

1067-Z1-2257 **Leslie M. Horton*** (lhorton@deltastate.edu), Delta State University, Department of Mathematics, Campus P.O. 3224, Cleveland, MS 38733. *Sugar Ditch Revisited*. Preliminary report.

In the 1980's Tunica, Mississippi was in the news – the poorest inhabitants of the poorest county in the nation were featured on such programs as “60 Minutes.” In a 1991 article published in the New York Times, Jason DeParle chronicles the movement of these individuals from the shacks erected on the banks of a sewage canal to modern apartments. With the influx of the casino business beginning in 1992, poverty in the area lessened. However, underachievement in the local schools persisted – until recently. Two teachers from a local elementary school attended an institute that opened their eyes to the possibilities of mathematics teaching that neither ever knew existed. The QDI in both classrooms improved dramatically. One of the teachers remarked: “I am a visual learner. I excelled in school and taught the way I was taught. I thought the problem was with my students – not with my teaching style.” This talk will present data from the schools and chronicle the techniques that resulted in change in both students and their teachers. (Received September 22, 2010)