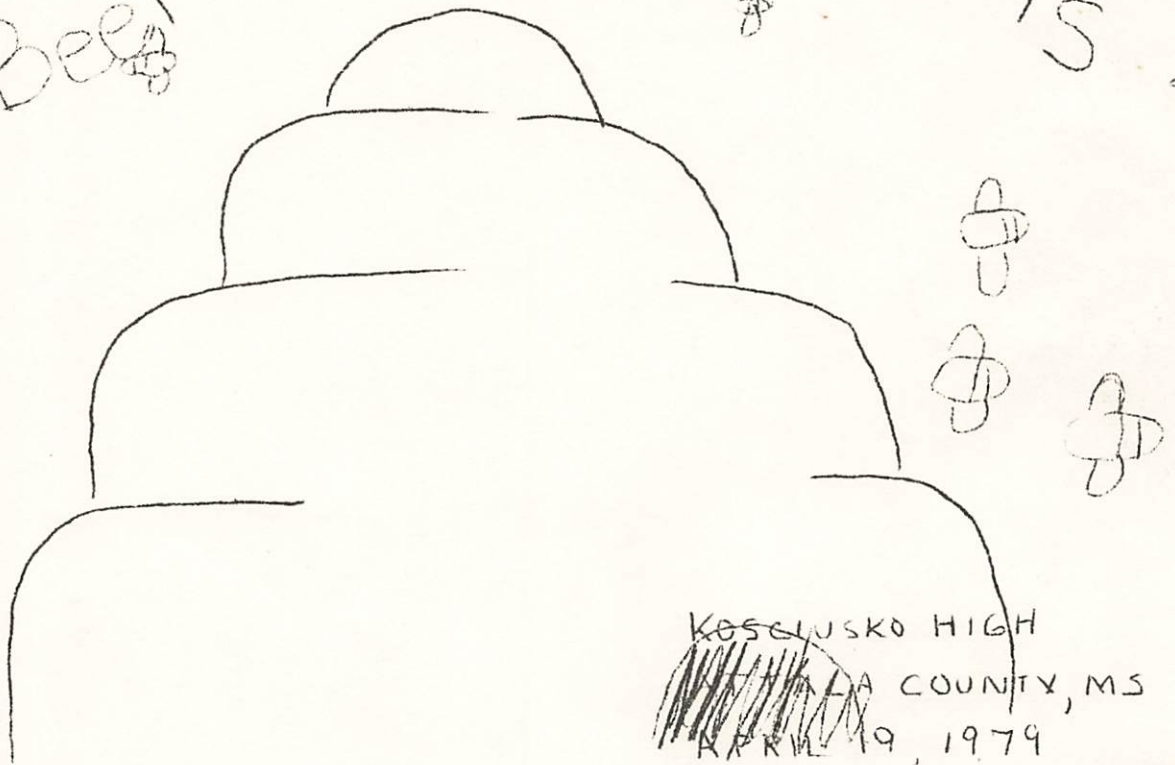


KOSCIUSKO TOWN MEETING

Beehive of the Hills



KOSCIUSKO HIGH
~~MISSISSIPPI~~ COUNTY, MS
APRIL 19, 1979

KOSCIUSKO TOWN MEETING

THE NEW SONG

KOSCIUSKO, TOWN OF TODAY

Tune: Hey, Look Me Over

Hey, Kosciusko

Town of today

Look to the future,

This is what we say:

Industry's com'n

Jobs for everyone.

"The Beehive of the

Hills will find their

goals have all been one.

And we'll find

Culture for our children,

Training for unskilled,

Needed transportation,

And spirit of goodwill

Our Kosciusko

Look to the future

to find the bright

and shining day

We'll stand together

in every way!

THE NEW STORY

THE BEGINNINGS:

Kosciusko got its name because a Mr. Dodd, ancestor of many present citizens, had served under him in the Revolution. It's early life was established as a half-way point on the old Natchez Trace.

In the years bridging the Civil War, it had the rare distinction of a Republican lawyer, judge, and politician who was well liked and respected. This was Judge Jason Niles who's journal is a long record of the nineteenth century.

The period of reconstruction was modified to a great degree because of rural isolation. There were large farms that were self-sustaining in cattle, orchards, gardens, etc. For poorer people, hunting and fishing was not a bad living.

Near the end of the Century, when the politics of Vardaman was beginning the age that ended with Bilbo, Kosciusko was sufficiently divided to start a good fight on any election day. Elections were wars. Nobody can accuse our fathers of that day of holding monolithic or apathetic public opinions..

1900-1940's

Kosciusko was a town with dirt streets and wooden sidewalks. Many brick store buildings and the courthouse were built. People came from all over the County to trade, to buy, and sell their produce. A whole company was formed of young men to fight in World War I. The school house burned and had to be rebuilt. The cotton mill started the first industry. In 1923 another important industry came when the Pet Milk Company opened. In the early 30's the depression hit and things were at a very low ebb. Two banks closed. Cotton sold for very little but on small farms, people raised most of their own food. Share cropping was very prevalent in the County. During this time, the circus came to town every year which was an exciting time. Each summer the chautauqua came to entertain and provide cultural enrichment. Union services were held in the Courthouse when a revivalist came to inspire the entire community even though there were many churches where regular services were held. Our first hospital was built with the help of a large donation by Mrs. Montfort Jones in memory of her husband. There was always a good school system in which students excelled in academic and athletic achievement.

1941-1960's

With the onset of WWII, Kosciusko and Attala County's profile did an about face; with the drafting of our young men, who went away to war while the women went to work in factories for the first time leaving behind their small children to be cared for by hired help or kin too old to work. Their new roles brought about new life styles. The masses for the first time began to share commodities, transportation and housing with what

was before limited to a very few. After the war the large migration of blacks to large urban areas changed the large holding farms with its many share croppers to machine operated farms leaving behind the many share cropper shacks.

Separate schools provided a double standard of living for blacks & whites and lended itself to the good and bad of such a system. The 1964 Supreme Court decision added most to our cultural pattern and we made history in the smooth transition. Urban renewal has changed the appearance of our town from its old "county seat" image to a thriving and modern policy making shopping center.

1970-Forward

Kosciusko is a wonderful town in which to live and rear a family. The schools are vvery good with an AA rating. In Kosciusko can be found some of the friendliest people you would ever expect to meet. The several churches are active and exert a moral influence on many of our citizens.

The leadership has been outstanding in Kosciusko; therefore, I feel that this town will come through the present unemployment with flying colors.

We will move into the future determined to practice what we claim we are a good town. We will share decision and have the people's voice heard in shaping their future. We will continue to work together , denying none what justly belongs to all.

THE CHALLENGES

In the arena of Cultural Activities and Beautification the following blocks exist:

1. lack of leadership and organization
2. apathy and lack of funds
3. no defined objective or program plan

This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is **MOTIVATION OF PEOPLE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PLANNED OBJECTIVES**

Local examples:

1. lack of cultural activity
2. inadequate usage of recreational activities
3. inadequate enforcement of current ordinances
4. no organized effort to establish and support cultural activities

In the arena of Economic Growth the following blocks exist

1. not enough industry
2. better use of natural resources
3. more competitive prices
4. need local committee

This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is **MORE INPUT OF AVERAGE CITIZENS - MORE PARTICIPATION IN POLICY MAKING**

Local Examples:

1. loss of industry
2. prices not competitive with towns in area
3. natural resources not used in county
4. too many on welfare that would like to be off.

In the arena of Indifference the following blocks exist:

1. personal concern comes first
2. confusion
3. lack of leadership

This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is **LACK OF CONCERNED RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP**

Local Examples:

1. accepting jobs and not following through
2. misplaced priorities
3. lack of organization
4. failure of UGF

In the arena of Education the following conditions exist:

1. a lack of Vo-tech training
2. absence of an active PTA
3. high drop out rate in schools

This indicates that the underlying challenge is **MORE CONCERN FROM PARENTS ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS**

Local examples

1. a high drop out rate
2. mediocre achievement in the school by some who should be doing better.

In the arena of Essential Services the following blocks exist:

- 1) improve streets,
- 2) fire station,
- 3) provide for elderly

This indicates that the underlying challenge facing us is **BEING INFORMED AND WORKING TOGETHER.** Local examples: 1) priorities 2) planning 3) apathy

PROPOSALS

SPECIFIC PLANNING

We the citizens of Kosciusko, in order to organize and establish a plan propose TO SELECT A CORE OF PEOPLE TO DO SPECIFIC PLANNING AND SUGGESTION BOXES IN NUMEROUS PUBLIC PLACES through

1. Select a group to be a committee tonight.
2. Work through your church
3. Work through clubs
4. Put pressure on responsible citizens

ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MAJOR PROJECT

We the citizens of Kosciusko in order to start action and implementation propose STREET IMPROVEMENT, SIDEWALKS, AND GENERAL CLEANUP AND BEAUTIFICATION through

1. Divide up into wards to determine area goals and priorities
2. Utilize ward leadership
3. Come back together into town meeting
4. Implementation of priorities.

CREATE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

We the citizens of Kosciusko and Attala County in order to create Community awareness of needs and solutions propose THE ORGANIZATION OF A COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO CORRELATE ALL ACTIVITIES OF CIVIC CONCERN OF CIVIC CONCERNS AND SPECIFIC PROJECTS through

1. Use new coliseum for fourth of July patriotic celebration., to provide exposure to political candidates.
- x. Encourage civic clubs to jointly sponsor event.
3. Use proceeds from concession for worthwhile community projects.

PARTICIPANTS

W. J. Adams
216 S. Wells
Kosciusko, Ms.

Bill Adcock
Rt. 1, Box 146

Mrs. Bill Adcock
Rt. One

Sissy Aldy
217 Hillcrest Dr.

Jay Anttunen
;4; E. Edgewood
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. W. Allen Breckenridge
315 St. Matthews St.

Albert H. Brett
Rt.1, Box 132

Jack D. Briscoe
215 Highland Dr.

Garner W. Brock
Rt. 3, Box 307A

Mrs. Lester Brown
200 E. Washington

Clarence Cooper
113 Atkinson

R. C. Crossley
Rt. 2, Box 96

G. M. Dodd
Rt. 4, Box 58C

Mrs. Edna Dotson
203 Smythe St.

Charles England
608 Smythe St.

Jack Fenwick
505 Valley Rd.

E. L. Jackson
221 Highway 35 Bypass

Mrs. Jack Fenwick
505 Valley Rd.

Lavelle Flanagan
241 N. Jackson St.

Wayne Foster
Rt. 1, Box 84P

John M. Garner
105 Cedar Lane Dr.

Damoe; H. Gene
511 Moore St.

W. F. George, Sr.
706 Tipton

Mrs. Smith Giles
520 S. Natchez

Esther Smith Gober
Rt. 2

L LaRon Gober
Rt. 2, Box 390E

Nellie Gregory
518 W. Adams

Col. E. G. Heilbronner
1209 E. South St.

Nancy C. Heilbronner
1209 E. South St.

Anna Herod
210 Shank St.

Eugene B. Hill, Jr.
720 Glendale

James L. Hodge
Rt. 3, Box 13C

Reba Hodge
Rt. 3, Box 13C

Jack L. Holmes
805 S. Natchez

Nela Hughes
304 W. Adams

Mrs. J. Ventress Jones
300 N. Huntington St.

William E. Jones
P. O. Box 632

Henry H. Jordan, Jr.
110 Highland Dr.

Jack B. Jordan
1100 Walnut Grove

Mrs. R. L. Keiffer
1010 S. Huntington

Emmett McCrory Jr.
Rt. 1, Box 128

Harlon McGee, Jr.
S. Natchez St.

Robert McGee
212 S. Wells

Susan A. McGee
Rt. 3, Box 12

Butch McMillan
Rt. 2

C. D. Maddox
35 Bypass

Mike Martin
411 Fairground

W. W. Miller
134 Thornton St.

Bob Monk
901 Tepee Cir.

Izella Morris
230 S. Wells

W. Levon Moore
1302 E. South St.

Lloyd Moody
207 Cedar Lane

Clarence E Morgan III
343 E. Jefferson St.

Dinah Morgan
414A South Natchez
Kosciusko, Ms.

Geoffrey Morgan
414A South Natchez

H. L. Myricks
109 College St.

Lamar W. Nesbit
308 N. Huntington

John Niles
902 Renfroe

Nell E. Niles
902 Renfroe Road

Ms. Matthew O'Reilly
105 Valley Circle

Bill Paquinette
Rt. 1, Box 42

Mary K. Patterson
203 Hickory St.

Mrs. Frank Peeler
905 S. Huntington

Mrs. Martha Pettit & husband
N. Wells St.

Gladys Pilcher
105 Valley Cir.

Billy C. Proctor
Rt. 3,

Mrs. Howard Ray
Heritage House Rt. 2

Doralyn Simpson
318 S. Huntington

Joe F. Singletary
501 Lucas St.

Jack Spears
Rt. 3, Box 322A

Linda Spears
Rt. 3, Box 322A

Wayne Stone
208 Cedar Lane

Mrs. George J. Thornton
301 N. Huntington

Herbert Thweatt
Rt. 3

James Triplett
407 East St.

Mrs. Mamie Veasley
Rt. 2, Box 281

Helen Wasson
Rt. 2, Shields Rd.

Timothy C. Wasson
Rt. 2, Shields Rd.

John C. White
Rt. 3, Box 13A

Mrs. John C. White
Rt. 3, Box 13A

William C. White
116 Joplin St.

Minnie Lou Wigley
319 W. North

Bob Wiseman
311 Highland Dr.

Elizabeth Wiseman
311 Highland Dr.

TOWN MEETING STAFF

Jeff Roper

Eloise Patton

Jay Antennen