



The Dawn of a New Day

Beartown  
Town Meeting  
Pikes County  
June 18, 1979

SONG

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

(Tune: Oh Happy Days)

Oh Bear-town -- Oh Bear-town  
You taught us things -- from day to day

Oh Bear-town -- Oh Bear-town  
You taught us how -- to live, work and play

From you came doctors -- and preachers too.  
Ballgames, hayrides -- and May day helped to bring us  
thru.

(Tune: Take Me Out to the Ball Game)

Come with us to tomorrow  
Where the future is bright  
Sewer, drainage and street lights too  
Police protection for me and for you.  
And so Come with us on the journey  
to bring Beartown A-Live

It'll take YOU \_ ME \_ WORKING TOGETHER  
To make Beartown SMILE

We were named after a while family that settled here in the late 1800's. Beartown was thickly covered with trees later bringing money to our community. We had a small two room school in the 1800's and about 3 churches of various denominations. Our main supply of water was a well. Kerosine lamps was our only means of light, and a fireplace and wood burning stoves were our only means of cooking and keeping warm. Jobs were scarce. The main sources were farming, housework and day labor. Recreation was church services, community gatherings on the weekends, ball games, going shopping, ice cream parlor gatherings.

In the early 1900's our community grew. The community tore down the 2 room building and built a 2 story building for our school, with grades 1 thru 12. We then were able to employ professional teachers that helped to improve our community. Through their teaching we were able to have better preachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers and dictions. Through training and hard work we have comfortable homes, electric lights, gas heat and running water and paved roads.

Our hopes for the future are sewer drainage, better housing, better job opportunities in our community, equal opportunity, police protection, recreation facilities and re-annexation to the city of McComb.

PROPOSALS

① We the CITIZENS OF BEARTOWN IN ORDER TO pick up all garbage to keep the community clean and beautiful propose to HAVE A CLEAN UP PROGRAM through:

- 1) use the county truck
- 2) contact ST. MARY'S; I+II, CHURCH OF GOD AND CHRIST on June 19TH
- 3) JUNE - August - use county trucks for the street
- 4) Volunteers help pick up trash

② We THE CITIZENS OF BEARTOWN in order to get streets named and houses numbered propose to GET MAPS OF BEARTOWN through

- 1) ask the Post office for house #'s
- 2) ask the county Board to help us
- 3) work with city Departments
- 4) get cypis made of Beartown map - June 25 1:30 pm
- 5) Form A COMMITTEE

③ We the citizens of BEARTOWN in order to give our children somewhere to play propose to BUILD A RECREATION CENTER through:

- 1) GET A PLOT OF LAND
- 2) HAVE EACH FAMILY DONATE \$
- 3) work on ANEXATION
- 4) BUILD A RECREATION CENTER
- 5) work with the committee formed at our Town Meeting

④ We the citizens of Beartown in order to become RE-ANEXED proposed to PETITION AND DO WHAT OUR ATTORNEYS PROPOSE through:

- 1) talk to all groups
- 2) volunteers take ~~part~~ petition around
- 3) solicit funds for legal defense

Mrs. Elizabeth Spears  
Elbert Picket  
Wilbert Gayden  
C.P. Martin  
Dayton D. Smith  
Herbert Patterson  
Mrs. Alice Anderson  
Mrs. Emma Martin  
Mary E. Tobias  
Mrs. Ermatine B. Jenkins  
Elder Sam Quin  
Mrs. Elina Quin  
Mrs. Polly Mae Ratcliff  
Mrs. Elnara N. Bryant  
Mrs. Mary Davis  
Walter Bethea  
Lance James  
Mrs. Lydia M. Cook  
Mrs. Frankie Bethea  
Mrs. Emogene Smith  
Mrs. Ethel M. William  
Mrs. Beulah James  
Mrs. Fannie S. Gayden  
Mrs. Annie M. Harrell  
Frankie B. Smith  
C.C. Bryant, Sr.  
Janice E. Rodgers  
Leon Daves  
Fannae Rae Daves  
Terry McCabe  
Jay Antenen