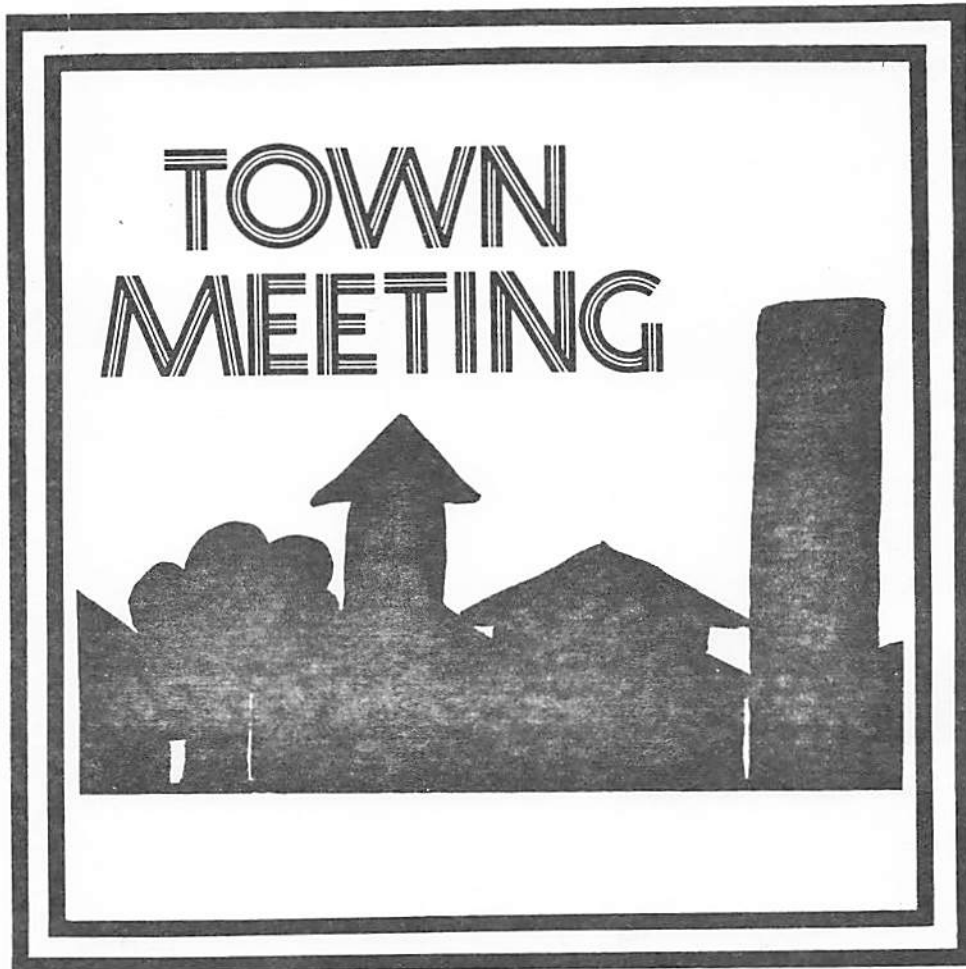


CLIPPING BOOK



May 1977

The Morgan County Press

Volume 5 Number 11

"We will forever defend your right to know"

Town Meeting Saturday, Nov. 13

Press

November 11, 1976

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 13, a special three-day Town Meeting will be held at Decatur High School. The meeting includes you - and you! Jim Roundtree, chairman, and Mrs. Jenny Lind Ruddle, co-chairman, hope to have 500 or more in attendance.

Should you wonder what to do about your children? Decatur Town Meeting will also hold a Children's Town Meeting to be held in conjunction with the full day event, at the same location. Trained volunteers will lead children ages 6 thru 12 in a celebration of the Nation's heritage, designed

to develop within them a fuller sense of patriotic pride and an awareness of the challenges confronting them as citizens of the future. Child Care for children under 6 years of age will be provided at the Meeting location, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., at no charge to parents.

DECATUR, THIRD CITY TO STAGE TOWN MEETING

In the Town Meeting '76 nationwide program is held local concern. Decatur, the third city in the state, to make use of the idea.

Town Meeting '76, in the broadest sense, is designed to create a new social means of allowing local citizens to effectively participate in the decision-making processes of their communities.

It also seeks to spur individuals to responsible action and to foster good government by affirming the citizens' role in civic affairs.

The participants leave the Town Meeting with the sense that what he thinks, says, and does not only matters to his fellow citizens but indeed determines the future.

By the end of the day, they have produced a 20 to 50 page document detailing the day's action, which will be filed in each participant.

Sponsoring organizations working together in this initial effort are: Art Guild, Austin Lions Club, Business and Professional Women's Club of Decatur, City of Opportunity, Civitan Club, Decatur Art Council, Decatur Chamber of Commerce.

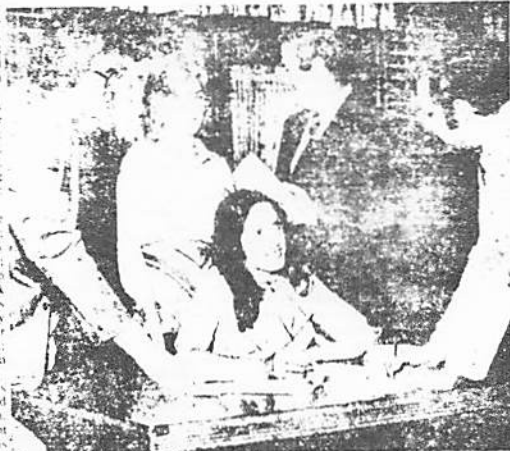
Decatur Civic Club, Decatur Jaycees, Decatur

Jaycees, Decatur Junior Service League, Decatur Kiwanis Club, Decatur Lions Club, Decatur Lions Club, Decatur Music Club, Exchange Club of Decatur, National Secretaries Association, Newcomers Club of Decatur, Parents Without Partners, Ploie Club of Decatur, and Women's Chamber of Commerce.

Please note! The entire Decatur Town Meeting is free! Coffee, snacks and lunch will be provided to all participants and children free!

Sponsoring Firms: Brock and Spight Co., Decatur Coca-Cola Bottling Co., McDonald's Hamburgers, Quality Printers, Inc., North Alabama Printing Co., Hutto Printing, Multigraph Corp., The Tennessee Valley Press, Southern Tape & Supply Co., Chandler's Fabric, Potts Plants, Crump Camera Shop, Pure Pack Inc., Monroe Business Equipment, Office Supply Co., Central Bank, Decatur Inn, Decatur Daily, WMSL, WAAH, and Sunbeam Bakers.

Town Meeting secretary is Mrs. Daves Turner and treasurer is Lyle Christian. Check for the document each will receive will be accepted by Jo Ann Frank, as agent.



REGISTERING FOR TOWN MEETING—A small group of about 30 Mobilians were introduced Thursday night to the details of a Town Meeting that will be held May 29 in an effort to obtain the consensus of opinion among Mobilians concerning major issues and their solution. Among those attending were public school teacher Kay Frost, seated, Dr. D. B. Hixson, right; and standing, from left, Denise Byrd and Vernon Duke, representing the International Management Council. (Mobile Register photo by Dave Hamby)

Friday, May 14, 1976

ALABAMA JOURNAL, Montgomery, Ala.

Differing Views Of Crime Are Offered At Workshop

By RANDALL WILLIAMS

You've got to make the boys stop gambling and cussing," said one woman. And we need more police fingerprinters," said another.

The comments were made at a workshop sponsored here today by the Chicago-based Institute for Cultural Affairs, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Alabama attorney general's office to discuss the future of law enforcement.

The workshop featured a "brainstorming" session - the purpose was to solve anything but to generate thought. That at least was a great success.

But the point that stood out is that everyone thinks differently about the problem of crime and how to solve it and how the problem affects the community.

Charles Moore, the Bugtussle, Tex., native who now works for the Institute for Cultural Affairs, predicted that society would completely disintegrate unless "we find a way to restore communities where people can live together, can't expect the police to solve all our problems."

Montgomeryans attending today's session generally agreed with that, the woman laid the blame at the family doorstep. "The parents are down at one end of the street and the children

are at the other end and don't neither one know what the other is doing," she said.

City Council President Emory Folmar called Thursday for raising taxes and hiring more police.

But a woman who lives in a local housing project said she thinks the police do a good job and that we have enough already.

But the woman who wanted more fingerprinters disagreed. She said more undercover police are needed.

Others suggested cultural and political issues, deteriorating inner cities, more jobs, more recreation, more church involvement, better family conditions, and better education especially for school dropouts and unemployed adults.

The group was to suggest solutions to all these problems in an afternoon session. Similar forums are being held this year in hundreds of U.S. cities, a speaker said.



THE MOBILE REGISTER

MOBILE, PRICHARD, CHICKASAW, SARALAND, ALA., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1976

Mobilians to have chance to participate in meetings

By ROYCE HARRISON
Register Staff Reporter

May 29 may mark the end of public apathy here toward political affairs and the rejuvenation of part of America's revolutionary spirit, as the Mobile Jaycees and 14 other organizations sponsor the first of what they hope will be a long line of Town Meetings.

On that Saturday, one week away, all Mobilians who are interested in helping shape the Port City's development are encouraged to be at Bellingrath Hall of Central Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m.

In a day-long marathon session, participants will all be asked to list the three issues they feel are most crucial to the community. All written issues (as well as others added to a master list) will be discussed fully, analyzed in terms of the underlying factors that prevent solution and ranked, through group consensus, as to each issue's priority to the community.

Following lunch, which will be provided, groups of participants will try to iron out solutions to the issues, or problems listed. Then, teams will summarize the day's work into "challenges," or statements of goals that can be used to provide direction for future improvement in the community.

Before the Town Meeting ends around 5 p.m., the challenges will be typed, copied and bound into document form, and passed out among participants, with additional copies to be presented to local government leaders.

"The consensus of at least 300 people is what we are after," said Jaycee Michael Meatyard, who headed a

preliminary meeting Thursday night among a small group of persons who were introduced to the Town Meeting concept, and asked to encourage friends to attend the May 29 meeting.

Also attending were two representatives of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a nationwide non-profit research, demonstration and training group with headquarters in Chicago, Ill., that is promoting the Town Meeting concept throughout the U.S.

According to one ICA representative, former Mobilian Frank Powell who now lives in New Orleans, the Town Meeting concept was initiated in February (except in New England, where it has been in force for centuries), and is gaining momentum.

Describing the Town Meeting concept as an "alternative way" to let community leaders obtain a precise reading of the mood of the community, Powell said, "Two hundred years ago, Americans had no other choice but to get together, agree on a direction and tackle problems themselves."

"Over the years, Town Meetings have disappeared," he continued, "and public officials had to shoulder both the job of solving problems and the job of finding out what the people want."

"You know, it used to be if there was a pothole in the street, a resident would grab a bag of cement and fix it," he said. "Now, you call the city street department."

That, he said, is but one of many reasons for rejuvenating Town Meetings: to bring back that revolutionary do-it-yourself spirit before Americans wind up "paying 80 per cent of our salaries in taxes."

Alabama

Town Meeting Attracts Residents Of Spenard

Spenard residents tackled some of the problems they have in their community and voiced their opinions during Town Meeting '78 at Romig Junior High School.

Although the turnout was less than expected, meeting coordinators and participants were satisfied with the response and hope the meeting will continue.

"There are a great number of people whose voices aren't being heard. This is one way to get their voices heard," said Art Day, co-coordinator of the meeting.

"It's a start for our community," said Eleanor Woodin, co-coordinator and president of the Turnagain Community Council.

The day-long meeting included morning and afternoon workshops to determine current problems before the community and to propose possible solutions. There were remarks by Sen. Mike Gravel and Mayor George Sullivan. And a Spenard song and story were developed.

The proposed solutions to problems identified included improving the quality of life in Spenard by supporting community councils, promoting the Turnagain Community Newsletter and electing responsive officials.

The final document written by the afternoon workshop groups also suggests using the community council to develop better public transportation and improving house codes.

"The meeting is a grass-roots effort to get people involved. It is not a political forum," said Day, who served on the Town Meeting steering committee last year.

Day said the steering committee looked at having the meeting on an areawide level but decided it would function better if limited to one community.

"Spenard seemed to have the most enthusiasm of all of the communities in Anchorage," he said. Mrs. Woodin added that much of the enthusiasm

came from Ginny Flint, 2515 Telequana Drive, who attended a town meeting in Kodiak.

"I really liked what I saw," Mrs. Flint said. She went to Kodiak as a community schools representative.

The Kodiak meeting was one of the more successful ones in the state with 500 or 800 people attending, she said.

Town meetings, which are being sponsored in part by the Bicentennial Commission and Institute for Cultural Affairs, also have been held in Bethel, Juneau and Dillingham and at Taku Elementary School here.

"I think it's worked out pretty well. We found out the neighborhoods are tied to the city but also the neighborhoods have some strong feelings," said Bill Trudeau, who participated yesterday and is pastor at Turnagain United Methodist Church.

"What is happening is representatives are governing people by making decisions and then going to the people for their support. We want to turn that around so the support of the people is already there," Day said.

He also said the town meeting is not duplicating what the community councils are doing. "The problem with the local councils is that there is a relatively small group of individuals acting for the community as a whole."

Mrs. Woodin added, "This is a different kind of forum. Community councils take one issue at a time."

Not all of the 130 people who attended were grown. Joining in with the day's events were many children who were kept busy with their own workshop.

Although Day was expecting more people to attend, he said it was a good turnout. He said there may have been several reasons for residents not coming including the closeness to an election and the swine flu vaccination clinic.

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KODIAK DAILY MIRROR



Town meeting 'huge success'

By Ann Barker

Town Meeting '78 was a huge success as over 100 people attended at noon today. This is the largest town meeting ever held in Spenard which will hold over 500 town meetings throughout the year. It has been a success story for the community. About 100 people participated the whole day in workshops where economic, political, and cultural challenges in Kodiak were identified and discussed.

Open meeting, Town Meeting '78 on the morning of March 1, 1978 was met with the high school band playing music. The program was an event with the Northern Lights Drill Team, dressed in their colorful hats, performing the colors. Foster Barta was the leader of the band. The program was a major way of entertainment and singing.

The large group was broken into four smaller ones where around tables followed a first meeting, workshop on future submissions on problems in Kodiak. Some of the issues were public safety, law enforcement, local government, land and housing, recreation, low recreational facilities, transient population, and an economic growth with no recreation.

Some breaks featured a lunch of a red, white and blue tea and superb entertainment with the Choir of Holy Innocents Church, the Milliken children's choir from Main School, and the Altimedians.

Altimedians workshops discussed problems, solving problems in the area identified in the morning workshop. It was decided much could be done early days when meeting with an informed public more town meetings, a community organization, and singing.

(Please see on Page 11)

group had been working on the solution.

The success of Town Meeting '78 was a team effort by many and many organizations in Kodiak. The Institute of Cultural Affairs, a national nonprofit organization, led the initiative. It is a team effort and includes the Spenard meeting.

ARIZONA

BLACK DISPATCH



The People's Paper

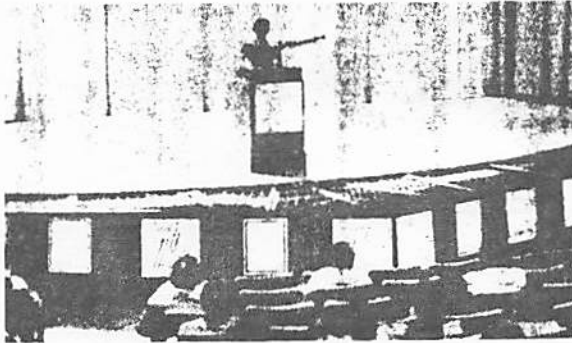
VOL. 1 NO. 14

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1976

(WEEKLY)

20*

Town Meeting 76



Rev. Floyd D. Parker making a point of our purpose, "To lift us and our concerns and deal with our nation."



Participants of Town Meet in 76 join together in song.

by Maria Lancaster

Town Meeting 76 was presented by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Phoenix, & Vicinity in corporation with the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) and the sponsorship by the following organizations:

Town Meeting 76 was an event made available for the entire South Phoenix Community to get involved in the issues which affect their community.

There was a very noticeable and disappointing small turn out for this event. However, the undeniable truth that good things come in small packages was real on Saturday May 22, 1976, as people of all races and walks of life gathered in the auditorium of South Mountain High at 9 a.m. to begin what was later concluded around 5:30 p.m. as having been a very meaningful day for the citizens of South Phoenix.

Town Meeting 76 Continues

Out of that inspirational gathering of the south Mountain Town Meeting 76, a date of June 12th was set by the community to follow through with the suggestion of organizing a task force.

When formed, its purpose will be to give structure to who and what we are, to examine principal issues of concern in South Phoenix and acquire completion of demands by responsible rule.

Here again the community is urged to participate. This is your opportunity to get involved with decision making that affects YOUR daily & community life. Come to Tanner Chapel, 8th & Jefferson Sts., Phoenix on June 12, 1976 at 9 a.m.

"Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty" an intro which could not have been surpassed in words or song, this which began the start of Town Meeting 76. Earnest introductions of community leaders and guest by Rev. Floyd D. Parker inspired such personalities as Dr. Russell Jackson, superintendent of the Roosevelt School District; Rev. Miller, Shilo Baptist Church; Horace E. Owens, former state representative (D. 23rd District); and Michael Jackson, Chicago ICA to share their personal opinions and concerns about Town Meeting 76. A consensus that this is the

place to begin, to begin making a better community for all citizens of South Phoenix to live in.

The meeting was divided into four workshops where participants helped in identifying the basic challenges of the community by analyzing the economic, political and cultural issues of South Phoenix. Workshop leaders by groups were: (A) Russell Jackson, Superintendent of Roosevelt School Districts; (B) Jerry Grisby, Affirmative Action-City of Phoenix; (C) Bill Hooks, State Department of Education; and (D) Peg Hitchcock, trainer for LEAP.

A mid-day break included a light lunch and entertainment by the Universal Love Gospel Choir, Rachel Ward and Jo-Anne Parker. This brief interlude was concluded with an oration by Joan Knutsen, formerly of Alaska, on the subject, "The New Human Being". Joan described the analogy of the new human being's character as being: humorous, hard-headed, fearless, hardworking, earthy, resourceful and having ingenuity and fortitude.

The excitement generated in the afternoon workshops was carried over into the assembly. There, someone from each group exhibited the creativity and concerns of all participants and

leaders as seen in the following areas agreed upon:

A New Story: South Phoenix - A community with a dream.

The people of South Phoenix have a respect for land and space and the quality of life. We realize, however, that to preserve these things we must retain our sense of community and act together as one unified force.

The history of South Phoenix is one of banding together to protect what we have achieved and improve on those achievements. We appreciate the beauty of our community, South Mountain Park, the Flower Gardens, the citrus orchards, and our open space. Our spring Festival of Arts and Fall Festival of Thanksgiving are accomplished facts and becoming tradition in the community. Improvement of the physical living conditions in South Phoenix is a constant project, concentrating on everything from cleaning up existing neighborhoods to improving streets to providing services such as the Presbyterian Service Center, our New Adult Center and the South Phoenix Mental Health Clinic.

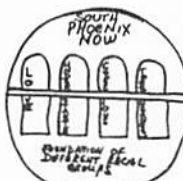
We have a dream for our future in addition to our past achievements and present struggles and because we care, our future dreams are real dreams.

Practical Proposals:

The day's accomplishments were celebrated by remarks from City Councilman Calvin Goode; Mark Poole, regional director of ICA and the joining in together by everyone there, in singing of the community's New Song "South Phoenix Now"

1. To organize committees to educate the public. Then vote and work on problems.
2. That agency guidelines be set and that the Public be led to cause appropriate change.
3. To establishment of a quarterly reviewing system.
4. To develop a preventive program to thwart high school drop-outs.
5. To hold more pre and on budget or other public hearings at some location to identify priority needs.
6. To provide a vehicle for needed change and leadership training.
7. To unite every group, club and organization in the area into a South of the Salt Area Council.
8. To represent a broad sector of the community by acting upon community needs.
9. To establish better rapport with the media and have City Council appoint a task force to look into the needs and wants of South Phoenix.

A New Symbol:



A New Song: South Phoenix Now (Sung to the tune of Song Sung Blue) South Phoenix then, Everybody's been there. South Phoenix now Everything is growin' there

Bridge is new, Living's good, Flower gardens everywhere. Young and old struggle for ... the new community.

Just like it ought to be, South Phoenix — WOW! Keep the good new alive. South Phoenix later,

Helps the whole world get better.

You and me, Us and them,

Forming a community.

Powers take heed now

For there's no turning back.

For there's no turning back.

For there's no turning back.

South Phoenix here,

Everybody's growing now.

South Phoenix there,

Gives the world a window now.



Russell Jackson, Supt. of Roosevelt school district.

Arizona

Sausalito, Calif.
Marin Scope
(Cir. W)

JUN 28 1976



(l-r) Mrs. Lottie Flowers, Mrs. Alberta Sirls, Mrs. Jessie M. Jackson, Mr. Sonny Hodges, Mrs. Mary Smith.

Marin City Holds Town Meeting '76

let's get it together

Marin City's Town Meeting '76, is part of a national program of 5,000 one-day community forums charting America's future direction. The Marin City Town Meeting will be held at the Manzanita Community Center, Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Designed to get the community together, the all-day

workshops will be sponsored to hear and identify the problem areas in Marin City and Marin County and to come up with practical written proposals to make needed changes.

Town Meeting '76 consists of a five-part program: a welcoming to meet friends and neighbors over coffee and doughnuts; morning workshops to identify basic challenges to America's future by analyzing economic, political and cultural issues of the community; a free noon lunch, donated by southern Marin restaurants, with entertainment by local groups; afternoon workshops to create practical proposals for the challenges and problems stated in the morning sessions; and a closing session reporting the day's results to culminate the true spirit of a government by, for and of the people of the community and the nation.

Over 20 Marin City organizations, including the Marin City Boys Club and the Marin City Senior Citizens, churches, interested individual residents, the Tamalpais High School District Board of Trustees, the Sausalito School Board, the College of Marin and the Marin County Board of Supervisors will be involved in the program.

There will also be a mini-town meeting where Martin Luther King 7th and 8th grade students will assist in the all-day junior meeting to be held at the same time and using the same curriculum adapted to age groups from infants to 6th grade. About 200 youth participants are expected.

Free child care and transportation will be provided for the entire day.

Palo Alto, Calif.
Times
(Cir. 6xW, 43,961)

APR 27 1976

Tanya Miller, Helena Curry,
Carla Washington

photos by Bob Prother



New century, new ideas, new 'anthem'

Palo Altans now have a "marching song" for meeting the challenges of America's third century, thanks to a town meeting attended by nearly 150 persons Saturday at Wilbur Junior High School.

Town Meeting '76 was sponsored by the Palo Alto chapter of the American Association of University Women and the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

During workshop sessions the participants came up with a new community "anthem" and a series of recommendations, including:

- Free adult education classes on community affairs.
- A grass-roots organization for solving mutual needs for cooperative housing.
- Formation of community-block-neighborhood organization.
- Organization of the community on a neighborhood basis.
- Affirmative political action for all ages.

The town meeting ended with a resounding rendition of the new community song, "Palo Alto Is Our Town," sung to the tune of "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy."

VERSE

Palo Alto was a farmland
Founded near a redwood tree.
Some real wise planning
and the Stanford U.
Led to the town that we see.
Schools and parks and varied houses.
All for every family.

CHORUS

Palo Alto is our town
And I am proud to shout it.
I am a Palo Alto fan!

VERSE

Struggles came to Palo Alto
Bringing folks and industry.
Housing's lacking and the traffic's bad.
How can we all agree?
Drug abuse or senior centers—
What are the priorities?

VERSE

Now we really face a challenge
Balancing community.
Open spaces and our neighborhoods
Living in harmony.
Reaching out to help each other—
A place that welcomes one and all.

Town Meeting

VISALIA TIMES DELTA
MON. 28 MARCH '77

Session Seen As Success

By SHIDLEY ANN RUTTER
Times-Delta Staff Writer

Visalia Town Meeting organizers and participants went away from their all-day session Saturday satisfied with their efforts and filled with suggestions for future meetings.

The session, which produced a number of community challenges for the future and some proposals to meet them, had about 100 Visalians participating in the workshops. The sponsoring groups and children of those involved asked about another 100 people to the session.

Although disappointed with the small number of participants, the Town Meeting steering committee members were pleased with the day's activities and accomplishments.

Norm Walker, chairman of the committee, called the first Visalia Town Meeting a success. He said the "spirit of community" evidenced Saturday was the most important thing to come out of the meeting.

"It is definitely should be done again," Walker said.

The Town Meeting was initiated by the Visalia lawyers, with numerous community organizations and businesses contributing to the activities.

The Town Meeting concept was developed as a national Bicentennial program by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit research, demonstration and training group concerned with "the human factor in world development."

In addition to the challenges and proposals to meet them developed by the participants, a town symbol, song and story were developed during the day. The children, who had a "mini town meeting," also developed a song and a poem about Visalia.

Identified as economic challenges are:
—Public vs. private interests.
Illustrated by "deshoppers pushing us into excessive growth and by the...

people in all levels of society who want to milk public funds.

—Crash-oriented involvement, with people waiting until a crisis before getting involved.

—The need for a system for ferreting out community needs, indicated by the fact "there is no study for public transportation, controlled, balanced growth and no channels of communication between ethnic groups."

—Use of resources and the fact that restructuring the control and use of resources must be "more for human fulfillment." The lack of city-wide bike lanes, no metering of water to control waste and no energy recovery systems utilizing waste were specifically mentioned.

Political challenges identified in the workshops are:

—Fear of involvement by citizens, illustrated by lack of dog control, crime, lack of minority representation, lack of facilities and cultural events for handicapped and lack of neighborhood responsibility for each other.

—Community alienation, illustrated by the low turnout of the Town Meeting, low voter turnout, vandalism, young people loitering in parking lots and low attendance at city council meetings.

—Local taxation.

Cultural challenges the participants identified are:

—Pressure or chosen isolationism of citizens.

—Lack of community awareness and willingness to participate.

—Current facilities (parks, movies, churches, etc.) are not at total use.

—Citizen committee recommendations are not followed through.

A number of "reactive proposals" were developed by the participants to meet the community challenges.

the Woman's Page

Fri., Apr. 30, 1976 — Sterling Journal-Advocate — 4

Town Meeting '76 — End Or Beginning

Bicentennial Town Meeting '76 is over, at least the all day session in which approximately 105 persons participated is over. But is it the end — or beginning of more town meetings and citizen participation in community government and civic affairs?

Town Meeting was held at Sterling High School Saturday. Throughout the day three guilds worked with such challenges as cultural, political and economic, and a 4th Guild composed a song about Sterling, which was given the title "Making Liars of Pike and Long", sung to the tune of Happy Days are Here Again. Sterling also has a community symbol and a story telling of the pioneering of the area.

The Community Symbol says "Open the Future With a United Community," and this is the feeling that the more than 100 concerned persons hope will develop from the Town Meeting.

Mark Poole, a member of Institute of Cultural Affairs orchestrate, set the keynote of the Town Meeting in his opening remarks "There are no experts to set the pace for Sterling and the community in which you live, except YOU and YOU and YOU."

Poole asked "How do we get people to come together with their creativity—creativity of people who care?"

"Today we lack a practical way to hook our creativity into our needs."

Sterling is one of more than 5,000 cities throughout the United States holding Town Meetings.

In his remarks on charting a course for "The New World," Poole said "We need to find a way to relate to people."

Bud Christian, NJC instructor, was master of ceremonies, for the rousing opening and the fanfare which closed the all day meeting.

Welcome for the day was given by Bill Williams, mayor pro tem. Trudy Slater, directed her junior high 7th grade choir in "It's Up To You and Me," "The Colorado Trail," and "Which Way America."

At the lunch hour Paul

Nicholas directed the Sterling High Modern Choir in several numbers.

Guild sessions were concerned with such topics as Education for What? Combating Community Apathy, Concern for Youth. In the Political Arena discussion centered around Tax Expenditure Information, Development of an effective means of citizens participation in the Affairs of city government.

Cultural proposals dealt with Family Renewal, Community Family Activities, and Community Participation in Government.

In the final plenary session of the day the Town Hall Steering committee met with members of the promotional group the Institute of Cultural Affairs leaders in an evaluation of the days events.

Directives from the Steering Committee were to attempt to implement some of the findings of the day, and although "the meeting is over the work begins" was the feeling of the committee.

A meeting for the steering committee and all in attendance, as well as all persons who were unable to attend Town Hall, is set for May 8 at 9 a.m. at Security Bank of Sterling.

Many Sterling organizations and individuals worked to make the day a success. Decorations throughout were patriotic were set the Bicentennial atmosphere, lunch was prepared and served by Doris Hines, Re-I Valley lunch program coordinator and her staff.

There was a special participation for children under the leadership of Kay Hurst, Wilma Felsen, Mary Freeman and Connie Sperber of Sterling Quota Club. They cared for 18 youngsters while their parents attended Town Meeting.

Decorations were done by Zontains Thelma Rutherford, Marjorie Saylor and Ethel Friess. Business and Professional Women under the leadership of Virginia Thornton, Ruth Virden, Marian Weaver and others served on

the hosting and attendance committee.

The steering committee was chaired by Reverend Bill Wright Sterling Kiwanis Club were local sponsors of the Town Meeting.

Financial contributions were given by 28 businesses, and organizations, as well as many individuals.

Several dignitaries were present including: Bill Williams, Marcia Luce, Harold Sperber, City Council members; Mac McGraw, Fort Morgan, Congressional aide to James Johnson, Jim Leh, County Commissioner, Tex Graves, Logan County Sheriff and David Sprague, representing state government.

Wrap-up of the Town Meeting came in the form of a 26-page document compiled by John Valdez and a large production crew. The document tells the story and gives the challenge for future meetings.

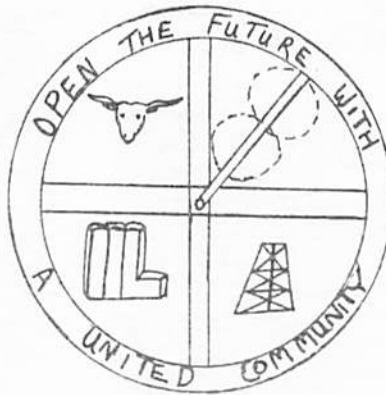
Sterling, They Said It Couldn't Be Done

Indians, wild animals, sagebrush and desert sands prevented early explorers from envisioning the potential development of the high plains.

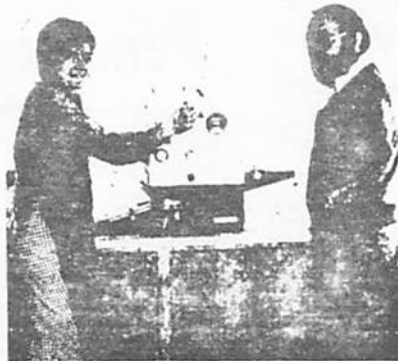
Sterling was near a well traveled route west from which people came to settle and develop communities. They came to seek their fortune in this new valley. Rugged Americans who were brave enough to risk all, moved West and settled in land once termed "The Great American Desert." This land was sacred to them and through their diligence and effort, Colorado's eastern slope became a fertile agricultural land.

Today's Coloradans have combined the works and wisdom of their grandparents and great grandparents with their talents to make the Centennial State one of the greatest of these United States. The people of one of its finest

See No. 2 on Next Page



OPEN THE FUTURE — Open the Future With A United Community, a community symbol designed by one of the Guilds at the Bicentennial Town Hall Meeting '76. The symbol portrays the economic life of northeast Colorado—cattle, irrigation (sprinkling systems), oil and grain.



PRODUCTION — One of the big jobs of the Town Meeting '76 was done by the production staff. Near the end of the all day session the staff put "It all together" in booklet form containing 26 pages of information. Pictured in the office at Sterling High are Francis Simpson and the chairman of the Production Staff, John Valdez. — J.A. Photo by Margaret Martin



STERLING, THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE — Matt Giacomini, Sterling High school senior, reads the story "Sterling, They Said It Couldn't Be Done" following an all day Town Meeting Saturday. — J.A. Photo by Margaret Martin.



GUILD SESSION — Four Guild sessions, (both morning and afternoon), were held during the Bicentennial Town Meeting '76. Pictured in a working mood are, background, from left, Eric Sankey, Jack Annan, Betty Scharf, Kathy Virden; In foreground are Henry Morthole, Dorothy Morthole and Anne Miller. — J.A. Photo by Margaret Martin.

Colorado

NEW BRITAIN HERALD
New Britain, Conn.
PM 34,000

THE BRISTOL PRESS
Bristol, Conn. PM-18,000

Over 30 Attend Mini-Town Meeting

Town Meeting '76 preview to be held tonight at 7

PLAINVILLE — Residents will get a preview of Town Meeting '76 during an "information-night" program to be held at the Plainville Senior Citizens' Center between 7 and 9:30 p.m. today.

Members of the steering committee have prepared the public preview during which Town Meeting '76, and its significance for the town, will be explained.

Coordinators for the town-wide programs are Stanley Arling and the Rev. Willard Bourgartner.

Plans are to complete the program in time for residents to watch tonight's scheduled televised debate between the two major-party presidential candidates, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, a spokesman said today.

Town Meeting '76 is a nation-

al Bicentennial program, developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Its purpose is to focus on the needs of the community as well as local challenges.

The actual workshop meeting is scheduled for Nov. 6 at Plainville High School. It will be a daylong session.

Mini-workshops will be conducted at tonight's meeting, during which the steering committee is urging townspeople to take part.

Information night will enable people to experience and understand why Town Meeting '76 "can be a great event for the community" and also give individuals and organizations in the community the opportunity to participate in the planning and "bringing off" of the town meeting, a spokesman said today.

PLAINVILLE — Well over 30 persons representing a number of local civic organizations attended a Mini-Town Meeting '76 Thursday night at the Plainville Senior Citizens Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to let persons from the community know what Town Meeting '76 is all about, to get those in attendance enthusiastic about Town Meeting '76 and hopefully to get their respective clubs and civic organizations to participate in the Nov. 6 event, according to Stanley Arling, co-chairman of the local steering committee for the town meeting.

Arling told those present Thursday night that the steering committee meets every Tuesday night in room 202 of the Municipal Center and that those meetings are open to the public.

"Town Meeting '76 is a one day community forum," said Rev. Robert Hanson of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). At this forum members of a community meet to define the challenges which face their community and discuss what can be done to meet those challenges, he said.

During the afternoon of the town meeting those participating write "very particle proposals" for dealing with the issues raised at the morning workshops, he added.

The ICA provides assistance to communities wishing to hold these town meetings.

Persons from the community lead workshops on the day of the town meeting. The ICA offers training to these persons and assists local communities in holding their own Town Meeting '76 in a number of other ways, it was noted.

Over 500 have been held nation wide, Rev. Hanson said. Plainville's Town Meeting '76 which will be held on Nov. 6

at Plainville High School will be the sixth such meeting in this area this fall he noted.

Just what takes place at these meetings was discussed by Rev. Hanson, his wife Jean and the members of the steering committee Thursday night.

Workshops held in the morning delineate challenges facing the community in the areas of economics, politics and cultural affairs. These groupings are broader than their names would suggest, it was noted Thursday night. Human and technical resources, in other words, "what sustains life" would be grouped under the heading of economics, Mrs. Hanson said.

The political category would deal, not necessarily with parties, but with how decisions are made in social groups ranging from the family to the national level, she said.

During the workshops held in the afternoon, practical proposals to deal with the challenges defined by the groups are written. These proposals, Mrs. Hanson said, "are not necessarily the kind that call for a change in the budget." Rather, they are proposals that can be done through citizen participation in local groups, she said.

In addition, there is a workshop devoted to writing a song, story and designing a symbol to commemorate the day. In the afternoon a plenary session is held to discuss the work of the day and participants receive a printed record of what was done at the town meeting.

At the mini town meeting Thursday night those in attendance were taken through a sample challenges workshop to familiarize them with what will happen Nov. 6 and to introduce them to the methods used in Town Meeting '76.

Volunteers were also enlisted to begin work on such things as child care services, transportation, food preparation, facilities set-up and a number of other things connected with the operation of Town Meeting '76

CONNECTICUT

Meeting '76 Links Now And Future

WEST HAVEN—Town Meeting '76, a one day community forum scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, at the First Congregational Church, will bridge the present with the future.

"Town Meeting '76 provides a unique opportunity for interested citizens to work together for the future of the West Haven Community," said Jim Stewart, local coordinator of the event.

The town meeting is a one day community forum designed to give residents the opportunity to talk together to discuss the challenges facing the community and create practical proposals for meeting the challenges.

In the morning, citizens will be given the opportunity to raise questions on the problems facing the city. After lunch, three groups will meet to discuss 20 concrete proposals to deal with the issues raised in the morning session.

While this is going on, a fourth group will write a story on the community's heritage, design a symbol of its cultural gifts, and compose a song.

These, along with the proposals and challenges, will be typed and copies made to form a booklet to be given to each person at the end of the day.

Town Meeting '76 is a nationwide program developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a nonprofit research and demonstration group headquartered in Chicago.

West Haven's town meeting will be the first to be held in south central Connecticut.

Local groups planning to participate in the community forum include the city administration, Junior Women, Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, Jaycee Women, Impact Civic Group, Police Wives Association, Community Mental Health Board and West Shore Garden Club.

Lunch is free and child care will be provided. For further information, call Thomas Murphy at city hall.

OCT 25 1976

NEW HAVEN REGISTER
New Haven, Conn.
PM 107,564 S-124,798

SEP 23 1976

Hartford Courant
Hartford, Conn.
AM-160,238 S-190,600

Town Meeting '76 Follow-Up

Planning Session Slated

By JEAN WETHERBEE
NEWINGTON — A follow-up to "Town Meeting '76" will be held Saturday at the Town Hall.

At that time, participants in the Bicentennial event that was held in October are invited to take part in planning how to put proposals made at Town Meeting '76 into effect. Saturday's meeting will start with coffee at 8:30 a.m., and the business session will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the council chamber.

The agenda includes a review of the report of Town Meeting '76, setting priorities for the 12 proposals that came out of that meeting and discussion of how to carry out the proposals.

The proposals drawn up at the all-day meeting of over 200 townspeople last fall were in the following three categories:

Economic — a townwide survey of the desires, needs and resources of residents, more effective utilization of public buildings and promotion of the use of vacant private buildings, providing tax incentives to attract new business, and volunteer ac-

tion to coordinate appropriate town agencies to work to attract industry.

Political — improved citizen participation in town government through telephone information and outreach programs; holding of regular town meetings under the sponsorship of civic and social groups, and of regular neighborhood meetings as well.

Cultural: work for extended use of schools and

churches and interdenominational religious instruction, promote family life by publicizing existing family programs, surveying the need for family activities and developing new family programs, establish a communications and transportation network in town, urge the Newington Clergy Association to find areas of mutual agreement in which they may guide townspeople toward action for betterment

NEW HAVEN REGISTER
New Haven, Conn.
PM-107,564 S-125,000

'76 Meeting Goal Set Into Motion

NEWINGTON — A group of residents is working toward the establishment of a community communications system — a goal adopted by Town Meeting '76 last fall.

The purpose of the new "info line" is to provide residents with information in order to promote citizen awareness and participation, thus gaining a more effective town government, the group, chaired by John Russo Jr., said.

The first step of this project is to review needs and interests. Members of the group are working on various interest areas and persons willing to cooperate in the project are asked to contact group members.

Alan Hanbury of 133 Southwood Road will work with religious organizations and town agencies. Edward Maselli of 32 Juniper St. will check into information the Board of Education would like to see provided on the info line. Mary Ann Colby of 26 Dowd St. is studying the range of questions that come in to the Town Hall from residents. Sheila Fox of 33 Stagecoach Lane will seek the ideas from civic groups. Russo will ask the Town Council's opinion on what the info line should offer.

of the community, provide Parental Effectiveness Training and stronger church and school programs for youth and family

Saturday's meeting has been arranged by the 27-member steering committee that handled Town Meeting '76. The committee is headed by the Rev. Richardson A. Libby and the Rev. Donald O'Leary.

HARTFORD COURANT
Hartford, Conn.
AM-160,238 S-190,600



Wall-To-Wall Activities

West Haven Assistant Librarian Catherine T. Lewis points to the community calendar the library is maintaining to help residents know what is happening and when it's scheduled. City organizations are urged to call the library to have their event publicized on the community calendar. The calendar was created following a request at the recent West Haven Town Meeting '76 forum. (Photo by Taylor)



Savannah Morning News
SAVANNAH EVENING PRESS

The Home Front

Sunday, November 21, 1976

Town Meet Drew Few, But They Had Ideas

Although organizers of Town Meeting '76—a "think tank" approach to local problem-solving—were disappointed by the small number of participants who turned out for the meeting Saturday, they were not disappointed in the quality or quantity of work the group produced.

According to Jim Woolen, public relations coordinator for the day-long event at Savannah High School, about 45 persons and a number of local government officials attended the meeting sponsored by the Savannah Jaycees and the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

The workshop is being duplicated in communities across the country during the Bicentennial year as a means of encouraging citizen participation in government. The concept is similar to New England town meetings of the 18th century.

Woolen said the small group drew up a list of challenges facing the community and then attempted to outline practical solutions to the problems.

A main concern expressed by the group was citizen apathy toward government—as verified by Saturday's poor attendance at the town meeting.

Among the challenges outlined by the citizens were the population's general ignorance of the political system, the lack of school responsiveness to community needs, bureaucratic red tape in dealing with governmental agencies and the lack of comprehensive television news coverage of community issues.

Among the practical solutions the group proposed were a second town meeting sponsored by the City of Savannah and the Chatham County Commission; an intra-metro leaders council bringing together civic, political and governmental leaders; more in-depth media coverage of local issues; community forums; and a task force composed of representatives of local organizations to disseminate information to the community.

The group also composed a Savannah song and designed a city symbol.

Government officials in attendance included City Manager A.A. "Don" Mendonsa, State Rep. Herb Jones, County Administrator Joe Lambright, school system representative Bobby Todd, Savannah Police Chief David Epstein, Col. Ben Walton of Hunter Army Airfield, City Alderman Brooks Stillwell and County Commissioner-elect John Andre.

Georgia



YOUNG AND OLD citizens were represented at the Town Meeting in Burley Saturday. Among the youngest was Jeff Belliston, center, an eighth grader who took an active part in the day-long meeting. (SIP Photo)

Town Meeting meets challenges

Challenges in economic, political and cultural areas were separated by Town Meeting 76 participants Saturday and proposals for solutions were developed in each of the three areas during morning and afternoon workshops. Approximately 200 area residents entered into the spirit of the day, singing patriotic songs, working energetically on the problems and proposals and voting to make similar meetings a semi-annual affair.

A fourth workshop group developed a slogan, symbol, story and song for the city of Burley.

Economic challenges participants saw for the present time in Burley and the nation include ecology, federal controls and spending, equitable wealth distribution, returning authority to local government, resource management, and the disparity between the cost of goods in production and purchase.

Political challenges were to fight against outside government interests with emphasis on local decision making; more citizen participation, integrity in partisan politics, and effective responsibility of government agencies; making the United States number one; speeding up legal procedure; creating an honest government; more involvement in government; and development of a feeling of trust between citizens and their governing officials.

Improvement of school facilities, youth oriented activities, bilingual differences and cultural programs were outlined as basic needs in the cultural field. The workshops called for personal and corporate integrity and patriotism in homes, schools, public, and standards of living. To combat breakdown of the family, example and love were seen as needs; challenge in social programs was executive bureaucratic distribution of health, welfare, unemployment and old age benefits. This group also saw a need

for a more equitable cultural atmosphere in the community and nation; and also for concern for others; for more cooperation and improved morality; equal treatment for all; and more personal involvement in government.

Economic proposals were more involvement through letter writing, open forums, advertising and personal contact; local responsibility through town meetings, education, election of qualified representatives, and follow-through; constitutional study programs, attending local government meetings, demanding open door policies at all government meetings, and enlargement of continuing education through forums with elected officials, increased participation in classes offered in the Magic Valley, and enlarging and supporting community education classes.

Politically, the group proposed to eliminate the present grant or gratis system for a barter or trade system. This can be implemented through agriculture-industry support, lobby groups to inform the nation's leaders, and protest to get the attention of News Media. Better communication between citizens and officials is proposed through citizenship training at home and in school, community forums, positive attitudes toward the American way of life, and trust among peoples of the world.

Culturally, the workshop called for neighborhood parties to get acquainted with all families; this group also felt a need for constitutional study through courses presented on elementary, secondary and adult education levels; assistance to others through surveys of bilingual problems, explanation of county zoning ordinances, sponsorship of newspaper articles on community problems and assist youth, elderly and minority groups. This group also called for more patriotism; and finally, for community cultural exchange evenings,

having a "secret pal" family, and inviting other families into homes.

The slogan developed is "Give me patriotic and stalwart souls to insure existence of America's future." The symbol is a shield topped with a 76 and displaying in four sections the Statue of Liberty; a nuclear symbol linking red, white, yellow, black and brown; clasped black and white hands; and the flag.

Jim Roper of the city council conducted activities, coffee and cookies were served throughout the day, and free lunch was served at noon.

EDITORIAL PAGE

South Idaho Press

Page 4

Burley, Idaho, Thursday, November 6, 1975

So what the heck is a town meeting?

So you are probably wondering, "What the heck is a town meeting?"

A town meeting is a function that will be held in Burley this coming Saturday as a part of the Bicentennial celebration and it offers you a chance to express your concern and opinions about local and national problems and to suggest solutions to the problems.

And since Burley has had its share of problems that brought citizen reaction the Town Meeting this Saturday should be a must for the citizens of Burley.

The Town Meeting will be held at the new Burley Junior High School from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Lunch will be served and baby sitting will be provided for those with children four to eight years of age.

Working in small groups participants will analyze the major issues they have identified in order to discern the underlying challenges.

The afternoon session will see three of the workshop groups creating practical proposals for meeting the challenges stated in the morning workshops with a fourth group creating a new story, song, symbol and slogan of the American people.

Jim and Bette Roper are serving as co-chairpersons of the event and the Burley Chamber of Commerce is underwriting the expense of the event.

Mayor Chuck Shadduck has declared Saturday as Town Meeting Day.

The Town Meeting, based on the same type of meeting in other communities across the nation, could see a new vision, a new pattern of planning and a new future for the City of Burley and Cassia County.

The Town Meeting puts students, business executives, lawmakers and housewives into a joint session to look at and solve problems and concerns.

For the adults of the county it should be an enlightening experience.

For the many government and social study classes at Burley High School, Declo, Oakley, Raft River and Minico it should be required participation.

Persons wishing to participate in the Town Meeting can assist program personnel by pre-registering. The purpose of pre-registration is for a headcount on lunches and workbooks but pre-registration is not a requirement. You can register by calling the Chamber of Commerce 678-7230 or just attend the meeting Saturday morning.

In addition to obtaining an insight into future problems and solutions the participants will get free musical entertainment, a free lunch and an enjoyable time.

JE

South Idaho Press

South Idaho Press
Nov 10, 1975

Page 6 Burley, Idaho, Wednesday, November 12, 1975 SOUTH IDAHO PRESS

Agnes Anderson's

Chamber Chatter

If you missed Town Meeting '76, and we know many of you did, you lost out on one of the most interesting and instructive happenings we've ever had here. So many good ideas were projected for Burley's and Cassia County's future, and we hope they can be followed through and enacted into our county and city government. The idea of at least two Town Meetings annually with our city officials was excellent. Let's do it, ok?

"Review"

Nov 25 '76

Some of the more than 350 Evanstonians who attended Town Meeting '76 at Evanston Township High School. The final plenary session heard proposals for the city's future. (Photos by Jack Swanson)



350 'celebrate' Town Meeting

By JACK SWANSON

Nearly 350 citizens—of all ages—gathered Saturday at Evanston Township High School for an all-day Town Meeting '76 to discuss the challenges facing Evanston and to propose solutions to meet those challenges.

The reading of specific proposals (see box) was the climax of the gathering that was at once a workshop on community issues and a celebration of community spirit.

The singing of patriotic and community songs punctuated both the general sessions and the small workshops, and the luncheon was highlighted by performances by the Black Folks Theatre, the Springfield Baptist and Bethel AME children's choirs and the ETHS Ensemble.

The Rev. Don Ward, pastor at First Congregational Church of Evanston, and television reporter Muriel Clair shared the master of ceremonies duties.

The workshops were structured by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a Chicago-based non-profit institution operating under recognition from the American

Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The Institute provided each participant with a slick workbook for use in the discussion groups.

The morning sessions were devoted to identifying the political, cultural and economic challenges faced by Evanston. The discussion participants first listed their dreams and hopes for Evanston and then proceeded to identify the barriers to the realization of those dreams and hopes.

The challenges were collected and redistributed to the afternoon small-group sessions to be worked into the specific proposals. Another afternoon group worked on a new Evanston story, song and symbol.

A final plenary session concluded Town Meeting '76 with the reading of the proposals from each of the discussion groups.

Saturday's session was one of more than 500 Town Meetings conducted nationwide by the Institute for Cultural Affairs. More than 50 Evanston churches, businesses and community organizations joined in sponsoring the day under the umbrella of the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council.

Meeting's Spirit Lingers

The "spirit of co-operation" which began with Town Meeting '76 in October, 1976, is providing the basis for neighborhood involvement in city government in Chicago Heights, according to Hick Doggett, city administrator.

"Provide a feeling of sharing and belonging." This statement was the keystone for the town meeting which was held to discuss goals for the future. The meeting was sponsored by the Chicago Heights Chamber of Commerce Task Force.

Doggett explained, "We are capitalizing upon the spirit of

co-operation that began with Town Meeting '76. Out of that meeting the idea of Mayor Charles Paniel's advisory board was developed and we are now in the process of organizing this board and other types of neighborhood organizations."

THE TOWN meeting was attended by more than 200 citizens and business representatives of Chicago Heights. The meeting was scheduled and conducted by the Institute of Cultural Affairs of Chicago. The institute has sponsored similar

town meetings throughout the country.

The experience that we all felt at the town meeting gave us goals to work towards and a feeling that we could put together a citizens board that would open local government to the people and give them an opportunity to take part in local government." Doggett commented while reflecting on the meeting. The advisory board will include representatives of the various neighborhoods in the city.

Citizen participation and more efficient government were named as the two most important goals outlined at the town meeting. Doggett said that these concepts have flourished under Mayor Paniel's administration.

Establishment of the Mayor Paniel Action Line and other on-going projects have opened the doors of local government and caused the spirit of Town Meeting '76 to grow and prosper into a co-operation between local organizations and city officials. Doggett said.

"NEVER before have organizations been so cooperative in dealing with problems facing the whole community," the city administrator added.

"Because we have seen that people are willing to help and work toward a better community, we are sure that the advisory board will be successful and help to bring the citizens an understanding of what is really going on in government," Doggett said.

The city administrator added that the community spirit of the town meeting must be kept alive to assure success of all community organizations.

"The problems we face daily are too big for the city government alone to solve. We need community input, and looking back to when the town meeting took place gives us much reason to believe that we will succeed," Doggett commented.

"Star" July 4, '76

Democracy was spirit of Town Meeting

By William Pressley

"WE MUST ALL hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Benjamin Franklin's words 200 years ago describe, in part, the feeling expressed by many of the 100 Oak Park residents who hung together in Oak Park High School for eight hours Saturday for Town Meeting '76.

The community forum, billed as a "celebration of democracy," outlined some of the cultural, political and economic challenges that participants believe the village is facing. The day-long workshop session also outlined concrete proposals to meet the challenges.

IF SOME OF THE PROPOSALS take shape, Oak Park can expect a revitalization of block clubs, a five-year economic plan, improvement of neighborhood councils, and better overall communication between village officials and residents.

The proposals came in the form of summaries from the six groups who discussed the issues at morning and afternoon workshop sessions.

The summaries include proposals to seek

election of village trustees on a geographical basis and creation of a directory of transportation and baby-sitting resources to enable more people to attend village meetings.

THE GROUPS CITED residents' skepticism,



and an inability to communicate as reasons for lack of government participation by many residents.

In most cases, the residents blamed themselves for not making government more responsive to their needs.

EVANSTON

A Forum For Concern

By Scott Noecker
of the Times

It's not that LeClaire — or even Eldridge for that matter — has trouble encouraging residents to voice their concern for community problems.

It's just that most of the time, the concern rarely surfaces before the problem. And the problems rarely are of a community-wide concern.

But concerned citizens

in LeClaire and Eldridge hope to change that with "Town Meeting '78" — a day-long session of workshops and brainstorming sessions designed to come up with the problems facing the town and their possible solutions.

LECLAIRE'S meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Blackhawk Junior High School. Eldridge's meeting will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March 19 at the North Scott Junior High School. In addition, LeClaire will be holding a special children's town meeting for anyone under 14 years of age.

Everyone is invited to attend, and organizers are hoping for turnouts in excess of 200 persons.

The town meetings are being organized by the Institute for Cultural Affairs, a nonprofit Chicago-based community development

organization, which hopes to hold about 20 neighborhood town meetings throughout the Quad-Cities in the coming months.

With about 600 town meetings nationwide already completed since the program was initiated in 1974, Claudia Hayman, the institute's national town meetings director, said it is up to the individual community to make the projects work.

THE INSTITUTE provides what she calls the "methodology" for a well-structured session, but the participants are the ones who must define the problems and work toward practical solutions, she said.

Larry Rauch, a former city councilman and a co-coordinator of the Eldridge meeting, said he is anxious to see what surfaces.

But Rauch, like many who are working closely with the projects, said he thinks the "biggest benefit" of the meeting is to the individual participant.

Small discussion groups will be conducting workshops in the morning to focus on certain issues and problems. After a lunch featuring local entertainment, the residents are expected to come up with practical solutions that will be incorporated into a written report to be distributed to each participant at the end of the day.

There even will be discussion groups to create a town song and a town sym-

SINCE THE workshop participants do not have the power to implement any of their suggestions into policy, there has been some pessimistic speculation that the town meetings are really nothing more than a gripe-session.

But Rauch and other town meeting officials disagree.

"When a person sees his idea make it through all of the discussion and into that final document, he's going to feel that he had a part in creating that document. And he's going to know that about 200 of his neighbors consider it worthy," Rauch speculated.

And that, officials say, is the essence of the town meetings.

"If that one recommendation improved that guy's life, then it improved the community," Rauch said.

But Rauch and other officials said they think the town meetings may go further than that, by guaranteeing a vested interest by at least a few of the residents in each of the proposals.

"These people are going to be working awfully hard to define the problems and solutions. And I think the people are going to stick to the problem until it is resolved," he added.

IN OTHER cities, the text of the final report has been read into the city council minutes. The LeClaire and Eldridge city councils, financially have endorsed the projects.

The nonprofit institute gets \$500 for each project to cover travel expenses and the cost of the literature and handbooks. Organizations in the individual cities — such as the Jaycees, Rotary clubs and businessmen's associations — usually fund the local operation, officials said.

Although the programs were initiated to coincide with bi-centennial celebrations, officials at the institute in Chicago say the nationwide response has been so overwhelming that the project will continue.

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'Town Meeting' will record Salinans' hopes and dreams

Organizers of "Salina Town Meeting '77" expect 100 to 200 citizens to take part in Saturday's day-long session to develop ideas and comments concerning Salina's future.

The meeting, featuring morning and afternoon workshops and a potluck luncheon, will be open to anyone who wants to participate at the United Methodist Church of the Cross, 1600 Rush.

Byproducts will also include proposals for an official city slogan, symbol, story and song. A \$1 fee will be

charged to defray local costs. Additional information is available by calling #23-8041.

Helping to plan and conduct the sessions is the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a non-profit organization that organized town meetings around the nation during the Bicentennial year and has continued its efforts to stimulate citizen interest in local affairs.

Opening the agenda at 9 am will be 4 workshops, each aimed at developing outlines of participants' hopes and dreams for the future and expressing those desires in terms of goals and

plans.

The noon meal (each family should bring table service and a covered dish) will include entertainment. Then 4 more workshops will convene, 3 of them working on proposals to overcome difficulties in the paths of the goals identified in the morning, the 4th to develop the Salina slogan, symbol, song and story.

Shortly before the Town Meeting adjourns at 5, participants will join in a plenary session and prepare a document recording the meeting's decisions and recommendations.



The Salina Journal, Sunday, April 24, 1977

Studying for the future

Charlie Grimwood (standing left) and Arlene Bassett (extreme right) lead participants in a "Town Meeting '77" session. (Journal Photo)

Salina's past, present, future charted at "Town Meeting '77"

Two rounds of unaccompanied "Yankee Doodle Dandy" heralded the half-way mark in Saturday's "Salina Town Meeting '77" at the United Methodist Church of the Cross.

Seventy-five persons registered and participated in the various workshops and discussion sessions. Participants were divided into 4 groups early in the day. Morning discussion groups came up with written "challenge" statements about Salina which were discussed by 3 of the 4 afternoon groups.

The 4th afternoon group of 19 persons gathered in a church classroom to develop a Salina slogan, symbol, song and story. Kitty Beverly was group leader.

Mrs. Beverly called for suggestions on Salina's past, present and future —

phrases which she wrote on a large piece of paper draped over the chalkboard.

Salina's past included segregated schools, floods, grasshoppers, Air Force base and its eventual closing.

The group's definition of a master image for the past era — "Growing in Spite Of..."

Items on the present list included renovation of downtown, improved parks, housing for museum, new library and city-county government, Street Fair, and senior citizen center. The master image for the present, "Advancing with Pride..."

The future list named Bicentennial Center, Schilling's future, grassroots participation, adequate downtown parking, full participation in GED program, bike lanes and more day care facilities. The master image: "Build-

ing Quality..."

Using the master images 7 of the 10 persons were challenged to come up with a song about Salina to be presented at the 5 pm closing session.

The new song, sung to the tune of "Working on the Railroad", urges growth. Its final stanza:

"Grow, grow Salina grow
Grow, grow with quality
Participate in community
Remembering the Trifinity..."

"Cultural" challenge statements written during the morning focused on lack of political know-how, transportation costs, cultural disintegration and lack of community concern. Apathy was mentioned several times by participants.

Representatives of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) spoke between discussion sessions.

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First Town Meeting

By DAVE MOSLEY
Times - Tribune Staff Writer

Concentrating mainly on social issues, participants in Corbin's first "Town Meeting" Saturday painted a bleak and critical portrait of what the community presently has to offer.

But the 75 people who gathered for the day-long session at the Corbin High School also spoke of "bright promises" ahead for the city and the Tri-County area.

Sponsored by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), the meeting had hoped to attract around 200 people, leading one observer to remark that he wasn't seeing "a significant number of people from Corbin" in attendance.

While the meeting did attract a representative from the state governor's office — administrative assistant Paris Hopkins — rank-and-file members of the community chose to stay at home or venture to Lexington for the UK-Florida football game.

One man, noting the make-up of the meeting and its structured schedule, observed, "How can you expect to solve the problems of the city of Corbin in 55 minutes with a bunch of high school kids?"

However, one of the meeting's organizers, Bob Booher of ICA, told a reporter that "citizen involvement" at the meeting was "very good."

"There is a good cross-section here," said Booher. "You have youth from the high school, major leaders in the community, and you've got some of the elders."

Booher, who is a volunteer worker from ICA's Cincinnati office, appeared encouraged by the groundwork done before the meeting by city officials.

"I was so pleasantly surprised by their cooperation and their determination to do something," he remarked.

The ICA representative flatly predicted that Corbin "stands to be the fifth-largest city in Kentucky" once it realizes future growth patterns, and noted that this Town Meeting was vital to its future.

"The question is, 'What kind of community you want to have with all that growth?'" he explained.

Working in small groups during morning and afternoon sessions, the meeting's participants dove into the area's economy, culture and politics, outlining the challenges now faced by residents and gave proposals to improve them.

The Economy

The people of Corbin, they noted, are victimized by "commercial carpet-bagging," with outsiders viewing the city "as a place to take money out of."

"This... is illustrated by people coming in from other places selling goods out of the back of trucks cheaper than they can buy it in the town."

Also cited was the need for "adult education that will motivate leadership and fellowship," a parent-teachers group at Corbin High School, and the need to inform the Welfare Department "about people using food stamps for drugs that they don't need."

The Politics

They reported that the city of Corbin deserves "direct political representation in Frankfort, noting that city dwellers must drive to Williamsburg to obtain driver's licenses, tax-paying purposes, and to register to vote.

The city government, they feel, is "too restrictive", illustrated by "horrible traffic when school lets out, beer cans on highways and traffic jams on downtown arteries at 4 p.m."

The Culture

"Segregation based on age" was the biggest complaint dealing with local cultural activities during the session.

"There is no way," read a report released later, "for the adults to participate in community recreation activities with youth, and youth (are) restricted to school activities and indicates that the underlying contradiction is segregation based on age. This contradiction is illustrated by no local drama organization, no place to have community plays, and adults thinking that youth are not patriotic."

Not ones to complain without suggesting, participants also gave proposals:

As for the economy, priorities should be established for raising the pay and offering better training opportunities for all city officials. The funds currently expended for recreation programs, they suggested, "should be used for work-study programs for all young people."

They proposed that a parent-teacher's association should be organized at Corbin High School, and recommended that a merchant's referral service be established, for the purpose of promoting "hometown buying."

In cultural activities, they envision a "Citizen's Expression Committee" to work with city government; a community calendar; organized activities, and monthly "get-togethers."

For the youth, they propose adding space to existing facilities at the youth center. This can be done, they emphasized, through discussions with the city Recreation Commission, where goals can be set and needs surveyed.

These goals will then be presented to city government officials, with an eye on "financial assistance" from unnamed sources.

In the political realm, participants expressed the desire to expand the city limits of Corbin into undisclosed and undetermined territories, though they feel this can be accomplished through "enlisting the help of city and state officials." The advantage of this, they noted, would be an increased tax base, along with the following incorporation into a third county, which would signal an end to trips to London, Barboursville or Williamsburg for county services.

If participants at the meeting subscribed to the Jimmy Carter philosophy — government with decency and compassion — then their ambitions could someday be fulfilled, although one observer seemed to agree with remarks made at the meeting by Mayor R. C. Miller:

"I would say that you have your work cut out for you if you are going to plan for 200 years," cautioned the mayor. "In city government, we have trouble planning for one year."

Tribune
CORBIN, KY.
Circulation: 5,511
NOV 22 1976

As I See It

To the Editor:

An open letter to the citizens of Corbin and the surrounding area:

We, as representatives of the Corbin VICA Club who attended and participated in the Corbin Town Meeting "76" feel that a great injustice has been done regarding the reporting of the success of the town meeting.

With the opening of the meeting everyone experienced feelings of doubt, but as the day rolled on and the gears of progress began to turn, the old and young alike began expressing their views, ideas, and hopes for the future of our community.

We feel the previous article published concerning the town meeting misrepresented the attitudes of those involved and the success of the meeting. The basic negative attitude taken by the press was indeed not the true attitude felt by the participants. We feel all the participants of the meeting are due an apology because of the biased opinion voiced.

Instead of the negative response to the number of young adults participating there should have been a positive response because we are the future leaders of this community. We felt it was our patriotic duty to participate in deciding Corbin's future.

It was quoted in the article that the opinion of one person present was, "How can you expect to solve the problems of the city of Corbin in 55 minutes with a bunch of high school kids." Actually the meeting lasted from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Another thing is that we as young adults resented being called kids. There were members of all age groups represented throughout the events of the meeting.

Mayor R. C. Miller has expressed that the youth participation was a great asset to the success of the meeting. He said, and with his permission, we quote, "The youth who participated should be praised for their active interest in our community rather than belittled. If anyone deserves criticism it

should be the professional, civic, and business leaders whose interest and knowledge were needed, but were lacking." Their failure to attend this very important event shows their lack of interest in our community.

He further stated that one of the most successful accomplishments was in the bridging of not only the generation gap, but also the gap between the city government and the community. Considerable effort went into the development of the meeting, with several weeks of planning and organization preceding the town meeting activities.

The quote in the article taken from Mr. Miller's introductory address was not a true expression of his own personal feelings concerning the involvement of the citizens of the community. Before expressing our opinion in this letter, numerous calls were made to other organizations and city officials who participated Saturday, regarding their views toward the news article. They are in agreement with us that it was an unjust, misrepresented view of the meeting which was presented by the press. Only the negative aspects of the meeting were emphasized, with nothing being said about the positive results, which we feel far outweighed any negative attitudes.

We feel this letter deserves equal billing given the previous article.

In future planning of our community we hope for a much better response from all age groups, and the press.

CORBIN VICA CLUB

Tammie Pace, President
Tony Hoffman, Vice President
Gina Hines, Treasurer
Bunnie Hill, Reporter
Doug Young, Parliamentarian
Bill Fussencker, Vice Representative, Town Meeting "76"
Vicki Storm, Advisor
David Moore, Advisor
Ronnie Partin, Advisor

Proclamation

BE IT PROCLAIMED

WHEREAS, The City of Corbin is one of the oldest communities in Whitley County, being profoundly endowed with a share in our American History dating back to 1902; and

WHEREAS, Most of the History of Corbin has become lost or forgotten over these past years of rapid progress; and

WHEREAS, The Nation is now engaged in celebrating the American Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Corbin can find no better way to celebrate, than to participate in an old fashioned Town Meeting; and

WHEREAS, This will give the citizens an opportunity to share their knowledge of the past history; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Corbin will have an excellent opportunity to chart their own future by deciding what direction they would like to take in the next 200 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, R. C. Miller, Mayor of the City of Corbin, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 13th, 1976 as

CORBIN "76" TOWN MEETING DAY to be held at the Corbin Junior-Senior High School from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the City of Corbin to be affixed this 5th day of November in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred Seventy-Six.

R. C. MILLER, MAYOR

Tribune
CORBIN, KY.
Circulation: 5,511

NOV 16 1976

KENTUCKY



LISTENING — Participants in the Olney Town Meeting which was held Saturday listen as the day's activities are

explained. About 200 area residents participated in the event. (Courier photo by Roger Lamborne)

JUN 23 1976

THE COUNTY COURIER
DAMASCUS, MD.

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Town Meeting draws 200 Neighborhood councils backed by Town Meeting participants

By Roger Lamborne
Regional Editor

Proposals ranging from cutting congressional salaries to attracting new business and encouraging the county council to establish neighborhood citizen councils were the result of a day long "Town Meeting '76" Saturday at St. Peter's Parish Hall.

Some 200 citizens from Norbeck, Ednor, Sunshine, Laytonsville and Olney participated in the workshops sponsored by the Upper Northeast Montgomery County Steering Committee, headed by Dr. Charles Simpsonson.

It was one of about 5000 such town meetings planned for the Bicentennial year under the guidance of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, recognized as an official activity of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

During the morning worksessions, participants discussed political, economic and cultural challenges. Their conclusions formed the basis for creating practical proposals to meet those challenges.

They were divided into four discussion groups, and a separate program was provided the youth, whereby each group could identify its own set of challenges that faced the community.

Following a luncheon and entertainment program, the groups created some 20 proposals that they hoped would provide a starting point for concrete cooperative action in the community.

Thus local groups and individuals can work together directly in caring for local neighborhoods and the af-

fairs of the nation," according to the meeting's sponsors.

The 20 children attending their own workshops identified 11 problems facing the nation and the community. Their list included heavy traffic, pollution, over-population, inflation, busing, teacher cuts, vandalism, high congressional salaries, housing, crime and juvenile delinquency.

In a resolution adopted by the youngsters, they proposed to solve the problems by "pushing for wage and price controls to combat inflation, solve pollution by trying not to litter and picking up our trash, using buses and carpools to alleviate the traffic congestion, solving over population by opening new schools and do not have busing, take the high congressional salaries and give a portion of the money to solving other problems."

"Also the youngsters said they would push for the enforcement of laws and better punishment as a means of cutting the high crime rate."

The adults meanwhile established their own set of challenges. They included:

"In the area of economics, the fact that a lack of transportation, a lack of a job clearinghouse, a lack of local autonomy over community planning

See OLNEY, Page 14

OLNEY, From Page 1

and the existence of local apathy has caused a fragmentation of community needs." They concluded that community interests, apathy and vested interests have prevented adequate distribution of public facilities.

A lack of awareness and "Fear of Involvement" has resulted in a loss of political effectiveness.

They said the absence of local governments in Montgomery County is due to a "lack of personal motivation and leadership."

The people therefore believe that the "lack of political clout" is a direct result of "unresponsiveness on the part of elected officials," brought on by a basic mistrust and suspicion by its people.

The group cited the construction at the Olney Intersection, despite citizen opposition, as an "indication that there is little or no local control over land use," thus eroding political freedoms.

Under Cultural challenges the groups said "that a lack of structure, fragmented special interest groups, and fear of loss of autonomy indicates "there is a lack of strong area wide leadership."

"The fact that economic, racial, religious and educational differences indicates an underlying contradiction of different cultural background and is illustrated by a lack of community cohesiveness and community wisdom."

Proposals for meeting these challenges included a formal statement setting forth a plan to effect an improvement of educational facilities, provision for a job market through attraction of industry and small business, and improvement of transportation facilities.

They suggested the establishment of a community wide newsletter to act as a clearinghouse of social, civic and community information. Citizens also suggested the creation of a community information center.

In order to overcome the apathy that limits political involvement, political clout and effective control, the participants proposed to elect a committee to: Request the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA)

expand community awareness through the publication of a communications vehicle and to expand their citizen representation;

Explore with the county council the possibility of establishing area neighborhood councils which would provide elected representation; and

"A climate of cooperation should be allowed to develop," said the participants, "wherein the respective communities (in the NE area) would be permitted to maintain their identities, allowing for necessary modifications." Further they said, "emphasis should be placed upon allowing the average citizen to become and remain a viable part of the larger community."

Youth Has Own Ideas About Future

By RALPH GORDON
Union Bureau Chief

GREENFIELD — Youngsters at the Bicentennial Commission's "Town Meeting '76" Saturday came up with some recommendations of their own for the future, labeled simply "be nice."

There were only 19 of the tots, kindergarten through sixth grade, but they came up with advice that perhaps the adults should listen to, such as "don't call names" and "don't fight."

The youngsters had their own work sessions to discuss problems they see in town. Mariner Girl Scouts overseeing the child-care project for the day-long event helped draft the proposals.

Among the challenges they found were that the parks need cleaning and the town needs some new parks. They suggested clean-up crews, new park toys, fixing up park stuff

that's there now, "play easier on it" and "everybody work together to make it."

When it came to money they suggested tag sales, volunteers and more funds.

They listed "taxes — better taxes," apparently meaning taxes that wouldn't cost so much of the family income.

They want to see "more laws against hurting animals" and "more police protection."

On the latter one town official mused, "They may be aware of something we aren't. If they don't feel safe on our streets now, maybe we'd better listen."

Each adult unit drew up involved resolutions to meet future needs. The youngsters said it simply, but thoroughly.

"We, the children of Greenfield, propose to stick together, and help each other, to clean up our community and become friendlier with each

other," the small fry stated.

The "be nice" suggestion headed their list.

—Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder, Friday, June 4, 1976

bicentennial

'Town Meeting '76' is June 12 in Greenfield

As part of a national program, Greenfield will have a Bicentennial town meeting entitled "Town Meeting '76," at Greenfield High School June 12.

The 9 a.m.-5 p.m. program will be one of about 3,000 meetings to be conducted throughout the nation by the end of 1977. The Massachusetts "Town Meeting '76" effort has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission.

The Greenfield meeting is patterned after a design of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a non-profit, national organization. The program was instituted by ICA in 1975.

Hartford, Conn. conducted "Town Meeting '76" on May 1, and reported a turnout of 175 participants from the city's South End. An additional meeting is planned for the city's North End in June.

The five-part format drawn up by ICA is:

—Welcoming: Coffee and doughnuts, preceded by a presentation on America's third century.

—Challenges: Meeting members analyze social, economic, and political issues facing the community.

—Interlude: Presentation of "The New Human Being", a discussion of opportunities and responsibilities of community

members. Lunch and entertainment will follow.

—Proposals: Meeting members develop new proposals for the community's improvement.

—Plenary: Workshop reports on the day's accomplishments. Transcripts of the day's efforts will be available. Also, a new Bicentennial song will be sung.

A junior version of "Town Meeting '76" will take place in the home economics classroom at GHS, during the regular session. At the meeting, sponsored by Senior Mariner Girl Scout Troop No. 1, children will discuss their plans for the future of Greenfield.

The children's meeting will be open to children through grade six.

Mariner Scouts Cindy Strange, Jackie Minott, Lynne Lapierre, Leslie Lee, Nancy Ann Jones, Mary Allen, Margaret Kochan, Joanna Mann and Kathy Taylor, under the leadership of Priscilla Wahlen, will staff the children's meeting.

By Karen Stanton
Globe Correspondent

About 200 Roxbury residents met yesterday to discuss some of the community's problems ranging from reforms needed in political representation to better communications within Roxbury.

Meeting coordinator Norma Saunders said the day-long session at the Cape Verdean Community Center was "to bring people together to talk about the issues in the community."

She said the meeting included a workshop in which participants divided community problems into three categories: Economic, political and cultural, and then discussed their solution.

From ideas presented by the group, Saunders said, a proposal was drafted stating that Roxbury residents want certain steps taken to improve their community.

The proposal includes suggestions that political representation be reformed through local referenda, that community participation be promoted through better communication (newsletters and fliers) and that more be done in drug education.

Saunders said the framework of the meeting was structured by The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that coordinates community development projects.

Sharon Turner, of ICA's New York office, said her organization has worked

with many towns in the Northeast, including Manchester, N.H., Albany, and Buffalo, N.Y.

The institute gives the community the structure of the meeting and trains the workshop leaders, she said. "This allows community members to identify the problems in their particular community and then to work out a proposal to deal with those problems."

Saunders said proposals were drawn up from residents' responses on what they believe are the community's problems and some of the means of handling those problems.

Responses from those attending the session on economical problems included lack of jobs and housing.

Saunders said the group plans two or three additional meetings this year. "We plan to make it an ongoing process in order to come to some viable solutions... these are the concerns expressed by the people. They're not from established community leaders... We plan to give these proposals to the mayor, city council and state Senate."

Saunders said the meeting was a community effort, with local businessmen and residents contributing supplies and refreshments for the session.

"The people who came left feeling a little better," she said. "Meetings can be used in many ways, but it's a long process."

26B The Morning Union, Springfield, Mass., Friday, June 4, 1976

Children to Have 'Town Meeting'

GREENFIELD — There's going to be a pint-sized Town Meeting '75, strictly for the younger set, where they can air gripes about insufficient penny candy stands, the lack of low drinking fountains or the need for more air pumps for flat bicycle tires, in Greenfield.

The "Children's Town Meeting" will be part of the Greenfield Bicentennial Town Meeting '76 program slated for June 12 at the high school.

In reality the pint-sized session is the baby and child-care portion of the program, the one that allows parents to attend the day-long work sessions.

But according to Committeewoman Carolyn Browning, the youngsters "will have their own workshops, where they will talk about what they'd like to see done in the town in the future, and even come up with ideas of how to reach those goals."

The Senior Mariner Girl Scout Troop 7 led by Priscilla Wahlen, will supervise the project for children from infancy through grade six.

Actually no one expects the infants to take part in the project, other than to object to the need for drier quarters now and then, but those of school age will be asked to take part in the brief workshops that will be spaced between programs of singing, games and crafts.

What distinguishes the youth project from the adult work sessions, is that while parents are seeking ways to deal socially and fiscally with the lifestyles of the future, leaders of the children's town meeting are hoping to find out what those future leaders themselves think they will want.

"If it goes over, it could prove to be an exciting project," Browning noted. "Who knows what they will come up with for ideas?"

Massachusetts

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE August 29, 1976 35

200 Roxbury residents discuss community's problems, solutions

APR-24-76

At Town Hall '76

MH Residents Tell What City Needs

Town Meeting '76 got underway this morning in Madison Heights, with approximately 70 residents meeting in Madison High School to single out top economic, political and cultural issues in the community.

Issues offered by participants included better city government, public apathy, better transit, better social services, more jobs, school finances and more opportunities for self expression.

Senior citizens from Madison Tower, 2777 Dequindre, students, Madison Heights Jaycees and Junior Women's Club members made up most of the participants.

David W. Scott, one of two coordinators at the gathering from the non-profit Institute of Cultural Affairs, Chicago, outlined the program. He said world affairs ultimately hinge on local decisions.

Scott said 27 Town Meetings are being conducted across the country today. The Institute expects to moderate 5,000 such meetings by mid-1977.

The affair is a bicentennial project, co-sponsored by several civic organizations.

HIGHLAND PARK, MI
HIGHLAND PARKER
NORTH END NEWS
W-174

JUN- 3-76

Meeting '76 may form councils

The spirit of Town Meeting '76 lives on in Madison Heights. Last month, residents gathered for an all day bicentennial program which included workshops for discussion of community problems and solutions.

According to Glenn McKee, some members of the original group met again last week to clarify the proposals set forth at the original meeting. They concluded that there were three areas in which they would like to continue as a group.

• Cleaning up the appearance of the city, both residential and commercial.

• More communication from city officials in the form of published minutes and agendas.

• More communication to city officials through questionnaires, radio talk shows and neighborhood council meetings.

The group, said McKenna, will focus on forming neighborhood councils, similar to block clubs, if enough interest is shown.

The public is invited to attend a meeting slated for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 9 in the library at Madison High School.

JUN-18-76

Town Meeting Participants To Gather

Some Madison Heights residents who participated in Town Meeting '76 last April will meet June 24 to discuss forming neighborhood councils.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., at United Methodist Church, 246 East Eleven-Mile, Madison Heights.

The Rev. Ronald Corl said the group is also considering spearheading a community clean-up campaign, and improving communications between residents and public officials.

JUN-10-76



Approximately 200 residents turned out for Town Meeting '76 to air their concerns and to develop solutions to them during workshop sessions.

Residents participate in Town Meeting '76

Approximately 200 Highland Parkers gathered Saturday, June 5 at Ferns School to participate in Town Meeting '76 - a locally sponsored one-day session.

Utilizing a format arranged by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit research training organization, the residents gathered in the morning and divided into workshops where they discussed the political, economic and cultural issues facing the community.

Ruth Grunberg of ICA helped type the special document containing reports from the workshops, the new song, symbol and story. Lol Reeves, orchestrator from ICA, Michael Jackson and Tom Reemstml also assisted in making the program a success.

Four HP women handled the sorting and packaging of the documents. Ms. Josephine Moch, a resident of seven years, said she was enjoying herself. "Anything to help our community." Other women working on the documents were Mrs. Charmaine Coleman, Ms. Julia Bennett, and Ms. Vera White, who commented, "I don't mind working for the city as long as it improves the city."

The Highland Park clowns entertained youngsters attending the Children's Town Meeting '76.

"The kids were a lot of fun to perform for," said Ms. Helen Adams, head HP clown, who goes by the name of Sunny. Her daughter, Angela, handled the technical aspect of their performance. Other clowns included Miriam (Sugar) Johnson, Elisa (Smiley) James, Shari (Mousey) Woodfork, Freeman (Shorty) Farrow, Sheryl (Sammy) Allen and Reglina (Punkin) Smith.

Winona Humphrey, who emceed the event, said "It was considerate of the residents to get together for a grass roots meeting."

Entertainment was provided during the luncheon program by Mwangi Arts.

Handling the kitchen detail for the luncheon were Mrs. Lela Holloway and Mrs. Charlie Mae Jones, with the assistance of Ocie Barton Jr.

Ms. Nola Duke and Mrs. Alga Waugh were members of the Committee for Coordinating Town Meeting '76, who worked all day at the session handling the registration.

Among individuals and organizations who helped to make the day a success were: Harlo Printing, Becharas Brothers Coffee Co., Fred Sanders Bakery, Victory Bakery, Victor's Coney Island Restaurant, Friends of the McGregor Library, HP Caucus Club, Sears Roebuck and Co., HP Board of Education, Mayor Jesse P. Miller, City Treasurer William Neal, UAW Local 400, City Clerk Tremon McDermott, the Tender Trap Lounge, Council President

Danon White, Lonnie and Carolyn Carver, HP Post Service, Inc., Councilman Fred Dahoul, Wayne Oakland Bank, Bank of the Commonwealth, Councilwoman Jean Green, City Assessor Ted Waterhouse, Manufacturer's National Bank, Councilwoman Ethel Terrell, Councilman John Patterson, HP Chamber of Commerce, the Bicentennial Commission, and McDonald's.

E-4 Mailloux and Greg Wiczerya of Multigraphics Division, division of Addressograph Multigraph corporation, used two duplicating machines to run off the documents for the town meeting.

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MAILS (MPT) ABOUT 5:00 P.M. W 4.000
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1976

Town Meeting '76 deemed a success by participants

BY JACKIE PATTARÓZZI

The people didn't turn out in the numbers expected, but the Northeast Town Meeting '76 committee was happy with the 150 people who did register for the grassroots community meeting, Saturday, Oct. 16.

"We felt good about the outcome," coordinator Doug Petersen said. He and the committee met after the town meeting to discuss the outcome. This is what they decided:

-People don't come to town meetings unless they are concerned about a specific issue.

-The structure was a little too complex and there was not enough time for everyone to be heard.

-Felt that Northeast should hold a town meeting every year, possibly by neighborhood.

-There should be more and better communication between all levels, media, members of the community.

The committee actually reviewed what had been brought up at the town meeting and highlighted the more important events and decisions.

Petersen said copies of all the proposals and problems were sent to city aldermen and to the planning department. Copies are available for anyone who would like one at Northeast Neighborhood House, 1929 2nd St. NE.

One of the big concerns of most people, Petersen said, was communication, or rather the lack of it between politicians and the community.

A politician in one of the afternoon sessions, state senator Allen Spear, District 57, said that he and other politicians want to hear from their constituents, but few ever do.

One of the areas which got immediate action was a cry for more leadership development in North-

east. Bob Neyring, community education director for Minneapolis Public Schools, was in attendance and said he would start working on organizing such a class.

Petersen said the committee would like to hold another town meeting next year if there is enough interest.

What Petersen is hoping will happen is that various citizens' groups will get together and start working out solutions in some of the suggested problems in the area.

Cong. Donald Fraser (5th Dist. DFL), the guest speaker for the day, capitalized the purpose of the meeting. "We should take a fresh look at Northeast and participate in town meetings. When we begin to say, 'let someone else do it, we lose something'."

The day's activities also included writing a song for the area, and designing a symbol. All of these are available in the booklet.

Bell to direct Town Meeting '76



Tom Bell, Jr.

Tom Bell, Jr. will serve as moderator of the Western Duluth area Town Meeting '76, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23rd at Denfeld High School. Bell, a well known civic leader, will introduce guests and speakers and serve as a coordinator for the day's activities.

Town Meeting '76 is a day set aside for grassroots citizen participation from all segments of the community to discuss our concerns and challenges facing our country today and to create practical proposals to deal with them.

Bell says the western Duluth meeting will be one of 5000 town meetings planned as part of the national celebration of our nation's first 200 years.

There will be seven general workshops in the morning dealing with economic, cultural and political concerns of the community. Following a barbequed beef dinner, prepared by Pete Ogston, groups will deal with solutions and recommendations.

Several moderators will be used to assist and direct the workshop projects.

Town Meeting '76 deals with the communities served by Denfeld and Morgan Park High Schools and their feeder schools. Public involvement is essential and over 400 area residents are expected to participate.

Sally Olsen praises Town Meeting here

"Golden Valley citizens demonstrated a strong interest in state and local government at the Bicentennial Town Meeting," Sally Olsen, Independent Republican candidate for the State Senate from District 41, said Saturday after the meeting.

Mrs. Olsen, who was one of the participants in the day-long session, said she was pleased to hear residents explain their views to her at the meeting, which was part of the annual Lilaac Festival.

"Citizens," she said, "frequently cited too much government spending, lack of long range planning, better government services and a higher standard of living as major economic problems."

Mrs. Olsen said she was eager to help them deal with two of their requests: greater citizen involvement through neighborhood and town meetings, and better information and responses from elected officials.

Mrs. Olsen said the meeting was extremely well organized and that participants were very concerned about improving their community.

"Government plays a major role in

our lives," she said, "and it is wonderful that the Town Meeting was a major event of the Lilaac Festival."

The candidate for the district, which includes St. Louis Park and Golden Valley, also attended several other Lilaac Festival activities including the Kilde Carnival, Sponsors Dinner and Style Show.



SALLY OLSEN
Candidate for Senate in District 41

HIBBING (MPT) TUESDAY 7.00A & 6.07P
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1977

Governor to open town meeting

Gov. Rudy Perpich will welcome participants to Hibbing's "Future Day" town meeting, April 23. Hibbing will hold the first of 100 town meetings to be held in Minnesota this spring.

The town meetings, which are designed to give citizens an opportunity to talk about their community and make plans for its future, will be headed by local residents.

A training session was held Saturday at Hibbing Community College to give workshop leaders a sample of the town meeting format. Dr. Lewis H. Pierce of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, St. Paul, conducted the sample workshop.

The April 23 town meeting is open to everyone. Persons who wish to take part can pre-register by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7611 or by completing registration blanks found in announcements for the meeting.

THE GOLDEN VALLEY POST Thursday, June 21, 1976 2



The Fine Print

By Shirley Nygaard

TOWN MEETING '76 has not simply been filed away and forgotten. Ruminations can still be heard.

The Town Meeting committee met Tuesday following the event with two new members, both participants in the meeting who wanted to see the idea continue. Another meeting is planned for July when the group will prepare its report to the council, scheduled for July 19.

There are some people who are anxious to see another such meeting. With some encouragement from the rest of the community there should be no problem.

Councilmembers are still talking about Town Meeting in response to a remark I made in this column last week, asking why more elected folk weren't there. To be fair, there were a few. I won't name them because they participated in varying degrees and I wouldn't want to leave anyone out.

I will admit that council members and school board members are extremely busy people and they work hard at their elected positions. The point I was trying to make is that they missed an excellent opportunity on June 12 to both hear from their constituents as well as respond to unfounded criticisms about the soft-life of politicians.

CHISHOLM (MPT) FREE PRESS W 3.250
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1976

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1976 15c CHISHOLM, MINNESOTA

Jaycees Plan Candidates' Forum At Public Meeting Scheduled For October 28

As a post-program to "Town Meeting '76" and as part of the national Jaycee Program "Get Involved with the U.S.," the Chisholm Jaycees will be sponsoring a CANDIDATES' FORUM on October 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Servicemen's Club.

All candidates for the position of Alderman have been invited to attend and to present their views. The public is cordially invited to attend. The program will consist of:

1. a five minute opening

by each candidate to introduce himself or herself, and to give a review of his or her ideas about city government.

2. Responses to general questions submitted by the public and answered by all of the candidates.

3. An open question and answer period.

The Jaycees are requesting the citizens to submit questions for segment Two of the program. The questions can be left either at the Free Press

Office or they can be sent to Glenn Jackols at 410 Second Avenue S.W., Chisholm.

The Jaycees strongly urge public attendance. Jackols said that this is an "opportunity for young and old to become informed about some very important matters pertaining to city government. An informed electorate is the only means by which a government can remain by the people and for the people."

Those who wish additional information

The Bolivar COMMERCIAL

Monday, January 24, 1977

60TH YEAR NUMBER 128

15 CENTS

CLEVELAND, BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISS.

Town meeting draws large crowd

By BARBARA WRIGHT
Bolivar Commercial Staff Writer

PACE — It was a great day in Pace. Saturday's town meeting began with a group of 80 singing "America" in the elementary school cafeteria. It ended with an overflowing crowd of 300 singing "Go Tell It to Mankind" — A song about Pace written by its own citizens. And throughout the day, blacks and whites of all ages chimed in unison, "It's a great day in Pace."

Saturday was "a day set aside for development of Pace, of human relations and human beings as a whole." Willie Smith, Pace Elementary School principal and emcee for the day, told the group in the opening session.

Mayor Robert LeFlore told the concerned citizens that "we can achieve roads of development through love, brotherhood, willingness and commitment."

"People today feel like meatballs tangled in a pot of spaghetti. The Institute of Cultural Affairs (sponsoring agency) is here to give people methods to use to take charge of their own lives and get out of the tangle," said Charles Bush, volunteer coordinator for the town meeting from Athens, Texas. Local coordinators were Don Aylward and Mrs. Robert LeFlore.

"Americans are independent-minded. We can decide for ourselves what the community needs. Democracy makes us free from domination from our own

government. The people here in Pace, not some bureaucratic agency, are the experts on Pace. We have incredible human and natural resources right here to improve the community," he said.

The Pace residents set out to build a better Pace using their own resources during the day's workshops. In the morning sessions, four groups took a realistic look at the Pace of today. Brainstorming brought out a list of the town's problems such as need for sewage, better jobs, renovation, beautification. The workshop leaders, David Washington, May Murray, Clotee LeFlore, George Bradley and Barbara Smith, then took their groups through detailed steps in a workbook to cluster the problems into related groups.

Each group finally emerged with a statement of a major specific problem, the underlying contradiction causing it and community examples illustrating the contradiction in each of the economic, political and cultural realms. These statements were called community challenges.

These workshops were followed by a luncheon of fried chicken, spaghetti, salad and cake all donated and prepared by local citizens. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. Solomon Gort of Cleveland and Mrs. Flora Mitchell of Mound Bayou singing gospel selections.

Also during the lunch break, LeFlore told of his recent trip to Cano Negro, Venezuela, where a consult project like the one planned for Pace in February was being instituted.

Mrs. Sandy Powell of the Institute staff spoke of the new human being emerging. She said the problem with today is not apathy but helplessness — the feeling of how can what I do make a difference. She gave examples of how it is possible to accomplish goals.

"It is no longer enough to prepare children for the world, we must prepare the world for our children," she said. With the idea of preparing Pace for

their children, the citizens, young and old, returned to workshops to create the future. Again working through the detailed procedures of the Institute's workbook, the groups finalized proposals to meet the challenges outlined in the morning session.

In the final meeting, each group presented its proposals to the entire group along with the town's own story, song and symbol created by one group.

The story was read by Charles Walker representing the past, Barbara Smith,

the present, and Linda Grays, the future. The symbol dealt with the same theme. The past was illustrated by cotton fields, the present by a swimming pool and the future by a factory. It was entitled "Birthpangs of a New Community."

After the group sang its original song about Pace, "Go Tell It to Mankind," each person received a 22-page typed document of the day's work including the story, song, symbol, challenges, proposals, guests, participants and contributors.

Pace plans future

PACE — Three hundred residents of Pace, nearly half the town's population, spent a full eight hours Saturday working together in a town meeting to come up with the following proposals to build a better Pace:

- in the realm of economic challenges: county wide telephone service, beautification, recreation center for all races, sewage system.
- in the realm of political challenges: more town meetings, employment stimulation and seeking government aid for large projects.
- in the realm of cultural challenges: formation of a committee to talk to local government about available facilities and funds, paint-up, fix-up week; increased participation by all through election of responsible leaders, enforced town ordinances, increased use of city hall and feedback to both blacks and whites.

The last proposal was applauded the most by the citizens. Frank Powell, Institute staff director, advised the group to take the easiest proposals first. "This does not mean you will not get to the other long-range projects."

Mrs. Jessie Pace urged the citizens to "take it as a personal responsibility to immediately begin to clean up Pace for the visitors in February." About 60 professionals and businessmen from all over the world will come to Pace in February for a week-long meeting with local citizens.

Mrs. Lee Aylward told the group that many things can be accomplished without money hand-outs. "Some paint companies will donate paint as a write-off if we will just do the work," she explained.

Mayor Robert LeFlore commented that he was surprised and pleased to see such a large attendance. "Hopefully we will have a town meeting each month," he said.

Observations from the group indicated a sense of accomplishment from the day's activities.

"We now know we have a better relationship between one another than we thought. It was really fantastic to have blacks and whites of all ages sitting down and working together," said one citizen.

"We now understand that we really can have a say-so," said another.

"We have planned the town's future," said a third.

"We can do it!" said many.

THE BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL, Mon., Jan. 24, 1977 Page 8



Pace symbol

George Bradley displays the Pace symbol designed by the town's citizens during Saturday's town meeting. The symbol, entitled "Birthpangs of a New Community", illustrates the past, present and future of the town. The past is represented by cotton fields, the present by a swimming pool and the future by a factory.

Staff photo by Barbara Wright



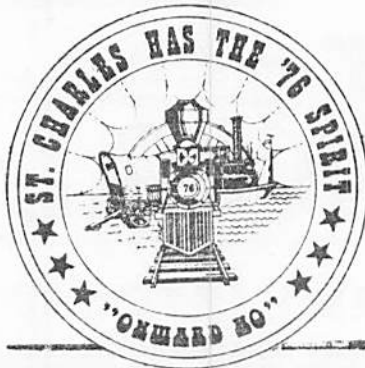
Sing out

Staff Photo by Barbara Wright

At the Pace town meeting Saturday, nearly 300 singing voices could be heard in the Pace Elementary School cafeteria. To set the tone for the day, the group sang "America" and "The New U Community" in the opening

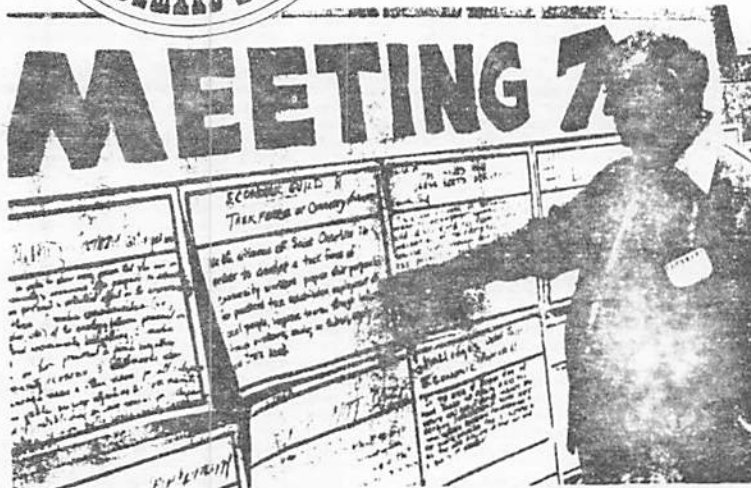
session. After eight hours of examining the community and its problems, the 300 tired but satisfied citizens sang "Go Tell It to Mankind," an original song about Pace written by the town's citizens.

MISSISSIPPI



The symbol at left was developed during Town Meeting '76 Saturday, designed to embody the mood of that meeting, according to Archie Scott, its creator. The wheel represents our industrial growth, with St. Charles in the hub of America with its spokes sprouting outward. The riverboat symbolizes the Missouri River and the development it brought to St. Charles. The wagon symbolizes the Boonville Trail and Salt River Trail that began in St. Charles, with the train representing another era of development as St. Charles had the first Iron-ore rail bridge that added westward movement. The train track leading into the horizon symbolizes our future, represented by the bright sun of a new day and new generations.

200 Participants In Town Meeting



Lawrence Shelton, 1814 Pike St., St. Charles, looks over one proposal presented during Saturday's Town Meeting '76, which involved more than 200 persons in an all-day

discussion of community problems and potential solutions.

(Banner-News photo by Frank Oberle Jr.)

More than 200 persons participated in Town Meeting '76 Saturday at Hardin Junior High School, with almost as many problems and solutions discussed during the day-long meeting as there were participants.

While the discussion produced no immediate solutions to the problems discussed, meeting chairman Kenneth Kieley, also a city councilman, assured one young questioner that the heads of each city governmental unit, as well as those in county government, will receive copies of the dialogue, promising that government would listen to the people.

Columbia Missourian

68th Year — No. 182

Good Morning! It's Sunday, April 25, 1976

5 Sections — 80 Pages — 35 Cents

Town meeting focuses on 'future'

By Sue Tegmeier
Missourian staff writer

This town is your town, this town is my home,
From Whitgate Village to Rothwell Heights,
From Biscayne Mall to the Parkade Plaza,
This town is built by you and me.

Participants at Columbia's '76 Town Meeting created and sang this song Saturday at the end of a day spent looking at Columbia's problems and proposals for its future.

Focusing on the Bicentennial year, the event was intended to recreate the spirit of an "old-fashioned town meeting." Group singing of songs from America's past, entertainment by the Columbia Barbershop Chorus, and an "American meal" of chicken, hamburgers and home-made cakes provided the atmosphere of a town meeting in Columbia 100 years ago.

The purpose of the meeting, however, was to focus on today's Columbia. The 120 participants cited the lack of citizen participation and communication as major political challenges to the city in 1976.

Held at Stephens College, the meeting was a forum for residents to discuss and plan the future of the community. Participants attempted to outline ways to solve the economic, political and cultural problems of the Columbia area.

Using a brainstorming approach,

discussion groups of 20 to 30 persons, under trained discussion leaders, identified the basic economic, social and political challenges Columbia faces during the morning sessions. In the afternoon, the groups formulated particular proposals to meet those challenges.

A copy of the Town Meeting Report will be sent to the City Council, Boone County Court, the Federal Communications Commission, other governmental groups and community organizations.

Mayor Bob Pugh, addressing the session, characterized the Town Meeting as a "frank and candid discussion of local issues." Calling Columbia the "best community in the United States," Pugh listed the city's assets as its "65,000 good citizens, its good business community, fine educational institutions and the fact that it is a small town."

Bernice Williamson, assistant to the president of Stephens College, said the town meeting was a chance to "review and appreciate our heritage and to take the best of our past with us in our future."

Among the needs of Columbia listed by the meeting participants were: priority setting, more public participation, improvement of the judicial system, establishment of a neighborhood "ombudsman" program and a citizens' committee to promote community cohesiveness, assessment of community services and improvement

of transportation alternatives to the automobile.

Among problems cited were: failure to use local talent to solve local problems, "town-gown" conflicts, improper balance of self-serving vs. community-serving ideas, and a transitory population creating a block to a "community concept."

The meeting was sponsored by 29 local service clubs, community organizations, educational institutions and businessmen under the coordination of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit, research, training and demonstration group.

The concept of a Town Meeting is a national program involving 5,000 communities that are celebrating the Bicentennial this way. Columbia is the first Missouri city to sponsor such an event.

The Town Meeting was recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, the Columbia and Boone County Bicentennial Commission and the Boone County Historical Society.

Barbara Remick, coordinator for the meeting, said, "Although the group was small, it was the beginning nucleus that would want to contribute something to the community."

"I'm not interested in numbers as much as minority involvement and participation by the working man, young people and persons from the surrounding areas, such as Hallsville and Ashland," Remick said.

"Columbia is often considered the 'giant' of the area. We wanted to involve the surrounding area. We want to

reach the everyday man who feels alienated and apart from this academic community."

Many of the persons attending the meeting said the sessions gave them a better awareness of Columbia's problems.

Sharon Northup, 917 Business 63 S., said, "The meeting has generated citizen awareness. It helped to develop ways of defining problems and how these problems might be solved in each participant's mind."

"It was a real opportunity to talk about the city and those things that affect it," said Bruce Weston, 211 Rockingham Drive. "One of the things we talked about was the individual and those things that affect everyone, whether they're a recent or long-time resident of Columbia."

"The meeting reawakened what we already know is important — that we be more active in our community and political thinking," said Ruth Shank, 308 Hitt St. "I think our City Council is pretty slow to react. Some of them (council members) should be participating in programs of this kind."

"We dealt with challenges of the future, things important to the community's growth," Remick said of the meeting. "It wasn't just a gripe session."

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

BOZEMAN, MONTANA, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 1976

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Scores of gripes aired at county town meeting

By JOAN McGEE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Scores of gripes, ranging from the condition of roads to the wasting of human resources, were aired Saturday by the approximate 300 at the Gallatin County Town Meeting, 76.

Goals to work toward the solution of these problems were outlined. Participants, in addition, wrote a new song and a new story for the county.

"The Gallatin Valley of the Fibers" came to us from Indian days and is unique. Being similar to Paradise of the Garden of Eden and with people caring, it has continued to exist," the story begins.

"We would like to be remembered as the county whose alert and concerned citizens recognize the need for planning for future generations, as well as providing for present needs," the story continues.

Proposals in economic, political and cultural areas revolve around that theme: being alert and concerned citizens.

All community cultural programs and an all-age group committee, which would meet with local governing boards were cultural suggestions. A public community action council working under the leadership of the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) has also been proposed.

Personal involvement, an open citizens' organization, and detailed study of laws were proposals brought out in the political area.

Town meeting participants cited the need for expanded library facilities, development of public television, evening commission meetings and an inventory of human and natural resources.

Means of expansion of economic opportunity were seen in the need for public utility districts, and tax incentive programs.

Town meeting coordinator Gail Cramer said the proposals would be forwarded to local governing bodies for their review.

Persons at the town meeting voiced concern that a number of areas are lacking:

- Land and water resources are not utilized fully and fairly
- Bureaucracy, awareness

and/or concern and lack of property rights indicate that the underlying contradiction is complacency on the part of citizens to allow the few to determine the future of the whole.

- There is a waste of human resources; land, water and air is misused.

- Vented anger and a lack of comprehensive planning exist in politics.

- Local citizens are reluctant to become involved in serious study of local problems.

- An inadequate social

acceptance exists between age groups.

- An increased crime rate in Bozeman indicates there is more interest in the criminal's right than in the citizen's right.

A cross section of county residents was listed in the meeting's registration rolls.

Speeches were given by Gov. Thomas L. Judge, Atty. Gen. Robert Woodahl and Bozeman Mayor James Vollmer.

Representatives of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, who provided assistance in the planning of the meeting, also

spoke. Participants were divided into guilds, first to determine the challenges facing the area and then to determine what needs to be done to correct those challenges.

"The county vibrates with opportunity for all ages, from senior citizens to pre-school children."

"We continue to strive for the involvement of all people of Gallatin County in the determination of the use of its land and resources," the story concluded.



Photo by Dave L. Hoyer

Voice concern

Few areas of problems were left undiscussed at the Gallatin Town Meeting '76 Saturday. Approximately 300 county residents aired their concerns and outlined solutions for them.

Montana



Northside holds town meetings

BY TERRY KURTZ
Sun Special Writer

"Top of the map. Top of the town." This was the slogan of the second Northside town meeting held nearly one year ago in March. Since then a number of projects have been undertaken, and plans are being prepared to participate in a city-wide "You the Community Day" on April 2.

Maria Maquire, Northside area coordinator, said the town meetings were held in the context of the Bicentennial to increase citizen participation in local issues.

Growing out of the March meeting was the Northside Community Council, which is composed of residents of all ages and backgrounds who have decided to care for our community with all its issues and possibilities.

The council coordinated five projects last year: a community clean-up, a festival, a health fair and forum, a political issues forum and visit Your Neighbor Week.

Maquire said the clean-up, held on two Saturdays in May, covered an area bounded by 16th-24th streets, Clark-Spencer streets. Twenty-eight tons of trash were removed from four vacant lots or collected from a curbside pick-up. Both the city and Health Department were involved as well as churches, businesses and local residents.

The Northside festival, held in August at Fontenelle Park, was attended by 1,500 people. All ages and parts of the community were represented, Maquire said, as part of a celebration of the diverse gifts and opportunities of the Northside. The health fair and forum was held in September. Local health needs were discussed and comprehensive health care proposals were made. A Health Task Force was also formed.

Two political issues forums were held in October. A total of 26 candidates discussed Northside issues such as housing, unemployment, education, crime and youth activities.

The last project, Visit Your Neighbor Week, was held in December. It consisted of six days of visits to past sponsors, contributors, the major local leaders and community residents. The purpose was the telling of the Northside's story and inviting participation in creating the future of the area.

Maquire said the Northside meetings are just part of 600 meetings which have been held across the United States. A total of 5,000 are planned for "You the Community Day," according to the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

The objective of the meetings is to have citizens look at their community in a comprehensive view rather than issue by issue.

Maquire said.

"The future of a community is decided by the people," she said, "not the city council."

"If the people don't decide it's going to happen, it won't happen."

Presently, 15 local steering committees are making community support visits, enlisting and assisting sponsoring groups and preparing and coordinating public awareness campaigns. After the meeting on April 2, the steering committees will meet again to evaluate the event and discuss the implementation of proposals.

Maquire said the town meeting will consist of a day-long workshop. It begins with a welcoming in the morning over coffee and doughnuts.

Then those attending will divide into groups, she said. These groups will look at the greatest dreams and visions for their community. This is the challenge part of the workshop.

"It can be something crazy," she said. "You have complete freedom to dream. That usually develops creativity. At first glance, it might be impossible, but later on, if you work on it, it might be possible."

Then reality is discussed, she said. Participants look at issues facing the community and decide whether they are economic,

political or cultural in nature.

An interlude is held at noon. This provides a break from the work at hand, she said.

It is work. It's serious, but at the same time, the whole day is composed of a celebration and serious work. That's what's great about it."

Along with lunch there is entertainment by the participants. This may consist of dancing, singing or poetry.

After lunch participants divide into four groups to discuss the challenges, make goals and develop practical proposals for meeting them. These proposals are aimed at things an ordinary citizen can do, she said.

One of the four groups is an artistic group which will make up a story, a song, a slogan and a symbol for their community.

The day ends with a plenary session to hear the workshop reports. Participants will be given a copy of the report containing their community's challenges, proposals, story, song and symbol.

The North Side steering committee meetings for "You the Community Day," April 2, are held each Monday evening at 7:00 at the North Side Bank, 31st and Ames.

The public is invited. For more information contact Maria Maquire, North Side area coordinator, 455-1429.

Omaha World-Herald, Saturday, October 2, 1976

'Town Meet Participants Care'

The writer is coordinator of the Omaha Town Meeting.

By Fran Schneider

Another word or two needs to be said about the outcome of the Omaha Town Meeting, held Sept. 18 at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center.

There were about 150 participants, rather than 50, as this newspaper reported. Although it was hoped more would attend, those present on behalf of the otherwise committed and/or apathetic Omahans were certainly commensurate to the task at hand: to discern the issues and the challenges facing us, and to propose how we can, by practical tactics, accomplish what needs to be done for Omaha. Everyone who participated was impressed with the accomplishments and profound significance of the day.

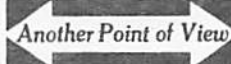
The issues and concerns workshop in the morning revealed that the underlying problem is often related to apathy — and lack of understanding, lack of information and lack of a way to participate in the decision-making process in a significant way. This is illustrated by the resulting alienation and poor turnout for voting, PTA meetings, community meetings, etc.

It was clearly evident in the afternoon workshop on practical proposals that this care of caring citizens is serious about providing ways for themselves and others to step beyond their apathy — or frustration, or cynicism — and assume responsibility for enabling hope and humanness in Omaha's neighborhoods.

The common trend of many of the proposals was to establish viable neighborhood associa-

tions which would hold "Town Meetings" for the purpose of: involving people in solving community problems, offering political issues forums, encouraging citizen participation on civic and government boards, planning and having community festivals, establishing clean-up campaigns, planning a Downtown Omaha Weekend, examining how citizenship training is being taught, and establishing community work incentive programs.

Other proposals dealt with how citizens might have input into reducing government costs through consolidation of city and county government, and deciding priorities in spending tax dollars.



A follow-up meeting was held Thursday at the Northern Natural Gas Co. Annex, 2017 Dodge St. The next meeting will be at 7:30 p. m. Oct. 19 at the same place.

If you care about Omaha as a community, or if you have cared and are burned out and frustrated, or if you would care if you could get beyond your cynicism and see a way effectively to do something significant for yourself and Omaha, please come to other meetings to be announced.

Articles on this page represent diverse points of view which are not necessarily those of The World-Herald.

Nebraska

SEP 26 1976

Appeal Editorial

Town Meeting: a CC surprise

We were in the waning moments of a most remarkable day. One hundred and six people had spent their entire Saturday together. It was Carson City's Town Meeting '76 wrapping up in the Carson High School cafeteria.

A group of concerned citizens who, at mid-morning may have been suspicious at what they'd gotten into, were at five o'clock sitting back and admiring the fruits of a hard day's work.

Comments from the crowd:

- "It was people listening to other people."
- "Ordinary people CAN think clearly on problems."
- "It was fun getting involved in community affairs."
- "It forced us to think of problems other than our own."
- "We've discovered the necessity of working together."

The group continued to mellow as the late afternoon sun splashed on shoulders and brows and the members toasted themselves and one-another with cups of Hawaiian Punch.

What created this aura of fellowship and the grand sense of a job well done? We hardly know where to begin.

The town meeting concept is as old as the country itself. Community residents used to get together on a regular basis to discuss problems and community affairs in general. In this era of complacency, non-caring and a near-complete breakdown in communication among individuals, the town meeting is a giant leap back to basics.

The first thing that happened is the first morning general session opened with a song. There were a few moans, some shuffling of feet and probably some inward wishing that they were somewhere else.

But the town meeting organizers had a strict, structured program designed to produce...and starting off with a song was at the top of the list. The producers were proved right all day long and the song-singing accomplished its job.

Inhibitions were demolished and even the most reticent was ready to participate in the day's activities.

There was one other important aspect we noticed. The participants, even though their time was rigidly structured, were in control. There were no "wrong answers." No participant was poo-pooed, shushed or ignored. Every single, solitary idea ranging from brilliant to mediocre, received attention and consideration from the group. When the smoke had cleared from the confusing and occasionally consternating town meeting process, it became apparent that every soul in attendance had made important contributions to the meeting's final outcome.

At the beginning of the day, those in attendance resented that more people hadn't shown up. (They were expecting about 300). By the end of the day, those in attendance were feeling sorry for those who hadn't come.

When you review the results of the town meeting (reported elsewhere in today's Appeal) you will see that they came to grips with problems you knew existed all along. But what's more important, and we hope you see it... it is indeed possible for a body of laymen to gather together and address themselves to large, complex problems and collectively come up with bright, imaginative and even breath-taking diagnoses and solutions.

Suggestions that we "do it again" or "do it more often"; were general throughout the group. It's obvious that the town meeting concept is something Carson City should see more of.

All through the Bicentennial year, your editor has been enjoying local, state and national Bicentennial events, but at the same time wondering "what do we do for an encore?"

There have been a large number of esthetic contributions: a medallion; a Fourth of July celebration memory grand enough to last a lifetime; time capsules and the Bicentennial quilt, to name a few. All important. All pleasing. And more to come.

But comes now the germ of an idea. The town meeting. People who never spoken up before (because maybe they were never asked before) are offering their comments and ideas to one another and to anyone else who will listen.

Public apathy. Voter apathy. Uncommunicative officials both elected and appointed. People who won't even communicate with each other. As the swamp-dwelling cartoon character "Pogo" once noted, "We have found the remedy...and he is us."

People are the problem. People are also the solution. A little old fashioned communicativeness between those who can do something and those who want to get something done, will work.

The national Town Meeting '76 organizers, the Institute of Cultural Affairs, has promised to return with an equally exciting follow-up program once the country's town meetings have run their course.

In the meantime, while Carson City awaits the return of the good people at ICA, we hope that Carsonites can come up with a follow-up program of their own. We hope we hear more about the future accomplishments of Saturday's town meeting and we hope the spirit of Town Meeting '76 continues to prosper and grow here.

Carsonites get Town Meeting

By JOHN A. MILLER
Appeal Editor

Over 100 people gathered at Carson High School Saturday, for an unusual day-long study session called "Town Meeting '76" which was sponsored by the Carson City Centennial-Bicentennial Commission.

A rigid format used by the Institute of Cultural Affairs to conduct community-oriented meetings around the country, blossomed into a problems-and-their-solutions session custom-cut for Carson City.

The group went from an informal "rap" session at 9 a.m., "what do you want for Carson City?" to a formal printed document handed out to participants before breaking up at 5:30 p.m.

The document contained everything from a "city symbol" to a community profile and a city song—all designed and produced right there in the building.

Radio-TV personality Bill Ruff emceed the day's proceedings. One of his jobs was to profile the people in attendance. He reports there were 56 men and 51 women. The age break down was: 13 between ages of zero and 19; 41 between 20 and 29; 29 between 30 and 39 and 23 over 40. According to a poll of his own, length of residency of the participants ranged from 80 years to 15 days.

Ruff added that the group "displayed a remarkably diversified cross-section of the community."

High point of the day was pinpointing "community challenges" in the morning sessions and then in the afternoon, drafting "proposals" to answer the challenges. The various study groups addressed themselves to three areas of effort: economic, political and cultural.

Challenges identified in economics were:

—Lopsided economic growth due to an overwhelming increase in population illustrated by the "smothering" of small business and services, lack of state support and neglect of local tourism potential.

—Lack of community awareness with public apathy and conflicts of interest in evidence.

—Supervisors criticized for misinformation and failure to utilize community assets—illustrated by a lack of progress in the search of water.

—Lack of funding, organization and return of power to elected officials.

—Lack of citizen participation in such things as zoning and other city business; lack of planning in land acquisition and funding for city government complex. The city was specifically criticized for changing the master plan "for special interest groups with a lack of citizen involvement."

—Lack of laws and ordinances inhibiting management and planning for orderly growth. "Too many elected officials with overlapping authority."

The cultural challenges were:

—To build a sense of community. "Anything done in Carson depends on people participation," illustrated by poor attendance at this meeting itself and at the polls last election.

—Lack of commitment and lack of communication lead to apathy. A broader leadership base is required since "the same leaders are appearing in many organizations."

—Lack of acceptance of personal and community pride and responsibility—

leading to a feeling of "individual futility."

After hammering out that heroic list of "challenges," in the morning sessions, the workers dove back into arrive at some solutions.

Political proposals:

—In order to achieve appropriate, informed citizen participation we propose an input-output mechanism through published agendas, keeping to schedules and public announcement of decisions.

—In order to define and enforce both moral and legal responsibilities of officials we propose that the public be educated through the publication of a handbook containing job descriptions and progress on major issues to be adopted by the board of supervisors and distributed to the public.

—In order to provide more information about official city activity and get more citizen input we propose two-way communication through community bulletin boards, media, quarterly newsletter, blue ribbon citizens' committee, referendum, initiative and publication of voting records of city supervisors.

—In order to activate elected and non-elected city official we propose that they rely on expert advice and citizen information through their continuing community activity.

—In order to create a liveable community we propose to develop a workable master plan from community consensus through attending planning commission workshops and encouraging others to attend.

—In order to promote an enlightened citizenry, business community and government we propose the creation of a public information office through (1) the creation of an awareness of the need thereof (2) definition of the function and (3) the creation of an appointed, salaried position reporting to the mayor.

Cultural proposals:

—We the citizens of Carson City, in order to improve the developing and rewarding of citizen responsibility and participation, propose the establishment of neighborhood project councils through the creation of distant neighborhoods and the election of a council to select neighborhood community projects in which the skills of the neighbors can be used.

—We the citizens of Carson City, in order to have an involved and informed community propose that small neighborhood meetings be held through our town meeting participants' helping in the organization of such meetings.

—In order to establish a meeting of minds between office-holders and citizens, we propose that small neighborhood meetings be held through our town meeting participants' helping in the organization of such meetings.

—In order to establish a meeting of minds between office-holders and citizens, we propose open, continuous inter-communication through knowledgeable persons to be centrally located by mail, phone, neighbor and newspaper reporting.

Due to a shortage of participants, the pursuit of economic proposals was not conducted. But an earlier consensus indicated similar answers including: improved two-way communication and more citizen input on proposed solutions.

The criticism of city affairs did not go unnoticed at the meeting either. Former city supervisor George Critser who left the board undefeated at the end of his

latest term, attacked the master plan criticisms. "We've had a master plan for years. The lack of action is the fault of the shortage of available funds—not poor planning. As supervisors we agree public participation in council meetings is important, but it just doesn't happen," Critser added.

"We've had hearings on finances and taxation for years and have yet to see anyone show up for them," he concluded.

Incumbent Supervisor Theima Calhoun added, "When we adopted the latest master plan, we held eight public hearings and publicized them on the radio and in the newspaper. Short of arresting people and making them go to the hearings—I don't know what else to do."

Gene Leprie, a Carson resident and a meeting participant commented on a lack of action. "We should stop the waiting and waiting. If something needs to be done, I say...let's do it. Like the water problem—we saw it and should have done it."

Carlos Zervog, the Institute of Cultural Affairs' organizer of Town Meeting '76 projects around the country, praised the Carson participants and their contributions. "Your local workers were well organized and good performers."

Asked about a possible follow-up of this meeting's product he noted, "We're looking for grassroots initiative. We're watching the other programs around the country to see what they do. When we see some creative patterns emerge, then we'll go back around and share it with others."

"It would be too canned to program a follow-up before you even see the project. But yep, we'll be back."

Carson City, Nev.
Nevada Appeal
(Cir. D. 4, 887)
(Cir. S. 4, 708)

SEP 26 1976

Fallon, Nevada
Lahontan Valley News
(Cir. W)

JUN 2 1976

Town Meeting to confront issues

Identification of the most important issues facing this area and what to do about them, will be the goal of Saturdays "Town Meeting '76."

The meeting, first of its kind in Nevada, is open to everyone and will begin at 9 a.m. in E. C. Best Jr. High. Those attending will be divided into groups. Each group will then determine where they would like to see the community go and what prevents that. These will be drafted up as challenges to be given to the afternoon workshops.

The afternoon workshops will be divided into four categories: politics, economics, culture and a group to develop a new song, symbol and slogan for Fallon. The results of their actions will be recorded in a booklet which

will be ready when the meeting ends at 5 p.m.

The information for the booklet will be fed to the printers by "scribes" who will record the discussions as they progress. The "scribes" and workshop leaders are being trained by the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

That organization, approved by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, has been organizing town meetings nationwide. The Institute has reported that a Washington town has decided to have the meetings every year and has set up a committee to pursue the goals established at their meeting.

The meeting is free to those attending. However, donations can be made directly to the Churchill County Bicentennial Committee. The money will defray the cost of the printer's lunch to be...

NEVADA

Voice of The Lakes Region

The Laconia Evening Citizen

LACONIA, N. H., MONDAY, MAY 17, 1976

Town Meeting Urges Citizen Involvement

More than 50 people assembled Saturday morning for the day-long Laconia Town Meeting '76 held at Laconia High School.

Challenges statements in several areas were formulated in the morning session. Primary was the matter of more citizen involvement. The program also considered the problem of housing for seniors, and vocational-technical education for young people.

Lunch in the middle of the day featured entertainment by the Sweet Adelines.

Proposals made in the afternoon session included the concept of a referral bureau which would attempt to bring together young people and retired people. Ideas for further town meetings were considered, from neighborhood levels to an area-wide scale.

Participants discussed a heritage

INVOLVEMENT, Page Three

Involvement

From Page 1

program, which would be concerned with cultural events, and a senior citizen task force.

A song was composed by some of those attending to express the theme of citizen concern and participation, to be sung to the tune of "It's a Grand Old Flag."

A new story was written, called

"Laconia, the Chosen City." It developed several ideas. Original settlement and continued population of the area was due to its resources, primary among them the clear waters of the area.

In the current situation, the story continued, public apathy has nurtured mediocre leadership.

Struggles determine needs, it concluded and needs nurture leadership. Economic and educational vitality will develop creative leadership.

Page 6 Monday, June 14, 1976

Valley News — Lebanon, N.H.

Citizens Seeking Better Horizons

CLAREMONT — To identify the community roadblocks and then clear the way for a better third century for America in general and Claremont in particular were the main goals of some three to four dozen persons who met all day Saturday at Claremont Junior High School for "Town Meeting '76."

Meeting in small groups to define problems and then work out their solutions, the citizens came up with an array of proposals to make their government, economy and environment better.

The conclusions, along with those of hundreds of other similar meetings across the country, will be incorporated in a nationwide study by the sponsoring Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit group based in Chicago.

Committee chairmen locally were Richard E. Ormsby, Robert V. Sanders Jr., Roland V. Stoolley Jr., Mary F. Reese, and Beverly McGuire.

Among the conclusions reached were:

Better Government
In order to form a better city government, we propose to get new people in the offices of this city through the encouragement of people with leadership ability to run for office as well as talking to high placed officials about the same, and to further implement better communication between the officers and the people.

In order to provide a focus for cultural projects, we propose the formation of a committee on cultural affairs, through:

1. Personal contact of interested persons.
2. Asking for representatives from existing organizations.
3. Encouraging participation of indigenous leaders representing unorganized groups such as the elderly and welfare recipients.

Teen Recreation

In order to develop teen recreation (hang-around opportunities), we propose:

1. Elucidating the needs and ideas of their parents, and
2. Developing a group to act on such responses.

Through:

1. Seeking school permission and support for project.
2. Developing and distributing an inventory to encourage ideas from teens and parents.
3. Establish discussion forums in High School and Junior High School English Classes.
4. Form a board of kids and

adults (drawn from kids' recommendations to execute ideas).

Cultural Programs

In order to use cultural programs as a means of effecting change, we propose that programing and promotion of programs be coordinated, through:

1. A committee responsible for promoting co-sponsorships.
2. Use of a community calendar clearing house.
3. By encouraging all cultural groups to participate.
4. Advertise frequently.

Ward Meetings

In order to structure means by which citizen input can be heard by the leadership, we propose ward meetings be held where city officials can share concerns and do planning through discerning neighborhood leadership, gaining official cooperation, setting an agenda and recruiting people to attend.

News Items

In order to educate the people for maximum participation in community life, we propose more and accurate communication by the news media through a face-to-face encounter of media personal and community groups to air complaints and teach the reporting process.

Agendas Published

In order to provide more effective services through coordinated planning, we propose that the city publish upcoming meetings and agendas on a regular basis through approval of city manager, designating a coordinator, establishing guidelines, and setting into action.

Task Team

In order to promote and encourage political involvement and cooperation, we propose a task team of community leaders who annually recognize four outstanding Claremont citizens, who have newly demonstrated an outstanding sense of community commitment.

'Needs Day'

In order to make our needs known to city officials, we propose a "public needs day" through setting aside a day for meetings between city officials and citizens to make needs known and asking for a future response from officials.

Newsletter

In order to better understand the issues we propose the city publish and distribute a newsletter through appeal to the city council, the League of Women Voters, a representative citizens committee, for a reallocation of public tax money.

In order to have a fair government for all people, we propose to hold ward meetings and set up a citizens advisory council (CAC) to the community planner and city manager through a commitment from five or six voters in each ward to request meetings through the city council. Form the CAC with those who respond to ward meetings and ask participants of Town Meeting '76 to volunteer for the CAC.

In order to have a better economic climate which encourages individuals to keep up and improve property and encourages industrial development, we propose to declare an industrial park with adequate requirements and change the property tax structure through responsible voting.

NEWSPAPER

Town Meeting may highlight Bicentennial

By HARRY DONSKY
Editor-General Manager

TOWN MEETING '76, scheduled for Saturday at Marymount College, could prove to be one of the most significant events of the bicentennial year in the Tarrytowns. Certainly, in concept and potential, it could have an impact far into the future when the memories of fireworks, parades, and even Op-Sail will be fading.

Several hundred people from Irvington, Tarrytown and North Tarrytown will gather to discuss the key issues facing their communities today and the major challenges which must be tackled tomorrow. In that number will be newcomers, long-time residents, young and old, white, black, English-speaking, Spanish-speaking officials, ordinary taxpayers—a true cross-section of the community.

With pride in their past, concern for the present and hope for the future, they will talk with each other—perhaps for the first time in many instances—about their common goals. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. they will think about what it is they really want for themselves and their children in these lovely villages along the river.

NO DOUBT there will be some griping. We hope there will be considerable dreaming, too. We expect some resolutions will be adopted. It should be a wonderful day. The planners have worked tirelessly through the winter, spring and summer months to nurture this program and carry it through to fruition.

There have been articles in the newspaper about Town Meeting '76. Some 3,000 flyers have been distributed through the communities. Nearly 300 letters have been mailed to members of village, planning, zoning and school boards, to police chiefs, fire chiefs and postmasters, to community leaders in a variety of causes, and to area business persons.

Irvington and Tarrytowns schools have been alerted and students will be participating as part of their curriculum. Indeed, those who have arranged the meeting have worked very hard to get the entire community involved. Anyone who has any degree of concern for the future course of the villages should make it a matter of high priority to attend the meeting. Those who cannot attend the full day should come for as many hours as possible.

The Daily News is supporting Town Meeting '76 because the bicentennial year appears to be an appropriate time to look ahead as well as to look back. It is necessary that we take stock of where we are and where we want to go in the three villages. We feel it is necessary for the people to come together and express their views on issues and goals.

MANY COMMUNITY organizations have helped organize the program. Many businesses and residents have contributed to the expenses of the meeting, including the cost of lunch and the morning coffee and doughnuts. There will be entertainment at lunch and in the afternoon.

An unbelievable amount of work has been done by the prime movers of Town Meeting '76. Chief among these are Margaret Smith, managing editor of The Daily News; Tim Karney and Sharon Arthur, who among other tasks designed and distributed the flyers, printed courtesy of the Village of Tarrytown; Mary Tooiny who has been coordinating the food and feeding; Nessa Sternfeld, who has been directing the workshop leaders; and Suzanne Maley who has lined up volunteers for every task. Workshop leaders are making a considerable commitment. They have had several training sessions and will work the entire day Saturday.

We encourage the widest possible attendance. Sessions will begin at 9 a.m. at Rita Hall. Come and bring friends, colleagues, spouses, neighbors and children. (There will be child care.) Sleepy Hollow Country is a great place to live and work. A meeting such as this can contribute to the assurance that the quality of life here will remain that way.

DAILY NEWS
Tarrytown, N.Y.

OCT - 7 - 1976

Town Meeting draws outspoken tri-villagers

By PHIL WAGA
Staff Writer

Under overcast skies and after months of planning and preparation, nearly 200 Tarrytown, North Tarrytown and Irvington residents piled into Marymount College Saturday for "Town Meeting '76."

First of its kind in West-

More pictures
on Page A3

chester County (although similar events are planned for Ossining, Peekskill and New Rochelle over the next two months), the meeting ran from 9 a.m. to shortly after 5 p.m.

Ideally, the town meeting should utilize the old-fashioned idea of residents solving their problems by simply meeting en masse, to discuss their problems and then come up with solutions, according to the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a national non-profit agency that helped produce the event.

"THE PEOPLE here are very predictable," one long-time and knowledgeable observer commented at Saturday's meeting was getting under way. "The ones that always come to meetings and get involved are here." And, she implied, the residents who do not attend village events regularly, also did not attend this one.

But those who did attend discussed at length the maladies they see as plaguing their communities and most said that the day was a fine one.

The morning was devoted to discussing what problems the communities actually have and narrowing these down to a few manageable ones.

In afternoon workshops, the people attempted to find solutions to these problems, listing them in a pamphlet that was to be distributed to all participants.

A pamphlet was distributed, but it contained only what the participants viewed as the area's problem.



Town Meeting '76

Two hundred Tarrytown, North Tarrytown and Irvington folk came to Marymount College Saturday for an old-fashioned town meeting. They talked about their problems and tried to come up with some solutions. In the photo above, Joan

Rose of Tarrytown delivers a report on one set of workshop proposals while workshop leader Tim Karney of Tarrytown, left, looks on. Anne V. Nixon, mistress of ceremonies, is working at center. — Staff photo by Robert Rodriguez



DAILY NEWS
Tarrytown, N.Y.

SEPT-17-1976

Teams to work for proposals

By PHIL WAGA
Staff Writer

Teams of residents may soon converge on village, school and zoning boards, urging officials to discuss the proposals and recommendations emanating from Town Meeting '76.

Held Sept. 18, the one-day meeting consisted of morning and afternoon workshops, where almost 200 Tarrytown, North Tarrytown and Irvington residents discussed maladies plaguing the communities and came up with a slew of proposals to try and solve them.

Meeting Wednesday night to discuss and review the event, some 15 workshop leaders, Town Meeting organizers and interested residents decided to form the teams. Tim Karney of 8 Maple Ave., Tarrytown, one of the organizers, said today.

THERE WOULD be one team for Tarrytown, one for North Tarrytown and one for Irvington. Karney explained, and each team would consist of six to eight residents.

"We're looking for people who attended the town meeting and have an awareness and are familiar with the problems that face each village," Karney said. He was quick to add, however, that interested residents who did not attend the meeting are also encouraged to join the teams by contacting him.

The teams will be formed over the next two weeks, Karney said, and each team will then head for the various village boards, asking the presiding officials to discuss the meeting's proposals and initiate public hearings.

"WE NEED to open up a channel of communication with the village decision-makers

and officials," Karney remarked, "so the ideas which came out of the town meeting don't just sit there."

"We want to get people working right away with what came out of the meeting so they see it wasn't just talk," he continued. "And we also want to show village officials what the meeting was like."

Also attending Wednesday night's meeting, held in Pennybridge School, Tarrytown, were two Irvington High School students, who with other Irvington youngsters hope to sponsor their own town meeting.

All those who attended the two-hour Pennybridge meeting, Karney said, were "very pleased" with Town Meeting '76.

NEWSPAPER

Town Meeting '76 In The Hills: A Chance For All To Get Involved

More than 100 Somerset Hills residents experienced firsthand the challenge of grass roots democracy reminiscent of colonial town meetings as they convened for Town Meeting '76 at Bernards High School last Saturday.

If their recommendations, born of an entire day's grappling with the Hills' problems are implemented, the Hills should expect future town meetings, aroused citizen action groups, revised tax structures and the like.

Town Meeting '76' was backed by about two dozen church and civic groups which contributed manpower and money to stage a non-partisan forum at no cost to all Somerset Hills citizens. Local businesses and contributors also gave support to what became a unique democratic experience designed as a Bicentennial celebration for everyone.

Unlike meetings that often vent citizen grievances but cannot produce solutions,

Town Meeting '76 relied on an innovative structure that is also being used in communities across the nation. The plan, drawn by Chicago-based non-profit organization The Institute of Cultural Affairs, aimed at translating problems into opportunities for citizen action on whatever citizens see fit to solve.

Community Slag

To add to solidarity and the community spirit, Town Meeting '76 was to elicit one of the several citizen task forces formed during the day, wrote a brief story about where the Hills has been and where it is headed and wrote a new community song to express their hopes and aspirations for the community. Appropriately enough for those who hailed the day as an "awakening!" the citizen-songwriters matched their lyrics to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from his Ninth Symphony. And to express an optimism which explains why citizens chose an acorn for the center

of their new community symbol, the community song's last lines pledge: "Expanding outward, upward all / Together free, together know / Caring, sharing, standing tall, / Mighty oaks from acorns grow."

Most participants interviewed after the entire day-long program, found at least enough moderate inspiration in the songs, citizen action proposals, speeches and interludes of entertainment to call the event "interesting" and "thought provoking." But many said they indeed found new hope and courage to work with others in their community. So it seemed that the enthusiasm, sense of togetherness and recognition that the community's destiny touches everyone was the day's most important product, perhaps eclipsing the importance of specific recommendations from the Town Meeting. Freeholder Doris Dealaman, Chairwoman of the County Bicentennial Com-

mittee expressed her feelings for the need for involvement: "We are all so busy we forget to communicate with each other."

Armed with a market-tested scheme that helps insure the participation of all, ICA had trained several local residents to lead task forces last Saturday. Those local leaders, whose job it was to guide the pace of group thinking, were not allowed to inject their own views into the discussions, nor to pass judgement on the views of others. As one group leader told his task force: "For those of you who may think that the people running public meetings don't listen to the public, now you've got the chance to do all the talking. You make the decisions."

JUN 10 1976

BERNARDSVILLE NEWS
Bernardsville, N.J.
W-19,000

Town Meeting '76

A meeting to organize a steering committee to plan and prepare to conduct a Town Meeting '76 in Hackensack this Fall will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 8:00 p.m. at the Hackensack Neighborhood Center, 27 Warren Street. The Town Meeting will be a one day community forum in which people of all ages and from all segments of the community will combine their wisdom to determine the future needs of Hackensack. This will be done in a morning workshop session in which the participants consense upon the challenges that face them as a community, and in an afternoon

workshop to create the practical proposals they would make to meet those challenges. In the midst of the hard work of the workshops there will be a celebration of the history of the city and the creation of a new song, story and symbol for the community.

The meeting is being called as the result of two exploratory meetings held recently during which representatives from ten Hackensack organizations were given a sample of how Town Meeting '76 has been conducted in other cities. The organizations who were represented at the meetings were the Oratam Tenants Association, the Residence

Council, Hackensack Housing Authority, the Hackensack Neighborhood Center, the Hack. N.J. Troast Athletic Club, the Hackensack Neighborhood Civic Association, the Jaycees, the Girl Scout Council, the Hackensack Fire Department, the Women's Auxiliary of Hackensack Hospital, and a private citizen who is serving on the Bicentennial Parade Committee. All other Hackensack organizations are urged to send representatives to this planning meeting. Also, citizens at large who are interested in helping to organize this event are welcome.

SEP 8 1976

TEANECK NEWS
Teaneck, N.J.

W-16,700

Town Meeting '76 Task Force Spearheads Charter?

EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP. As a result of "TOWN MEETING '76," the organization found the majority of East Hanoverites "crying out" for a better, more efficient local government.

An on-going committee has been busy researching different forms of government, studying their pros and cons and is now prepared to present all of the options to the public. It is hoped

that everyone will read the questionnaire prepared and give opinions. "Then we may have a true government of the people, by the people and for the people. We are asking for co-operation from the current township committee. There are many aspects to be considered and a hasty move or decision could prove to be a calamity," said the Task Force spokesman. If you would like to be a part of

this committee, you are invited to attend the next meeting, planned for Thursday August 26, 7:30 p.m. at Kuchell Memorial Church.

The questionnaire prepared by the Task Force is reproduced as a public service to RWX readers, who may want to participate in the project by offering their opinions.

THE WEEKLY NEWS
Whippany, N.J. W-3, 162

AUG 11 1976

NOV. 3 - 1976

Planning meeting Thursday

Economic, political and cultural issues in Ossining and Briarcliff will be raised and solutions suggested at Town Meeting '76 Nov. 20 at Anne M. Dornier Middle School. A planning meeting will be held Thursday night at the Ossining Public Library.

Areas of concern, typical of those expected to be brought up at workshops in the day-long forum in two weeks, were touched on in a mini-town meeting the other night at the Washington Building.

About 40, mostly representatives of some 20 organizations attended and many of them are expected at Thursday's planning session in the library community room at 7:30 p.m. It is open to all interested in learning more about the upcoming community forum.

At the mini town meeting, Jan Dodds of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a national not-for-profit, research and training organization, led the participants through the steps of the town meeting format. Town Meeting '76 is a national bicentennial program and, according to ICA, by year's end more than a million will have taken part in some 5,000 locally sponsored forums.

Key issues raised at last week's introductory session included taxes, fear, apathy, differences in community perspective, social integration, town-village cooperation, youth concerns, senior citizens, transient and commuter population and ethnic segmentation.

Represented were the German-American Club, Taxpayers Watchdog Committee, VFW, Masons, Ossining Historical Society, Briarcliff Middle School, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Sons of Italy, B'nai B'rith, Town Board, Community Action Program, Croton Avenue Merchants, Briarcliff Board of Education, Briarcliff Teachers Association, Briarcliff Civic and Taxpayers Association, Ossining PTA Council, Girls Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Interfaith Council for Action and Ossining School District.

Town Meeting plans nearing completion

Plans for the Ossining-Briarcliff Town Meeting are nearing completion. Civic, social, business and service organizations are organizing the one-day "Think Tank" to take place Saturday Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ann M. Dornier Middle School. Teams of Town Meeting workers will solicit support from Ossining and Briarcliff merchants Saturday.

The Town Meeting steering committee urges all interested citizens to attend the event requests organizations to send representatives.

Patterned after early American town meetings, the gathering will bring residents together to discuss problems. The program will include workshops in the morning to discuss issues.



After lunch, results of the workshops will be reported and published as a document to be taken home by participants.

The steering committee met Thursday night at the home of Gail Apfel Ar-

NOV. 19-1976

Up to you



"Only you can make it happen," declare flyers and posters around Ossining and Briarcliff. They're referring to Town Meeting '76, to take place Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Anne M. Dornier Middle School.

All organizations and private citizens in Briarcliff and Ossining are urged to attend the think tank session, which is expected to bring about a meeting of local minds.

Child care and a buffet lunch will be provided. The day will include workshops to define and suggest solutions to Ossining and Briarcliff problems, brief talks and a culmination summing up the thoughts of the different workshops.

The program has been coordinated by local people and organizations with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a not-for-profit organization which has coordinated similar events in numerous towns, including Tarrytown and Peekskill. Town Meeting '76 is a national Bicentennial program, officially recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The forum is being financially supported by monetary and in-kind donations by local people and business and morally supported by attendance. Sponsors hope 200 will participate in the forum.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts served. Fee is \$1. Each participant will receive a souvenir workbook and join one of four workshops. The volunteers heading the workshops and have attended several training sessions. The morning workshops will identify the challenge facing the community.

Prior to the workshops there will be a brief presentation on "The New World" of America's third century.

During the lunch interlude, local dignitaries will be introduced and a group from the Edelweiss Club of Westchester will dance.

In the afternoon, the workshops will reconvene to develop practical proposals for meeting challenges. Following the workshops, everyone will gather for a plenary session to pool their ideas. A document containing the challenges, proposals and a Town Meeting '76 song will be produced, and each participant will take one home.

Cochairmen of the steering committee are Francine Vernon, president of the Ossining Board of Education; Judy Ranieri, a private citizen and Tony Tramontelli of the Jaycees. Others in leadership roles are Ira Weinbaum of the Jaycees, Marvin Silver of Briarcliff, treasurer, Audrey Brown, Citizen Register managing editor; Ralph Williams, Interfaith Council for Action; Ernest Ascherman, community schools director; David Long, executive director of the Greater Ossining Chamber of Commerce.

NOV. 12-1976

rangements for decorations, meals, workshop leaders, typists and baby sitters, among other things were made.

The Town Meeting is being coordinated in cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a non-profit research and training group which has guided numerous similar events.

Overall chairmen are Tony Tramontelli, Francine Vernon and Judy Ranieri. Among the organizations involved in developing the Town Meeting idea over the summer are The Jaycees, League of Women Voters, Chamber of Commerce, Community Action Program, Inter-Faith Council for Action, The Citizen Register and school administration.

NOV. 28-1976

Ossining past; Ossining future

One of the products of the Ossining-Briarcliff Town Meeting '76 was the story of the Town of Ossining titled "Story of the Past-Dreams of the Future". It is reprinted here in its entirety.

Ossining's past can be categorized by its small town atmosphere with old fashioned service type stores and strong neighborhood ties. Ossining's character attracted people of diverse backgrounds and talents to fill wide-ranging local job opportunities. This community's location on the Hudson River also made it a desirable place in which to live. In the past, it was easier to organize our human resources because of the small, self-contained nature of the community.

The change in the Ossining character can be seen as a move from a farm and estate community to a commuter community which spent much of its time out of the Ossining area.

The struggle to exist and to develop characterizes Ossining's present. With growth in the commuter population, the geographic enlargement of the community, curtailment of public transportation, and the decline of the tax base, communication gaps between people have widened. As a result the diverse population became more polarized and individual identification with

the community became more difficult to maintain. Recognition of the needs of a community in transition resulted in such organizations as the Ossining community council, Interfaith Council for Action, Open Door, Ossining Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Police Services, etc.

Recognition of a need to again tap and better utilize community resources, physical, financial and human to solve the present problems and move us to the Ossining of tomorrow is the theme that recurs in looking at present struggles.

An Ossining that offers an improving quality of life for its citizens is a major dream for the future. It will be an Ossining that is more people and services oriented. It will reclaim the Riverfront; provide affordable housing; better use technological advances; expand the type and delivery of services; and promote recreational, cultural and social offerings to a multigenerational population. The Ossining of the future will have intravillage public transportation system, a people service center; enlarged continuing educational opportunities for all its citizens and a revitalized image.

These dreams require cooperation, coordination and commitment by the people and by the local governmental agencies.

Town Meeting '76 generates proposals

WARWICK - The following is a condensation of the proposals created at Warwick Town Meeting '76 on Saturday, June 19:

We, Citizens of Warwick, in order to discover priorities of town residents and to have a basis for future planning, propose

- 1) public opinion polls
- 2) door-to-door canvassing
- 3) neighborhood meetings
- 4) more Town Meetings, such as this.

We, Citizens of Warwick, in order to produce a better informed public and a more responsive and accountable government, propose

- 1) requiring that public officials make easily available background information on how decisions are reached
- 2) educational programs on town government in schools
- 3) public election of members of Board of Ethics
- 4) a comprehensive program for the dissemination of information through currently existing facilities
- 5) position papers, stating pros and cons of important issues

6) requiring public officials to disclose real estate and corporate holdings

7) statement of desired goals made by politicians at beginning of each year, and report on goals reached at end of year.

We, Citizens of Warwick, in order to keep taxes at a minimum while providing necessary services, propose

- 1) establishment of a volunteer Citizens' Tax Committee to review all new tax measures and research tax savings proposals
- 2) year round education
- 3) full state financing of education
- 4) consolidation of state, county, and municipal services and use of facilities
- 5) self-support of public facilities
- 6) creation of an auxiliary police force
- 7) volunteer work by citizens to create and maintain recreation facilities

We, Citizens of Warwick, in order to stimulate participation in the community, propose

- 1) a citizens' economic advisory task force to establish guidelines for long

range economic planning and to make specific recommendations.

2) inclusion of a student-elected youth representative to the Town Board, who would sit as an advisory (non-voting) member

We, Citizens of Warwick, in order to form a more satisfying community, propose to provide a community center with facilities for all ages, by means of bond issues, community fund-raising, lobbying for political support, citizen involvement in decision-making and volunteer work by citizens themselves.

ADVERTISER
PHOTO NEWS
Warwick, N.Y.

JUNE 30-1976

New York

Fine Response To Town Meeting

By BARBARA MATHEWS
Reflector Staff Writer
Over 150 Greenville residents participated yesterday in the Greenville Town Meeting, one of 5,000 one-day community forums comprising Town Meeting '76 across the nation.

According to the Rev. James H. Bailey, chairman of the steering committee for the meeting, the response to the program was "really great."

"People are excited about the chance to speak on issues that concern them," he said.

"Some of the politicians that attended said that for the first time they were hearing some real ground-level thought."

The purpose of the meeting was to involve a cross-section of the population in a problem-solving session to clarify goals for Greenville's future.

"The cross-section we had was great," said Rev. Bailey. "We had everyone from Ph.D.'s to people who cannot read and write. Few of the participants were Greenville natives. The people were all so positive. They feel a real affection for Greenville."

The day-long forum was divided into two sessions: a morning meeting for identifying the present challenges the city is facing, and an afternoon meeting to suggest solutions for those problems.

Challenges discussed by the group included improving racial equality, city beautification, allocation of resources between city and county governments,

political apathy, youth education and cross-cultural communication.

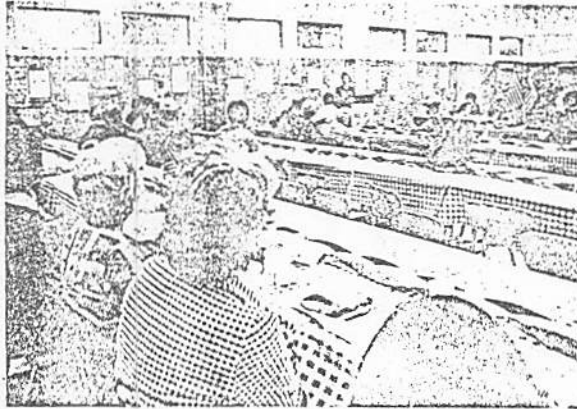
Specific proposals suggested were job training for the handicapped and disadvantaged; implementation of citizen input through a citizens' council; development of a Beauty in Greenville Committee and a series of follow-up mini-town meetings.

Participants in the meeting also wrote a town slogan ("Get on the Move; Put the Energy Back in Greenville"), a town symbol, and a town song.

Representatives to the Institute of Cultural Affairs acted as consultants for the meeting. Billy and Sandra Stinson of Greenville provided en-

tertainment during the lunch hour.

Rev. Bailey expressed gratitude to the merchants and businesses who contributed to the event. "We've had great cooperation for this event," he said. "And it has been a success. You do not have to have large numbers of people to hear the voice of the people."



OPENS TOWN MEETING . . . Councilwoman Millie McGrath (standing, center) welcomed participants attending the Town Meeting held Saturday at Rose High School. Discussions on

Greenville's future constituted the principal theme of the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. meeting. (Reflector Staff Photo By Tommy Forrest)

THE OLD FORT DISPATCH

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD THAT PUTS OLD FORT, N.C. FIRST

OCTOBER 28, 1976

TOWN MEETING SUCCESS

Less than a hundred Old Fort citizens attended the Town Meeting '76 held Saturday, Oct. 23, at Old Fort School.

However, as one leader pointed out, more than 5% of the population of Old Fort was there.

"Your words can shape America's next 200 years" was the theme of the meeting.

A welcome was given to the group by the Rev. Richard Holshouser, one of the co-ordinators.

Various songs were then sung.

Odell Parker, school superintendent thanked the sponsoring organization, the ICA, and Gary Gibson of Conover, Texas addressed participants on a "New Perspective" Mayor Jack Lytle introduced Representative Glenn Morris

made a brief address. Mr. Morris is a descendant of Sam Davidson, who first owned 640 acres upon which the Town of Old Fort is situated. He touched upon the history of the region.

A talk workshop was led in the morning by Mrs. Lorraine Edwards. A discussion on practical and proprietary for future goal took up the forenoon hours.

A light lunch was available in the cafeteria, and a concert by the West McDowell Junior High Band was enjoyed before the afternoon session.

The afternoon sessions brought out the following conclusions, and led to suggested remedies:

Old Fort is beset by the fact that prices are high, inventories are small, and there are few opportunities to give news, indicating little or no incentive to move from individuality towards community planning. This is illustrated by the unavailability of housing, higher gasoline prices in Old Fort, and the fact that all local news is not made available to the local paper, and few new businesses are being established.

Water Resources: In the area of economic resources, the fact was brought out that we have an inadequate water system due to a lack of revenue, because of restricted corporate limits, and the number of individuals residing in the City limits. Thus, we cannot support a motel, and cannot ask new businesses to move in because of insufficient water supplied.

In regard to the water system in Old Fort a proposal was made to have a county water system authority through petitioning the County Commissioner.

In the area of developing, "Political Awareness", the suggestion was made that a meeting of town officials and representatives from each community be held to determine needs of the Town, and areas particularly with regard to school traffic. It was suggested this be done by contracting industries thru community clubs or churches.

A plan to establish an economic base for Community development through a revenue raising plan was broken down as follows: 1. Develop a planning committee made up of business, factories, individuals, and local officials.

2. Appealing to plant management for assistance. 3. Continuous search for federal and other economic aid programs.

4. Keeping local paper informed on Community financial needs and request publication of same.

Regarding Community Responsibility, the group concluded that in order to make better use of all our resources, human and otherwise, the citizens of Old Fort should propose to make or devise a plan to use each person singly or in group, according to his or her ability through contacting responsible individuals in each area for leadership, and by writing letters to newspapers.

Steering Committee members who gave unstintingly of their time and effort to make Town Meeting '76 a success

Lorraine Edwards, Mary Lee Lytle, Richard Holshouser, Ruby Grant, Bob Smith, Linda McGinnis, Mr. Odell Parker, Carol Piper, Nelson Langley, Ken Griffin, Lenora Padgham, Thurman Padgham, James Lytle, James Edmunds, Ann Allison, Wayne Linton, Luther Hemphill, Herbert Jenkins.

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EDITORS NOTE: Next week will conclude the report on the Town Meeting '76, giving credit to those responsible for the entire adventure in community unity.

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DEVILS LAKE (ND) JOURNAL 1 5, 743
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1971

'Town Meeting' Plans Are Made

A "Town Meeting '77" planning meeting was held Saturday afternoon at the Artclare Motel. The planning group voted to formulate a steering committee and proceed with planning for the "Town Meeting" to be held in late March or early April in Devils Lake.

Attending Saturday's informational meeting were Leonard Michalski, Joe Walter, Lloyd Pederson, John Logan, Mrs. Joe Connor, Art Hunt, Mac Bryant, Doris Greenleaf, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Konzak, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Goulding, Elaine Hillier, Merrill Berg and Rodger Wetzel. Consultants from the ~~Institute of Cultural Affairs~~ attending the meeting were Virginia Pierce and Dorothy Roof.

"The Town Meeting" is a one-day, community-wide event, usually held on a Saturday for 200 or more people, including persons from all walks of life, from students to senior citizens, and representing a variety of community interests. During the day these people discuss and document the problems and challenges facing them and develop recommendations and proposals for the coming year. To be continually effective, it is hoped that this can be an annual community event.

A steering committee of approximately 12 persons will meet on a weekly basis to continue planning for the "Town Meeting." The first regular planning meeting will be held Thursday noon at the Artclare Motel. All interested persons are invited to attend.

DEVILS LAKE (ND) JOURNAL 1 5, 743
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1971

Town Meeting Is Scheduled For Saturday

"Town Meeting '77" will be held at 7 P.M. Saturday at the Artclare Motel. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The "Town Meeting" concept has proven to be a valuable community-wide event particularly for rapidly changing and growing communities such as Devils Lake. Community leaders, businessmen, employees, farmers, homemakers, students, retired persons and others will have an opportunity to comment on the directions of this community and its betterment.

Several North Dakota communities already have had or are planning Town Meetings and are working with the Institute of Cultural Affairs which has helped with the organization. A representative of the Institute will attend the meeting on Saturday.

North
Dakota

Grassroots democracy pays off for area town

By CHRIS EVERSOLE

LONDON, O. — Grassroots democracy is alive in this Central Ohio community.

In the past six weeks, citizens have begun working on three projects to make the area a better place to live.

People involved include students, housewives, senior citizens, businessmen and elected officials.

The projects are revitalizing the downtown building a community center and determining other projects citizens want to work on together.

THE NEW CITIZEN involvement grew out of London's town meeting on Jan. 22.

About 150 local people joined in the all-day meeting. They followed a format developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) in cooperation with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

"THE MOST significant thing about the day was people found out many other people were interested in similar goals," said town meeting steering committee member Lee Franklin. "If it hadn't been for town meeting, these people never would have gotten together."

During the meeting, participants were divided into four workshops.

All ideas were welcomed. Each participant told at least one of his "hopes and dreams" for the community.

THEN SMALLER groups studied similar issues and wrote "challenges."

"An every-man-for-himself syndrome," wrote one group, is shown by the local Red Cross chapter being about to fold, by failure of attempts to create a youth center and by difficulty in getting people to attend town meeting itself.

The event wasn't all work. There was group singing and entertainment along the way.

One group spent the afternoon writing a new community song and a community "story" and drew a community symbol. These creations are being used by the groups working on civic projects.

MAYOR STEPHEN Smith was one of the members of the steering committee that began working on town meeting in October.

"I'm very pleased with the results," he said. "Town meeting got people involved who had never been active in anything in this community," he said.

"It helped me because now I won't have to appoint committees on projects like downtown restoration and a community center. I think it's better to have volunteers than to have to talk people into serving on committees."

Forty-five Ohio communities have held town meetings in the last two years. Results in other areas include:

• A fund drive for a community center raised over \$1 million in Shelby.

Town meeting coordinator Ruth Long

Council thanked, encouraged by Town Meeting participants

FAIRFIELD—A group of participants in the Fairfield Town Meeting, held last Saturday, appeared Monday night before Fairfield City Council to present a booklet containing a resume of the Town Meeting events.

Presenting each council member the booklet, the group also included a statement to those involved in city government: "We...wish to express our

gratitude to those members of council and city government who participated in our meeting. Your presence and support contributed greatly to the success of the meeting, and we are all encouraged at the interest and sincerity we saw from our elected officials.

"We take pleasure in offering to council this document, the product of

our Town Meeting, and look forward to council's response to the challenges and proposals contained therein.

"We further would like to offer the services of the Town Meeting participants to help or assist council in the study, development or implementation of those proposals upon which council may wish to act."

said the community center had been in the planning stages before town meeting, but people hadn't decided to work together on the fund drive until the meeting.

• In Columbus, a town meeting focusing on educational issues showed participants a new way to work together, according to steering committee member Mrs. Sue Phillips. Town meeting methods have been adapted for use in civil rights workshops under the Human Rights Development Project.

• The Cincinnati suburb of Mt. Airy has regular follow-up town meetings. A local civic organization has been revitalized and merchants have intensified redevelopment plans for the commercial district.

Television star Bob Braun, a Mt. Airy resident, said, "I went to town meeting with the normal skepticism about civic events designed to increase citizen participation. But I took away with me a genuinely rekindled faith in government by the people."

Rep. Chalmers Wylie (R-Columbus) spoke at the London town meeting and noted that, unlike people behind the Iron Curtain, Americans "have a privilege in being able to participate in the democratic process."

ON THE OPPOSITE side of the political fence, Lt. Gov. Richard Celeste is working on an effort to develop a Town Meeting Ohio Day on May 21.

A state-wide steering committee made up of 65 ministers, corporation executives, educators, members of social service organizations and politicians are working to plan a town meeting in each of Ohio's 88 counties on that day.

Honorary co-chairmen of the Town Meeting Ohio Committee are Celeste, Cincinnati City Council member Bobbie Sterne and football star Archie Griffin.

ROBERT BOOHER, director of ICA's Cincinnati office, noted delegates from all Ohio town meetings will meet on June 4 in a Town Meeting Assembly. They will work on ways to keep citizen participation alive in the state.

Booher said ICA's purpose in developing town meetings was to help local people experience "a new way of effectively dealing with critical issues."

"Town meeting has had a greater impact that we ever imagined Ohio has held more town meetings than any other state. It's been an incredible experience," Booher declared.

Westwood-Cheviot first with 2nd Town Meeting

By ROGER MILLER

The eyes of the nation are on the procedures and results of the recent second session of the Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting '76 — because it was the first locally followed-through session of its kind in the United States.

And the community participants and steering committee aren't letting the nation down.

In its first convening after the second town meeting, the steering committee crystallized the public proposals down to a first-round project. This is development of a community directory of all civic bodies and business services for each of the Westwood and Cheviot areas. Each directory would be located for public convenience in the Westwood Town Hall and Cheviot City Hall.

ASSIGNED TO coordinate preparation of the directories is Rick Sage, superintendent of the Westwood Town Hall, Harrison and Montana Aves., where both town meetings were held Nov. 22 and Feb. 28.

Charles Hagen and Erwin Reupert, co-chairmen of the town meeting's community steering committee, invite all interested persons to attend the committee's next session at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, in the town hall to help plan the new indexes. Prime purposes of the directories will be as a fast-check emergency resource and as a get-acquainted index for newcomer families.

Attending the committee's latest meeting were Hagen and Sage plus com-

W.H. Press 3-17-76

mittee secretary Pait Voorhis (from the Oak Hills Junior Woman's Club); Robert Brodbeck, president of the Westwood Civic Assn.; Rev. Christopher Neely, rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Westwood; Elsie Sperber, of the Cheviot American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (ARBC), and Anita Brueschaber.

The directory project is compatible with the first-priority recommendation among the 12 objectives set by the first town meeting — that of establishing a community action force that will create a community structure to inform citizens and implement community projects.

THE UNUSUAL national importance

Bicentennial town meeting

By ROGER MILLER

WESTWOOD — Do you feel the individual has lost his voice in influencing the future of his community? Have any ideas on how to improve communications among neighbors and to restore trust in public officials?

Westwood and Cheviot residents will have the opportunity to answer these and other provocative questions in the old New England "meetinghouse" way on Nov. 22.

The event is "Town Meeting '76," to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Westwood Town Hall, Harrison and Montana Aves., by the national Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) with the cooperation of many Western Hills organizations and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

of the second community session of the Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting '76 on Feb. 28 was emphasized at its opening assembly by co-chairman Hagen. He said that the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), which sponsors all such town meetings in the nation, "is watching the Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting as the first in the nation to enter a second phase."

Verifying that reputation was Mrs. Jane Booher, of the ICA regional headquarters in Springdale. "Our speakers at other town meetings throughout Ohio and the nation have been telling about the great master plan devised by the first Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting and of plans for this second meeting."

Co-chairmen of the Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting '76 are Charles Hagen, representing the Cheviot-Westwood Business Assn. and Cheviot Police Assn., and Erwin Reupert, representing the Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanis Club and Cheviot American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Reupert attended community Town Meeting '76 sessions in Washington, Court House, Ohio, in August and in Wyoming, Ohio, on Sept. 27.

Invited to attend as resource persons are city council members and other municipal officials from Cincinnati and Cheviot. A pre-registration fee of only \$2 per person will cover the lectures, community workshops and luncheon and should be mailed by Nov. 18 to: Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting, P.O. Box 1776, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211.



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER for the second Westwood-Cheviot Town Meeting '76 on Saturday, Feb. 28, says Rick Sage, crouched, and Bob Brodbeck, standing. They are on the community committee that invites all area residents and concerned groups to attend this town meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Westwood Town Hall, Harrison and Montana Aves. Purpose will be to seek to activate the community recommendations from the first town meeting, Nov. 22, for improvements in social and economic inter-relationships in the area during the next two years. Reservations should be made promptly either with Sage in the Westwood Town Hall or with the Charles Hagen Insurance Agency, 3315 Harrison Ave. (Charles Hagen photo)

WHP-2-18-76

OHIO

The Western Hills PRESS

Medford, March 31
Wakita town meeting called "Great"

Wakita's Town and Community Meeting last Saturday was characterized by optimism and enthusiasm. The slogan, "We Created a Town and Survived!" and the story, "The New Wakita" were originated by a workshop group under the leadership of Roger Stearns, pastor of the Christian Church.

That group also wrote a song, "Wakita, the Place where we Love to Live," to the tune of "The Happy Wanderer." They made the town symbol, featuring a sunrise above the town skyline with rays designed like an Indian headdress, and a glimpse of early agriculture depicted by a horse-drawn plow. Monte Horning did the art work.

The other three workshops, led by Lois Hardesty, George McCleynus and Walter Webb, discussed economic, political, and cultural needs of the community, and came up with a number of practical proposals, one of which is for a "May Day" clean up, spruce up, and celebration.

Another proposal is that people write their Congressmen, favoring a change in hospital regulations that will apply to and be practical for a rural, multi-purpose health care center such as ours. Other proposals for long range planning included establishing a Dairy Queen, or similar place, increasing job opportunities, trying to bring in more industry, providing housing, and promoting other community improvement.

There were three general assemblies during the day, with Richard Hardesty serving as M. C. These included a welcome by the Mayor, Dr. Donald Graves, group singing, a potluck lunch, a concert by the High School Stage Band, under the direction of Tom Broad, the reading of prize-winning essays written by the 7th through 11th grade students for the occasion, presentation of winning "Town Meeting" posters made by grades 4, 5, and 6, and short inspirational speeches made by our guest staff members, Miss Joyce Carlson and Dr. Donald Elliot. They were very complimentary of the work that was done during the day by members of the Community, as they talked about their dreams for Wakita, formulated challenges, and made practical proposals. Dr. Elliot said that of the many Town Meetings in which he had participated, with each one providing local entertainment, the Wakita Stage Band was the best. Also, it was quite favorably impressed by our Community Health Center, as Dr. Graves took him on a tour of the facility.

At the close of the last session, each participant received a 16 page mimeographed document of the day's happenings. It includes the symbol, Motto, Story, and Song, a copy of the Mayor's Proclamation and of the telegram he received from Senator Bartlett, commending him and the Community for participation in the Town Meeting. The document also includes names of those registered (although some persons attended whose names did not get on the list), copies of all the challenges and proposals, a list of corporations that have contributed to the Town Meeting program, and a sample letter for writing to your congressman.

This document was produced by Mary Olive Cromwell and her typing students: Janice Reneau, Gail Schmitz, Rhonda Wilczek, and others. Production of it was especially remarkable, considering that much of the material was not prepared until 4 o'clock and the 100 documents were ready for distribution by 5:00.

In the evaluation session which followed, it was called a great day, reflecting optimism in regard to economic, cultural and political improvement. Members referred to it as Grass Roots Democracy and hoped that proposals might be carried out. They also expressed a desire for similar meetings in the future.

from all the reports the town meetings held in Wakita and Nash were successful. They allowed the people to get together and discuss problems and make plans for the future. While most of the towns in the state sponsored meetings a number did not. Medford, with paid personnel to sponsor things of this sort failed to take part in the project.

walkways outside and how "we need more indoor recreational facilities in the east."

The day began with a listing of every need or problem that anybody in the group wanted to call out, and then the big list was to be honed down to 20 by a group vote of raised hands. They were trying to put together by the end of today a list of their ideas of the most important things to be done and how to get the job finished.

Social studies teacher Adam Adwon read through a list of 49 suggestions made by his room of some 150 seventh graders and turned it over to the group: "Now we need a decision . . ."

Hands shot up for the ideas of "a skateboard park on the south side," "more bike trails" and "fix the streets," while "move Disneyland to the north side" rated only a few snickers.

"These are their own ideas," said school activities director Jean Winters. "We gave them no items to discuss . . . It's something brand new here, and we think they've done an outstanding job."

Other ideas up for the vote in the classrooms of Webster ranged from "more solar heated homes," "better garbage service" and "school buses on time" to "put Six Flags in Oklahoma" and "better animal care."

"I suggested longer breaks between classes, because some classes are farther away than others," said 12-year-old Felicia Williams.

The meetings were being sponsored by the Committee for Oklahoma Town Meeting 100. Some of the city grade schools will be meeting tomorrow instead of today, and a bigger meeting of high school students is scheduled later this month.

Sooner Citizens Air Concerns at Town Meetings

By Lynn Hamilton

Oklahomans who attended town meetings across the state Saturday expressed strong concern about the lack of citizen involvement and responsible leadership in their towns. It's a sampling of the response shown.

Coordinators of 13 town meetings, which were among nearly 100 held Saturday, said a major concern repeatedly expressed was the fact that people are either afraid or not willing to become active in solving their community's problems.

The lack of communication between citizens and with their government officials was also noticed as a frequent concern.

"Our main topic of concern was the lack of communication among our citizens," said Mrs. L. Bentley, who said citizens who attended the Randall town meeting in south Cotton County "had a tremendous response."

The meetings were held to discuss local issues and to develop grass roots momentum. Gov. Horton named Saturday Oklahoma Town Meeting Day.

Representatives from the town meeting will meet next Saturday in Oklahoma City to compile the citizen responses.

In Atoka, Mrs. Lois Blackmon said the 25 people who attended the Pontotoc County community meeting discussed the need for better economic and cultural stability and the need for more communication.

In Blackwell, nearly 150 persons attended the town meeting, said coordinator Lila Blank.

Besides discussion of the need for improvements in streets, residential upkeep and monetary problems, the Kay County residents said they face a challenge to become more involved and to ease political mistrust, she said.

A different proposal came out of the town meeting in Erick, in far western Beckham County. The 36 children who attended a children's town meeting while the adults met separately suggested what the town really needs is an ice cream parlor.

In Okemah, 54 persons decided the challenges facing the Okfuskee County community include youth problems, retention of tourist resources and the improvement of the financial and political environment.

In Wagoner, Mrs. Lorraine Harlow said the 26 Wagoner County residents who attended the meeting said the community lacks individuals who are willing to accept involvement, due to "an inactive community spirit and fear of repercussions."

Small fry get charge out of stating views

By Ron Wolfe

School "town meetings" going on today throughout the city were giving young people from first grade into high school the chance, in effect, to step up to the school board, the mayor and state governor and tell 'em what's what.

"We're part of this world. They ought to listen to us," said 14-year-old Scott Cothey, an eighth grader at Webster Middle School in southwest Oklahoma City.

Agreed 12-year-old Sandy Stricener. "We have no opinion. But usually, we don't have any say over what happens to us."

Today was different.

The whole day was being given over at Webster, as at every other middle school in the city system, to a series of "town meetings" giving everybody a chance to speak up.

"Our class felt free to say things we've never said before," said Webster seventh grader Lori Killingsworth, 13.

The focus of the day was on community-level sore spots and what ought to be done to make things better.

"Stopping pollution and conserving energy; that's what I thought was the most important," said 12-year-old Jeffrey Vickers, a sixth grader. And Jonathan Roberts, 11, nodded his support.

"Some of 'em said they wanted a 'free Friday' with no school," Jonathan said — "but that's no good, because we'd just have to make it up at the end of the year."

Bryant Foster, 12, said the dumbest idea he'd heard all day was "waiters in the cafeteria." He wanted to talk about the school meeting covered

Jan Eskew, Webster Middle School teacher, lists on a blackboard some of the ideas of youngsters there for needed community im-

provements as the school took part in a city-wide "town meeting."

Times staff photo by Joe Miller

Oklahoma



Towns Meet Amid Cheers

By Lynn Hamilton
 "We can't say, let George do it, cuz George has already died of exhaustion. We're going to have to do it ourselves."

It was a simple enough remark, but the people who filled the Skirvin Plaza Ballroom responded with whoops and stamps and pounded on the tables that filled the room.

For these folks from Oklahoma's smallest towns and largest cities, the "do it ourselves" idea was cemented into a philosophy Saturday which they hope will change their hometowns and maybe their lives.

From the far corner of the Panhandle and cities stretching to the borders of the state, about 350 persons came to represent their towns in the Oklahoma Town Meeting 100 Assembly.

They were there to learn what each of them could do to solve the frustration citizens feel when confronted by insensitive government officials, problems among their youth and every other problem which faces a community.

At the end of the day-long assembly, when Petrova Tipton of Davenport stood up to say, "We're going to have to do it ourselves," the crowd had reached a pitch of enthusiasm which in a day anything seems possible.

"You want to improve communication among your citizens. It's possible! You want to improve the industry picture in your towns. It's possible!" Bill Bailey, an official of the Institute of Cultural Affairs in Oklahoma City, told the crowd it's time to ignore negativism and go ahead with what needs to be done.

"I told somebody we could have a state as-

sembly based on 100 town meetings and they told me I was out of my tree," Bailey told the laughing group. "There's a time to build and a time to tear down. You and I have just witnessed 25 or 30 years of tearing down. Now is the time for building up."

The representatives from Oklahoma's towns and cities came together to share the results of town meetings held in about 100 towns March 26.

The assembly was hailed as the first in the nation where representatives from town meetings held simultaneously throughout a state came together to share the results.

From 9 a.m. Saturday, the people divided into three groups, based on the size of their towns. They discussed the economic, cultural and political challenges which they believe their cities face.

Over and over again came the expression that people must get involved in their own government and city affairs before anything will be done.

And with occasional barbs directed at the federal bureaucracy, the crowd vowed to get involved. "Let's try to solve our own problems without going to Washington," Kathy Hawkins, Blackwell, urged the crowd, receiving thundering applause in answer.

Ron Crisp, Porum, representing those from towns of population less than 1,000, said the greatest problems facing small towns are economic ones, such as the lack of industry suitable for small towns.

"We suggested that community involvement with strong lead-

ership in addition to the city government is needed," Crisp said.

Harold Finney, Eufaula, a retired military man, said the cities of 1,000 to 10,000 population must work to improve business and consumer communication, provide minority business opportunities, improve sensitivity of the municipal government to the community and increase accountability to the citizens.

Members of this population group also suggested planned community expansion, youth councils to learn about city government and educational and historical programs.

Similar concerns were expressed by Sheryl Fletcher, Ponca City, who represented the towns with populations of 10,000 and above.

"The underlying discussion involved the need to know and the need to act," she said, adding that the citizens in her group felt a need to see they could have impact upon their city government.

Dr. Thomas L. Whitsett, of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and president of Town Meeting: Oklahoma 100, Inc., said he believes Oklahoma is leading the nation by holding such a statewide assembly.

"I think we have a great gift to give the nation and the world," Whitsett said, adding that at least 14 other states are looking at Oklahoma's assembly as a model for future meetings in their states.

"This meeting demonstrates to people that you can do about any-

thing if people work hard enough together. I expect to see some very exciting results come out of this," he said.

The nonprofit group of which Whitsett is president worked with the nonprofit Institute of Cultural Affairs to plan the town meetings, which were modeled after similar meetings held in 26 Oklahoma communities as a Bicentennial event in 1976.

Following the meeting, the participants received printed documents containing all the decisions and actions taken by the group during the day.

Spokesmen from several towns said they have set up steering committees in their towns which will work to continue the efforts of the town meetings.



Trading Ideas

Town meeting representatives from across the state talk over common community problems Saturday at the statewide Town Meeting assembly at the Skirvin Plaza Hotel. From left are Marshall Gamble, Boley; Robert Stephens, Purcell; Cheryl Fletcher, Ponca City; J.D. Sapp, Oklahoma City; and Frances Lowe, Okemah. Story on Page 1. (Staff Photo by Jim Beckel)

Students invited to present ideas

Oklahoma City public school students from first graders to high school seniors will be given a chance Thursday and Friday to say what they think about community problems and what ought to be done.

All of the city's schools will join in some way in a series of "town meetings" as part of the program created by the Committee for Oklahoma Town Meeting 100. "The teachers will play the role of workshop leaders, and the students will be workshop participants," said committee volunteer consultant Jan Latham.

Suggestions listed by the students of each school — "especially the middle schools and high schools" — will be offered Saturday in a meeting to bring together the ideas of other "town meetings" representing 100 Oklahoma communities, she said.

The meeting Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Skirvin Plaza Hotel will involve not just school programs but meetings attended the week before by people of other towns and cities.

"Our whole focus is on the local community," Jan Latham said. "We're not creating a state program. The meeting Saturday is to pull together everyone to see what's been decided."

It is toward that goal that all-day "town meetings" have been scheduled Thursday in all of the city's middle schools and 13 elementary schools, and a pilot meeting for a three per cent representation of students from each high school.

Fifty-four other elementary schools will hold their "town meetings" on Friday.

The meeting of high school students Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the schools administration building, 999 N Klein, will be the preliminary to a bigger meeting scheduled for them on April 14.

A featured part of the program in each school will be entertainment by the students during lunch, and special activities keyed to the "town meeting" theme are planned for the youngest children.

Portland, Oregon
Oregon Journal
(Cir. D. 115,123)

MAR 14 1977

Oregon City's town meeting unlike those of pioneer days

By ROBERTA ULRICH

OREGON CITY (UPI) — The oldest incorporated city west of the Rocky Mountains went back to its roots Saturday but Oregon City's first town meeting in decades bore little resemblance to those of pioneer days.

It was long planned, tightly organized and aided by use of slick paper workbooks, lists pinned to the wall and trained discussion leaders. The worst problem of the day was a breakdown in the copy machine.

One of its two coordinators, Brian Gellatly, a real estate dealer and representative of the Jaycees, said he considers the daylong session a success.

"It showed a healthy attitude," Gellatly said. "It was particularly good that we had people in government and a good cross section of the community here today."

He added, "When we asked for comments after the morning session, 10 to 12 people said they thought this meeting showed the potential of people being able to cooperate and that things can be done about problems by the people."

Oregon City, 10 miles south of Portland, lies on the border between su-

burbia and rural areas. Its population grew from 7,996 in 1960 to 9,176 in 1970 to 13,300 today.

It suffers from problems of rapid growth, the conflict between the new suburbanites and the old small town residents and the ever present need for tax money to provide services.

The object of Saturday's meeting, 639th held in the nation under auspices of The Institute of Cultural Affairs and the first in Oregon, was to identify community problems and suggest some solutions for them.

The 250 participants divided into four workshop groups, first to list problems, then to offer solutions. At two general sessions efforts were made to reach a consensus.

Many of the problems cited were related to growth — overcrowding in the schools, downtown traffic, air and water pollution, annexation of border areas, the threat of historic old homes being torn down to make way for apartments. One of the items on which there appeared to be concern by everyone was preservation of the historic aspects of Oregon City, incorporated in 1849.

At a workshop presided over by Ben

Hansen, editor of the daily Enterprise-Courier, nearly every one of the 39 persons contributed at least one idea to the list of 60 economic, political and cultural problems.

A white haired woman offered, "Our government should be open to the problems of the people." A middle-aged man said, "We want a well planned and zoned community with attractive homes and apartments adjacent to parks and with limited growth."

An elderly man added, "Inflation is our biggest problem and there is no stopping it until we have a general crash and start all over again."

A young woman urged "less business growth" and a young man countered, "I want more business growth."

Another man said the city should "blend the new and the historic values."

"What it all comes down to," said another man, "is what kind of town do we want to live in."

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MAY 6 1976

GERMANTOWN COURIER
Philadelphia, Pa. W-41,000

Town Meeting

A Northwest Bicentennial "Town Meeting '76" will take place on May 8 at Cedar Park United Presbyterian Church, Upsal Street and Limestone Pike. The public is invited to participate in an "old-fashioned town meeting with innovative methods and new trimmings," according to spokesmen.

"Northwest Philadelphia Town Meeting '76" will be an all-day community think tank for several hundred residents of all ages, backgrounds and persuasions who will assess the problems and challenges of this area where they live and work. It will last from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Starting with registration over Danish rolls and coffee, participants will then move on to workshops followed by a luncheon and entertainment.

After lunch they will try to work out solutions for the problems identified during the morning session and wind up their eight hours together with a plenary session to summarize the day's work.

Bill Of Rights

They will take home with them a full report of their actions as a guide for future programs in the community as well as an illustrated commemorative work book containing the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

The neighborhoods to be represented in "Northwest Philadelphia Town Meeting '76" are Cedarbrook, Chestnut Hill, East Falls, Germantown, Mount Airy, Roxborough, Manayunk and Walnut Oak Lane. The broadest possible attendance is being sought to insure a significant cross section of the whole area.

Plans Future

January Pilot

An all 11 Philadelphia demonstration "Town Meeting '76" was held in January for three hundred persons at Houston Hall of the University of Pennsylvania. From this forum, six follow-up town meetings of the same general design have spun off, all to be held in the month of May in various geographic parts of the city or for special population segments like students and women.

The Northwest meeting has been developed by a steering committee made up of local residents who attended the January meeting, assisted by consultants from the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a national planning and training group, which has enabled over two hundred town meetings to take place throughout the United States.

By the end of 1976, it is estimated that one thousand will have been held; by December 1977 a possible five thousand. The multiple program is a recognized activity of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's "Horizon Program" to encourage citizens to look ahead to the future as well as the past.

The keynote speaker will be introduced by the day's Master of Ceremonies, Kelly E. Miller, director of field operations of the Youth Services Commission of Philadelphia. Harold McCoo, former YMCA director, will lead singing and the "Gospel Choir" of

the Martin Luther King High School will provide luncheon entertainment.

Many Sponsors

Many organizations, businesses and institutions have joined with the steering committee to sponsor and make possible the "Northwest Philadelphia Town Meeting '76." All will be recognized at the event. Although participation in the workshops will be on an entirely individual basis, civic organizations, professional groups and religious bodies are urged to encourage wide attendance of their members.

The registration fee of \$1 includes lunch and all materials. Child care will be provided.

For further information or advance registration contact "Northwest Philadelphia Town Meeting '76," c/o Institute of Cultural Affairs, 3725 Chestnut Street, at EV 2-9401.

April 26 1976

THE SCRANTON TIMES
Scranton, Pa. PM-55,600

'Town Meeting' Held As Bicentennial Event

A town meeting conducted Saturday at Elm Park United Methodist Church as part of the city's Bicentennial observance attracted 125 persons.

Participants were divided into three workshop groups, with most of the participants described as senior citizens but with a representative number of young and middle-aged persons also present.

At a general session before the close of the meeting, a group of proposals were put together for later submission to proper city officials.

The suggestions call for: —Revision of the public school curriculum to put more stress on the basics of the three "R's."

—A program for the training of volunteers for where they are needed.

—A volunteer citizens legislative committee to examine and to recommend changes in legislation.

—The start of an awards program for examples of outstanding citizenship.

—Scheduling of regular town meetings to provide citizens with a forum to express concern about municipal problems.

Those participating in the meeting listed welfare cheating, a poor attitude for business, housing deterioration, increased crime, a dip in population, lack of citizen participation and party line voting in city council as among the major problems facing the city.



THE DAY-LONG Town Meeting '76 got off to an auspicious start at the Penn-Alto Hotel this morning as a large number of residents appeared to present their views on basic community issues. Calling the meeting to order were (left to right): Brian McCord, member of the steering committee; Connie Shaffer, coordinator, and Dean E. McKnight, master of ceremonies. The meeting included four work-shops.

Town Meeting '76 Underway; Women's Attendance 'Unique'

Town Meeting '76 got underway at the Penn Alto Hotel this morning with 85 participants of which is conducting nearly 5,000 similar town meetings across the nation, set the keynote for the day-long workshops and meetings during the early days of the country, were in a majority.

Women, who had never been permitted to attend town meetings during the early days of the country, were in a majority, Dean E. McKnight, who served as master of ceremonies for the opening session, noted that attendance by the women made the meeting unique.

Ed Shou, a representative of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, said that the meeting is a "unique American" experience. He noted that the meeting is a "unique American" experience.

The groups listed their concerns or issues in the economic, political and cultural areas of the community.

Surprisingly, the various workshops were developing similar lists, which noted the need for better highways, employment opportunities and housing among the economic issues, a desire for less dependence on government, its rapidly escalating costs in the political field, and a higher quality of education and programs for younger people in the cultural area.

Other issues of a higher and broader plane concerned the need to develop better interpersonal relationships, the development of a common vision and the development of a society in which the human dignity of each person is recognized.

Later today, the team members will list factors which block the resolution or realization of the goals of the issues raised. From this review, a "statement of challenge" will be developed for the afternoon session, at which all the participants will be able to speak their mind.

EDITORIAL

STRANGELY LIKE A DREAM

Something vitally important happened here last weekend. And though talk of Town Meeting '76 has been animated and intense for the past month, that talk was nothing more than speculation.

Maybe people who heard the talk wondered what the hoopla was all about. Maybe the people who were doing the talking wondered the same thing.

Now they know.

Whatever was said about Town Meeting '76 up to this point, and whatever is said about it hereafter, can only be discussed on an intellectual level.

What actually happened was not purely intellectual, not even emotional. It came from the gut, if we may. It was, in a word, spiritual.

The experience was much like a dream, thoughly real, retaining a thoroughly valid while it was happening. But attempts to describe it later, as often occurs in the telling of dreams, fall short.

The subject can be related to, it almost is filtered through too many layers of subconscious to be told when it really comes out of words.

It is an experience that is not a mere possible reality of a dream, but is in the act of it, while you are waking, as matter of fact, many of the issues on a mental level, the uncertainty, close to the town meeting, experience persists. It is all but an ache, because the need to do something about it is so urgent.

And you are a very real person, just one of the most intricate parts of our most intricate system. That ache means that the spirit of Town Meeting '76 is still a promise.

It is a promise that was not meant to be easily broken, but it is a promise that is being broken.

For that is the sad thing, that we are not pushing it forward, we are not pushing it forward, we are not pushing it forward, we are not pushing it forward.

As the spirit of the source of inspiration—it should and the flesh will be a source of inspiration.

When set goals are met, progress stops, anticipation ends, and everything becomes, once again, business as usual.

When one goal is no more than a stepping stone to another goal, and that to yet another, enthusiasm builds, progress is never ending.

And that is the reason d'être. Town Meeting '76. Next year, when Town Meeting '77 opens, will Town Meeting '78 participants have voted? Will you be there? Then you'll

REPORTERS

Town Meeting '76 opens lines of communication

By CINDY KRANZ
Register Staff Writer

"We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we will all hang separately."—Benjamin Franklin, 1776.
More than 200 persons came together here Saturday at the Town Meeting and found a new sense of communication with each other about the future of their town.

The steering committee did not intend the meeting to be a gripe session, but rather a vehicle to put the issues in perspective as a first step in solving problems and improving the community. Besides creating challenges of issues and proposals for solutions, the largest accomplishment of the day was the sharing of ideas and concerns.

"We need more traffic regulations. I live on Sixth Street and that's a speedway."

"I've been here for 30 years and my first impression stays with me. We do lots of things for young people but I don't see us doing things with young people."

"Consideration should be given to

controlled growth and not just growth for growth's sake."

"I like the size of Brookings the way it is. I'd just as soon not have it grow very much."

"Government should be more responsive to people without worrying about votes."

"We have quite a long way to go before we have the best schools."

"I don't think some people care enough."

"I think people are paranoid that agreements are made before the city commission meets. I don't think this is an accurate view of government."

"We should spur more locally owned and controlled businesses rather than wining and dining big industries."

"We tend to settle for less because of where we are and who we are."

"There's a lack of personal involvement."

The participants were divided into four groups, decided the top issues in Brookings and wrote challenge statements during the morning session.

In the afternoon, the groups met to decide the cultural, political and economic proposals to solve the challenges. One group met to write the Brookings Chronicle, song and create a symbol.

Participation of youth was evident as eighth grade Middle School social studies students presented proposals for bike paths and various intersections in the community.

The participants met in a final session at 4 p.m. for a self-evaluation of their activities. Some of the comments were:

"A lot of people have a lot of concerns."

"I'm glad there's so much concern about the quality of life."

"Youth should be involved in the political decision-making."

"I'm pleased to see a real compassion for people expressed."

"There's an unlimited number of ideas."

"We've established some new direction in which to go."

Continued on page 10



More than 200 persons participated in the Brookings Town Meeting '76 at the high school Saturday to create challenges and proposals for issues in Brookings. The Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce and several committees will meet to review the proposals and begin steps for implementation. Two of the group leaders who helped direct the meeting were

Tom Anderson, standing at left, and Gary Sheeley. Other leaders were Art Soga, Charlotte Sheeley, Mary Helen Hoppena, Margaret Denton, Linda Reiser, Marla Davenport, Wendell Thompson, Warren Lotsberg, John Davenport and Roy Beard. (Register photo by Cindy Kranz)

SISSETON (SD) REGISTER BY 3:15 P.M.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1977

Area Daily Planning Summary - Feb. 27

County-Town meeting held in Miller

MILLER — More than 300 Miller area people were involved in the County-Town meeting at the Armory here last Saturday.

Sponsored by local civic, agricultural and service organizations, by church groups and youth organizations, the County-Town

meeting was designed to provide information and draw up challenges for a better understanding of the rural and city community in the Miller area.

Discussions were held in four groups in the early morning on what the future of Hand County should and could be.

Group leaders included Walt Ernesti, Duane Aymar, Bob Fawcett, Mavis Soxse, Loretta Suhn, Phyllis Testerman, Leona Engelmann and Irene Collins.

After lunch, which was provided by local sponsors, workshops were held that drew up written proposals to

put into action solutions to the challenges drawn up in the morning group sessions.

Political proposals drawn up included the need to improve cooperation, communication, involvement and understanding for better agreement between people.

Also proposed was a family cultural center for the area, and economic proposals dealt with city and county zoning laws, and an improvement in communication and participation in public meetings and governmental decisions.

In addition, children from kindergartens through sixth grade drew up their own set of proposals, which included an indoor swimming pool, an ice skating rink, a bike trail, and various civic clean-up and improvement projects.

A March 21 meeting will be held to further establish priorities and actions relative to the suggestions brought up at the Feb. 19 County-Town meeting.

Town Meeting Participants To Gather

James Thvedt, who was local coordinator for the Sisseton Town Meeting '76, which was held Nov. 6, has invited all the local participants in that meeting to gather at Grace Lutheran Church on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. to assess the results of the meeting and to consider possible ways in which to follow up on the proposals which were prepared and presented on Nov. 6.

The Town Meeting isolated and expressed needs and proposals in areas of political, cultural and economic concerns. These were printed in a booklet that was distributed at the close of the meeting.

These needs and proposals will be the focus of the meeting Jan. 20. Any interested person is invited and encouraged to attend the follow-up meeting.

The Commercial Appeal, Dec 12 1976

Town Meeting Spawns Desire For More Of Same

About 75 Memphians met yesterday to discuss the city's problems at the Memphis Town Meeting here and proposed, among other things, to hold additional town meetings.

The all-day workshop at the Josephine K. Lewis Center for Senior Citizens at 1188 North Parkway was one of more than 5,000 such meetings held throughout the country. Citizens gathered to discuss their city's problems and present proposals for solutions.

Those attending yesterday's meeting concluded there are problems with a lack of leadership, community involvement,

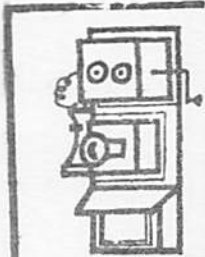
public trust, political and social unity and jobs. There is racial discrimination and a lack of community pride, according to participants.

Participants proposed organizing neighborhood block clubs, a citizenship education series and localized town meetings. Also proposed were attempts to get local subsidies for professional sports and forming public service and neighborhood organizations.

Walter Turner, president of one of the workshop's co-sponsors, the Memphis Jaycees, said participants decided to meet

again at 10 a.m. Jan. 8 to further discuss proposals presented at yesterday's meeting and discuss plans for another town meeting in East Memphis.

MEMPHIS



PARTY LINE By CARL STOREY

THE SPIRIT OF '76 - It was inspirational to see the work and energy put forth by many of the citizens of Troup for the Town Meeting held last Saturday. The program, the decorations and the workshops were all handled in a highly professional manner. Before the day was over more than 160 people from the area had registered. Congratulations to R. C. Lloyd, Mayor Zack Taylor, Rolland Matthews and the many others who made Town Meeting '76 a reality.

TEXAS *East* TIMES

Covering the
Tri-county Complex

10¢ a copy

Troup, Whitehouse, Arp,
New London, Overton,
Price, Bullard

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1976

Vol. 3 No. 36

Texas

Troup Town Meeting brainstorms future

The citizens who brainstormed for Troup's future at the community's Town Meeting Saturday saw the first glimmerings of a new era for the city.

The day drew the citizens together with new hopes. There is no guarantee the hopes will be fulfilled, but as Levoda Jackson commented, "We have a had a dream and we are living in hopes that it will come true."

"We started on a very important journey in Troup, Texas, today," said Mayor Zack Taylor.

Lou Thomas, a coach at Troup High School, said at the close of the day, "We're united in vision; what we need now is to be united in action."

The Town Meeting induced a new spirit of optimism about Troup, "the good neighbor town."

By the end of the day 166 residents of the Troup area had registered at the Town Meeting desk.

One of the most exciting times of the day was the barbecue luncheon at which the Born Again Singers of the First Assembly of God of Troup and the New Life Singers of Troup performed.

State representative Fred Head addressed the community gathering at lunch, also. After remarks about the Troup community he asked the help of area citizens in persuading legislatures to provide for more training of doctors in Texas.

But the discussion groups in the morning and afternoon are where Troup citizens opened the lines of communication and realized that "community" means sharing and cooperation for the future.

During the full day, the citizens brainstormed to identify Troup's most pressing problems and ventured into the future to anticipate what the entire community can do to make Troup the most appealing home town in the region.

The participants sang many patriotic songs throughout the day, including a new town song written to the tune of "This Land is Your Land" by one of the workshop groups.

The song is included in this issue of the paper.

Workshop participants also

wrote a town story (which is in this issue), adopted a town slogan and designed a town symbol.

Among the issues which workshop groups said face Troup are the need of better medical care, the need youth for activity and involvement, a need for improved communication and cooperation in the community, the need for a stronger business district and a better tax structure.

Several of the workshop groups concluded that the underlying causes of Troup's problems are lack of cooperation and apathy.

Proposals to develop community involvement included projects for beautification of Troup, surveys and forums of community needs and the forming of a news gathering center to disseminate information.

Other groups proposed community celebrations, the forming of a steering committee to establish goals for Troup and the use of a page in the local newspapers to present community views and information.

Another workshop division proposed the improvement of civic facilities for public use and creation of forums for political candidates.

On the steering committee for the Town Meeting were R. C. Lloyd, chairman; Johnny Ashby, Frank Singletary and Don English, team leaders; and Connie Lloyd, treasurer.

Those people who assisted in arrangements for the Town Meeting were Women's Ministries of the First Assembly of God Church of Troup, Texas, for the organization and preparation of the noon meal; New Life Singers and the Born Again Singers for entertainment furnished during the meeting; Mrs. Wiley Davis and Debra for cover design; Freda Harder and Carole Wilson and the Troup High School students for decorations and child care; The First United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church for the use of their facilities for planning and meeting.



DREAMING OF A NEW HUMAN SPIRIT—Christine Harris of Washington, D.C., an orchestrator for the Troup Town Meeting, spoke after lunch about "The New Human." She said people from all age groups have something to contribute to the world.

A personal reaction to the Troup town meeting

By DWIGHT CARMICHAEL
I have a positive feeling about Troup since I left the Town Meeting Saturday.

Everyone who attended plans on Troup entering a new era.

Most people agree that the city needs a new, optimistic outlook. What is standing in the way? Nothing, if the people decide they want Troup to excel in cooperation and vision. Pessimists are convinced that there is no hope, that positive programs "will never happen in Troup," and that free discussion is a waste of time.

Optimists believe there is hope if enough work is done, that positive programs will happen when citizens think positively and that neighbors can be trusted enough to be

heard. Perhaps some Troupites will never fit into a new era.

It won't be because of age, because the town needs good citizens of all ages.

It won't be because the "good old days" will be completely discarded. As one workshop leader said about progressivism vs. traditionalism: "You gotta have both."

The ideal is for everyone to fit in if he will offer constructive input.

The citizens who missed the Town Meeting should not feel left out. Civic-minded citizens should come forth—they are needed.

Such events nourish the dream of a new, improved Troup. And that in the long run will be good for everybody's business.

The Tooele BULLETIN

Volume Sixty-One

Tooele, Utah, Tuesday, March 1, 1977

Price: Fifteen Cents

Coordinators Spell Out Plans For Town Meeting

A group of Tooele City residents, advised by Institute of Cultural Affairs volunteer Kitty Overall, began laying plans for a massive "town meeting" Thursday night.

THE CIVIC event, planned to take place Saturday, April 30, will give residents from every part of Tooele a chance to "provide their input and help set priorities for the future progress of their community," according to Jack Cox, one of two town meeting coordinators chosen to help organize the gathering.

"This will not be an av-grinding session, but a chance for local residents to give their community some real direction," Cox said Monday.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance in organizing and laying the groundwork for a productive town meeting, according to Mrs. Overall.

SHE SAID the ICA has helped with similar meetings in numerous other Utah communities with encouraging success.

"In Price, 300 people showed

up," Cox said, describing some of those other meetings. "In American Fork city officials felt the meeting was a great success because it gave them something from the community to go on."

A steering committee of 15 other local residents will be chosen in the near future according to Ron Woodland, another coordinator of the town meeting effort.

MRS. OVERALL said the steering committee will determine what groups or individuals to contact in order to assure all the community's interest groups are involved in planning the meeting.

"Tooele has a lot of different clubs and organizations such as the Kiwanis, Elks and Lions and others who can be involved," she explained. "The more people involved in planning, the more will be involved in the actual town meeting itself."

"A lot of people have a feeling, I think, that a meeting is automatically dull and dry," she continued. "And a town meeting may give people the idea that it will be a political thing where people will just have to sit and

listen. But when people get involved in preparing for it they begin to see that it is their meeting."

ACCORDING to Mrs. Overall the meeting should be an event where residents can bring their concerns and hopes and get them out in an objective way by the benefit of the entire community, and then come up with some practical ways to fulfill the needs of the people.

She said the town meeting will be an all-day-long affair including workshops conducted by local residents trained to direct the planning carried on by groups of 50 or more residents.

"One of the workshops, for example, will help residents plan and develop some activities to help boost the local community identity, for example," said Mrs. Overall.

SHE SAID the workshops in the morning will be directed in such a way to identify the main needs of the community by listening to input from the citizens.

"After lunch and a relaxation period with some local entertainment performing for the group,

in the afternoon they will go to a secret, take the morning challenges and vote actual proposals including concrete things that can be done to handle these challenges."

The entire group will gather in the morning at noon and in the evening to report on what was accomplished in the workshop meetings, according to Mrs. Overall.

COX SAID Tooele High School has already volunteered its facilities to house the town meeting activities. High school students will also be on hand to copy up proposals and handle some of the paper work generated by the planning, according to Principal Paul Skyles.

"Children from Jr. high as well as up to the community school citizens should attend the meeting to share their feelings," said Mrs. Overall.

Cox and Woodland encouraged residents to be willing to help in the planning and organization of the town meeting, pointing out the event will be "just as effective as Tooele residents want it to be." They said more details and instructions will be published later as planning progresses.

Utah

12 The Salt Lake Tribune, Wednesday, March 16, 1977

West Jordan Studies Plans to Handle Fast Growth

Special to The Tribune

WEST JORDAN — Citing public apathy and lack of communication as reasons for many problems facing this fast-growing city, residents and officials listed 12 proposals to meet the challenges of the future.

West Jordan has grown from 4,000 in 1970 to more than 30,000 today.

At a town meeting in the West Jordan Junior High School, residents agreed to hold another meeting in six months to review action on the proposals.

Citizen Complaints

Some citizen complaints centered around the lack of full-time administration, improper enforcement of ordinances, inadequate sidewalks, lack of police and fire protection and unfair hiring practices.

Citizens also criticized a lack of community input into the question of impending double sessions in the Jordan School District.

Inadequate garbage pickup and recreation were also high on the list of concerns.

The proposals include:

— Hiring or training of an administrator who will be responsible for seeking and applying grants from all sources, both public and private, to help bolster the city's finances.

— Appointments by the city councilmen and residents of representatives to attend all council meetings.

— Naming a citizens advisory committee from geographic areas throughout West Jordan to help disseminate information

back to residents.

— Encouraging residents to participate in community wide projects such as Crime Watch, plus attending organized public meetings, city and neighborhood socials and organizing volunteer services.

— Publishing and distributing a yearly citizen's resource calendar listing regular city council, planning and zoning and board of adjustment meetings. It should list the telephone numbers for all city officials and their terms of office, voting information, registration dates and other vital information.

Publicizing Work

— Publicizing proposals and results of the city council meetings.

— Encouraging proper commercial

industrial growth, with the chamber of commerce and city council jointly promoting West Jordan's business potential.

— Organizing neighborhood voter involvement groups to draw input into issues and elections.

— Adopting, requiring competitive hiring standards, incentives for good efficiency testing and selling a probationary period for new employees.

— Distributing copies of city ordinances to schools, the library and at city hall, publishing a booklet listing community activities and available services, and compiling a directory of volunteer service groups.

— Utilizing West Jordan youth and senior citizens in community activities.

Newport Folks Share Enthusiasm

By PAT HUNT

Free Press Correspondent

NEWPORT — Setting priorities for expenditures, long-range planning, and making better use of natural and human resources were among general proposals which came out of Citizen's Day here Saturday when nearly 200 area residents struggled with local issues.

There was an air of enthusiasm even at the end of eight hours of exhaustive workshops sessions that prompted the participants to want to follow up on ideas presented. They want to reconvene in the next couple of weeks and were assured this would be arranged by the steering committee.

"Money is the key to all the proposals," observed Mayor William Caputo, although some of the proposed solutions lean on better cooperation and making better use of the facilities at hand.

One example was to use the school buses for intercommunity transportation; another was to better coordinate recreational and social activities for all ages utilizing existing facilities.

However, taxes were a major concern in a proposal which read, "Stop adding new projects each year that raise taxes. The underlying contradiction is that we aren't getting the necessary things first, as illustrated by funding a new wharf before purchasing a snowblower."

Phillipa Maloney told people in her workshop, "We want to get at things which are feasible-practical, and something you people are willing to be involved in."

The morning session was devoted to identifying the issues and the afternoon to producing to some solutions, explained moderator Duncan Kilmartin.

He opened the session designed to "listen to people — people we see on the street, sit next to in

church or at the theater or line up behind at the gas station. There will be no right or wrong answers today."

Songs such as "American the Beautiful," "On the Street Where You Live" and "This Land Is Your Land" were interspersed during the general sessions.

Smaller workshops began with general brainstorming and filtered down to work in depth to come up with detailed proposals.

Even children, who were taken care of in a separate room, generated ideas. They noted that Newport is "a good country setting with nice people who help kids by coaching sports." They also cited good fishing, good schools and swimming and playgrounds as advantages here.

Needs listed by the children were "a store with big pets or a pound to buy animals, a skateboard bowl, grass in the playgrounds, two days a week to do anything we want, and jobs for kids who are smart enough."

James Kelly of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, which assisted James Cadorette and the local steering committee in presenting the day's program, said nearly 700 communities in the United States have held similar "town meeting" programs.

"The future belongs to those who care enough to figure it out," he said, noting that six other programs were going on Saturday in other parts of the country and next week there will be 100 communities in Oklahoma holding such sessions simultaneously.

With the Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues assisting with funding, several academic humanists helped in the workshops, as summarized by George Buzzell of the Vermont Extension Service. He emphasized the interdependency of area communities as it relates to tax structure, education, employment and environment.

Citizens Day Saturday, What It's All About

By PAT HUNT

NEWPORT — Looking at the local issues and getting ideas from a cross section of the community is what Citizens Day is all about, according to James Cadorette, who is coordinating the day-long program Saturday.

He expects about 300 people from Newport and the surrounding area, including local officials and civic leaders, to come together at North Country Union High School at 9 a.m. for the workshop sessions which will conclude with a panel discussion from 4 to 5 p.m.

No advance registration is necessary, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the program which is developed and serviced by the Institute of Cultural Affairs.

"Why don't we have what we want to have for our community?" Cadorette asks. "What's stopping us?" These are questions that the individuals will be asked to respond to.

There's a lunch for all participants donated by McDonald's, a children's program and baby-sitters arranged by Zena Angel, and transportation available by calling 334-6720, all free of charge.

At the time of registration at 9 a.m., when coffee and doughnuts will be served, all persons will be assigned to one of four workshops.

The opening session with Duncan Kilmartin presiding, will begin with a song, "something like 'Yankee Doodle' or 'America the Beautiful'". Cadorette explained, "It helps get people loose."

Everyone will be asked who they are, what they do, and what their vision of the community is.

In the workshops, each person will write in a workbook the three most important issues

he or she sees in the community and set priorities. Leaders for the workshops include Mark Morin, John Wells, John Marcure, Dorothy Kilby, Steve Edgerley, Phillipa Maloney, Lynn Currier, David Harwood, and Harvey Robitaille.

Recorders in each group will compile ideas to come up with the 20 top issues of concern.

Economics, politics, culture, and new song and story are the designations Cadorette listed for the afternoon workshops. He explained that the latter group would concentrate on telling a story of the community, past, present and future, and write words for a song which might include mention of such things as the lake, Main Street, or industries.

"Participants will write up individual responses to challenges and these will be charted up and clustered," Cadorette said.

"From 4 to 5 o'clock everybody reflects on the day," he said, noting there will be a panel of humanists to analyze and discuss the outcomes of the workshops.

Speakers will include Frank Birmingham, a philosopher from Hyde Park; Andre Senecal and Jan Lewandowski of Johnson State College; George Buzzell, UVM Extension Service Forester; and Doris Wells and Larry Ryan of Lyndon State College.

Fiscal coordinator is Jennifer Hopkins. Sponsors include the Border Jaycees, Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues, Bogner of America, New England Telephone, Prosty and Miller, Columbia Plywood Indian Head Division, Elks Lodge, Newport Plastics, and many retail businesses.

During lunch, the New Leaf band will play, with entertainment arranged by Kathy McQuillen.

CITIZENS OF NEWPORT ATTENDED A BRAINSTORM AND PLANNING SESSION ... 'Money is the key to all proposals,' observed Mayor William Caputo



Free Press Photo by PAT HUNT

Turnout low but Town Meeting end said enthusiastic

by Marjorie Bendl

Although the attendance was much less than expected, participants in Saturday's Hanover County Town Meeting '76 left on a note of enthusiasm generated partly by patriotic songs and slogans, and partly by a feeling that they had, indeed, accomplished something.

Among proposals made by the group in a 16-page report were holding district workshops on local government, developing a comprehensive plan for government operations, compiling literature on the organization and responsibilities of county departments, and electing school Board members.

The proposals were developed after morning discussions of the county's economic, and political and cultural problems, called challenges by group leaders.

Indiscriminate industrial development, a low tax base, limited jobs, an imbalance of political trade offs and uncoordinated planning were considered as blocks that lead to public apathy and improper planning.

Governmental apathy, particularly in the distribution of tax revenues and fiscal management, was named as a political block that one group said was illustrated by poor roads, inadequate fire protection and inadequate water and sewer services.

There is a "lack of knowledge and communication," another group continued, because people feel "detached, isolated, powerless and generally uninformed."

A lack of professional educators on the school board, officials not expecting or wanting a large turnout at public meetings and "cronyism" in political appointments were also listed.

Unlike some public meetings, all 145 people who participated were encouraged to speak. During small group discussions, leaders would poll the less vocal individuals, asking them for comments.

A wide variety of people gathered in the informal setting organized by a local steering committee and consultants from the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a research group based in Chicago, Ill.

Registrants listed themselves as engineers, housewives, educators, secretaries and a "full time citizen." About 50 students made up a large part of the group.

Nina Peace of Ashland attended the morning session and was the only member from the Board of Supervisors, a group that publicly endorsed the program. There were no members from the County Planning Commission, School Board or administration.

The meeting was organized by Stewart Reid and Ed Wright, with the help of Marie Sandy, Lavona Glave, Jean

Hattorf, Helmut Werner, and Brenda Gilman.

Also, Thomas Johnson, John Fleming, Barbara Edenton, Betsy Harrison and Donald Prout.

Workshop leaders were Dr. Claude Sandy, Thomas R. Dunkum, Mike Fiore, Wilma J. Carrington, Tim Whittaker and John Cregar.

Sponsors of the meeting were the Ashland Junior Woman's Club, with members organizing the children's program, Ashland Kiwanis Club, Ashland Lions Club, Independence Ruritan Club, Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Shiloh Baptist, Mechanicsville Jaycees, V.F.W. Post No. 2563, Greater Ashland Chamber of Commerce, and Henry Clay Woman's Club.

Also, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company Addressograph-Multi-graph Corporation, Hanover Pharmacy, Natin Company, Quarles-Green Fuel Oil Company, Feldspar, Holly Farm Poultry Products, Reid Funeral Home, McDonald's, Golden Skillet, Nolde's Bakery, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Virginia Paper Company, and Wonder Bread.

Contributors were Hanover Branch NAACP, Greater Nazarene Baptist Church, Henry Clay Homemakers Club, Cold Harbor Ruritan Club, and Mrs. Unger's Kindergarten Class (Henry Clay Elementary School).

Also, Western Auto, Luck Motor Company, Peoples Finance Company, UNIJAX, Safeway Stores, A&P Stores, Henry Clay P.T.A., Gordon and Long

Florist, Strange Florist, Meade and Company, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Ashland 5 cents to \$1.00 Store, Ben Franklin Store, Liberty Junior High Band, Federation of Square Dancing, Cross Brothers, Ukrops Market, Big Star (Mechanicsville), First and Merchants Bank, Galleher Equipment Company, Washington and Lee Savings and Loan, Hamilton Paper Company, Krispy Kreme Donuts, Spotless Stores, Mr. L. Ridgely, Patrick Henry High School Art Department, Loving Ford Motor Company and Donald Anderson.

said enthusiastic

EDITORIAL PAGE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1976

HERALD PROGRESS

Hope and Change

A group of people who love Hanover County enough to spend a Saturday studying its faults, good points, needs and future prospects, met at Rural Point and came up with some interesting ideas for us all to ponder.

The theme logo "Pride, Hope, Change" shows that this was not a group of soreheads who assembled for Town '76 Meeting, but people willing to assess the past in terms of the present and to face the future with assurance. We like that.

To quote from the evaluation book which summed up the meeting:

The Past: Hanover County is the field in which Patrick Henry planted his seed of independence. Our forefathers nourished this seed to a young plant, and it has blossomed through struggling times to a strong tree. However, without the loving care of our ancestors or their local leaders, the seed would have shriveled up and died. Just as Patrick Henry and his peers started this plant, our ancestors helped to care for it, and now the responsibility is ours.

The Present: Although Hanover County, with all its courageous history is a wonderful place to live, it still has its trials and struggles. We have many hurdles to cross and many mountains to climb; but if we take courage from the foresight of our ancestors, we will merge as winners.

The Future: Hanover County stands at the crossroad of civilization — seeing a glorious past leading to a challenging future; watching the solidity of the rural admit to the strong pull of the urban. Standing in that vantage point, we encounter a future of great risk, and in the midst of the uncertainty, see hope for a county carefully planned and for communities carefully planning.

As for specifics, Town meeting is urging a closer exchange of information between citizens and county government, the publication of proposals and budgets on a line-by-line basis with realistic compar-

isons so people know exactly what is being proposed. Election of school board members, and elected members at large on the Board of Supervisors are suggested. District workshops on "Getting to Know Your Government", and more citizen involvement in all phases of government are urged.

Nobody's asking for extensive services — except such basics as better roads, more fire protection and sanitation. What is being asked, is a better opportunity to do more for the county, to be better educated on the county's programs, and to become effectively involved. Symptoms of the county's need for a more active citizenry are cited in low voter turnout and poor attendance at public hearings and supervisor meetings.

The meeting also cited the need for better, more thorough and farther-reaching planning. But there was no buck-passing. Among the Cultural Proposals, the meeting drew up the following statement: "We the citizens of Hanover County, in order to generate public concern and input, propose to develop a comprehensive plan for total operations of county government through citizen participation in public hearings, committees and other means . . . Among the 'other means' the Town Meeting proposes to compile and distribute literature covering county departmental organization and responsibilities through scheduled countywide meetings.

To sum up, the group, according to one of its active members, showed a concern for the need for planning and to conserve values, while recognizing that changes will come. The upshot is to launch a vision for people to see that they're not helpless. It is this sense of helplessness which most of us mis-name apathy. It is not that we do not care. It is that we care so much and don't know what to do about it. What a Bicentennial blessing to know that there are some among us who are willing to do something about it.

In a nutshell, there's no "they" running things. "They is us".

Virginia



Group leader Thomas R. Dunkum, pastor of Enon United Methodist Church, helped a group formulate proposals during the Hanover County Town Meeting '76 Saturday.

OCT 13 1976

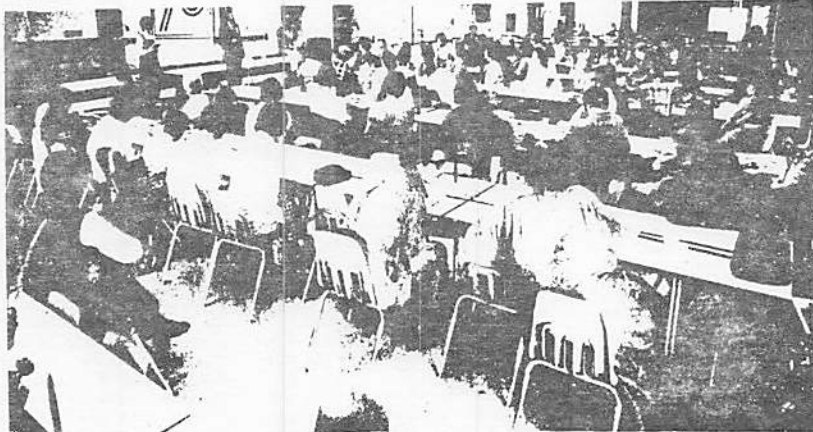
Which way to Burien? Town meeting maps path

"IT'S ALL TALK," said a red-haired self-admitted senior citizen who was educated at the University of Chicago. "We spend our time and nothing happens," she said. "Whether something — or nothing — happens now depends in part on the efforts of the steering committee, lead by Rev. Crain

The ball is in his court and he intends to keep it rolling, with Burien citizens now that the experts have gone home. He has — as fruits of the meeting — a Burien symbol and story to give his efforts focus. He also has a song, sung to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine." The last stanza goes: "We'll pull together and build a future

Involving all age groups, you see Communicating, coordinating, and Controlling our own destiny."

AT THE 'Burien Town Meeting '76,' participants also came up with a symbol, song and story to represent the community. These, along with additional photographs are featured on page three of today's Highline Times.



THE CAFETERIUM at Highline High was decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper and "Town Meeting '76" banners as it hosted over 100 citizens Saturday. Heads nodded almost unanimously over the problems Burien faced in building a strong, unified community. Speeches at

the beginning, middle (lunchtime, all the hamburgers you could eat) and end of the meeting were punctuated by the booted, busbled and baton-twirling Hi-Liners, the Sweet Adelinas and plenty of do-it-yourself singing.

photo by Gary Fujieka

Washington

Town meeting '76

Issaquah, Wash.
Press
(Cir. 2,800)

MAY 12 1976

Bellingham, Wash.
Herald
(Cir. D. 20,470 - S. 21,315)

MAY 9 1976

'Town meeting' here Saturday

By ANDY McMELLS
Herald Staff Reporter

The concept of getting people together to discuss problems within the community is not new, but the idea of doing it all in one day may be.

Bellingham Town Meeting '76 will attempt to do just that next Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. and running through 5 p.m. at Sehome High School. There is a \$1 fee for adults. The fee is 75 cents for children 3 through 12, who will go to First Baptist Church.

"It is a way to celebrate the bicentennial through looking seriously at one community and making proposals for the next 200 years," promoter Bob Williams said.

Dave Thomas added that the event is a "culturally oriented" attempt to "recapture community spirit."

There will be 5,000 town meetings

across the country built around the same format, and students, adults and senior citizens will join to express their ideas and concerns.

Carol Henshaw said she attended the town meeting on Bainbridge Island several weeks ago when an elderly lady said, "I don't know when I've spent a whole day with people of all ages, and you know, these young people have some good ideas."

Bellingham Mayor Ken Hertz will give the welcome address. Promoters expect about 600 persons, which is the capacity of the Sehome cafeteria.

The idea of staging town meetings across the nation was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an outgrowth of the Ecumenical Institute. The town meetings have been endorsed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, and promoters say it's a secular event.

Ruth Foster said from these grass-roots meetings, legislators will learn how at least 1 per cent of the population is thinking.

With no pre-planned agenda,

Issaquah Mayor Herb Herrington has agreed to proclaim Saturday, May 22 as official Town Meeting '76 day. Mayor Herrington will join other city county officials in helping to make the day productive.

Susan J. Otterell, a member of the Town Meeting committee, said childcare facilities will be in operation Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to coincide with the Town Meeting. The high school FEAST class will prepare and serve a luncheon. Donuts and coffee will be provided in the morning.

Tickets are on sale at the Issaquah Press, Sea-First Bank, Sylvia's Fabrics, the Issaquah High School and they will also be available at the cafeterium at the high school the day of the event. The Town Meeting program will take place at the high school.

Entertainment on a Bicentennial theme will be provided by Issaquah singers.

small groups will be formed in which people will work together discussing problems in their neighborhoods, city and state and the nation. After problem areas are identified, groups will again be formed to come up with solutions.

The solutions will be put in writing and published in a brochure which every person attending will take home at the end of the day.

Thomas said the town meeting is different from Goals for Bellingham because the latter, he says, was divisive.

"After the day is over, there is no new organization, no planned follow-up," Thomas said. But, he added, what has happened in other communities is that some of the proposals are then considered by governments with jurisdiction.

Thomas said that in Vancouver, several items which had been tabled by the city council were later decided "as the result of the consensus exhibited" at the town meeting.

All of the promoters say the town meeting is a day of fun and festivities, with lunch to be served and entertainment provided during the noon hour.

Seattle, Wash.
Northgate Journal
Cir. W 25,816

NOV 3 1976

Site selected for Town Meeting

Christ the King Gymnasium at 415 N. 117 has been donated for the Northwest Seattle Town Meeting '76 to be held Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Broadview Community Church will provide the facility for the children's program.

This one day event which is part of the Bicentennial celebration of our nation under the Horizons Program is locally sponsored in the northwest community by PTA's, churches, and other community organizations.

The Steering Committee for Northwest Seattle Town Meeting '76, made up of representatives from the sponsoring groups and other interested citizens, meets weekly at the Broadview Library on Tuesday from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Town Meeting '76 is a twentieth century style town meeting with the intent being the same as for those our forefathers met in years ago—to provide a means by which local people get their wisdom into the decision-making process of the community.

The morning workshop will struggle with community issues and through depth dialogue discern the challenges facing our community.

After a celebrative lunch with local entertainment from the Four Fathers Kitchen Band, Holly Ellis's banjo, and others, the community will go back to workshops to decide the actions needed to meet those challenges and write these up in a form of concrete proposals.

One workshop will write the story of the northwest community, create a community symbol, and write a song for the community.

At the close of the day all workshops will report their proposals, the story will be read, the symbol presented, and the song sung. Then everyone will have a document to take home that contains the work of the day.

Communities around the nation have experienced this day as a day of resurgence in community spirit and unity.

Support for the day has been coming from the following businesses: Evergreen-Washelli Memorial Park Company, People's National Bank, Aurora Chrysler-Plymouth Corporation, Ad-dressograph Multigraph Corporation, Warren Westlund Buick-Opel-GMC Inc., Aurora Plumbing and Electric, Moss Truck Sales, Inc., Flash Advertising, Lee James Finance Co.

Town Meeting '76 Has People Talking

By JIM WARREN
Herald-Dispatch Staff Writer

We have something to say, listen to us.

The "we" were participants in Town Meeting '76 at Huntington City Hall yesterday and their message came through in the issues and proposals they drew up.

In stating challenges and outlining proposed actions to meet those challenges, citizens pointed out again and again that they want officials to listen more to what they say. The participants also wanted more of a voice in planning and decision making and a better understanding of how their government operates.

And when the participants left for home after almost eight hours of work they left behind a list of the things they feel should be done to solve this problem.

However that concern for participation wasn't reflected in attendance. About 65 persons registered for the meeting, far below the 200 to 400 the Huntington Jaycees, local sponsors for the event, had hoped for.

HOWEVER, Coerte Voorhees, president of the Jaycees, said the organization was "extremely pleased" with the meeting, despite the low turnout. And he said the Jaycees likely will hold follow-up meetings later.

From 9 a.m. until shortly after 4 p.m. when the session broke up, the atmosphere ranged from intense discussion of critical problems to light-hearted singing of patriotic ("America") and popular ("Top of the World") songs. In fact, part of the day's activities involved the composition of a new song and a new symbol for the city.

These are some of the challenges identified by the participants.

Residents don't get involved in government because they do not have a clear understanding of how their governments work.

Citizens do not participate in decision making because they fear their voices don't count, but at the same time they don't want to be told what to do.

A lack of concern between residents and elected officials that reflects a breakdown in communication between citizens and their representatives.

Here are some of the steps proposed to meet these and other problems.

A county-city council to improve cooperation between the two governments by bringing representatives together and finding common problems and solutions.

Special meetings by government bodies in local neighborhoods to promote more citizen involvement in decision-making and planning.

Better cooperation from radio, television and newspapers in enlightening citizens about their government.

An overhaul of the tax system, including reassessment to provide a better tax base.

Neighborhood planning task forces which would list community needs, compare them with the city's long-range plan and work with officials on final plans.

The proposals were compiled into booklets and presented to each participant as the meeting closed. In addition, these will be forwarded to city and county officials for consideration and possible action.

After registering yesterday morning, meeting participants were treated to coffee and doughnuts, heard some speeches and then were separated into four groups or "guides" before getting down to work.

FOLLOWING STEPS outlined in notebooks provided by the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), which designed the town meeting concept, participants first were asked to outline their hopes and dreams for the city of Huntington. They then tried to identify major issues facing the city under political, cultural and economic headings.

Through a lengthy process, these were then refined to short statements of problems and obstacles to solution of the problems. From this proposals were drawn to remove the blocks and open the way for solution.

Initially, many people were reluctant to speak out, but as suggestions began coming in the process speeded up with ideas thrown out from young and old alike.

Most of the participants were older people and there were more men than women.

This and the low attendance disappointed some of the participants, but most people said they enjoyed the meeting and wanted more.

"I think it is very good," said Joseph Bala Jr. of 555 N. Lawwood Drive. "The turnout is not very good and there aren't many young people. I would say the average age is about 60 years old. But I still think it is a good thing, if you could get the people out."

Elvin Eping of 3701 Buena Vista Drive said he found the session "very interesting and very worthwhile. I just wish there had been more response from the community."

Eping said he only recently moved to Huntington from Pennsylvania. "If you had a lot of people out, you could really shake up the government," he said.

Faye Dotson of 632 W. 3rd Ave. said she didn't know what to expect at the meeting, but "once we got into it, I found it very interesting. I think they should have more meetings maybe once a year to let people learn what's going on and express their opinions."

"It made you realize that when people work together you can really do something," said Margaret Cummings of 2 Cherokee Court. "There were several elderly people in our group and you could really see their concerns about transportation and housing. And you felt that for once you were being listened to."

Another woman said she liked the meeting because it generated enthusiasm and "wasn't just a complaining session."

Another man declared that the meeting proved "we don't need to hire outside experts to tell us what is wrong with our city. Local people can articulate that themselves."

And City Councilman Philip Pappas noted it would have cost the city thousands to bring in such consultants. He also expressed pleasure with the meeting, adding he will see that council takes a hard look at the citizens' proposals.

At the end of the day the results are projected to a general assembly to share their wisdom with all. It is a beautiful experience to see the enthusiasm in the faces of the people after a day of meaningful communication and celebration with their friends and neighbors.

The greatest thing about Town Meeting '76 is that often it serves as a starting point for organizations and sponsors, make civic, cooperative action in the community and entertainment air community. Clarksville, the most important and most important first day in the state to hold a community festival and is working on Town Meeting '76 is a full-day-play-space for neighborhood celebration starting in the children.

Town Meeting '76 is a celebration for everyone. People of all ages and persuasions can contribute in a celebration like this. The day was divided into four workshops. The first was a day where they begin to discuss the economic, cultural and political problems facing their community. They added to the celebration by the obstacles which they are facing in their community and how they are trying to overcome them through the city.

Lunch was a festive occasion with a life and drum corps. Communities interested in more information about Town Meeting '76 may write Phil to their workshops. Three of Evans, 735 E. Locust St., Clarksville, W. Va. 26031. These make practical proposals (Clarksville, W. Va. 26031) while one writes a community story song and slogan.

APR 23 1976 WEST VIRGINIAN Fairmont, W. Va. Everything Is In Readiness For Local Town Meeting

All is in readiness for the much heralded Fairmont Marion County Town Meeting to be held tomorrow at the Fairmont State College Student Center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those in charge say:

Programs for adults and for youngsters from grades one through six will include both entertainment and serious thought concerning the future of our city, county, state and nation. "The Bicentennial event is open to all who wish to attend," members of the planning session stated, "and will give us some indication of the people who are really interested in the future of our community."

A brief look at the program for tomorrow will include a get-acquainted coffee and donut session from 9 to 9:30 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. the assembly will be called to order by master of ceremonies, Rarr, Locke of Fairview and professor at WVU. The Military Veterans Council will serve as color guards in the presentation of the flag with Jack W. Hamer leading the "March of the Independence" will be given by Col. Donald M. Squires.

Music and group singing will be under direction of Richard Wellock, chairman of the Fine Arts Division at FSC. Accompanying and special music will include Mrs. Virginia Wellock and Pat Phillips. Give Welcome. Brief welcomes to the group will be given by Mayor William Hawkins and Mrs. Betty Gill, of the county commissioners of the Institute of Cultural Affairs will give overviews of the conference prior to the group's discussion into discussion sessions. Special entertainment at the morning meeting will include Dr. Richard Konenstien and his regular arrangements and a special arrangement of folk songs of the area. He is a member of the FSC Folk-club department. Free lunch will be served and a music interlude will be held from noon to 1 p.m. by the 48 piece Monongah Band in concert under direction of Rowland Wood and managed by Walter K'ne. Concluding the day's activities will be the afternoon workshops based upon the morning sessions. The groups will choose a slogan for the area and compose a progress song. The final plenary session will begin at 1:30 p.m. Gordon Council club members will help with registration and act as hostesses. Lauren Wade, Gena Wes, Ann Barbara Morris, Julia Hefner, Pauline Jack Opal, Curry, Pat Phillips and Joan Canaglia.

APR 27 1976 WEST VIRGINIAN Fairmont, W. Va. Citizens at Town Meeting Draft Impressive Proposal

Rome was not built in a day, but the citizens of Fairmont surprised by completing in a single day an interesting, concerned proposal.

For instance, the approximately 100 adults who participated in a Bicentennial event held at Fairmont State College analyzed what in their opinion was wrong in Fairmont and Marion County and what needed to be done to make it better.

The conclusions were generally very general, but the group did pick out specific items which it felt illustrated problems in this city and county.

Participating in the day's activities were a wide range of people including teachers from the school system and the college, a clergyman, a public official, industry employees, housewives, state employees, librarians and senior citizens.

Seen as problems in this area, and blocks to progress were a lack of participation, a lack of qualified leadership, a lack of common purpose and of a process to resolve issues, a lack of responsiveness by government, an unattractive tax base, a cultural deprivation, a small number of people involved in decision making, and fear of change.

These problems, people in the workshops felt, had resulted in such things as lack of a city sewage system, lack of adequate housing and new industry, the drying of downtown Fairmont, poor county roads, deteriorating schools, low interest at the polls, denial of the political right to vote an certain issues, and rejection of the school board.

JUN 9 1976 EXPOSITION Clarksburg, W. Va. Clarksburg One of Six Communities In Town Meeting Part of the Bicentennial

With the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States, Clarksburg is one of six communities in West Virginia who are part of a national Bicentennial program. The Bicentennial program is a series of events - from red, white and blue to red, white and blue - that will celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States.

Envision 250 people from your community gathered in a large assembly, singing a song that has become a symbol of the Bicentennial. The Bicentennial program is a series of events - from red, white and blue to red, white and blue - that will celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States.

The six communities in West Virginia who are part of a national Bicentennial program are Clarksburg, Huntington, Parkersburg, Wheeling, Weirton and Youngwood. The Bicentennial program is a series of events - from red, white and blue to red, white and blue - that will celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States.

Through Town Meeting '76, communities are encouraged to participate in a Bicentennial program. The Bicentennial program is a series of events - from red, white and blue to red, white and blue - that will celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States.

The format of Town Meeting '76 was developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a national organization concerned with the human factor in world development. Leadership training and program materials are provided to interested communities but it is up to local citizens to organize and carry it out. Setting up Town Meeting '76 is a team effort as well as a starting point for organizations and sponsors, make civic, cooperative action in the community and entertainment air community.

Clarksburg, the most important and most important first day in the state to hold a community festival and is working on Town Meeting '76 is a full-day-play-space for neighborhood celebration starting in the children. Town Meeting '76 is a celebration for everyone. People of all ages and persuasions can contribute in a celebration like this. The day was divided into four workshops. The first was a day where they begin to discuss the economic, cultural and political problems facing their community. They added to the celebration by the obstacles which they are facing in their community and how they are trying to overcome them through the city.

West Virginia

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Tuesday, February 15, 1977

West Side Units Get Together

By Ralph D. Olive
of The Journal Staff

About 175 people got together at Concordia College over the weekend for an experiment in neighborhood government.

It was, as Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) put it, government in a broad sense — the banding together to accomplish something for the common good. Reuss attended the all-day meeting and said he thought it showed that people could have an impact on what happens in their lives and their communities.

Of immediate concern to the participants was Milwaukee's near West Side. The meeting was designed for residents of the area bounded by North Ave., 20th St., the East-West Freeway and the Stadium Freeway. It was run like a town meeting, with opportunity for everyone present to speak.

It was organized by several community groups — Cooperation Westside, Casa Maria, Work Exchange, Midtown Interfaith Project, to name only a few.

Unity Is Sought

Fran Krueger, co-chairman of the meeting, said the aim was to bring problems into the open and find a way to work on solutions.

"We want to get the whole West Side community together," Mrs. Krueger said.

"It came here because I am interested in the community where I live."

That is true for the others, she said, and was the reason they were willing to take a day away from other activities to attend.

Getting together was important, but to make the day worthwhile there will have to be a follow through, Mrs. Krueger said.

And plans have been formed to make sure that action is taken afterward, she said. An initial step will be forming a committee, with representatives from participating community groups, to continue the work that started at the meeting.

Selected Objectives

"We have to have our priorities, and work on the top two or three," Mrs. Krueger said.

If a shotgun approach is used, she said, little will be accomplished.

Reuss agreed on the importance of following through.

The fact that several community groups already exist on the West Side means there is a framework for action, Reuss said. Groups like the one that gathered at Concordia can look on themselves as a form of government, Reuss said.

"The value is that there is free debate," the congressman said. "People from different walks of life can get together and attack the same problem."

Meals for Elderly

What, specifically, can they do? That depends on the problem, Reuss said. For example, one situation discussed at the meeting was the need for more low cost food programs for the elderly.

Turn to Meeting, page 4, col. 1

Meeting

West Side Groups Try a Town Hall

From Page 1

ly. That is something the community groups can take to city and county governments, Reuss said.

Another problem, he said, is the inadequacy of Social Security pensions — a problem that Reuss is now working on. Another issue discussed was the future of land cleared for the Park Freeway West, now that the freeway is not to be built.

In each case, community groups, acting as a type of

informal government, can approach regular government and ask for action, Reuss said. That is important, he added, because it proves that people are not helpless — they are not at the mercy of big government, big business and big unions.

Part of the day was devoted to small group sessions. Concerns were many, and varied from small things, like dogs running loose, to major social issues, such as the role of the police and the public school system.

Town meeting being considered

About 30 residents and community leaders were present at a meeting last Thursday afternoon at Jerry's Village Inn, to discuss the feasibility of making the "Town Meeting" a regular event in Menomonee Falls.

Spokesmen for The Institute of Cultural Affairs, sponsors of the event, talked about some of the concepts offered by this "approach to involving local citizens in deciding the future of our nation and community..." A slide presentation was presented showing some of the events which occurred at a "typical" "Town Meeting" at a community center in Mayville, Ill.

According to spokesmen, the meetings would offer an opportunity to bring people together in a somewhat structured fashion. Economic, political, and cultural issues would be discussed and proposals could be written to deal with challenges. The institute's role, they said, is to provide the methods and training needed in order for the "Town Meeting" to function.

The fee for a consultant's role would be about \$1,200, they said. This would include money for books and pamphlets. The fee is usually taken care of, the spokesmen said, by sponsoring groups.

If the community decided it wanted to proceed, and start having the "Town Meetings" regularly, the spokesmen said it would be about a seven or eight week process before the meetings could begin. A steering committee would be selected, to represent the community in setting up the meetings.

Some of the members present at Thursday's meeting favored going ahead with the idea. Others were skeptical. Two of the people present at the meeting said they were satisfied with the community, and the way things are done in the com-

munity. "I don't see where we could gain that much, we do have a good community spirit," one longtime resident said.

Those who favored the idea said they thought it was a "wonderful" idea, and wanted to proceed immediately with the steps necessary to start the ball rolling.

Finally, it was decided that a number of the people present still had unanswered questions in their minds. One man said he would like to see more information on "what's going to come out of it?"

No immediate action was taken. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss the proposal further. It has tentatively been scheduled for Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Wobig's Restaurant, 2683 W18718 Appleton Ave., Menomonee Falls.

JUST REFLECTIN'

Town Meeting response good

Wausau

To the Editor:

We would like to express our enthusiastic admiration for the citizen and official response we have had to five projects of Town Meeting '76. Our float received attention in the June 26 parade. Our July 4th booth in Marathon Park furthered interest in our government. Our County Flag contest drew 40 entries and 2000 voters. Last week the County Board officially recognized the county song and flag.

We realize not everyone is yet involved in making things happen at the local level but there are not many countries where one would get the level of interest and participation we find here. Nor would we find everywhere the willingness on the part of the officials to involve local citizens.

Our thanks to the entire Marathon County Board and especially Ray Ott for the support in all these endeavors. A special thank you to our preliminary judges of the flag: Ed Schoenberger, Pat Lane Dix and Margaret Banichik.

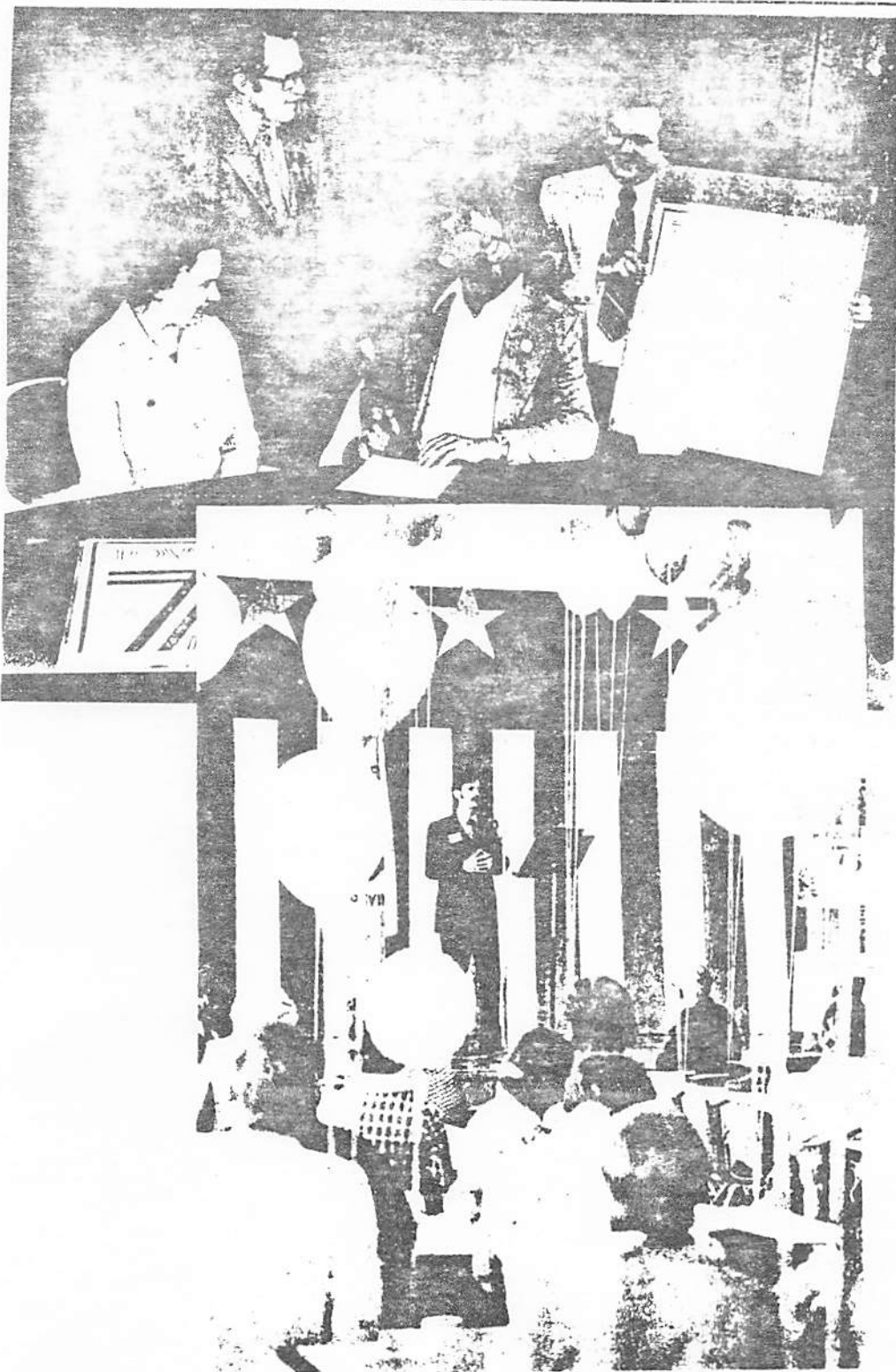
Town Meeting '76 is very much an ongoing concern, attempting to give expression to the concerns voiced at the May 22nd meeting. Everyone is invited to the next meeting.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. August 21 at the Central Fire Station.

CAROL BRONSTON
OLLIE WIEGEL
VIRGINIA KIRSCH

WISCONSIN

Laramie, Wyoming, Thursday, April 22, 1976



TOWN MEETING '76—Carl Ennis, Billings, a representative of the Institute for Cultural Affairs gives the perspective on the Town Meeting program as it relates to observance of America's Bicentennial. The Institute

coordinated Laramie's Town Meeting, which was held Saturday at Laramie High School. Some 250 Laramie residents representing many levels of community life attended.

(Boomerang photo by Moses)

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Boonton 'Brainstorms' On a Host of Town Ills

By MICHAEL NORMAN
Special to The New York Times

BOONTON, N.J. — Something remarkable happened at the high school over the weekend. A group of citizens spent four days "brainstorming." And when they had finished, they had a clear vision of what was wrong with their town and what they intended to do about it.

They agreed that this community had curbed up and was about to fall asleep on itself. What it needed, they said, was a good poke to make it jump.

The technical name for what happened was "an exercise in critical and contraindicational thinking that takes off from management by objective." It was really an old-fashioned town meeting and think tank rolled into one. It began four nights ago with 187 people in the high school cafeteria and ended Sunday with a party at the Elks Club.

"We moved here two years ago," said Michael J. Stora, a 35-year-old marketing manager for a company on Long Island. "For me it was just like coming home. I grew up in a small town of 3,500 people. Here you have an identity. There are tremendous memories here. We don't want Boonton to become suburbia as we know it. In a way we want to go back a hundred years in time when friends walked down the street and shook hands with each other."

A Varied Agenda

They talked about shade trees and schools, capital financing and vandalism, fine old buildings and sagging businesses. They said they were proud and ashamed, frustrated and angry. They pondered the notion of "self-centered living" and admitted their tobias and misconceptions. They resolved to take matters into their own hands and in so doing discovered a unique facet of life in small-town America.

"It's a banding together," said one man. "A chance to escape from the madness that surrounds us."

Not everyone, of course, was so ebullient. The Mayor, Emidio A. Cacchiave, or "Toot" to his neighbors, made a nice speech at the opening session Thursday and wished them all good luck. But later at his gasoline station he allowed that he was a bit skeptical about the whole thing.

"It's pretty hard to change something in this town," he said.

Change, of course, was the issue. It's not that anyone wanted to alter radically the face of Boonton or to reconstruct the delicate pattern of living that so many here seem to cherish. Rather, there was just an overwhelming sense that somehow things had had grown stagnant.

A Town of 8,620

Boonton is a town of 8,620 packed into 2.4 square miles of hill and hollow in Morris County about 25 miles from New York City. Families have been there for generations — the descendants of Polish, German, Italian and Slavic immigrants. They live in old, but stately houses with field stone fences in front.

On Main Street, which winds up a hill, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts face each other from opposite curbs. Up the hill are antique stores, sweet shops, and emporiums that offer everything from hardware to cameras. There's the J.J. Newberrys, the old State Theater, and the red-brick bank with a green four-

sided clock out front that keeps perfect time.

There is also an air of economic trouble. The sidewalks are cracked and littered. The buildings seem to sag and need a face lift. Shoppers have been lured away to nearby malls and opening a new business on Main Street has been a risky proposition.

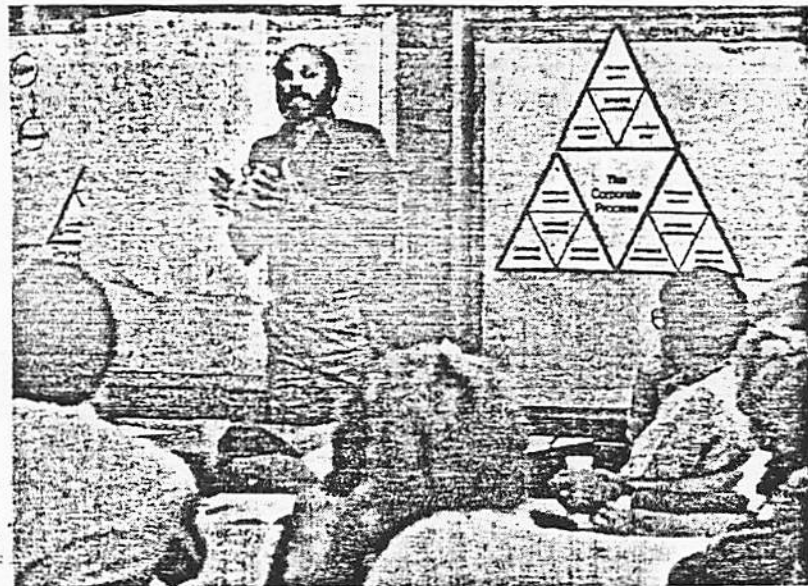
The town's two major industries, a chemical plant and a company that made commercial moldings, closed their manufacturing sites last year. This, and a new re-evaluation of property, raised the tax rate to \$2.64 per one hundred dollars of assessed value.

The citizenry, 22 percent of which is over the age of 65, routinely votes down the proposed budget for the town's three public schools. There is no major day-care, youth, or senior citizen center.

The school board and school administrators often find themselves in a political struggle with the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, most of whom have been in office for as long as anyone can remember.

"We were caught up in a competition and not a healthy one. It divides and fragments us and creates suspicion. We became a community of rumor," said the Rev. Harold E. Johnson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

"It was in many ways a dead town and often the attitude is it's good enough," said Ruth Krawitz, the self-described "thick-skinned" Superin-



The Rev. Harold Johnson, coordinator of Boonce, a community program in Boonton, N.J., addresses town meeting.

tendent of Schools, who came to town two years after working for the New York City Board of Education.

Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Krawitz formed "Boonton's United Com-

munity Effort," or "Boonce" for short, an ad hoc committee that organized the brainstorming program.

The event was divided into five sessions over four days and was conducted by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, a nonprofit organization that runs problem solving seminars for industries and communities.

It was an open affair and attracted a diverse group of people. One of those was Luella Weber, the self-appointed town gadfly who drives the Boonton Trolley, which is really an old green bus dressed up like a street car.

"We can't stand still," said Miss Weber. "If we do, we're going to go nowhere. We new new blood."

Small working groups fed their ideas into plenary sessions. They said they needed to form community groups and town centers. They wanted to improve the library, to care for the socially disposed, to build more senior citizen housing, to improve racial harmony, to attract industry, to refurbish Main Street, to support the school budget, and to lower property taxes.

They said they were blocked from this "vision" by "conflicting funding priorities," language and cultural differences, outdated and restrictive building codes, political party pressures, unimaginative leadership, politicians who were unwilling to share power, apathy, a resistance to change and a community that was both insular and fragmented.

Then, they made a list of what they

intended to accomplish in the next 90 days. They talked about creating an Industrial Business Authority and training people to write grant proposals. They planned to put up suggestion boxes and to write a regular calendar of events. Someone wanted to start a garden club. Someone else said they should immediately hire a street-sweeper and window washer to clean up Main Street.

They drank coffee and ate lunch at the tables where they worked. To give themselves a lift, they paused to sing a few choruses of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag."

Everyone planned to meet again in two weeks to organize what Mr. Johnson called "a structure of continuing responsibility."

"What I envision," he said, "is the possibility of things having happened, four key things — call them miracles — that people would have said never could have happened in Boonton. Let's just say there's been a stirring here."



Joseph Matkowski, left, and Alex J. Creatura, longtime Boonton residents, outside Casale's service station, which is owned by the town's mayor.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Oct. 16, 1962

New York Numbers — 560

Oct. 9, 1962

New York Lotto — 2, 34, 40, 37, 14, 30; supplementary, 33

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The ICA is a not-for-profit research, demonstration, and training group concerned with the human factor in World Development. The ICA staff and consultants in forty seven American cities work with local sponsoring groups to coordinate program development, training, and follow-up services.

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