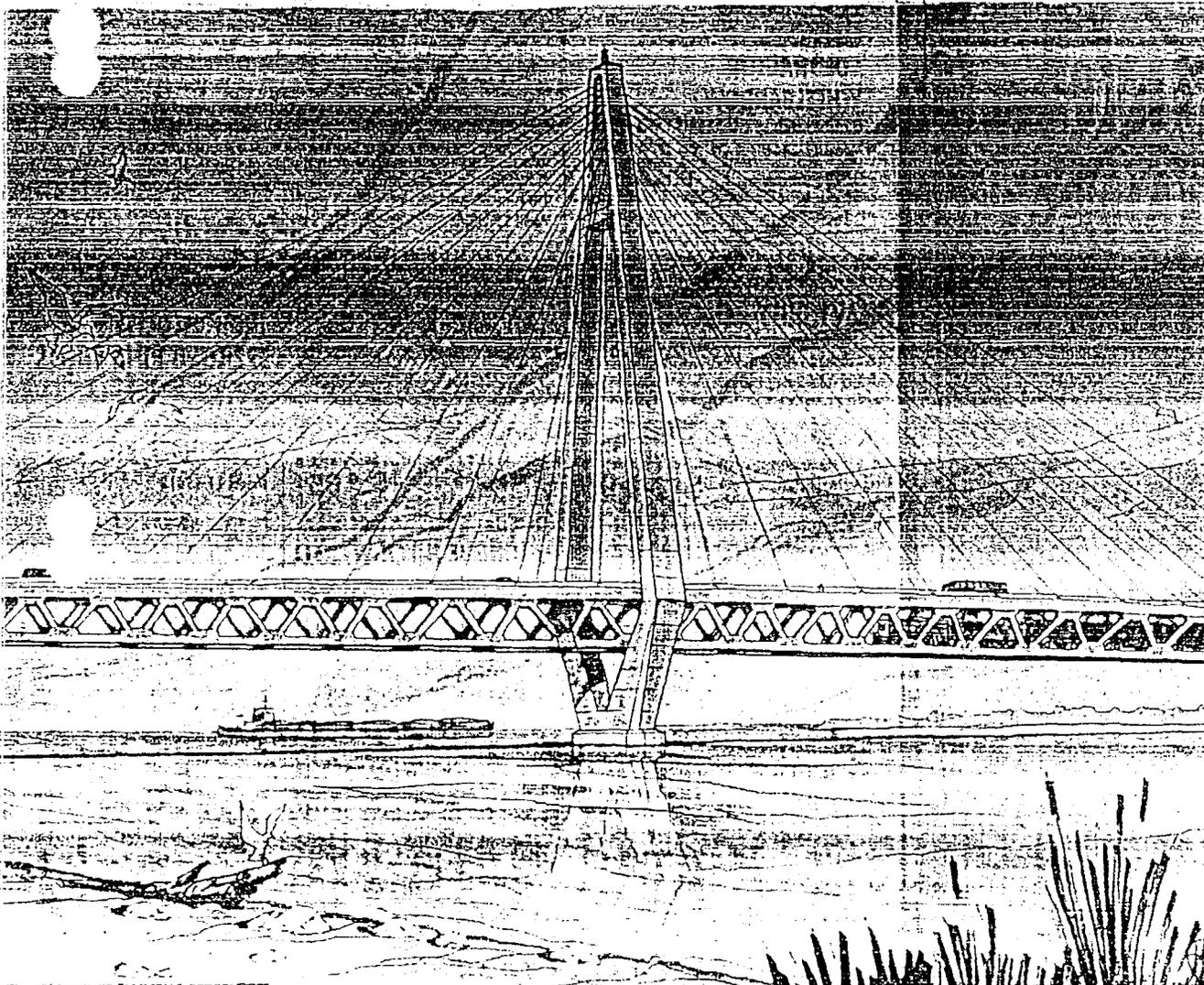
(Newspaper Articles from
The Dumas Clarion)

Daycare centers
meeting the need
(See Page 1B)

The Dumas Clarion

Chamber banquet:
Photo coverage
(See Page 1C)

(USPS #162-240) Weekly, Vol. 60, No. 19 DUMAS, DESHA COUNTY, ARK., Wed. February 21, 1990 3 Secs. 20 Pages - 25c A Copy



Report: Great River Bridge is feasible

One more step has been achieved on the long-range goal of a Great River Bridge from Desha County to Bolivar County, Miss.

The Arkansas-Mississippi Great River Bridge Compact meeting in Cleveland, Miss. last Wednesday formally accepted the feasibility study which shows the bridge feasible from an economic development standpoint.

Members of the Compact Authority, including the highway commissioners in Arkansas, praised the study which has a favorable benefit-cost ratio of 4.6 to 5.6 to one on all five alternate projected routes.

Said Charles Dean of Cleveland, co-chairman of the compact authority, "This one of the best feasibility studies I've seen."

The study, by the firm of Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff of Kansas City cooperating with Hammer, Siler George Associates of Denver, suggests a two-lane cable-stayed truss bridge that will be designed to accommodate a rail crossing at a later date.

With a Delta design (the Greek triangle), the eight-mile bridge, levee to levee with no down ramps, would cost an estimated \$110 million, with \$15.6 million more needed to build a connecting highway from Arkansas 1 to Highway 65 in Desha County and \$4 million to connect Highway 8 in Rosedale with Cleveland, Miss. If the railway were added, the total project cost would be \$284 million.

The report summary said that between 1,200 and 3,500 jobs would be created during the bridge construction, but more significantly, the summary said that the bridge in that location would lead to the creation of between 3,000 and 7,700 permanent jobs. A net present value of benefits would be between \$578 million and \$1.4 billion, according to the report.

"The Great River Bridge has been proposed based on its ability to generate economic development benefits to a large underdeveloped region. Consequently, initial travel demand projections do not support tolls or other direct revenue sources as a feasible funding source," said the report.

"The projected economic benefits association with the project are predicted upon the expansion of the primary highway networks in both states in the nearby region. If both states treated this project as a primary system improvement and paid 25 per cent of the bridge costs, a funding gap of \$82.5 million would still exist. Among federal sources to be considered in meeting these requirements are demonstration funds from the U. S. Department of Transportation and inclusion in the project priorities and budget proposal of the Lower Mississippi Regional Development Commission."

Charles Venable, chief engineer of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, dis-

(Continued on Page 5A)

THE GREAT RIVER BRIDGE PROPOSAL: "DELTA DESIGN"



Best friends Judy and Oma Lynn argue as Judy's zany southern comedy "Little Lulu in a Tight Orange Dress." other Yvonne worked on her monkey dolls in the (Photo by Barry D. Arthur)

Little Lulu in a Tight Orange Dress to be staged Friday at Dumas High

Friday, Feb. 23, a new southern comedy will play at Dumas High school auditorium. "Little Lulu in a Tight Orange Dress," by John G. Moynihan, is set in a double-wide house trailer on the outskirts of Hot Peak,

into utter, if sometimes depraved, hilarity. "Missouri-born playwright John Moynihan has created, I think, some wonderfully funny antics for his disarming trio of women," says Cliff Fannin Baker, himself a Missouri

Heifner's "Bargains" with Mary Steenburgen at The Rep. She has been seen in "Money Matters" for HBO, the soap opera "Texas," and in the film "Rollover." The "Lulu" trailer setting is by Mike Nichols, The Rep's resident

Great River Bridge is feasible; Delta bridge design is proposed

(Continued from Page 1A)
cussed the study and commented, "It looks like the bridge would be feasible and a boon to the area if it can be done."
Gary DalPorto with the Federal Highway Administration in Little Rock said the report had been accepted by the administration and he awaited clearance from the secretary of transportation.

John Tabb, executive director of the Mississippi Highway Department, commented on the difficulty of obtaining federal funding at this time. Raymond Pritchett of Maumelle, chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission, said he wondered if the Lower Mississippi Development Commission had been given any proposals for improvements that were any better than the one for the bridge. Ron Harrod of Preacott, another commissioner, replied, "My personal opinion is 'no.'"

Venable remarked that "in all our meetings with the Delta Commission, they have considered it."

Discussion centered about the

next step following the feasibility study. Upon motion of Harrod, the compact authority approved a resolution asking that the bridge project be included in the Lower Mississippi Delta Commission's report to Congress and that Congress be asked for the funding for environmental and geotechnical studies.

"It is the job of our authority and groups on both sides of the river to get the money (for the bridge)," said Dean. "We have a saleable item to Congress. The economics are extremely strong on what the bridge would do for both sides of the river."

Dean noted that extra copies of the formal study and its executive summary are needed. He pointed out that only \$328,000 of the \$475,000 allotted by Congress had been spent on the feasibility study, and asked highway leaders to check on whether the remaining funds could be used on the new studies.

The compact authority voted to buy 75 more copies of the large study, and several hundred of the

summary.

Ann Cash, commenting for the Arkansas advocacy group, commented that "we will have 10 people going to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Mississippi group and federal officials on this project."

Noting that the Mississippi advocacy group will have eight going to Washington at the same time, March 24-27, George Greene of Rosedale said, "The report is a fine piece of work, and my congratulations go to the authority. Your foresight and wisdom will be validated."

Bill Clark of Hot Springs, co-chairman of the compact authority, expressed his thanks "for all the hard work which has been done." He continued: "We're headed in the right direction. Now we need to continue to go farther."

Attending the meeting from Desha County were Mayor Rosalie Gould and Ann Cash of McGehee; Michael Jones, Mayor Bill Hopmann and Rep. Charlotte Schexnayder of Dumas.

David Rainey, Maxine Stubbs are honored with citizenship awards

(Continued from Page 1A)
tary, and serves on the advisory committee for federal programs.

Her involvement with community organizations began in the mid-1970s when, as a member of the Jayettes, she served as secretary and historian. In 1977 she was named "Jaycette of the Year."

Later involvements include the Dumas Civic Club, in which she held several offices, and the Women's Service League, in which Mrs. Stubbs has chaired many commit-

United Methodist Church since 1976, where she is a member of the administrative board, has served as director and been an active worker in the Vacation Bible School program, and where she has taught Sunday school for eight years.

Mrs. Stubbs also helped to develop a program with her elementary Sunday school class for church members unable to attend services due to illness. She chaired the church Halloween carnival for three years.

ditionally bestowed upon a Dumas man and woman, and the program dates back to 1949.

The Bill Dunklins of Dumas, Desha County Farm Family of the year, were also honored during the program, receiving a plaque from Charlotte Schexnayder, publisher of *The Dumas Clarion*, on behalf of the Arkansas Press Association and Arkansas Power and Light.

Local industries and public utilities provided displays for the high



Opinion

20—THE DUMAS, Ark., CLARION, Wed., March 28, 1990

Long-range plan: a must

Dumas is showing economic growth and making civic improvements, but continued progress cannot be assured without good long-range planning.

The Industrial Foundation has had a 20-year plan for some years, thanks to the foresight of Fred Williams.

However, no long-range plan exists for the City of Dumas. Planning ought to include one, three, five and ten year goals.

A number of Arkansas cities have adopted long-range plans, and one, Smackover, has done such excellent planning that its goals have suggested complementary projects by civic organizations as well.

As the federal deficit hamstrings help from the federal government and state needs are not met by state budgets, it becomes more apparent that our city must be innovative and put its own resources, as well as the work and support of its citizens into progress.

We are fortunate to have the new ARKAT Feeds, Inc. mill, for the processing of fish food, and the new USDA cotton classing office being built by the Sherrod Company, near completion. These will mean additional employment at a time when the Desha County joblessness is running more than 10 per cent.

In addition, Dumas has a new post office in the offing. And the city auditorium commission continues to work toward an auditorium complex, while the library commission is studying plans for a new library downtown. These three can be major improvements for our city.

In long-range planning, focus should be directed toward the needed municipal services, particularly a fireman on duty for the reduction of insurance rates, and drainage and street improvements.

Recreation must be taken into consideration, with expansion of parks and a summer city-wide recreational program. The Dumas Drug-Free

Community Team is making a concerted effort to get a recreational program into place during the coming summer and has been energetic enough to get a state grant to help with the financing. Volunteers and contributions by townspeople can help assure the success of this program.

Development of business, renovation of downtown buildings and efforts to fill empty buildings are other possible goals to seek.

Transportation could be another focus, Dumas desperately needs an overpass and ought to put as much effort as possible into pushing for a four-lane highway.

In terms of the medical complex, physician recruitment is a must.

These are but a few of the ideas which ought to be covered in long-range planning.

Appointment of a 21st Century Committee, to map goals for this decade, could help Dumas enter the new century with purpose and confidence.