

DUNCAN

TOWN

MEETING

"We Can Make It Happen"

Duncan, Mississippi

June 11, Saturday, 1 - 6 p.m.

Brooks Elementary School

1977

We Can Make It Happen...



PROGRESS

THE STORY OF DUNCAN

Duncan was incorporated as a town in 1890. It was censused in 1920 with a population of 500. Duncan was primarily a farm town growing rice, cotton, and soybeans. Approximately all of the people of the town were affected by the farmers. Most of the people of the town were also affected by the school built in the mid 1930's. The property, on which now stands Brooks School, was owned by Mr. Wolfe and purchased by a group of fourteen citizens. We decided to do more for the people and the town of Duncan so we tore down, built, planted, and painted.

Presently, we are struggling for the improvement of what we started in the past. Here in Duncan we feel this is an all for one and one for all struggle. The recreation center, shopping centers and the unity of our people all make up the goals we are heading backwards to reach. This is also the beginning of our monthly town meetings.

Now we're dreaming, dreaming of a future that will tell the people that we are working and doing the things needed to make our town prosperous and meaningful. Our dreams for the future will now become a reality.

Duncan Is Moving On (Battle Hymn)

We will paint the buildings, fix the streets
To make our town look new
We'll repair the homes and mow the lawns
Whatever there's to do.
We will work hard with each other
And we'll make our dreams come true.
Our town is marching on.

CHORUS

Moving On ahead in Duncan
Moving On ahead in Duncan
Moving On ahead in Duncan
To make our dreams come true.

After Duncan is completed
Our children will be proud,
Of the work of all of us together
Made it to be now.
As citizens of Duncan
Give a happy cheer aloud -- Hurray! Hurray!
Our town is marching on.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

CHALLENGES

Not Enough Local Leadership

In the arena of local leadership the fact that there is a small number of youth involved in the youth corps and no community entertainment indicates the underlying contradiction is a lack of local leadership. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. people leaving the community for entertainment
2. no public celebrations for citizens
3. no recreational and social facilities in the community.

No Cooperative Citizen Effort

In the arena of citizen involvement the fact that there is a lack of job opportunities and a lack of information on state, city and federal money indicates the underlying contradiction is no cooperative citizen effort towards concerns of the community. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. high unemployment for youth and middle aged citizens
2. poor attendance for Town Meeting.

Lack of Concern & Interest by City Government

In the arena of City Government the fact that youth leave for better opportunities elsewhere, there is inadequate housing and no recreational facilities indicates the underlying contradiction is a lack of concern & interest by the city government for all citizens. This contradiction is illustrated by:

1. raw sewage in the streets
2. continuous inadequate housing
3. no opportunities available for youth.

PROPOSALS

Action in the Community

We the citizens of Duncan, Mississippi, in order to bring about better cooperation between citizens and elected officials propose community meetings between citizens and elected officials through (1) members of PTA and concerned citizens create flyers; (2) send flyers to citizens informing of meeting and contact news media; (3) hold meeting at school; (4) have community meeting and send elected representatives to talk with mayor and aldermen.

Striving for Progress

We the citizens of Duncan, in order to unify the forces of Duncan propose a youth/adult dance and bar-b-que through (1) appointing Ethel Jamison as chairperson; (2) planning a meeting of youth and adults at St. John's church; (3) contact youth/adult groups in churches; (4) invite representatives of youth from other youth councils.

PARTICIPANTS

Lee Ella Andrews
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Hattie Brown
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Sylvester Brown
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Willie Pearl Brown
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