



CALEDONIA TOWN MEETING

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY CENTER

MAY 4, 1979

Caledonia first called Eggerstown was a thriving town in the early days with two gin mills, a post office, a dentist, five doctors and for the finer things in life a theatre. It was one of the oldest farming villages that has not grown in population in the expansion of the railroad system. In fact the depot closed 22 years ago, at the end of the era.

Was the past a better place or with ideas for improving the future bring Caledonia once again to become a thriving center for this part of Mississippi! These plans include additional programs and activities for senior citizens, a nursing home, bussing the elderly, activities for the youth not to mention improving the park, a general clean up and street repair.

And so Caledonia will look to the future when the town has renovated the downtown, installed tennis courts, swimming pool, jogging track and thus make the park a place for families to come to and enjoy. Caledonia will look to the future when it has a nursing home, more doctors when industry comes to bring more financial security and when a bridge on the state highway is repaired at last after all these many years making Hamilton more accessible. And Caledonia will enjoy the future with a town that is family minded as well as church minded a town that thinks every citizen from young to old is important and provides for them. Whether it is large activity center for everyond or housing for the elderly. The citizens of Eggerstown if they come back really would not know the Caledonia of the near future.

CALEDONIA tune: Dixie

In the county north of Lowndes, there is a little town
And its called, Caledonia, Caledonia, Caledonia

In the middle of the town was a water weal, a blacksmith shop,
and doctors could be found in Caledonia, Caledonia, Caledonia

Now we have a big red fire truck, a water tower and the
streets are marked in Caledonia, Caledonia, Caledonia

Oh I'm glad I live in Caledonia where old friends there are
not forgotten Come our way, come our way, come our way,
to Caledonia.

In the arena of economic development the following blocks exist: far from other towns, hard to transport products, changing from farming to industry, roads can't handle industry indicates that the underlying challenge is getting roads improved and converting to an industrial community. Examples of this challenge are 1. industry won't come til the roads are improved 2. state aid is held up as the roads are partially paved.

In the arena of road and drainage improvement the following blocks exist: can't borrow money to improve roads, lack of funds, roads already paved can't get state aid, not a major priority indicates that the underlying challenge is emphasizing road/drainage improvement as a major concern. Examples of this challenge are: 1. roads were paved many years ago and are now in bad disrepair 2. loans have not been accepted for road improvement.

In the arena of beautification the following blocks exist: people can't afford to renovate their homes & buildings, absentee land ownership, has not been pushed, people don't care, using old buildings as a tax write-off indicates that the underlying challenge is getting more community involvement. Examples of this challenge are: 1. people don't talk about this concern for beautification 2. owners do not live in town of downtown buildings.

In the arena of recreation the following blocks exist: lack of funds, lack of concern, lack of involvement indicates that the underlying challenge is developing the recreational programs on the town land purchased for such purpose. Examples of this concern are: 1. land is already purchased 2. no programs are yet formed 3. equipment for the land can be funded by town.

We the citizens of Caledonia in order to have a decent place for youth to go to keep youth here propose to set up organizational meeting through 1. appoint leader 2. talk with school about youth involvement 3. ask whole town to attend

We the citizens of Caledonia in order to promote outside interest propose to increase the Chamber of Commerce membership through 1. house to house canvas 2. semi-annual membership drive 3. become involved with Lowdnes Industrial foundation

We the citizens of Caledonia in order to instill a sense of community pride in citizens propose to get a photographer to take pictures of vacant lots and dilapidated buildings through 1. show before community 2. community decide what to do 3. before/after pictures to local newspaper.

We the citizens of Caledonia in order to get people involved propose to form a Visitation Committee through 1. chairman 2. set up dates and areas 3. have a pot luck dinner.

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PARTICIPANTS

MAY 4, 1979

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