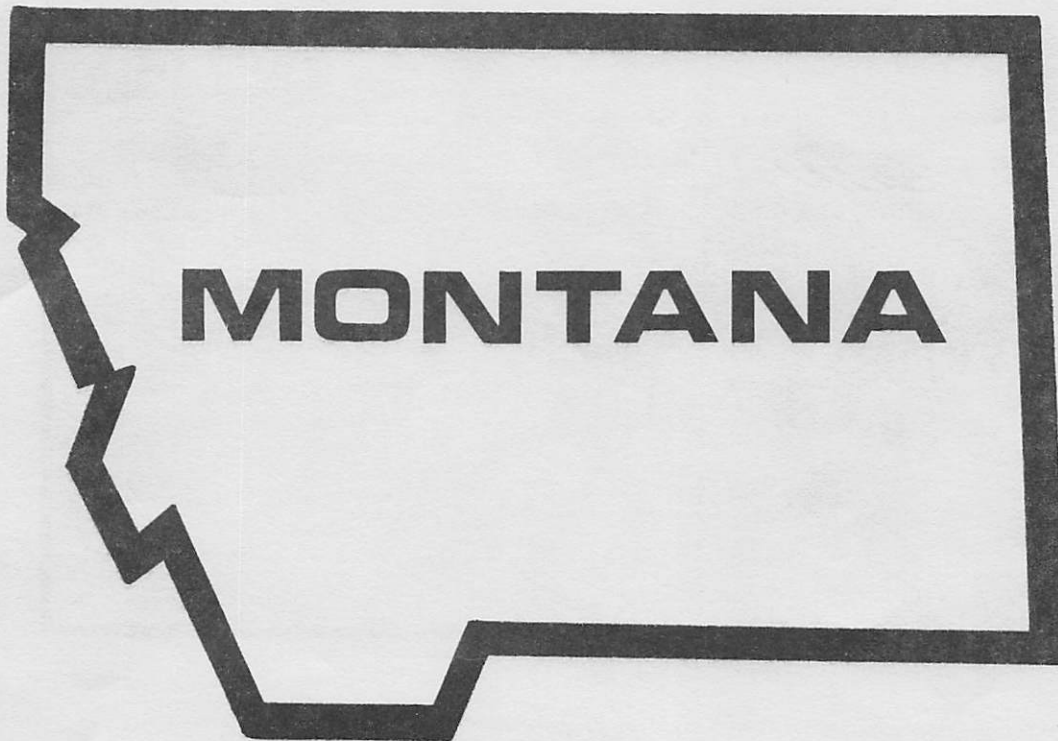
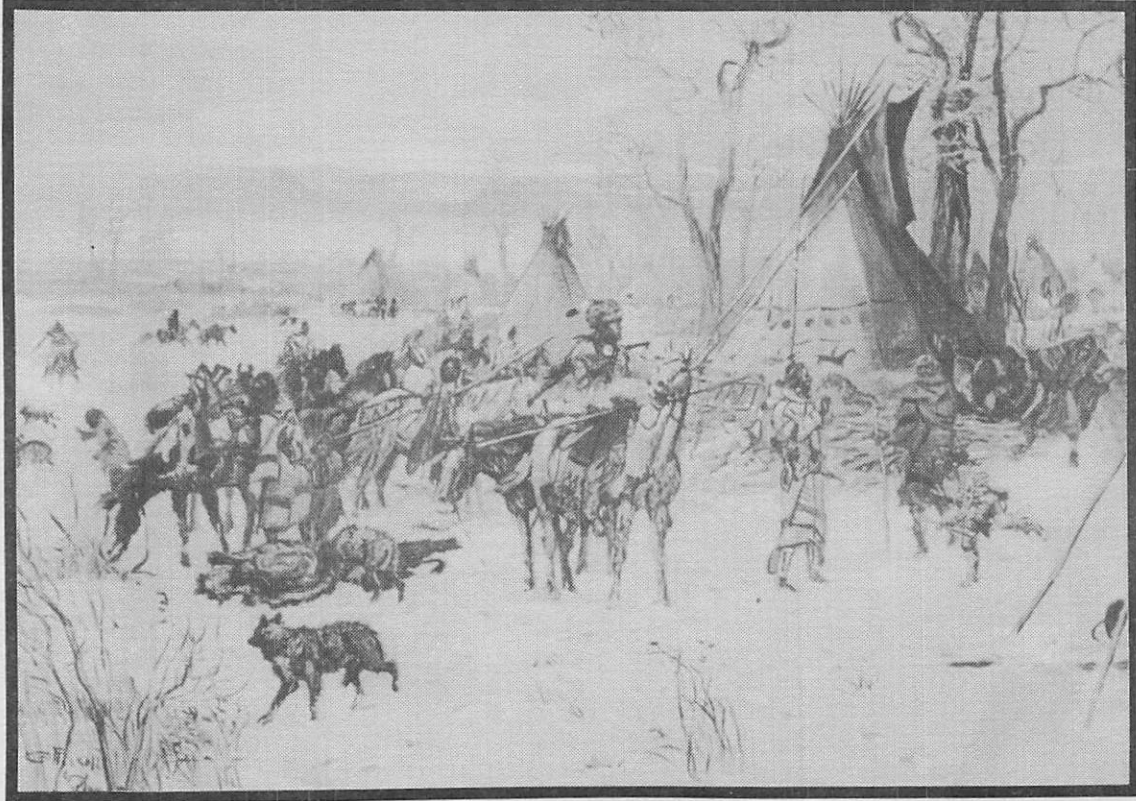


# **TOWN MEETING:**



**A SUMMARY REPORT  
1977-1978**



**"EVEN THE LAND OF GREAT  
RESOURCES HAS NONE GREATER  
THAN ITS PEOPLE."**

State of Montana  
Office of The Governor  
Helena 59601

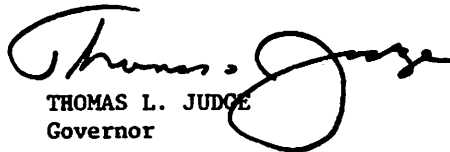
THOMAS L. JUDGE  
GOVERNOR

TO ALL MONTANA CITIZENS:

It has been encouraging to me to see the number of small towns in Montana who have participated in Town Meeting '76. Hundreds of people all over the state have met to examine their local community problems and to set in motion some solutions. This process is the embodiment of the Montana philosophy of self-help.

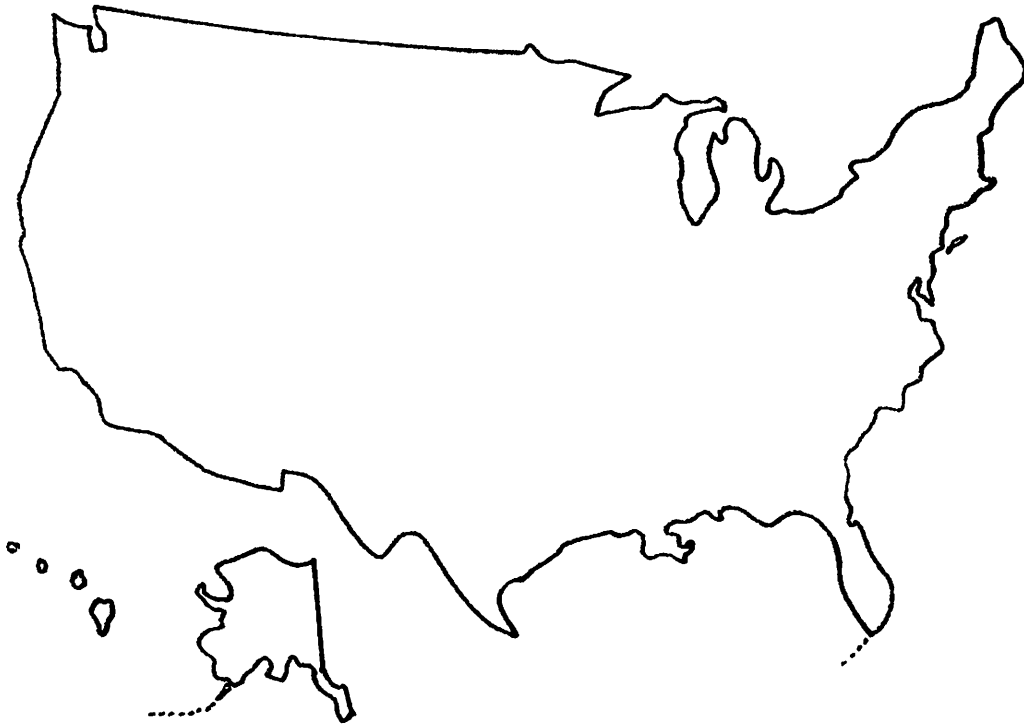
I urge citizens in other towns to participate in similar Town Meetings throughout 1977. Local people solving local problems is the best way.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS L. JUDGE  
Governor

## BICENTENNIAL EFFORT

### NATIONAL



During the last two years, Americans of all ages, in all walks of life and from all across the nation participated in the twentieth century version of the old, New England Town Meeting. It began as a national program named Town Meeting '76. About 500 communities did this program the first year, many as part of their Bicentennial celebration. Then the program was expanded.

In 1977, volunteers in every state made plans to do Town Meetings in every county of the United States. The intent was to share the program with more communities and especially to reach the rural areas. Every county in the United States meant doing 3,100 Town Meetings. By June of 1978, every county had been reached. The total climbed to 3,600 Town Meetings, three-fourths of these in small rural towns.

Citizens in these towns were awakened to the social contradictions in their communities and saw how to move through them by careful planning and group action. Towns were strengthened in their own identity as they grasped their heritage, their uniqueness and their enjoyment in being neighbors.

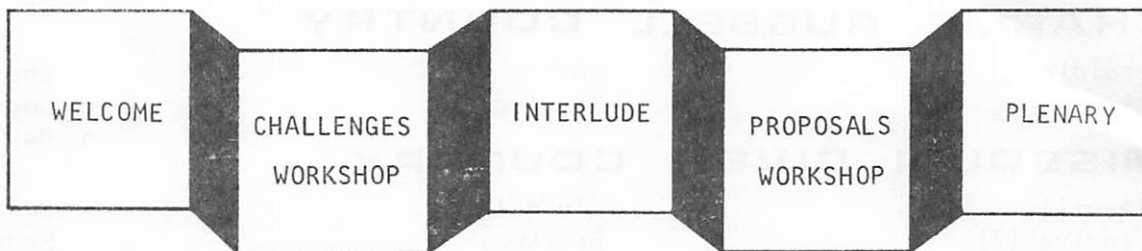
"We got together, teenagers to senior citizens, and came to group decisions and proposals without arguing and taking all day." Butte Town Meeting

## PURPOSE

Every community from the smallest rural town to the sprawl of an urban neighborhood has untapped resources waiting to be channeled into the task of improving economic and social conditions. The greatest resource a community has is its own people - their creativity and energy. This resource too often lays dormant, but when released is able to revitalize and rebuild human community more effectively than any private or public program ever attempted. It represents a direct and personal approach to solving the social problems which plague every city and town, and finally contributes to the rediscovery of neighbourly cooperation and care.

The TOWN MEETING created by The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a community event which allows people to consider the major challenges facing their town, and to discover the possibilities at hand to respond to these challenges. It motivates participants to begin active cooperation in various projects, such as cleanup days, building renovation, and community services for youth and elders. Its effects are felt as a renewed community spirit pervades the whole community. Mayors often mark the TOWN MEETING as a turning point in the community. The TOWN MEETING encourages all citizens to put the care they have for their community into action.

## FORMAT



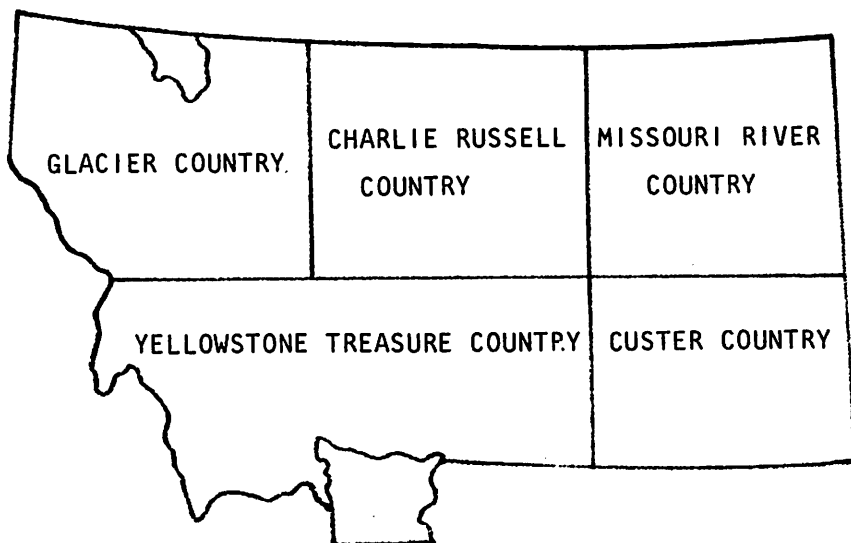
The TOWN MEETING consists of two workshop sessions, each introduced by a brief presentation. The citizens discuss their hopes and dreams for the community, identify for themselves the economic, political, and cultural issues, and then state the underlying challenges for their community's future.

An interlude follows with refreshments and community singing.

The proposals workshop allows citizens to create the practical activities to deal with the identified challenges. Community identity is the focus of a separate workshop group which creates the community symbol, story and song.

The results of the workshop are reported at the closing plenary session where everyone receives a printed document of the meeting's results.

## LOCAL RESPONSE



## 67 MONTANA COMMUNITIES

### GLACIER COUNTRY

Simms  
Kalispell  
Browning  
Vaughn

Troy  
Sun River  
Power  
Sunburst

Plains  
Brady  
Seeley Lake  
Alberton  
St. Ignatius

### CHARLIE RUSSELL COUNTRY

Geraldine  
Chinook

Denton  
Stanford

Chester  
Dodson  
Harlem

### MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

Flaxville  
Glendive (2)  
Jordan

Hinsdale  
Brockway  
Savage

Sainville  
Redstone  
Circle  
Crane  
Richey

### CUSTER COUNTRY

Ekalaka  
Crow Reservation  
Miles City

Plevna  
Fallon  
Broadus

Wibaux  
Rosebud

### YELLOWSTONE TREASURE COUNTRY

Clyde Park  
Winnett  
Worden  
Deer Lodge  
Corvallis  
Butte (2)  
Absarokee  
Park City  
Harlowton

Lavina  
Phillipsburg  
Whitehall  
Helena  
Three Forks  
E. Helena  
Ennis  
Martinsdale  
Musselshell

Dillon  
Radersburg  
Edgar  
Anaconda  
Billings  
Billings - Poly  
Billings - CIF  
Bozeman

## SING A NEW SONG

Refrains from four songs written in Town Meetings by Montanans  
To the tune of "Home on the Range"

For Corvallis we sing  
Heart of the bitterroot valley  
Where we work hard all day  
Welcome new folks our way  
And with everyones help make it great  
Corvallis Town Meeting

Hey, Bainville's alive!  
With the farms, the clubs, and the school,  
It's taken ahold, and it's singing a song  
And the news is all over the west.  
Bainville Town Meeting

Dodson, Dodson our home  
Where people help people in need.  
It's a fine place to rest for it's filled  
with the best  
And the future looks bright yes indeed.  
Dodson Town Meeting

Home, home where we live.  
Where the young and the old live today  
May we all find our dreams and rebuild  
on our past.  
For faith and our hope hold us true.  
Harlem Town Meeting

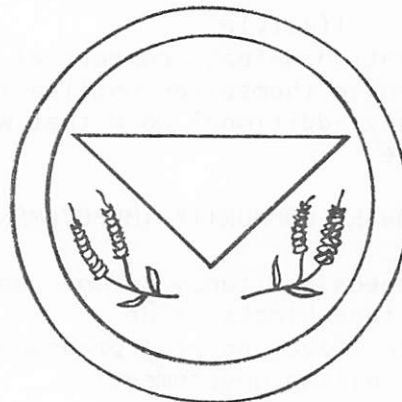
## SYMBOLIZE A NEW STATE

NOW TO CHALLENGE  
THE PEAKS BEYOND



Beaverhead Town Meeting  
Dillon, Montana

PROGRESS THROUGH AGRICULTURE



Liberty County Town Meeting  
Chester, Montana

TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE



Seeley Lake Town Meeting  
Seeley Lake, Montana

## TELL A NEW STORY

The earliest remembrances people have of the community of Edgar is it was being homesteaded in about 1910. Activity and businesses were booming about 1920. Every spring we had a farm rally, a little rodeo now and then, and dances were held nearly every Saturday night. We had three grocery stores, a clothing store, a creamery, a slaughter house, a bank, stock yards, a livery stable and a drugstore; two lumber yards, a post office, church, cafe, and pool halls. The community prospered.

Our hopes and dreams for Edgar are: an industry to employ its young people, help support our recreational goals, and possibly a highway through Edgar! With respect to farming, malt barley and beans seem to hold the most promise for a better farm economy. Edgar is not a "bedroom". We have a lot of hope and energy to build and make our community GROW.

Edgar Town Meeting

## WORKSHOP SUMMARY

## CHALLENGES

### UNUSED KNOWHOW IN COMMUNICATION METHODS

- unaware of methods to achieve goals
- unmotivated to awareness of a comprehensive range of issues
- lack of communication between entities (i.e., town, school board, farmers)
- uneducated in regulations and their effects

### WITHDRAWN SUPPORT OF LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

- leadership is lacking because history is not relevant--no living examples
- too many programs supported by too few people
- many leaders appear only in crisis situations and aren't around to push things through
- inactive due to fear of political & economic repercussions

### INDIVIDUALISTIC FOCUS OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT

- "leave me alone" lifestyle
- personal preservation defeats commercial growth
- people don't involve themselves until affected personally
- hesitant to do any additional work that will place new demands on time

### RESIGNED ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- lack of pride breeds hesitancy to move on town projects
- "we can't" attitude blocks pride
- complacent stance leaves helpful programs unsupported
- given up on controlling government

### OVEREXTENDED STRUCTURES OF LOCAL ECONOMY

- difficult to compete because of close proximity to larger towns reduces retail market
- one product system causes town base to fluctuate along with product
- inflation squeezes fixed incomes
- expansion is difficult because choice land is hoarded

### BROKEN PATTERNS OF FAMILY COHESIVENESS

- no current guidelines for family roles and communication
- streamlined economic base provides few new jobs which would encourage youth to remain in town
- youth don't know what they want or need
- groups unable to get together



# PROPOSALS

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## INCREASING AGRICULTURE AWARENESS

- monthly events calendar
- distribute FFA information
- review farming priorities
- make agriculture pay

## PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

- identify business possibilities
- increase local tourism
- advertise community advantages
- create business centers

## DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PRIDE

- monthly neighborhood news
- cleanup, paintup days
- promote small town living
- hold an appreciation and recognition day

## EXPANDING RECREATION PROGRAMS

- weekly fun nights
- recreation day festival
- hold a monthly event
- seek federal funding

## PLANNING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- citizen planning groups
- regular community meetings
- encourage private investment
- establish businessman's association

## EXTENDING LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- constitutional study groups
  - attend commission meetings
  - create one community club
  - establish regular town forum
-

## STATEWIDE SUPPORT

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### INITIATING GRANTS

Montana Bicentennial Administration  
Montana Committee for the Humanities

#### PROGRAM SUPPORT

Liberty Bank of Montana  
Rockman Funeral Chapel  
Chester Trading Co.  
Marias Equipment  
O'Brien Agency  
"That Club"  
Farmers Union Oil Co.  
Salsbury Garden Store  
Volly's Flowers & Gifts  
Billings Board of Realtors  
Unity Church of Truth  
American Business Women's Association  
Valley Welding Supply Co.  
Black & White Cab  
School District #2 Career Center  
Terrace Gardens  
Moen Construction  
Rimrock Guidance Foundation  
First Security Bank  
Deer Lodge Bank & Trust Co.  
Ben Franklin's  
Sears and Roebuck  
Coast to Coast  
Mountain Bell  
Bank of Montana  
Northwestern Bank  
American Savings & Loan  
Woolworths  
Skaggs  
First National Bank  
First Federal Savings & Loans

Our many thanks to all of the other individuals, groups, and businesses who also participated with their time, services, and money to this Town Meeting Program.

#### PRINTING, SUPPLIES

Montana Power Co.  
Yellowstone Paper Co.  
Dixon Paper Co.  
Downtown Printers  
Colburn School Supply  
A-M Corporation  
Ward Thompson Co.  
Midland Printing  
The Lithograph  
The Typehouse

#### FOOD

Wagon Wheel Steak House  
IGA County Fair  
CDS Thriftway  
Tip Top Tavern  
Safeway Stores, Inc.  
Bob's Evergreen IGA  
Jersey Creamery  
Kon's on Poly  
Eddy's Bakery  
Saga Foods  
McDonalds, Inc.  
Meadowgold Dairy  
Sweetheart Bakers  
IGA  
Terminal Food Center, Inc.  
Darigold  
R-B Drivein  
Phillip's Clover Leaf Dairy  
Hrella's Grocery  
A & W  
Mr. Donut  
4 Bs  
JB's Big Boy  
Albertsons  
Village Inn Pizza  
Western Warehouse Foods  
Buttrey Food Stores  
Country Kitchen  
El Taco  
War Bonnet  
Ramada Inn

## TOWN MEETING:MONTANA COMMITTEE

Art Christensen  
Beaverhead Conservation District  
Dillon

Bill Moller  
KPAX-TV  
Missoula

Dr. Fred DeMoney  
Montana College of Mineral Science  
Butte & Technology

Senator Terry Murphy  
Montana State Senate  
Cardwell

Gail Cramer  
Montana State University  
Bozeman

Faye Ellen Palmer  
Jefferson Valley Republican Women  
Whitehall

Bill Haggerty  
Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce  
Glendive and Agriculture

Gene Quenemoen  
Montana State University  
Bozeman

Judge W. W. Lessley  
18th Judicial District  
Bozeman

Pat Regan  
Montana Senate  
Billings

Joann Lowell  
United Methodist Church  
Dillon

Steve Smith  
Security BankShares of Montana, Inc.  
Billings

Kathy Mollahan  
Community Education Office  
Helena

James Tarr  
Spildie Construction Co.  
Billings

Kent Mollahan  
Montana Department of Community Affairs  
Helena

Ray Ueland  
Butte Coca Cola Bottling Co.  
Butte



The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human element in world development. Town Meeting is offered under local sponsorship by a nationwide volunteer staff of specially trained consultants. The ICA staff and consultants in forty-seven American cities work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate programs and to provide resources, training, and followup services upon request.