

MASON  
IL  
78

Effingham  
County

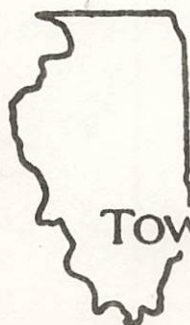
ILLINOIS

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MASON, ILLINOIS TOWN MEETING

April 18, 1978



Town Meeting: Illinois

Town Meeting

Song-Story

April 18, 1978

Mason, Ill.

Tune: I've been working on the railroad

We've been working on the sewer  
All the live long day  
We've been working on the sewer  
To take the stink away  
Can't sit out in our yards  
To smell the nice fresh air  
But we'll conquer our ordeal  
With what our money can buy.

In the past the town moved 1- and one-half mile in the night with one store. In the present we still have one store. What we want is a nice town to live in.

### THE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

The Civic Center  
Mason Statue on Rt 37  
Founded in 1853  
Railroads joined here  
Town moved from one mile south when RR came  
Old coal yards  
Stock yards  
Bank  
Milk shipped from here  
The Bicentennial Celebration: a three-day event, a rodeo, carnival, street dance,  
stake driving contest, 10,000 people came through town.  
The 32 silos in 1915 or 16  
Hay and grain shipped here  
Oil boom 1942-43  
50 new houses built in last two years.

### THE FUTURE HOPES

New Roof on Civic Center  
Cafe or restaurant  
Sewage system  
Recreation for everyone  
People getting more active and taking advantage of the opportunities that  
already exist here  
Need more business  
Need road to cemetery  
Keep the school

### THE PRESENT CONCERNS

Keeping the school	Market prices of grain
keeping the post office	High price of machinery
Housing for the elderly	High cost of getting started
Transportation for the elderly	discourages young farmers
Having something to keep the kids in town	Low water pressure
No funds for sewer system	
People too busy having to make a living--takes all your time	
Both parents working	
Getting funds without taking government grants	
Government dictating regulations on grants	
Government grants block community pride	
Sometime government hears and sometime they don't	

I. HOW TO BE HEARD

In the arena of small town life, these blocks exist: there are not enough returns on taxation to the local level, there is too much red tape, the regulatory agencies have too much power, the town's tax base is shrinking, and the town is "boring". This indicates that the underlying contradiction is that the government is big business and does not see or feel problems at the local level and there are too many chiefs and not enough backbone workers. This is illustrated by lack of communication about pending items such as the sewer.

2. WILL MASON GROW

In the arena of community services, these blocks exist: each time a problem comes up the priority changes, lack of interest of towns people on issues, lack of management, Gov. control of cost and investment. This indicates that the underlying contradiction is the lack of organization through people. This is illustrated by sewer system-grant depends on priorities, elderly housing-public was not aware, water pressure-no cooperation between utilities.

3. SMALL TOWN NO VOICE

In the arena of government finances. These blocks exist: not having projects to raise funds, not wanting to help small towns; gov't lacks funds to keep post office going; big business crowds out small man; don't have money for land or machinery; our vote doesn't count or mean anything. This indicates that the underlying contradiction is small town lack of political power and its voice isn't heard. This is illustrated by the people voted down tax increase and school but these were not obeyed and they went over our head.

RESPONSES

<u>Challenge</u>	<u>Response</u>
"They don't listen"	Go directly to the source Vote for candidates who listen Write two letters a day <u>Talk</u> to the candidates
Communication blockage	Ask State Representative to explain grants Go as a group Do a petition Have a politician come to the community
The community is dis-organized	Get a leader Organize people behind sewer issue Organize a committee to work on projects Hold a free dinner

PROPOSAL ARENAS

1. Working Together for a Common Cause
2. Getting the Politicians' Attention
3. Create a Core Group

PROPOSAL

We the citizens of Mason, Illinois, in order to get the people organized and working together for a common cause propose to organize the community behind getting a sewer system installed, through 1) circulating a petition which would demand the sewer system, 2) getting the Town Board involved, 3) communicating information to the people by means of newspaper and radio, 4) going to the authorities in the government such as EPA and HUD for funding and approval, 5) getting together with other small towns who have succeeded in getting a sewer to discover their secret.

MASON, ILLINOIS  
TOWN MEETING

THE PARTICIPANTS

April 18, 1978

Mrs. Shirley Austin  
Box 107  
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618-238-4340  
Housewife

Adrian Bushue  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4914  
Factory, W.G. Best

Mrs. Gladys Bushue  
Box 166  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4861  
Home-maker

June Bushue  
RR#1  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4914  
Housewife, Civic Club

Esta M. Cameron  
RR#1 Box 179  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4418  
Hair Dresser, N.H.C.A.

Vernon Coale  
RR#1  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4725  
Engineer Tech, State of Ill.

Peggy Jinks  
Box 112  
Mason, Ill.  
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Secty, Effingham Daily News MC/C

Oscar J. Macklin  
RR#2  
Mason, Ill.  
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Marie Macklin  
Mason, Ill.  
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Retired

Pauline Norris  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4905  
Retired

Oma Ricketts  
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238-4331  
Secty, Fedders

William Ricketts  
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Gerald Rovers  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4905  
Retired

Tammy Ruffner  
Box 172  
Mason, Ill.  
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Student

Ray Ruffner  
Mason, Ill.  
238-4319  
Retired farmer

Shirley Ruffner  
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Mason, Ill.  
238-4346



The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the "human element" in world development. The ICA is not - for - profit and is registered tax exempt in the State of Illinois. There are over one hundred local offices around the world, 52 of which are in North America.

The scope of the work of the ICA is broad and varied, ranging from management seminars for business executives to comprehensive community development projects. In all programs the emphasis is on effective methods for human motivity, cooperative action and plan implimentation.

The research of the ICA relates strictly to its practical arenas. There are currently has four major programs.

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

two year community development efforts

**COMMUNITY FORUMS**

one day "town meetings"

one day "global women's forums"

one day "community youth forums"

**LENS (Living Effectively in the New Society)**

week-end seminar on management planning

**PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

of any time design or orientation -- to be arranged

For information on this work. contact either office:

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