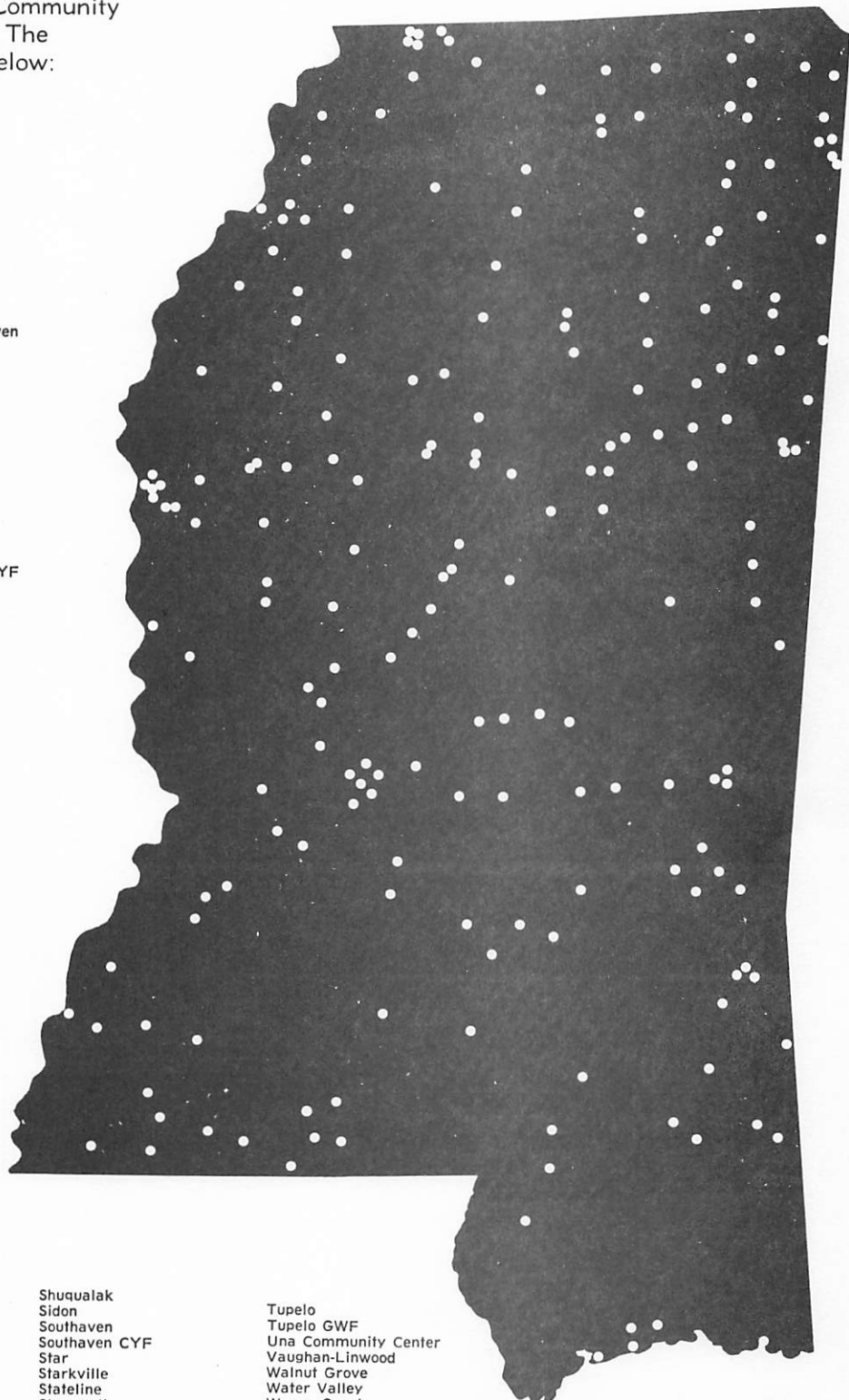


TOWN MEETING: Mississippi 200

Town Meeting: Mississippi 200 began in October 1978. By June 23, 1979, 203 Community events had been held across the state. The participating communities are listed below:

Abbeville
 Aberdeen
 Ackerman
 Alligator
 Amory
 Arcola
 Arkabutla
 Ashland
 Athens
 Baldwin
 Bassfield
 Bay Springs
 Beartown
 Beaumont
 Belmont
 Bentonla
 Blue Mountain
 Booneville
 Boswell-Sanitorium
 Brooksville
 Bruce
 Bude
 Burnsville
 Byhalia
 Caledonia
 Calhoun City
 Carrollton
 Cary
 Cedarbluff
 Centreville
 Chester
 Chunky
 Church Hill (Cannonsburg)
 Clara
 Clarksdale, Immaculate
 Conception High School CYF
 Coahoma
 Coffeeville
 Columbus
 Columbus, Caldwell High CYF
 Columbus GWF
 Corinth
 Crosby
 Crossroads
 Dennis
 Dublin
 Duck Hill
 Dundee
 Durant
 Durant CYF
 East Barnett
 Ecu
 Eden
 Edwards
 Elizabeth
 Falcon
 Falkner
 Fannin
 Farrell
 Freedom Village
 Freedom Village CYF
 French Camp
 Friars Point
 Gattman
 Glendora
 Gloster
 Golden
 Goodman
 Greenville
 Greenville CYF
 Greenville GWF
 Grenada
 Gulfport GWF
 Gulfport, North Gulfport
 Guntown
 Harrisville
 Hatley
 Hattiesburg
 Hermanville
 Hernando High CYF
 Hickory Flat
 Hickory Flat CYF
 Holcomb
 Holly Springs
 Horn Lake
 Horn Lake CYF
 Houston

Indianola
 Indianola CYF
 Ita Bena
 Iuka
 Jackson GWF
 Jackson, Bel Air
 Jackson, Midtown
 Jackson, Pines
 Jackson, St. Joseph
 High School CYF
 Jackson, Woodlea-Woodhaven
 Jones Village
 Jonestown
 Jumpertown
 Kilmichael
 Knobtown
 Kosciusko
 LaGrange
 Lake
 Lambert
 Leakesville
 Learned
 Lena
 Liberty
 Louise
 Louisville, Nanih Waiya CYF
 Ludlow
 Lumberton
 Maben
 Macon
 Mantachie
 Mantee
 Marietta
 Mathiston
 Mayersville
 McLain
 Meridian
 Meridian GWF
 Metcalfe
 Midway
 Mineral Wells
 Mize
 Monticello
 Moorhead
 Morton
 Mount Olive
 Mt. Olive-Westview
 Natchez
 Nettleton
 New Houlka
 Newton
 North Bay Area
 North Carrollton
 Oil City
 Okolona
 Olive Branch High CYF
 Osyka
 Oxford
 Pace
 Pachuta
 Paden
 Pascagoula
 Pass Christian
 Pattison
 Pelahatchie
 Pheba
 Pickens
 Pittsboro
 Pleasant Grove
 Pleasant Valley
 Pontotoc
 Poplarville
 Prairie
 Purvis
 Quitman
 Reform
 Rienzi
 Riven Oak
 Rome
 Roxie
 Ruleville
 St. Mary's
 Sandhill High CYF
 Sardis
 Schlater
 Scooba
 Sebastopol



Shuqualak
 Sidon
 Southaven
 Southaven CYF
 Star
 Starkville
 Stateline
 Stonewall
 Taylorsville
 Tchula
 Tepper Center
 Thomas Grove
 Tickfaw-Bates
 Tishomingo
 Tremont
 Tri-County (Waynesboro)

Tupelo
 Tupelo GWF
 Una Community Center
 Vaughan-Linwood
 Walnut Grove
 Water Valley
 Wayne County
 Waynesboro
 West
 West Lauderdale County
 West Point
 White Oak Subdivision
 Winona
 Winona CYF
 Woodville

INTRODUCTION

The future of Mississippi and of the nation will largely be determined by the adjustments which are made by institutions and organizations that are involved in the lives of its citizens. The citizens of Mississippi want greater responsibility for influencing the change necessary to release agencies, organizations, programs and services to become more efficient and effective in serving the people. Genuine citizen action ^{is} must become the dominant ~~method~~ ^{START} method of helping people; genuine involvement of all people ~~must~~ be the key concept. Town Meeting: Mississippi has created a solid foundation of citizen engagement. The citizens of Mississippi realize that they are in the driver's seat and that individual effectiveness will determine the future directions of our communities. Citizen participation can now be the major vehicle for bringing about real and constructive social change in building new communities. When both the public and private sector fully comprehend the value of citizen participation and the benefits to be derived, the total image of business-government-people relationship will be enhanced. Service to people will be greatly improved, our economy will be stimulated, and a new kind of existence that breathes harmony and effectivity will come into being.

INTENT

The intent of Town Meeting: Mississippi is to ^{create the citizens of Mississippi to} ~~focus on addressing~~ many problems identified in the state, a state that has the largest incidence of family poverty of any state in the Union. ^T The Governor's Office of Citizen Participation, through its Town Meeting: Mississippi program, is addressing itself to the most crucial problem of all, that of limited citizen activity in the decision-making/

2

problem-solving process about matters concerning local communities and neighborhoods.

Unless more opportunities for responsible citizen action, initiated and controlled by citizens for purposes they themselves determine, are made available, obligatory participation involving mandatory responsibilities such as paying taxes will continue to become the arena for citizen revolt.

The response to the continued ineffectiveness of local, county, and state leaders with respect to meeting the overwhelming basic human needs in our state, such as housing, education, and unemployment, has been increasing frustration, fear and a loss of faith in public leadership. The major arenas of citizen dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs may be summarized as follows:

1. ~~There is~~ a growing sense of frustration, fear and mistrust between business, citizens and government. When citizens are not directly and significantly involved in the decision-making process and are left uninformed, they have no alternative but to guess at what is happening or to complain about what is not happening.
2. Alienation and isolation among citizens and between communities ~~continues~~.
3. There is ~~continued~~ racial non-communication and non-cooperation.

to make also be ... to the work of
~~Planners, professionals, and care-providers have all repeatedly failed in implementing their plans and services, because input from citizens has not been practically achieved by those involved in the total service delivery system. The need is to offer a vehicle through which the community, the citizens themselves, can not only share in the responsibility for meeting basic human needs, but can assume~~

is a general

*... Party
in local Gov.
deals head on with!*

the lead role in attacking social problems, developing resources, and creating caring communities. Citizens engaged in ^{their} ~~their~~ communities need an opportunity to learn from each other. People need to share their excitement about their towns and what they have learned about working in community. Interchange of "ways that work", sharing of successes and learnings are part of using the wisdom resident in Mississippi communities, building the bridge between business, government and the citizens of Mississippi.

A THREE-YEAR PROJECT

The problems facing citizen participation are complex with deep roots extending over many years. They will not be solved quickly, nor can they be approached naively or simplistically.

The Governor's Office of Citizen Participation and the Institute of Cultural Affairs have therefore developed a three-year plan for turning the State of Mississippi into a "National Model for Effective Citizen Participation."

PHASE I, 1978-79

Objective: To re-introduce meaningful citizen participation in decisionmaking and program implementation in local communities.

Plan of Action: To hold 200 Town Meetings (20 in each of the ten Planning and Development Districts) (PDD) and a State Assembly.

Result: Local and statewide excitement about local citizen-initiated action. (See attached report of Phase I)

PHASE II, 1979-80

Objective: To train citizens to design and implement new programs to sustain local citizen participation.

Plan of Action: Hold 250 Town Meetings and forums (24 in each PDD plus 10 in Jackson) and a State Assembly. Send a regular newsletter

to local communities. Initiate one demonstration town in each of the 10 PDDs.

Anticipated results: Trained local citizens to plan and run the program. Citizen participation is established and accepted in local communities. Ten Demonstration towns are reaching out to surrounding communities.

PHASE III 1980-81

Objective: To establish structures and funding for continued citizen participation in local communities.

Plan of Action: Hold 300 Town Meetings and forums (26 in each Pdd plus 40 in Jackson) regional assemblies in each PDD and the State Assembly. Develop clusters of demonstration towns in each PDD.

Anticipated results: State program status for funding. G.O.C.P. and ICA phased out of direct leadership of TM: MS Five or more towns working together to develop their district economically and socially.

PHASE II, 1979-80

PLAN OF ACTION-CITIZEN PARTICIPATION MONTH AND DEMONSTRATION TOWNS.

The foundation of the citizen participation program being pioneered in Mississippi will continue to be locally scheduled, planned, and sponsored events. In each PDD, a "Citizens Participation Month" will be held iwth Town Meeting continu ing to be the essential program ingredient, but with two new arenas of emphasis: 1) they will be led, at least in part, by local citizens trained in the method, and 2) many towns will be holding their second or third Town Meeting, which points to a much deeper commitment to citizen participation.

In addition special emphasis Town Meetings or Forums, will be expanded during 1979-80 and a new Forum will be introduced. In 1979-80 Global Women's Forums, Community Youth Forums, and Senior

Citizens Forums will be scheduled. In the City of Jackson, the Corporate Involvement Committee, a group of Jackson business and corporate executives working with the Governor's Office of Citizen Participation, will sponsor ten neighborhood Town Meetings throughout the city. The design for the citizen Participation Month for 1979-80 will therefore be:

<u>IN EACH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT</u>	<u>IN THE CITY OF JACKSON</u>
15 Town Meetings	10 Neighborhood Town Mtgs
3 Global Women's Forums	<u>Statewide:</u>
3 Community Youth Forums	The Second Statewide Town Meeting Assembly
1 Regional Assembly	
<hr/> 24 events	

OBJECTIVES

Principal Objective: Hold 250 Town Meetings and Forums across the state and a second Statewide Town Meeting Assembly with a minimum of 12,000 local citizens participating in all events. A demonstration town will be selected in each PDD to become an example of what's possible with increased Subordinate Objectives: citizen participation. This community will help host the CPM and hold training events in which other towns will partic.

- Publish and mail to all Town Meeting participants a monthly newsletter, "Town Meeting: Mississippi News".
- New volunteers will be mobilized in local communities across the state.
- Two year-end State Reports will be written, printed and broadly distributed. The reports will reflect emerging or existing trends from the local Town Meeting documents in both local needs and local planning to meet those needs.

RESULTS ANTICIPATED

- Establish a Statewide Assembly
- Increased agency responsiveness
- Local communities released into action
- local self-reliance and self-empowerment. As towns continue to gain confidence in themselves and experience in working together toward common objectives, a revitalization of local community self-reliance will become visible.

<p>HATLEY <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Senior Citizen Night, 2) Summer Youth Recreation Program, 3) Grants for Street Signs; Sewer System, Water Systems upgrading; Park <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Have more "town meetings", 2) Plan events involving community <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) More Civic Organizations 2) More planned programs for Senior Citizens 3) Seek more Grants for Community Projects</p>	<p>MABEN <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Flea Market, 2) Mid-summer picnic, 3) Civil Defense Ambulance Fund Drive, 4) May 18th Clean-up Day--result of Town Meeting, 5) Prairie Opportunity Supervised Playground, 6) Shift meal involvement coming from 25-35 age group. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Need better Community awareness through more publicity, 2) Rapid Fund Raising through road blocks, raffles, carnivals, canvass. <u>Future Plans:</u> Create community awareness to problems.</p>
<p>MERIDIAN <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Downtown restoration, 2) Parking--experiment to remove parking meters 3) People mobilized to save Delta Airlines service and ambulance service <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Specific issues are needed to mobilize citizens, 2) Individual must act! <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Consolidate services and ideas, 2) Encourage citizens to <u>move</u></p>	<p>ROME <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Town Meeting, 2) Cleaning the town, 3) Community youth choir performing <u>Learnings:</u> 1) We learned that we have to stick together in our endeavors, 2) We began to stand up for ourselves and look to each other for strength. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Continuing meetings to promote enthusiasm, 2) Develop industry and better homes to bring more people into our towns to get incorporated.</p>
<p>LAMBERT <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Need community unity, 2) Need community pride, 3) Need economic development true leadership, 4) Need Jobs and skill training, 5) Local business. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Needs streets and repair, 2) Clean-up & beautification, 3) Needs sanitation, 4) needs recreational cultural activities, 5) Need a town committee. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Needs more involvement</p>	<p>WATER VALLEY <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Poke Salad Festival, 2) Development of Industrial Park and attitudes of town people toward this project, 3) 30% of town under HUD grant of which some town meetings objectives will met. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Town people communication with city administration, 2) Open communications between city and citizens. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Housing 2) Street improvement, 3) Community Center</p>
<p>NETTLETON <u>Highlights:</u> 1) New Junior High School, 2) New funeral home <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Learned to talk to people about getting involved <u>Future Plans:</u> New industries for more jobs</p>	<p>FALCON <u>Highlights:</u> 1) One of the most exciting events: the donation of Fire Truck by Bolton 2) Building Fire Station, 3) Organization of Volunteer Fire Fighters. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Town that stays together progresses better, 2) The name of the game: get the people in the community involved. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Continuing Sewer System, 2) Update Water System, 3) Willing Workers Club, 4) Beautifying town.</p>
<p>MOORHEAD <u>Highlights:</u> 1) A new center for Senior Citizens, 2) Youth Volunteers recreation for elderly, 3) Street beautification clubs <u>Learnings:</u> 1) We can work together in Moorhead, 2) People care, 3) Keep in touch <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Make Moorhead a happy place to live, 2) Hope Negro doctors will come and set up practice in Moorhead. Much needed!</p>	<p>ATHENS <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Set up a Fund Raising Drive for the expansion of the community center, 2) Have a Senior Citizens Feeding Program, 3) Prairie Day held on 16th of June. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Youth Development Program, 2) Need more recreation for youth, need financial aid for community. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Expansion of Senior Citizens Program, 2) Community Clean-up Campaign, 3) Summer Workshop for children.</p>

<p>CALHOUN CITY <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Youth Programs, 2) Working together, 3) Prep. for new industry, 4) Community services improved. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Fortunate to have far-sighted leaders, 2) It is up to us, 3) What services are available from gov't. depts. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Community theater, 2) New Industry, 3) Ten year building plan for schools, 4) Sixty new beds in nursing home, 5) Youth offenders help in city beautification.</p>	<p>HOUSTON <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Improvement in facilities and attitudes at public schools, 2) Housing improvements, 3) Construction and improvement in recreation facilities. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Volunteers from all walks of life are important, 2) People are interested in the basic problems and in solving them locally. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Improve traffic, streets, and housing, 2) Improving education, 3) city beautification</p>
<p>ELIZABETH <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Involvement of Youths in clean-up activities, 2) Change in attitude, be willing to help improve community, 3) People involved in beautifying area around homes. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) By continuing the upkeep of beautification/idea should be spread throughout community. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Recreational facilities for younger children, 2) Get elderly citizens involved.</p>	<p>PELAHATCHIE <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Development of industrial park, 2) Community is working together, 3) Elected officials are working to improve town. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Getting the citizens of your city or town involved is most important. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) More & better Housing, 2) Further development of industrial park, 3) and development of a recreational park.</p>
<p>CROSS ROADS <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Clean-up Day involved the whole community, 2) Plan for a big 4th of July, 3) Baseball Club formed, <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Togetherness is strength, and anything can be accomplished if you really want something. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Transportation for our Senior Citizens, 2) Counseling for families, 3) How to budget money--low income families.</p>	<p>MORTON <u>Highlights:</u> 1) New hospital is nearing completion, new doctors moving in, 2) Food and transportation program for the elderly, 3) Low income housing under construction. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Unity means progress, 2) Involvement works, 3) Town Meetins do work. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Build community center, 2) Recreation Center, 3) Wider interest in Education, 4) Clean up the town, 5) Create new attractions.</p>
<p>CARY <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Public meetings, 2) Finding out information about getting different grants and things to help the town develop. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) That the people are going to have to work together, 2) We must help ourselves and not wait on the officials of our town, who are not really interested. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Housing, 2) Parks, 3) Streets, 4) Improving town beautification.</p>	<p>DUNDEE <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Change of attitudes, community meeting place, 2) Community unity, 3) New post office, 4) What one person can't do, many can. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Sources of information for accomplishing goals, 2) togetherness can produce action, 3) Recognizing what the problem is. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Playground facilities, industrial jobs, 2) Fund raising activities, 3) Beautification, 4) Phone fire-warning system.</p>
<p>MT. OLIVE-WESTVIEW <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Involvement of people, 2) Working on ballpark and summer recreation, 3) Building concession stand. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Involve older and younger people to get job done, 2) Listening to everyone's ideas, 3) Regular meetings. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Work on Multi-purpose building, 2) Get people involved in community and government.</p>	<p>JONESTOWN <u>Highlights:</u> 1) Building citizen morale through providing jobs: CETA, CD Grants, recreation facilities grants, Senior Citizen jobs, counseling, feeding & transportation for the aging. <u>Learnings:</u> 1) Gov't. agencies that provide services through citizen participation & cooperation. <u>Future Plans:</u> 1) Provide wholesom recreation.</p>

ASHLAND

Highlights: June Bug Festival; Clean-up Town Square; Landscaping-beauty spots on the square; County Hickey Flat clinic opened May 15, 1979.

Learnings: 1) Politics is tight-progress is slow because of high powered negative.

Future Plans: 1) More industry 2) Recreation 3) Another Health clinic in the North of the County.

PACE

Highlights: 1) Funding for sewer system and streets 2) New Street signs 3) Expansion of laundromat 3) PFT Group (Prepare For Tomorrow) Learnings:

1) Personal involvement and communication 2) Recreation for all citizens
Future Plans: 1) Continue movies for the youth 2) Monthly working events 3) Revive the Youth Service corp.

MAYERSVILLE

Highlight: 1) Town Meeting 2) Cleaning up of the town 3) Incoming jobs.

Learnings: 1) Working together to get a job done 2) Holding regular town meetings to discuss the needs of the town 3) Keeping the Community informed. Future Plans: 1) Community involvement 2) Industry.

HERNANDO

Highlight: 1) Build park and theater for youth 2) People have been active on church activities 3) Community has been improved Learnings: 1) Many young people and adults have learned to work with people no matter their race or religion.

Future Plans: 1) Work together on industry employment and the church

OKOLONA

Highlights: 1) Working in regular Town Meetings 2) Better attitudes, 3) More unity and spirituaity 4) TVA Housing improvement 5) Sr. Citizens meals, Health aid 6) New Youth Park 7) \$90,000. Industrial park 8) 200,000 Sewer 9) \$500,000 HUD Grant. Learnings: Cooperation of citizens in open meetings 2) People working to build town Future Plans: Love and concern for all citizens.

PASCAGOULA

Highlight: 1) Rehabilitation of sewer/water system 2) Improved roads 3) Crack down on drug traffic 4) City fathers listening to the people.

Learnings: 1) City fathers caring how citizens feel 2) When people pull together they get action.

Future Plans: 1) Free transportation for the elderly 2) Community park \$900,000 allocated to get started.

TYLERTOWN

Highlights: 1) New shipping areas, means jobs and people employed 2) Hospital expanding and jobs 3) Recreation Summer program for children 0-18 Learnings: 1) Leadership in Community 2) Unity helps keep the Community involved 3) Long-range planning Future Plans: 1) July Community gathering at park 2) Continue Volunteer fire Dept. 3) Complete Community Church

BENTON

Highlights: 1) Community playground planned 2) Senior citizenship's trip 3) Song festivals and banquet for the sick. Learnings: 1) Activities create interest and better participation in Community 2) Togetherness and sense of pride in the community.

Future Plans: 1) Food program during the Summer months for children 2) Art, music, plays films also for elders

COLUMBUS

Highlight: 1) Youth interest in Community 2) Interest in overcoming apathy 3) Citizen interest in Government.

Learnings: 1) Neighborhood Identity 2) Citizens want to serve the need for better communication 3) Coordination between citizens, government

Future Plans: Organize for Columbus Day 2) Neighborhood Action Assn. 3) Downtown revitalization 4) Improve traffic

LEAKESVILLE

Highlights: 1) Saving jobs for our people 2) Greene County Development Organization organized 3) Working together Learnings: 1) People are getting more interested 2) People will do if they are motivated.

Future Plans: 1) As a result of Town Meetings, town will continue to grow and prosper as a result of having been organized.

<p>ITTA BENA <u>Highlights:</u> Remodeling of the community center, excitement of the play ground, town meeting was a very exciting event. <u>Learnings:</u> We need to develop a community planning committee for different projects we plan to work toward; to upgrade our town through community unity, community pride and economic. <u>Future Plan:</u> The need to the community development of economic and natural resources.</p>	<p>NEW HOULKA <u>Highlights:</u> Built town hall; constructed completely new water distribution system for town and country users, and new \$28,000 pumper. <u>Learnings:</u> Close cooperation with interested, capable engineer, accurate accounting and active bank, agency cooperation. <u>Future Plans:</u> Local doctor, expand town, resurface streets.</p>
<p>ACKERMAN <u>Highlights:</u> County park, housing grant, water system improvements; construction of two dams; people working together; civil defense reinstated; E.M. T. course; street survey; extended street lighting; \$70,000 to head start buildings; <u>Learnings:</u> people do care; citizens will work for their town; <u>Future Plans:</u> Citizens Ass'n; school renovations; industrial park; youth clubs.</p>	<p>PASS CHRISTIAN <u>Highlights:</u> Improved participation in spring pilgrimage, summer programs - reading, movies; beach declared National Historic area; elderly programs. <u>Learnings:</u> Ask people to participate. <u>Future Plans:</u> Informal meetings, where ideas are exchanged; individualized school education.</p>
<p>BEL AIRE (JACKSON) <u>Highlights:</u> Shifts in attitudes social, physical and economic conditions; street improvements; housing improvements; employment. <u>Learnings:</u> Communication is the key to improving our community; getting together to discuss problems and identify leadership. <u>Future Plans:</u> Continuing to solve unemployment problems; making people more aware of the problems that exist.</p>	<p>PRAIRIE <u>Highlights:</u> Prairie Day program; People beginning to want changes. <u>Learnings:</u> Being organized. <u>Future Plans:</u> To get the young people more involved in their community; getting more qualified people in office, not looking at a person's race, sex as a qualification.</p>
<p>HATTIESBURG <u>Highlights:</u> New curfew law; citizens are working to get a mayor-council form of government. <u>Learnings:</u> People are not involved due more to lack of information than apathy; people feel helpless, not aware of potential organized community involvement. <u>Future Plans:</u> We need to increase activities for the youth, and the children need to have adequate playground equipment.</p>	<p>COAHOMA <u>Highlights:</u> Involvement of most citizens in Town Mtgs; movement towards incorporation; election of temporary (mayor?) to serve until 1998. <u>Learnings:</u> All citizens should stay involved, attend mtgs, share ideas, maintain humility to listen & show concern for each other. <u>Future Plans:</u> Work towards smooth incorporation; improve substandard housing, work to get a sewage system and improve job opportunity.</p>
<p>GLENDORA <u>Highlights:</u> Town cleaned twice a day; elders working to pass elders exam; women clean house, write letters, make grocery trips and keep others company; men are carpentars and drive others on errands. <u>Learnings:</u> Try ing to involve everyone and have them cooperate. <u>Future Plans:</u> Fourth of July picnic; baseball and softball teams formed.</p>	<p>PLEASANT GROVE <u>Highlights:</u> Hunting club organized; summer program providing jobs for young people. <u>Learnings:</u> The clean-up project in our community is working beautiful which involves young and old. <u>Future Plan:</u> Community recreation center; garbage pick-up; regular schedule town meetings.</p>

DURANT

Highlights: 1) Citizens participate and get involved in community, 2) Formed Advisory Committee to Mayor & Board of Alderman 3) Youth Labor for Christ Committee formed. Learnings: 1) How to make citizens aware of what needs to be done and ask them for their participation. Future Plans: 1) Use 44 acres for community recreation center, 2) Get building for religious conventions

WINONA

Highlights: 1) Festival in the Hills Learnings: 1) Working together is essential, 2) Must be consistent in efforts to keep mayor and city board on the move, 3) More town meetings with current and future plans. Future Plans: 1) New industries, 2) Renovation of community housing, 3) Clean-up, paint up, fix up campaign spear-headed by our mayor.

GATTMAN

Highlights: 1) New Mayor and Town Board, 2) Water system expanded, 3) New community center. Learnings: 1) More interest in community projects, 2) If you really want something, don't be afraid to ask for it, 3) Things don't just happen, you have to work. Future Plans: 1) Volunteer Fire Department, 2) Recreation Park, 3) Meals on Wheel 4) Day Care Center, 5) Extend City limits, 6) Sewer System Grant

BRUCE

Highlights: 1) Acquired two new doctors, 2) Formed nucleus of cross county support for a school bond issue, 3) Adult education center dedicated, 4) Recognized need to develop recreation needs. Learnings: 1) Acquiring doctors for rural areas is difficult, 2) Adults want better education, 3) Community interest that needs to be channeled constructively. Future Plans: 1) Develop industrial park, 2) Unite County.

RIVER OAK

Highlights: 1) Unity emerged through citizen organized opinion polls that increased voter registration, 2) Leadership identity and commitment obtained by citizen & elected officials idea sharing and exchanges made, 3) Needs and changes therefore identified. Town Meetings evolved a new water system for next year. Louise and Midnight communities served by mobile library.

MACON

Highlights: Building city park; unified cooperation after April flood; door opened to Federal funding; development of industrial park
Learnings: communication with both county & city with people; exchange of ideas with other communities; Future Plans: attracting new industry into the community; extending water and sewage facilities; upgrading fire dept.; upgrading electric dept.

HARRISVILLE

Highlights: nutritional program for the elderly involving vols.; expansion of vol. firedepartment; community Bible study with black and white ladies and youth. Learnings Things break out in a non-traditional way when a few people are willing and open to move. Future Plans: Restart public library, coffee house for youth; more civic participation.

RULEVILLE

Highlights: Youth curfew inforce by mayor and police force; youth activities; several apartment bldgs for Senior Citizens; transportat'n and feeding for senior citizens. Learnings: cooperation of people for community projects; know your neighbors; Future Plans: remodeling public library, improving the sewage system and repairing the streets.

INDIANOLA

Highlights: City Board became more aware of citizens needs; Implematation of an emergency ambulance service; planned development of better streets, increase in industries; better sewage systems and housing. Learnings: Organize a coordinating committee to address the needs of community; town meetings - good tool in citizen participation. Future Plans: regularly planned comm'y mtgs establish a centralized senior citizen cntr

STARKVILLE

Highlights: local awareness of problems in transition from small to large town; aesthetic qualities; common awareness of needs. Learnings: dynamic leadership and interaction among comm'ty groups; importance of city-uni.-county cooperation; organized self-help efforts. Future Plans: more citizen involvement; evaluation of community-wide problems; follow-up!

BEAUMONT

Highlights: annual independence day celeb. show of unity and cooperation-vol. fire dept. & Police dept.; Dixie youth baseball team. Learnings: willingness of citizens to participate and be responsible in commty leadership; Future Plans: Continue town meetings and involve more citizens by group breakdown; each group carrying the responsibility of individual projects.

KOSCIUSKO

Highlights: completion of multi-purpose civic center; complete new homes and parks; improved summer work programs for youth. Learnings: continue the town meetings, citizen participation; revived need for vo-tech center. Future Plans: stimulate interest and activity in vo-tech center; another town meeting; get involved in housing improvement; more recreational and cultural activities.

ABERDEEN

Highlights: Pilgrimage; restoration of bldgs; housing projects for poor areas; beautification. Learnings: continue to work with people in town meetings and projects that involve all people; vote for people with principle; get voters out; speak against bad and for the good. Future Plans: beautification; housing and street improvement; get others involved.

GRENADA

Highlights: teachers' federal credit union banquet results in comm'ty dev'lpmt org. & boys' club; garbage equipment & street sweeper. Learnings: twon meetings live on radio; officials more open to residents; Future Plans: park; more doctors; fine arts center; senior citizens condiminium housing.

TUPELO

Highlights: How to grow and prosper while preserving aesthetic quality, central business district renovation, citizen involvement in effective government. Learning citizens can meet positively, present challenges and accomplish the goals set in Mtgs Future Plans: continue developing unity, city's appearnace, multi-use art center and long range planning.

CALEDONIA

Highlights: 1) Park 2) Continuing Water Department 3) RSVP 4) Clean-up

Learnings: 1) Awareness 2) "know-how" from being involved in the Town Meeting

Future Plans: 1) Providing for our young people's needs 2) Nursing home 3) New industry 4) Health Clinic open more days.

PICKENS

Highlights: 1) Park and mini-park 2) New subdivision 3) School work help for youth 4) Street names & house numbers.

Learnings: 1) People in town with same hopes. 2) Let people feel we're all needed

Future Plans: Funds for a recreation center and industry in the town.

FREEDOM VILLAGE

Highlights: 1) Our Town Meeting have the children something to be proud of. "I helped plan that", they can say. 2) A baseball team--girls and boys.

3) A feeding program.

Learnings: 1) Stop nagging our parents

2) Not tearing up the playground

Future Plans: Ball field, Day Care, Church

NATCHEZ

Highlights: 1) "Natchez Has It" Campaign

2) City & County Govt Consolidation

Learnings: 1) Cooperation 2) More publicity and longer set up times

Future Plans: 1) Continue what's started

2) More involvement 3) Programmed meeting

4) Avoid conflict where possible

FARRELL

Highlights: 1) Volunteer involvement from the community. 2) A community action banquet for fund raising.

Learnings: 1) We have learned to use youth involvement. 2) We have learned to contact people for ideas.

Future plans: 1) We hope to become incorporated soon. 2) Proper sewage system, recreation center for the town.

FREEDOM VILLAGE YOUTH FORUM

Highlights: 1) Washerette built in 1978

2) 5 youth hired, Summer CETA program.

3) 4 in "Right to Read" Program.

Learnings: Way to get something done is to get involved and listen to everyone

Future Plans: 1) Better leadership

2) Total involvement 3) Lighted softball field 4) Service station, beauty shop,

department stores.

WEST POINT

Highlights: 1) Historic Restoration 2) Town Meeting for proposed solutions, focus 3) Communications and coordination

Learnings: 1) Systematic method for community awareness 2) Assigned responsibility

Future Plans: Organized effort through Chamber of Commerce to appraise all citizens of activities and events.

METCALFE

Highlights: Getting our grants to build houses, sewage, and natural gas.

Learnings: Ministers attend meetings to talk and help unite our town.

Future Plans: 1) Mayor see that someone be present at the park for the kids

2) Jobs for youth

PINE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Highlights: 1) City Bus Route thru our neighborhood 2) New street lights 3) Yard of the month each month

Learnings: 1) We have learned to work together. 2) We have learned how to get the job done.

Future Plans: Community Center, Youth Program in our community

FREEDOM VILLAGE

Highlights; 1) Washerette 2) Blacktop road 3) Taking care of new store 4) Village office

Learnings: Use own truck to clean up and haul garbage. It keeps people excited and helps keep the town clean.

Future Plans: Shop at our grocery, Service Station, Keep churches going and working together as a people.

WINONA

Highlights: 1) Festival in the Hills. Learnings: 1) Working together is essential, 2) Must be consistent in efforts to keep mayor and city board on the move, 3) more town meetings with current and future plans. Future Plans: 1) New industries, 2) renovation of community housing, 3) clean up, paint up, fix up campaign spearheaded by our mayor.

MINERAL WELLS

Highlights: 1) Volunteer organizations aid public sector service system with citizens physical input. 2) Water system 3) Fire house 4) Fire Department 5) Churches 6) Erected and paid for new buildings Learnings: Citizens input and volunteers head the involvement list. Future Plans: 1) Citizens participation in service system improvement of roads 2) Sewage and garbage system improvement

ISOLA

Highlights: 1) living Legacy, 2) Lending Library, 3) Headstart programs, 4) New building 5) 60+. Learnings: 1) Lending Library, 2) 16 section Land, 3) Community Center. Future Plans: 1) The construction of the New Catfish factory, 2) August 7, election of new people to serve us, 3) try to keep our CETA programs and other headstart and other Federal programs.

HOULKA

Highlights: 1) Need playground 2) Recreation center 3) Doctor 4) Elder care 4) Support for school 5) Shopping Center 6) Improved roads 7) Children activities 8) Market Motel Learnings: 1) Work with our people more. Future Plans: 1) More jobs 2) Water system 3) Ballpark 4) Children's activities.

TCHULA

Highlights: 1) Election of new administration, 2) day event, 3) town meetings, 4) establishing better communication among our citizens, Learnings: 1) Identifying the needs of the citizens, 2) goal setting, 3) continuation of town meetings, 4) organize community groups Future Plans: 1) Make town conducive to attracting industry, 2) enforce city ordinances and codes, 3) pursue efforts in maintaining citizen participation.

BEARTOWN McCOMB

Highlights: 1) Street signs & house no's in process, 2) New young city official will help bring changes, 3) town MTG in McComb resulted in another in Beartown. Learnings: 1) Learned different ways of developing resources such as volunteers, fund raising. 2) working together exposed many needs of community people. Future Plans: 1) develop youth recreation, 2) police, fire delivery services & more jobs in Beartown.

GLOSTER

Highlights: 1) Economic Development, 2) New homes, 3) Apartments, 4) New Business. Learnings: A trade school for the country after high school for the one don't want to go to college. Future Plans: 1) Better community relationship, 2) more involvement of all people.

COFFEEVILLE

Highlights: 1) got a high school, 2) people seek to getting together more and talking about our towns problems. Learnings: 1) citizens need to be careful in putting people into office, 2) be more organized, 3) plan more town activities. Future Plans: 1) Recreation facilities for younger children 2) publicize town meetings 3) better housing 4) more jobs, 5) motivate funding where needed.

UMA

Highlights: Tearing down of old buildings: Building of homes to where there is no problem of housing. Learnings: 1) Young people have to be dealt with on a level where they are understood. Future Plans: 1) A Community center, mainly for the elderly 2) Transportation, meals and recreation also.

OIL CITY

Highlights: 1) Have'nt been able to get the people to cooperate. 2) we have the cooperation of the young whites and not the adults. Learnings: 1) we have learned that a lot can be done if people work together, 2) we have been able to get road improvement. Future Plans: 1) group participation in both races, 2) how to involve the whole community.

FRIARS POINT

Highlights: 1) The Funding of the Sewage Project, 2) Opening of the Elderly Nutrition Site, 3) Establishment of the Youth Task Force Committee, 4) The Funding of RE HAB Program. Learnings: 1) It is essential to have citizen participation, 2) Making contact with official and heads of agencies on the national, state and local level. Future Plans: 1) Industry, 2) Recreation, 3) Continual improvement housing, 4) Library

ARCOLA

Highlights: 1) The approval of a Federal Grant for a Sewage System, 2) ACEDA summer program for youth, 3) a new purified water system. Learnings: 1) to get citizens involved. Future Plans: 1) To organize a club for the purpose of motivation effective city government, 2) call meeting, 3) elect officers 4) set bylaws, 5) meet standards.

WATER VALLEY

Highlights: 1) Poke Salad Festival, 2) Development of Industrial Park, 3) HUD Grant which meets same Town Meetings Objectives. Learnings: 1) Town people communicating with city administration is important in setting forth goals and organizing to meet these. Future Plans: 1) improved housing, 2) street improvement, 3) Community center, 4) more youth activities, 5) Industrial Parks

SARDIS

Highlights: 1) a town-wide clean up project is underway, 2) Possibility of a city owned fairgrounds. Learnings: 1) we have a lack of interest with our town officials that must be overcome, 2) we still have strong racial problems with communication 3) Sardis citizens have realized that we must act now our problems are deep, 4) we are working to restore the pilgrimage. Future Plans: 1) Rodeo, 2) Downtown renovation, 3) Sardis supported away.

GOODMAN

Highlights: 1) well attended Town Meeting with a cross section of everybody old and young, 2) Planning street signs, 3) working on our hospitality welcome signs, 4) Chamber of Commerce started. Learnings: 1) we have to come together as a group to work on our goals. Future Plans: 1) we need to put some organization in our effort from the city to the local people.

GREENVILLE

Highlights: 1) Large rice mills, 2) Daily Sr. citizens activities. 3) Boy's Club for 150. 10-12 yr. olds, 4) Keep Greenville Beautiful 5) Volunteers assigned in each of 60 sections in city. Learnings: 1) Need annual town meeting that draws from across all lines. Future Plans: 1) A second high school is needed.

BROOKSVILLE

Highlights: 1) Getting people involved in Community Projects, 2) HUD informed of what is needed and how much it would cost and what will be available. Learnings: 1) working together, 2) Calling meetings and letting the community vote on what the town needs worse and giving priorities to different projects. Future Plans: 1) improve our streets, 2) housing, 3) Recreation, and youth programs.

INDIAHOMA

Highlights: 1) A suggestion box was placed by principal, 2) the attitudes of our teachers hve changed because of the principals personal involvement with the teachers. Learnings: 1) where people really get together and discuss different movements there is more involvement. Future Plans: 1) Town Meetings set forth a great opportunity for youth to bring challenges before their community.

TUKA

Highlights: 1) Renovation of the Mineral Springs Park in Tuka, 2) Quality leadership has evolved directly from the town meeting program, 3) Pride in community and area has increased. Learnings: 1) Purpose is vital to combat apathy in the community. Future Plans: 1) Since Tuka is experiencing great growth because of the Tenn-Tom Waterway we must determine direction of this inevitable growth.

ECRU

Highlights: 1) Firetruck purchased-\$28,000-no increase in taxes, 2) Doctors-town&Community donated for the clinic, 3) Enlarged Corp. Limits, 4) Water system, 5) developing a recreational park. Learnings: 1) Patience and persistence, 2) Urgency due to inflation & energy situation. Future Plans: 1) Sewer system, 2) Streets improved, 3) More citizens participation.

CHURCH HILL

Highlights: One acre of land donated for a community center.

Learnings: We have learned to cooperate together by having community meetings.

Future Plans: A new fire station.

TUTWILER

Highlights: 1) Jaycees 2) Boys and Girls Softball team 3) Playground Center 4) Publication of weekly newsletter

Learnings: 1) More individual participation within the community itself 2) Deadline for funds at an early date

Future Plans: Work with stronger leadership to change what is happening now to new ideas for the future and years to come.

LENA

Highlights: 1) July 4th celebration planned 2) Interest in town clean-up 3) Attitude of young merchants.

Learnings: Hold regular town meetings.

Future Plans: 1) More concern of town officials and citizens. 2) Carry out plans as stated in town meetings. Don't talk the issues to death. 3) More involvement by all citizens.

KNOBTOWN

Highlights: 1) Youth recreation center 2) Water system preparation 3) Blood Drive 4) Incorporated to city

Learnings: Sharing ideas; meaning in togetherness, ideas put into action are very helpful to the people

Future Plans: 1) Getting a water system 2) Community center for our citizens 3) Better telephone system

WEST

Highlights: 1) New factory open. 2) Respectable eating facility 3) Breakfast and lunch for youth in community center

Learnings: 1) Cooperative efforts produce good results 2) Status quo can be changed 3) Mayor and Town Board need help of citizens

Future Plans: 1) More citizen involvement 2) Medical facilities 3) More industry 4) Facilities for youth

NORTH BAY

Highlights: North Bay Citizens Association to handle incorporation, fire truck, proposed medical facility, combination boat ramps and picnic area.

Learnings: Working with local politicians, weekly public meetings, inform thru media

Future Plans: Once incorporated the citizens will have a voice in local government.

BALDWIN

Highlights: 1) Monthly Town Meetings 2) Publications for 4th of July celebration 3) Girl's Softball Team 4) "Better Baldwin" Committee established

Learnings: 1) Getting along with people better 2) Enlisting support of citizens and local officials 3) People want change

Future Plans: 1) Recreation program for youth, elders 2) Beautification programs 4) More citizen participation

JACKSON

Highlights: In Woodlea and Woodhaven vandalism of front lawns has been cut down by having local citizens ride with policemen between 9 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Learnings: When problems are reported the community must be concerned to the point that it will make plans and put them into action.

MATHISTON

Highlights: 1) Reroofing the school in one week 2) Town Cleanup Day for July 7th 3) 40 acres for industrial site 4) Streets under construction

Learnings: People respond to personal request; everyone wants to be part

Future Plans: 1) Contact prospective businesses 2) Encourage present business to update services.

THOMAS GROVE

Highlights: A community development club was organized

Learnings: 1) Through community participation more can be accomplished 2) Talking to leaders in the community and people like the county supervisors.

Future Plans: Improve Community Development Club 2) Form clean-up and beautification committee