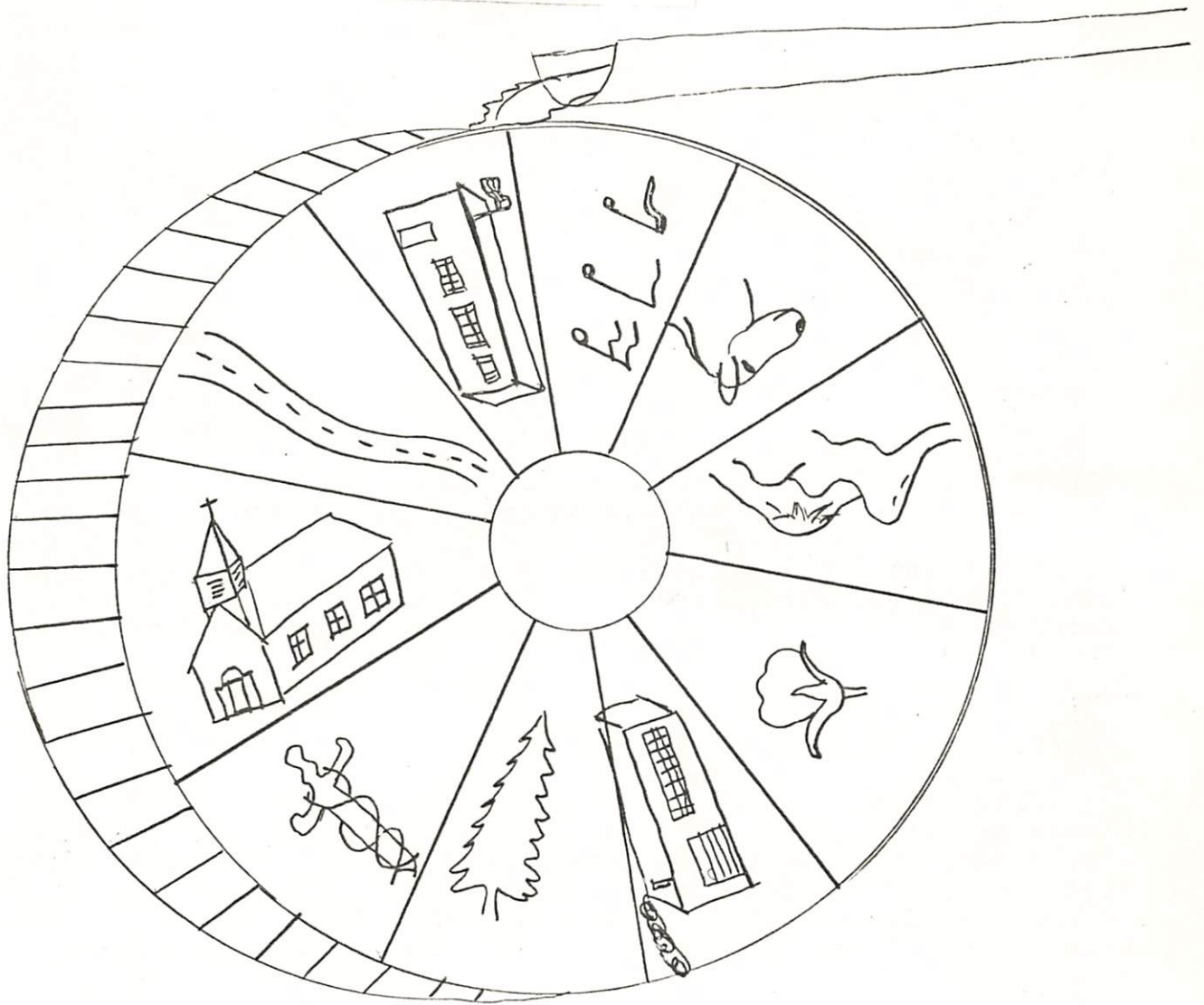


ASHLAND TOWN MEETING

NUMBER 2



TURNING TO ACCOMPLISH ONE GOAL

BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
ASHLAND, MISSISSIPPI

MAY 8, 1979

ASHLAND, A FINE TOWN

(Tune of Lucille)

We've built a fine town to live in, my friend.

With nice friendly people who'll help you no end.  
Once in the darkness, we mired in the mud streets,  
But that is no longer the trend.

We've built a fine town to live in, my friend.

Our young folks are pointing the way.

By being discouraged and drifting away.  
We need more work things, we need more fun things,  
We want all our young folks to stay.  
Please help us to help them today.

We've still got a long way to go.

Pulling together, we'll make it you know.  
We're banding together, and solving our problems.  
We're setting ourselves higher goals.

Get set, on your mark, and LET'S GO!

## CHALLENGE STATEMENTS

In the arena of Community Upgrading, the following blocks exist:

- 1) not enough streets open
  - 2) if you get a job here, there is still no housing available
- This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is  
GETTING THE BALL ROLLING NOW THAT WE HAVE GAS AND SEWER AVAILABLE  
AND BE ABLE TO SHOW ENOUGH AVAILABLE LABOR.
- Illustrations: a. ditches need rework, drainage  
b. cemetery needs fixing from wrecks  
c. schools need repair(gym)

In the arena of parks and library, the following blocks exist:

- 1) lack of interest
  - 2) lack of planning
  - 3) no leadership in pushing for needed library
- This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is  
COORDINATING A LARGE EFFORT TO GET BEHIND PROPOSALS AND GET  
LEADERSHIP TO WORK TOGETHER.
- Illustrations: a. no park  
b. no large library  
c. no recreation

In the arena of Future Planning, the following blocks exist:

- 1) owners don't want to repair or sell
  - 2) local owners don't want to talk about solutions
  - 3) when one cleaned up and nothing was done, it went back to like it was
- This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is  
GETTING PEOPLE BEHIND MAKING SOME HARD DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE  
OF ASHLAND AND THEIR SUPPORT.
- Illustrations: a. unsightly approach on 370  
b. lack of pride in property(Northside of Square)  
c. some stores owned by out-of-state people  
d. vacant lots unmowed

PROPOSALS

We the citizens of Ashland in order to get more people in the community working together propose to get the merchants to join the civic club through

1. going to each merchant
2. sponsor more things

We the citizens of Ashland in order to get folks working together for future of Ashland propose to write a series of articles about the future of Ashland through:

1. choose committee(3)
2. get together to discuss and then write
3. use appeal rather than attack.

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TOWN MEETING: MISSISSIPPI was created for communities by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit research, demonstration and training group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA staff and Volunteer Consultants in 103 American cities and overseas locations work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate program development and provide resources, training and follow-up services upon request. During the period of November, 1978 through June, 1979, the Town Meeting Program is being offered under the sponsorship of the Governor's Office of Citizen Participation of the State of Mississippi.

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