

BUILDING COLUMBUS

1980

ANNUAL REPORT Major Highlights in 1980

Pratt-Whitney Aircraft Division - \$100 million

Swift Textiles - \$25 million expansion

Southern Cannery - \$4.5 million

Triple A Custom Builders

SCM Corp., Glidden Division

Speculative buildings in Columbus East Industrial Park (CEIP) (2)

Callaway Chemical Co. - \$2 million project under construction in CEIP

Sans Souci Distributing Co. warehouse

West Point Pepperell - \$2 million expansion

Robinson, Grimes & Co. - \$400,000 expansion

Litho-Krome, Division Hallmark Cards - \$2.5 million expansion

Lummus Industries - \$1 million expansion

Fieldcrest Mills - \$30 million expansion and renovation

Hospital expansion - \$40 million

La Quinta Motel

Days Inn (announced)

New office building for Home Federal Savings & Loan Association

One Station Unit Training (OUST) approved

911 Emergency Number approved

Leadership Columbus Program initiated

Fieldcrest Phenix City expansion - \$5 million

North Columbus By-Pass design completed

Southern Open Purse raised to \$200,000

Eight story Hilton Inn – groundbreaking January 5, 1981

Manufacturers' and Processors' Council formed

Most successful Membership Blitz in Chamber history with 160 new members

Message From The President

With 1980 having just ended, it seems to me that this issue of our Newsletter is an appropriate one to give our members an “Annual Report” for the activities of the past twelve months.

During the past year there were many exciting activities by your Chamber and there are numerous folks that deserve our special thanks for their work on behalf of the Chamber.

Under the leadership of Steve Knight, the 911 Emergency Telephone System was approved and will soon be in operation. This will be a tremendous addition to our community. In other communities that have this system, many lives have been saved by using the 911 number.

Another new program instituted in 1980 was the “Leadership Columbus” Seminars under the direction of Martelle Layfield. Many of the future leaders of our community are having the opportunity to participate in these meetings and are learning from our present leaders more about our great city.

The Retail Council under the chairmanship of Warren Pomerance, was again very active and conducted three worthwhile seminars for our members in the retail business. The three seminars involved a shoplifting clinic and a Retail Legislation Clinic.

Rita Lowman served as chairman of the Education Committee and conducted the STAR Student and GOAL Awards program. We were particularly proud of our local Star Student, James Dudley, as he went on to become the Star Student for our Congressional District and State Star Student.

“Columbus Night” was held in Atlanta on February 4th and was a big success for us this year. Milton Hirsch, chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, worked closely with the Chamber staff to insure good attendance by all state legislators and other state officials to this important event.

Derward Terry served as the Master of Ceremonies for the monthly Chamber “Eye Opener” breakfasts and did an outstanding job of waking us up – and keeping us awake – at each meeting. We had an excellent programs and very good attendance at each breakfast.

Every five years the National Chamber conducts an Accreditation Survey on local chambers and 1980 was the time for our review. Dexter Followill served as chairman of the Accreditation Committee and he and the committee members put in many, many hours on this project. The areas considered are: Building, Staff, Financial Condition, Program of Work and the overall effectiveness of the Chamber in the community. They deserve our thanks for their hard work and we are looking forward to receiving a favorable rating in the near future.

Our 1980 Membership Committee Chairman was Jed Harris. Jed enlisted a number of hard workers for his committee and they called on prospects with good results all during the year. In October we conducted “Membership Blitz” under the direction of Bucky O’Neal and in a very short time we signed up 158 new members – an all-time record! Bucky was assisted by many workers, but particular praise should be given to Cheryl Blackmon for her work on this project.

There were many others who worked long and hard for the Chamber during 1980. Space doesn’t allow is to give detail on the activities of every committee. However, I do want to take this opportunity to thank the following committee chairmen for their contributions to the Chamber in 1980:

Joe Windsor-Civilian-Military Council; George Trussell-Transportation-Corridor Z; Bernie Barker-Publicity and Public Relations; Wayne Starks-Employer and Employee Relations;

Bob Koon- Manufacturers' and Processors' Council; Ray Wright-Clean and Green; George Woodruff-Industrial Development.

When you decide to single out one individual for special thanks, you run the risk of possibly overlooking someone. I don't mind taking that risk in expressing our sincere thanks to George C. Woodruff, Jr. for his work on convincing Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Group of United Technologies to locate here. In my opinion, Thursday, November 6, 1980 will long be remembered as a great day for Columbus. On that date, Mr. Harry Gray, United Technologies' Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Don Nigro, President of Manufacturing for Pratt Whitney, made joint announcements of the location in Columbus of a \$100 million aircraft jet engine parts plant.

Many sites all over the country were considered and it is a credit to our city that Columbus was chosen. George Woodruff, Jr. spent many, many, hours meeting with the officers of this great company and convincing them that they should choose Columbus. We are indebted to him for his efforts on our behalf.

While we usually think of a Chamber of Commerce as a volunteer group, no chamber can function without a permanent staff. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and capable staff and they certainly deserve recognition and our thanks.

Along with Joe Ragland, Executive Vice President, we have the following folks to assist the committee chairmen, member and other volunteers: Bill Tipton, Jim West, Helen Flowers, Karen Brown, Bob Hatcher, Martha Jo Moore, Charles Broadwell, Shirley Olsen, Sandy Lightsey, and Barbara Barnes.

It was a pleasure to serve as President of the Columbus Chamber during 1980 and I sincerely appreciate the work that was done by so many people.

I think it is significant that, when asked by a reporter why Pratt and Whitney selected Columbus over so many other cities, Mr. Harry Gray replied. "It was the people of Columbus that made the difference."

Best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous 1981!

Dennis W. Calhoun
1980 President

Economic Development

Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Group announced plans to build a \$100-million facility to employ 1600 people in an initial plant of 300,000 square feet. Jet- Engine Contract announcement of \$1-Billion+ were the icing and candles on the cake.

Hotel Columbus finalized plans for a \$12-million 8-story Hilton Hotel, a project that was five years in the making. This project will give Columbus a first class lodging facility and will strengthen the potential of the Iron Works Convention and Trade Center. It will probably have other beneficial effects on the downtown area.

Swift Textiles began construction on a \$28-million dollar expansion, another project that had long been in the planning stage. This project, located on Flat Rock Road in northeast Columbus, will create several hundred new jobs.

Fieldcrest Mills announced plans to complete a \$20-million renovation project and add another \$40-million to the project over the next five years. Fieldcrest will make major additions

and renovations to their structure in downtown Columbus. Fieldcrest also announced a \$5-million expansion of their Phenix City plant.

Several new manufacturing projects announced and began construction in 1980—Southeast Cannery (\$4.5 million), Glidden Division of SCM Corp., Triple A Custom Builders, KFE, Inc. Other local firms with major expansions include Columbus Mills, Callaway Chemical Co., West Point Pepperell, Lummus Industries, Columbus Ledger Enquirer, Naegele, Inc. and Sans Souci Distributing Company. Litho-Krome was purchased by Hallmark Cards and announced a \$2.5 million expansion.

Other announcements were made in the non-manufacturing sector during 1980 that are of equal importance. The Medical Center began construction on a \$40-million expansion. St. Francis Hospital completed a new addition to house its cardiac unit. Hughston Orthopedic Clinic was completed and opened for business. Home Federal Savings and Loan moved into its new multi-million dollar headquarters on the Manchester Expressway. La Quinta Motel finished construction and began operation in 1980; the Airport Holiday Inn completed another expansion: Days Inn announced plans to build a motel in Columbus. Several new shopping centers on Hamilton Road, Buena Vista Road and Airport Thruway opened in 1980. A variety of office projects were constructed all over town and new apartment and condominium complexes were opened or under construction. Two speculative industrial buildings were initiated in Columbus East Industrial Park.

100 percent Freeport became a reality for 1983. The Chamber contracted for a Target Industry Study to become more self sufficient in seeking new industry for the community. The Development Authority, with assistance from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, secured funding for a site improvement program in Columbus East. Other accomplishments of 1980 discussed elsewhere in this newsletter will also have long term benefits for the economic development of Columbus.

Industrial Relations Department

Employer-Employee Relations Committee

The Employer-Employee Relations Committee met early in 1980 and drew up the goals and objectives for the year.

Three major areas were selected. One was to be available for counsel to any business, especially small business, that could use the talents and expertise of the committee. Secondly, it agreed to sponsor and promote at least two appropriate seminars. A Worker's Compensation program was held on May 1 with almost 200 participants in attendance. The fourth annual Management Forum was held on October 30 with more than 200 participants. Favorable comments are still being made about the quality of these two programs.

Thirdly, the committee agreed to sponsor and support the Annual Wage and Fringe Benefit Survey. The survey was completed and distributed in November and was the most completed survey ever done by the Chamber.

A total of 14 meetings were held during the year and the committee listed below are to be commended for their efforts

Wayne Starks, TRW, Inc., - Chairman

Mike Bruni, Ledger-Enquirer

Cliff Livingston, Livingston Storage and Transfer Co.
Lee Grose, Tom's Foods, Ltd.
Rick Woodham, W.C. Bradley, Co.
Don Harbuck, Georgia Power Co.
Jeff Krug, Union Carbide Corp.
Twila Kirkland, First National Bank
Jim Humes, Hatcher, Stubbs, Land and Rothschild
Mark Youmans, Page, Scrantom, Harris, McGlanery and Chapman
Red Elliott, Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Industrial Relations Bulletin

The Industrial Relations Department publishes a bulletin every six weeks. Items of interest to managers and personnel people are gathered and published in the hope it will be beneficial to the recipients. Changes in laws, guidelines, judicial decisions, etc. as well as local information on employee relations, comments and suggestions are welcomed for future issues.

Manufactures' and Processors' Council

The Manufactures and Processors Council has been in existence for three years and three meetings were held during the year.

This program was designed to meet quarterly to afford top executives the opportunity to know or know better other heads of firms. Two of the meetings were purely social affairs and newcomers had the chance to mingle with their local counterparts. There was much evidence that the objective was met by the enthusiasm of the group.

The Steering Committee was comprised of Bob Koon, chairman, Swift Textiles; George Abbott. The Bibb company; Larry Hehl, Union Carbide; Joe Bowers, Coca-Cola; Doug Sinquefeild, Sunshine Biscuits, Inc.

Membership Department

Bi-Annual Membership Blitz Is Best In History Of Chamber

Over 160 new members were signed up in a two week period during the October 1980 Membership Blitz. Chairman for the Blitz was Bucky O'Neal, Georgia Power Company. Under Bucky's leadership, more than 150 businesses volunteers received a briefing about the Chamber and then went out and set a record for the most new members signed up during a blitz.

Volunteers were vieing for honors and incentives provided by current Chamber members. Top individual producer was Tommy David, Columbus Bank & Trust Co. Top team was the CB&T team: Tommy David, captain, Betty Thomas, Luther Taylor, Betty Cason and Bob Robbins.

Teams finished in the following order: Columbus Bank & Trust, First National Bank (Presidents Club Team), Georgia Company, National Bank & Trust, Trust Company of Columbus, Georgia Power Company, Home Federal Savings & Loan, CB&T (Presidents Club, Board of Directors, First National Bank, Southern Bell, American Family Life, TV Stations

Team, National Bank & Trust (Presidents Club Team), TRW, Westvaco, Union Carbide, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Tom's Foods Ltd., Savings & Loan Team, Muscogee County School District, Household Goods Movers, Gas Light Company, Bottling Companies, Columbus Jaycettes.

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!
MAKE YOUR RESERVACTIONS TO ATTEND THE
JANUARY EYE-OPENER BREAKFAST**

Thursday, January 22, 1981

Quality Inn (1011 4th Ave.)

Coffee: 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.

\$3.25 Per Person

Call 327-1566

COUNT ME IN!

(Fill in your Firm Name)

Will sponsor a monthly Eye-Opener Breakfast for \$200 during 1981. _____

Note: The sponsors fee gives you four (4) minutes on the program, credit as sponsor in all releases and follow-up stories. The fee covers costs of new members and newcomers meals, plus other costs relating to the breakfasts.

President's Club Volunteers Help Chamber Go Over 1980 Goal

The 25 businesses volunteers under the leadership of Jed Harris, 1st National helped the Chamber exceed its goal of adding \$30,000 in new membership to the roll during 1980. Through an ongoing campaign and by participating in short term blitzes, the volunteers vied for the honor of winning all sorts of incentives provided by Chamber members. In addition to winning bottles of wine, some of the largest T-bones in captivity and other prizes, these people also had the chance to win a new office mate, Hilda, a baby boa constrictor.

The group had a good time during the year and learned a great deal about the Chamber. Since membership is limited to only 25 volunteers who are able to generate new membership, the Chamber is assured top quality people form member firms.

Many thanks to the people who participated in the 1980 Presidents Club: Ed Batton, Georgia Power; Cheryl Blackmon, 1st National; Phil Brooks, CB&T; Doris Brown, 1st National; Wade Burford, CB&T; George Chapman, 1st National; David Coxon, CB&T; Linda Hadley, 1st National; Ron Hale, The Jordan Agency; Beth Harris, NB&T; Jed Harris, 1st National; Mahlon Hutto, TCC; Rodger Jensen, Gas Light Co.; Debbie Karr, Mike Henry Realtors; Len Leavell, NB&T; Faye Ledford, TCC; Randy Lunsford, CB&T; Kathy Martin, 1st National; Joey Mixon, CB&T; Alice Morgan, 1st National; Johnny Parish, NB&T; Bill Rucker, Robinson-Humphrey Co.; Allen Taber, NB&T; Beth Taylor, Homes Federal Savings; Susan Wiggins, W.C. Bradley Co.

Eye-Opener Breakfasts Prove Successful

Monthly breakfast meetings with programs of interest to the business community struck a responsive chord for the Chamber members in 1980. Derward Terry, Gas Light Company, was emcee for the year.

All members firms are eligible for sponsorship of a breakfast. The sponsorship fee (\$200) entitles the sponsor to 4 minutes on the program to talk about the firm's development and future plans. The fee helps provide the breakfasts for all new Chamber members signed up since the last breakfast and for all newcomers to the business community.

The 1980 welcoming committee consisted of Art Springer, Chattahoochee Valley Fair; Debbie Karr, Mike Henry Realty; Katherine Biggers, Brookstone School. Notices are sent to all member firms and groups that might have a special interest in the program are contacted when possible.

Local Media Co-Op "Alive and Doin' Well" Campaign

All the local television stations, newspapers, the outdoor displays company and nearly every radio station paid their prorated share to get the message to people that Columbus was Alive and Doin' Well despite the national business trends. The promotion stressed the positive aspects of our local business climate, Columbus' favorable balance of business and industry as well as its overall economic picture in relation to the national picture.

The promotion was presented in two phases beginning in mid-August. Phase One presented the overall theme of the project. Phase Two gave advertisers on the various media the opportunity to tie their advertisement to the campaign.

The Chamber whole-heartedly endorsed the project and commended the local media for the successful campaign. Dennis Calhoun, 1980 Chamber President, noted that this type of group effort is a strong way for business to work together to keep our area growing.

Leadership Columbus Program Initiated

Leadership Columbus, a program designed to make its participants aware of the workings of our community and to build leadership depth, was initiated and the first group of participants was chosen.

Leadership Columbus is an educational experience and takes no positions and does not attempt to create a consensus of opinion or promote a specific action. The leader-participants will do this on their own in their individual participation in all areas of community life and after a year with Leadership Columbus the individual leader will have more knowledge of the community, more awareness of its institutions and will know many more of its leaders. The group meets for twelve four-hour breakfast sessions, with a panel discussion-question and answer format.

Columbus is one of approximately twenty-five other cities in the nation that has successfully implemented a Leadership program.

Participants for the 1980-1981 program are: John C. Anderson, St. Francis Hospital; Thomas N. Austin, Assistant City Attorney; Sanford D. Bishop, Bishop & Ruckner, Attorneys; Cheryl B. Blackmon, First National Bank; John A. Boland, III, Swift Textiles; Joseph C. Bross, Bross Tire Sales; Jerry A. Buchanan, Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis, Rothschild, Attorneys;

William S. Culpepper, Gas Light Company; E. Wright Davis, Keil Davis, Harp & Zimmerman, Attorneys; J. Robert Elliot, Jr., First National Bank; David E. Fox, Home Federal Savings and Loans Association; Andy N. Freeman, Bob Carter Inc.; Cedric Hill, Peoples Funeral Home; Charles H. Myers, Jr., National Bank & Trust; Joseph E. Moran, First Federal Saving & Loan Association; George E. Stanton, Columbus College; Barbara C. Swift, Junior League of Columbus; A. Keith Vincent, Columbus Ledger and Enquirer; Gary W. Rassmussen, Ernst & Whinney; B. Andrew Waddell, Jr., Ebco Battery Company; Otis J. Scarborough, Woodruff-Brown Company; Frances A. Williamson, Dan Parker Associates; David M. Wright, Sheriff's Department; John B. Woodruff, Jr., Woodcrest Enterprises, Inc. Chairman of Leadership Columbus is Martelle Layfield, Jr.

Public Affairs Department

Ten Year Reaccreditation

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce is one of only about 300 Chambers out of the many thousands on the United States that are accredited. This means that our organization and that our program of work has been judged by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to be well run and fulfilling the needs of the community.

The Columbus Chamber was first accredited in 1971 and reaccredited in 1976 according to the five year reevaluation given to remain accredited. 1980 was the year to again be evaluated and remain accredited for 5 more years.

Dexter Followill agreed to serve as overall chairman of the Reaccreditation Committee with local Chamber members serving as co-chairman in six principal areas. They were: Organization, Lee Grogan; Program of Action, Mrs. Frank (Sandy) Martin; Financing, E.G. (Buddy) Sparks; Membership and Public Relations, Andrew B. Speed; Plant and Equipment, Buddy Roberts and Sherman Blagmon; Staff, Ben Williams and Max Brabson. All of the above co-chairmen and their committees met regularly to evaluate the Chamber performance and overall operation and all findings were turned in to the United States Chamber in October, 1980. In early 1981, an Accreditation team will visit the Columbus Chamber to make final observations and reports. The results of all this work should be made known to the Chamber within a short time after the Accreditation Team's visit.

Attitude Survey Lets Everyone Participate

The Publicity and Media Relations Committee chaired by Bernie Barker of WDAK accepted the assistance of graduate and undergraduate marketing students at Columbus College to conduct an attitude survey for the Chamber. Dr. Belle Zimmerly coordinated the activity and is currently writing the narrative for the research.

Responses from a cross section of Columbus residents was outstanding. Nearly every person contacted to participate in a focus group attended the early Saturday morning session at the Continuing Education Building at Columbus College.

Initial tabulations of the groups input shows some interesting attitudes about Columbus. The results will be utilized in planning upcoming Chamber promotions.

Business volunteers on the committee include Bucky Bowles, Litho-Krome; Terry Hattaway, Hattaway Advertising; Melissa Herndon, First Federal Savings & Loan; Bob Lee, WTVM; Dot McClure, Bob Shine, Naegele Outdoor Advertising; and Merry Tipton, Ledger-Enquirer newspapers.

OSUT Officially Approved At Fort Benning

Fort Benning, our sister community and largest employer, continued to grow and prosper during 1980. One of the most significant events was the long awaited, official approval of One Station Unit Training, called by the short title OSUT. Although already partially implemented, the decision officially established the program and will trigger additional permanent construction including barracks and a reception station. Now all Infantry soldiers entering the Army will receive their individual training here at Benning. Fort Benning continues to have a great economic impact on our community. For the past few months, their monthly disbursements have exceeded \$35 million with approximately \$30 million of the total consisting of payroll.

The outstanding support and cooperation by the Commanding General, MG Grange, and other post officials has produced a fine working relationship with our city throughout the year.

Military Affairs

The Chamber sponsored ROTC Drill Meet was held at Lakebottom Park on April 1, and again on November 21. The meet is normally held on February or March but was moved back to the Fall of the year permanently because of weather conditions and other school scheduling.

The Military Affairs Committee hosted five Allied Officer Luncheons and Orientation during year, for newly arrived groups of Allied Officers for the Advanced Course at Fort Benning.

The Chamber hosted the November Meeting of the Civilian and Military Council (CMC).

Orientations on Columbus and nearby attractions were held several times during the year for groups of Basic Course Officer Wives at Fort Benning.

Governmental Affairs Report

The Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee was very active during 1980 on a number of legislative and governmental actions. Recommended Chamber position in support of, or in opposition to, many selected legislative proposals were brought before the Chamber's Board of Directors for action. The committee also planned the annual reception in Atlanta for the Georgia Legislature and other key officials. More than 600 persons were in attendance including more than 100 government and business representatives from Columbus who acted as hosts.

The Annual Pre-Legislative Forum was again one of the highlights of the Governmental Affairs Program. More than 200 Chamber members, local officials and citizens attended the event at the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center to hear the two distinguished panelists – Governor George Busbee and Congressman Bo Ginn. Throughout the year, a very active letter writing campaign was conducted with our Congressional representatives by the Chamber's Legislative Action Group.

“Breakfast With Brinkley” was held on August 4, for Chamber members, governmental leaders, and interested citizens to meet with Congressman Jack Brinkley to discuss pending issues and to express appreciation to him for his representation at the federal level for this area.

Milton Hirsch was Chairman of the Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee from 1980. Other committee members included: Tom Cunningham, Carl Hett, Tommy David, Harry Ryce, Boyd Yarley, E.H. Ruffner, and Larry Brantley.

911 Emergency Number Task Force

Early in 1980 a Chamber Task Force was established under the leadership of Steve Knight to study the feasibility of Columbus getting the 911 Emergency Telephone System.

The Task Force was comprised of people who had interest and-or expertise in this field. This committee did research for several months with the telephone company, the city, other cities with existing systems, and held many meetings to hammer out a recommendation to the City Council, who accepted it unanimously.

Although it is not presently operational, the most sophisticated equipment to be found is being installed in the Government Center and should be in operation in early 1981. It is said to be the biggest public service ever to be given to the citizens of Columbus. This center will be a model for the others and a show place of the latest equipment.

The Task Force who worked so diligently were: Steve Knight, Chairman, E.J. Knight Scrap Material Company; Robert Speser, Department of Human Resources; Bill Culpepper, Gas Light Company; C.R. McClure, WCGQ Radio; Dr. Wallace Griner, Medical Center; Eugene Emmer, Southern Bell Telephone; Paul Mahaffey, Consolidated Government; Ben Williams, Southern Bell; Robert Reinke, Consolidated Government.

Transportation Progress

During 1980, the Chamber’s Transportation Committee supported and participated in many actions to improve the quality of streets, highways, and other transportation facilities in our area. Members attended numerous hearings, including a meeting at the State Capitol, to present the Chamber position concerning a four-lane highway from Columbus to Albany (Corridor Z). Representatives also supported activities pertaining to the planning of the Columbus-Phenix City North Bypass including the North Bridge Task Force. It was significant that the tee activities for the ongoing Master Plan for the Columbus Metropolitan Airport which should determine what the airport should be like in 20 to 25 years hence. George Trussell was the Committee Chairman for the Chamber this year. Other committee members were: Thomas Brookbank, H.C. Gardner, Rollins Aldridge, Murray Calhoun, Baxter Harcourt and Harvey Hisaw.

Southern Open

The 1980 Southern Open was a huge success, and had the largest gallery ever. Sharing in the \$200,000 purse was winner Mike Sullivan, runners-up for second place Dave Eickelberger and Johnny Miller.

Small Business Administration Resource Center

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce became a Small Business Administration Resource center during 1980, and now stocks several hundred SBA Brochures that are available as an aid for small businesses.

Education

State Star Winner

After 22 years of sponsoring the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, Columbus won it all in 1980. James Lawrence Dudley from Brookstone School, after having successively become STAR Student of Brookstone, Muscogee County School System and Third Congressional District, was named the State STAR Student at a banquet in Atlanta during April. Dudley was the first student to ever attain this distinction from Muscogee County.

Preston E. Hodges, Jr., Dudley's selection as his STAR Teacher, was named State STAR Teacher. In addition to many other awards, some received during previous competition, Dudley and Hodges received a \$1,000 cash scholarship award. A week's STAR tour of Georgia and a European tour. When the STAR group arrived in Columbus during the state tour, Mayor Harry Jackson issued a proclamation April 24 as "James Dudley Day".

The purpose of the STAR program is to recognize academic achievement in our high schools, to honor teaching and promote teaching careers, and to explain and to show the merits of our free enterprise system.

Members of the Chamber's Education committee were: Chairman Rita Lowman, Home Federal; Bob Elliot, First National Bank; Jere Richardson, Muscogee Adult Vocational Education Advisor; Ben Smith, Tom's Foods Ltd.; and Henry Wood, Ledger-Enquirer.

Thomas Named Top GOAL Winner

Hagan J. Thomas, Jr., who is enrolled in the Data Processing Technology Course of the Technical Occupations Field at Columbus Vocational Technical School, was named the top GOAL Winner for 1980 by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. The three other finalists were Sherril Howell, Practical Nursing Program (Health Occupations); George J. Pobbig, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Repair Program (Skilled Occupations); and Linda Purvis Secretarial Program (Business-Distributive Occupations). All four winners received a Georgia Chamber of Commerce Certificate, a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond, and a check for \$50.00. The Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) program began in 1971 and is jointly sponsored by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Department of Education. Its purpose is to reward and spotlight four vocational-technical school students each year who excel in their training. One of the four is selected by the committee to represent the school in State competition. Mr. Thomas represented Columbus Vo-Tech on the State GOAL competition in Atlanta on May 30.