Title - A Study of My Home Community, Paintsville.

Teacher - Mr. Rennick

Date - 12/14/1970
Paintsville is located on the banks of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River at its junction with Paint Creek. It occupies a broad level creek bottom running about one mile up the banks of Paint Creek. The town is located on U.S. Highways 23 and 460 and Kentucky Routes 40 and 581. U.S. 23 runs northward to the Huntington-Ashland-Ironton area some sixty miles away. It also runs southwards to the Prestonsburg (thirteen miles away)-Pikeville (forty miles away) area. U.S. 460 gives outlet to the Mountain Parkway at Sayersville some eighteen miles away from Paintsville. The Mountain Parkway runs westward to the Lexington-Louisville area about one hundred and twenty-five miles away. Kentucky Route 40 runs eastward to Kermit, W. Va. where it intersects with U.S. 52; and Kentucky Route 581 carries mostly local traffic within Johnson County.

Paintsville has a branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad which is located in the eastern part of town running parallel to the town along the western bank of the Levisa Fork. The railroad used to be the main type of transportation of goods and people. The railroad is still used but not as much as it once was.
Paintsville is located in central Johnson County, which is located in the northern portion of the Cumberland Plateau. It’s physical features are, as much of Eastern Kentucky is, small amounts of level land which lies in narrow strips along streams, and steep-sided valleys separated by narrow ridges. The land elevation ranges from 600 feet to 1,000 feet above sea level. Paintsville has 28.83 per cent of its land in slopes of 30 per cent and 20.52 per cent in slopes of 15-30 per cent. It has a total of 1,265 acres within the city limits.

Until recently most development of land went on in the bottom acres but with higher levels of Engineering and Architecture the hillside land has begun to take shape. The trouble with the largest portion of land is that it floods easily. In 1862 and 1957 Paintsville had two large floods. These floods were called the "Hundred Year Floods". These floods have had an important hand in what the use of the land was to be. Lately, the U.S. army Corps of Engineers have built a series of dams to control the flooding problem. The dams are Dewey Dam on Johns Creek; John Flannigan Dam at Pound, Virginia; and Flistrap Dam in Pike County. These dams give Paintsville a flood protection level of 600 feet. (1)

Paintsville has a continental climate that varies widely in temperature and precipitation. It is an which is affected by the Gulf region formations that moves northerly over the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys to the Great Lakes and east to the Atlantic coast. This causes
hot weather, usually 100° and over, in the summer and very cold, icy weather in the winter with snows ranging from 2 - 6 inches in depth. The advantageous growing season is 175 - 180 days in length. It begins around April 24 and ends around October 15.

Paintsville services Johnson County and its surrounding neighbors with jobs; hospitals and doctors; courthouse and lawyers; food, clothing, furniture, and hardware stores; utilities; and some recreation. The town has 12 neighborhoods: (1) Bristlebuck, (2) Southside, (3) Southern Portion of the Central Bottomland Division, (4) Blackberry, (5) Park, (6) Stafford Addition, (7) Bridgeford, (8) Gentown, (9) Garbnickle, (10) General Business District, (11) Margaret Heights, (12) Mayo Heights. My home is in the Garbnickle area. The conditions of residential housing is 70.94 per cent standard, 16.15 per cent deteriorating, and 12.91 per cent dilapidated.

The major sanitary defects are unproperly covered garbage containers, incomplete sanitary facilities, outdoor storage houses, and unclean property. Public water and sewerage services are available within the corporation limits. Garbage is collected daily in the business district and weekly in the residential areas.

The major community facilities in Paintsville are the Elementary School, High School, Public Library, City Hall, County Courthouse, City Park, Hospital, City Police
and City Fire Department.

Paintsville obtained its name from Paint Creek which runs through the middle of Paintsville. Paint Creek was named for the painted trees on its banks. The trees had their bark stripped away and paintings of animals drawn on the tree trunks.

Paintsville's first resident was Reverend Henry Dixon, a migrant from North Carolina. He built the first residential building in the community. In the 1820's the land was plotted and auctioned off. In 1830's the first commercial buildings began to spring up. By this time the town was firmly established and recorded as Paintsville in the Acts of the Kentucky Legislature of 1834. When Johnson County was created 10 years later, Paintsville was designated as the County seat. Before the end of the 1840's Paintsville and Johnson County got its first courthouse. Paintsville had begun to spread along Paint Creek and back toward the hills. At this time Paintsville had a population of 200 people. When the Civil War came along, Paintsville had manpower involved but saw only limited military action. In 1870 the first official census was taken and certified Paintsville with a population of 247. The Spanish-American War had little if any effect on Paintsville.

A series of important events occurred around the turn of the century, which caused considerable growth. The railways were brought in to carry the coal out after the develop-
ment of the coal industry Oil was discovered in 1917. Then World War I came along and many people went to war as a nation; Paintsville also belonged to this group. There was a growth in population from 541 in 1900 to 2,411 in 1930. The depression hit the people of our area very hard because economic standards were low any way. The area was a backwards section of the country with out an equal amount of labor supply compared to the rest of the country's labor supply. In this period of time the area got behind in development compared to the rest of the country. World War II gave the people of the area an awareness of the outside world. As in World War I, the people went to war as a nation and Paintsville came up with its share of manpower and labor supply. Since W. W. I the people have progress greatly economically and in population. The population of Paintsville, according to 1960 census, was 4,025 and by 1965, the approximate population was 4,175.

Our community has had one outstanding resident, John C. C. Mayo who was supposedly a self made millionaire. Mr. Mayo made his money by begining a system of coal mining and buying land for the railroad. He helped our community by bringing in the railways, opening new jobs in mining and gas wells and doing various community services like building a new church and supporting Paintsville in its strive for leadership of the area. There are many large families in our community who have spent many decades in
in this area. Some of those families are the Van Hooses, the Duttons, the Wells, the Wards, the Arshers, the Castles, and the Mc Faddins.

Paintsville has been the county seat since the creation of Johnson County and was first officially recorded with a population of 247 in 1870. In 1900 the population had grown to 541 and in 1920 it broke the 1,000 mark with a population of 1,383. The population continued to increase in the 30's, 40's, and 50's with the 1960 census showing the population of Paintsville as 4,025. The 1970 census has Paintsville with a population of 4,300. The census also showed no non-white families in the community. (3)

The age group of Paintsville is as follows: under 5, 10%; 5 to 17, 30%; over 21, 55%; and over 65, 10%. The average age for the city is 25.9 years of age. (4) The sex ratio of our labor supply (male to female) is 1,150 - 1,250 males to 1,050 - 1,150 females. The community's out-migration in 1940 to 1970 was lighter than its in-migration. During these years Paintsville gained 2,701 people while Johnson County lost 6,043 people.

Strip or deep well coal mining, shoe factory, American Standard factory, sewing plant, and jobs offered by local merchants or professional workers are the job employments offered by Paintsville. The current local labor of Johnson County is 2,200-2,400 workers. The chart on the following page shows the employment of Johnson County compared to Floyd and Lawrence counties.
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<th>JOHNSON</th>
<th>FLOYD</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) MINING &amp; QUARRYING</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>(2) CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>116</td>
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<td>(3) MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>205</td>
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<td>(4) TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION &amp; UTILITIES</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5) WHOLESALES &amp; RETAIL TRADE</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>228</td>
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<td>(6) FINANCE, INSURANCE, &amp; REAL ESTATE</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>(7) SERVICES</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,018</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,822</strong></td>
<td><strong>947</strong></td>
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The majority of the jobs are within a six mile distance of Paintsville. Mining and stores being the only ones to carry outside this area. The community looks healthy and prosperous, but whether it will be able to attract new business is something only time will tell. The majority of people have good management relations, for they know that the management has certain rules by which he can run his company at a profit. They also know that they do have some to say about the rules of employment. If a strike does occur, it happens as a part of a bigger union (such as the railroad strike or the United Mine Workers strike). The average wages per hour is around $1.50.
The family unit in our area, like most families, go to church, have their own recreational preferences, and live fairly well. The ones who are old enough to vote, do so with the opinions that have been drilled into their minds by the parents. The family can usually find what it wants within our city's commercial structures.

The young people seem to take it for granted that this area will always be poverty stricken. This is an ideal passed on from parents who have little education and little desire to help themselves progress. The majority of our families are not so much against change as they are afraid of what change might bring. For example, I interviewed a lower income person in the community and he told me that if we get higher paying jobs, the prices would go up and he would be in a worse position than he is now because he would probably have the same job with the same income. This type thinking makes our community resistant to change.

The family is usually run by an authoritarian figure, the mother or father. The decisions within the family are always made by this person and affect all the members of the family. The dating, courtship, and marriage patterns seem to be very modern. Most young people start to date at 15 or 16 years of age, the period of courtship varies as in many places. Marriages are usually long lived but as time passes our divorce rates climb. The marriage usually produces 3 to 5 children which is a moderate number.
The children are reared to be open minded and decision makers from early ages.

Palmview is governed by a mayor, who is elected for a four year term, and six councilmen, who are elected for two year terms. The mayor is John E. Chandler and the councilmen are J. T. Newman, Leslie VanHoose, Lawrence Brown, Dinia Archer, James Fith, and Willam Garland. The mayor is the executive officer and presides over all meetings of the council. The mayor, with the administrative assistant, Sid B. Garlad, oversees all the city departments and their actions. The administrative assistant is appointed by the council and mayor instead of being elected to this post. Mr. Garlad has held this position for some ten years. The mayor and council serve as the legislative body of the city government and must approve all actions taken by the government. The County and City Governments work well as a team and rarely have harsh disagreements with each other. There is a judiciary system which takes care of legal matters within the city and a civil court for problems in the county. The City and County Governments get their money from different taxes paid by the people. The people are aware of our city government and basically like the system. Lately, the people have been dissatisfied over some of the government's actions. With the construction of two housing projects, the people of Bristlebuck don't like the ideal of selling their homes so another project can be built. There are problems of rebuying in
Paintsville for the price of property has doubled in the passed 5 years. The people don't like the prices offered them for their homes by the government. Another thing is, they can't see any use for another project; its worth to the city or the people.

Paintsville has four different schools within its city limits. They are Paintsville Elementary School, Paintsville High School, Our Lady of the Mountain Parochial School, and Mayo State Vocational School. The Johnson County area is serviced by numerous elementary schools, There is a consolidated grade school under constration, and a con solidated high school, Johnson Centreal which cost 2,000,000 dollars.

Paintsville Elementary School occupies the block between Second and Third Streets located on College Street. Its has four buildings which are (1) two administrative buildings with classrooms in one, (2) an old building which has a classroom area and a gym, (3) a new building which has a cafeteria and classrooms. These structures serve grades one thru six with an enrollment of 531 pupils.

Paintsville High School is located on Second Street and runs back to Third Street. It serves grades eight through twelve with an enrollment of 520 pupils. There is a gymnasium on campus and two separate athletic facilities (1) the football field is located in Staffords Addition and (2) the baseball field is located at the city park. These facilities along with the school, was built in 1952.
and has been keep in excellent condition. The school offers one many different courses which one can study. I can't think of anything to discredit the school system. I attended the school for four years.

Mayo State Vocational School is located on Third Street and covers about eight acres. There are eleven classrooms and fourteen workshops which serves 622 pupils. The people who attain Mayo usually get training in skilled, semi-skilled, or technical occupations. Mayo has recently built a new science building at a cost of $650,000 dollars and new buildings are under construction and to be completed at a cost of $7,000,000 dollars. This expansion plan is to be completed within five years and will triple the enrollment capacity.

Our Lady of the Mountain Parochial School is located on Third Street adjacent to Mayo Vocational School. It is a church owned and operated school serving grades one thru eight. The school structure is the old John C. C. Mayo mansion.

These four schools has a total of 94 teachers. Paintsville Elementary has 25, Paintsville High 23, Our Lady of the Mountain 6, and Mayo 40. The ratio of students to teachers is: Paintsville Elementary 21-1, Paintsville High 23-1, Our Lady of the Mountain 13-1, and Mayo 16-1.

Prestonsburg Community College is 13 miles away on U. S. 23. P. C. C. Has helped the area because many students
attend college that would not have normally gone to school. The people of my area feel that P. C. C. has helped the people and area to progress by offering a higher level of learning to us. They support the school in its educational and athletic programs.

The Johnson County area has more than sixty church congregations with nine different denominations. Paintsville has a Ministerial Association. The number of persons who attend church is unknown. The United Baptist has the largest number of congregations with 17; The Free Will Baptist has 13; the Enterprise Baptist has 7; Methodist has 6; Church of Christ has 6; Christians has 5; Missionary Baptist has 4; Church of God has 3; and Pentecostal has 1. The people of the Ministerial Association are concerned with encouraging the opportunity for the moral and spiritual development. This is a hard subject to do anything with because most persons don't want to discuss their religious preferences with strangers. If a preacher or minister talks of his religion and its effects on the community, you get his biased opinion.

Paintsville's recreational facilities of a bowling alley with 12 lanes, 3 pool tables, and a snack bar; a youth center for dancing or getting together; a 18 hole golf course and a two story country club; a theater and a drive-in theater make for many hours of pleasure. There is a city park and playground located on Madison Avenue. It consists of a swimming pool with a separate wading pool and a bathhouse. It has outside basketball and tennis courts. It has the area baseball field which is used by
Paintsville High School team, Little League, men's and women's softball teams, and Paintsville Independent team. It also has a picnic area for the children and a vacant lot for various uses usually determined by the people. There are several recreational developments within a 50 mile distance of Paintsville. There is Jenny Wiley State Park and Dewey Lake. This area includes lodge, pool boat-dock, fishing area, horseback riding, and hiking. Natural Bridge State Park is located 50 miles from Paintsville on Kentucky route 77. This park is located in the Daniel Boone National Forest. There is a new park under construction on Paint Creek and will be called Paint Creek Dam and Reservoir. The schools sometimes have dances, musical shows, and plays. The schools also have athletics for recreation. All these facilities are open to the public and are used more than one might think.

There are several groups and clubs in Paintsville. These organizations help the people learn about community functions, help beautify Paintsville, and help people get to know others of their community. The Kiwanis and Rotary clubs are the most active. Paintsville carries out services which aid in better living and comfort for its residents. Paintsville has a good road and street system in the area but we are letting these roads deteriorate by permitting excessive weighted coal trucks to operate on them. When a large number of people enter town
it becomes very congested and it is hard to find parking. Each street should be two way but many are not, especially the three main traffic carrying streets of Main, Second, and College streets. Paintsville is served by a taxi system as well as a local and Greyhound Bus line. The local bus system helps transport people in rural areas by getting people in and out of town. One has to walk or rely on personal car or taxis if he lives in town.

Paintsville has a branch of the Southern Bell Telephone System located within its city limits. Most people have telephones or live close to someone who does have one. We also have a weekly newspaper called the Paintsville Herald. There is a number of people who subscribe to big town newspapers, either The Ashland Daily or The Courier-Journal. Paintsville also has a community T. V. cable system which services the majority of the townspeople. We have two newspapers stands at which you can obtain a newspaper or book.

Our utilities are adequate to serve our community. The electricity is provided by the Kentucky Power Company which serves the community. Gas and water is operated by the city office for these services. There is a 3,000,000 cubic feet of gas demand per day by 2,000 people. (7) The raw water source of Paintsville comes from the Levisa Fork. There is an existing water treatment plant with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons per day and a present consumption of 450,000 gallons daily. (8)
The water system has a storage capacity of 600,000 gallons of water in three storage tanks. (9) There is a garbage collection system operated within our community but there is an inadequate disposal of such garbage. It is taken to a hollow just outside the city limits and dumped out on top of ground where it lies until burned which is done once a month. There is a sewer disposal plant which was built in 1965 at a cost of 1,370,000 dollars. This plant takes care of 400,000 gallons of sewage per day but has a capacity of 700,000 gallons per day. (10)

The community has two hospitals serving its population. The Paintsville Clinic has a X-ray room, 50 beds, emergency room, clinical laboratory, delivery room, operating room, and food service. It has two medical doctors, two surgeons, one radiologist, and four registered nurses. This hospital at present is not operated because of the owner died and his wife can't manage it. The Paintsville Hospital has 108 beds, 2 operating rooms, 1 laboratory, X-ray equipment, emergency room, delivery room, 4 nurseries, electrocardiogram, blood bank, and food service. It has 8 medical doctors, two surgeons, 1 pediatrician, 1 radiologist, 2 dentists, and 5 registered nurses. (11) This hospital is the most effective one in the area and will become more so with the construction of a new wing to the hospital.

Paintsville has three nursing homes in the area and
the Johnson County Health Clinic, besides the two hospitals. The Health Clinic was completed in 1962 at a cost of 80,000 dollars.

There is a Johnson County Courthouse located on College street between Main and Second streets. It is a modern facility and at present it provides adequate service but may not be able to handle a substantial increase in population.

A City Hall is located on Euclid Avenue and houses the fire department, city police office, mayor’s office, jail, gas and water office, city clerk, municipal court, building inspector, and urban renewal office. It was built in 1937 and has been kept in a very good condition.

The Paintsville Post Office is located on the corner of Second and College streets. It has the Draft Board, Army Volunteer Officer, and Director of the U. S. Postal Delivery Service for Paintsville.

The Paintsville - Johnson County Library is located at the corner of Main and Church streets. The Library is a member of the Kentucky Library Association and has 21,500 volumes. It has a 1968 Ford Bookmobile which services all rural schools and communities. Anyone can get a book from either the library or bookmobile.

The class system is a known thing around Paintsville for there are those who have money, culture, and education. There are also those who don’t have any of these things and don’t have the interest to help themselves progress. Some people are on welfare; these are the ones who are considered the lower class. The doctors are the higher class.
This is considered mainly on income bases. "I think it is the wrong resource for such a classification. A person's knowledge and education should be involved in this."

Some people have a high school education and training from Mayo but are still on welfare because of lack of jobs and lack of desire. A person's ability to do should be taken into account, for the high income people probably inherited their money and the low income person has to work his way up. The availability of jobs is something else because there are not many jobs open for employment. And lastly, the readiness to work, for many people would work if possible.

For these reasons I say our social class system is backward and harmful to our young people who have to play a role which they don't deserve. A person has a hard time changing class in a small town like Paintsville where he is well known. The class system will probably go on as long as there are people who don't realize what it is doing to our young people.

The damage to our roads by the trucks hauling coal from strip mines has caused the biggest social problem. The trucks are overloaded and tearing up public roads which the managers of these businesses don't want to help repair. The narrow roads of Johnson County also provides a hazard to children being bused to school. The roads are often too narrow for a coal truck and school bus to pass at a normal speed. Strip mining is a land killing type of mining for it destroys the landscape and land use. The
people don't like the way the strip miners are getting away with these things.

Unemployment is something that has been a problem to the people in the past. There was complaints about the housing conditions, food conditions, and educational conditions. In the past five to ten years employment has made great progress in the community. Jobs have been created and used to help our town better itself. These jobs helped the people raise their standards of living by raising their income.

Pollution was a problem before our sewage disposal system was developed. The sewage was being dumped into Paint Creek and its tributaries. Declining population has just become a problem in our community. In the future of Paintsville this problem may be very serious for Paintsville may lose its importance to the area if it loses the population that performs the services that is Paintsville's life line.

The people of Paintsville like and appreciate the town's conveniences. They work, live and entertain themselves around Paintsville. They get involved in politics and environment of our town. They understand a certain amount of change but don't like to change overnight. The residents of Paintsville are proud of Paintsville and want to make Paintsville a better place to live.
The Paintsville of the future will be a more important town to the area. Along with its neighbor, Prestonsburg, Paintsville will be the work site and trading center of the area. The people from a larger area will depend upon Paintsville for its needs. Paintsville and Prestonsburg will be comparatively equal in most area performances. Both will grow and become centers of culture in this area.
FOOTNOTES


(2) Interview, Annette Justice, Secretary to Mayor's Office, Paintsville, Ky., 1970.

(3) Industrial Resources, Paintsville, Ky., 1968 Pg. 6.

(4) Johnson County Looks to the Future, Paintsville, Ky., 1970 Pg. 1.

(5) Industrial Resources, Paintsville, Ky., 1968 Pg. 7.

(6) Johnson County Looks to the Future, Paintsville, Ky., 1970 Pg. 7.

(7) Industrial Resources, Paintsville, Ky., 1968 Pg. 5.

(8) Interview, City Gas and Water Office, Paintsville, Ky., 1970.

(9) Interview, City Gas and Water Office, Paintsville, Ky., 1970.

(10) Interview, Annette Justice, Secretary to Mayor's Office, Paintsville, Ky., 1970.

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I. Hall, Mitchell, Johnson County Kentucky Volume II, Louisville, Ky., The Standard Press, 1928


III. Johnson County Looks to the Future, Johnson County Farm Bureau and Mayo State Vocational School, Paintsville Ky., 1970.


V. INTERVIEWS:

(1) Admittance Office, Paintsville Hospital, Paintsville, Kentucky, 1970.

(2) Annette Justice, Secretary to the Mayor's Office, Paintsville, Kentucky, 1970.


(4) Clyne Sayers, Minister of the Penucostal Church, Paintsville, Kentucky, 1970.


(7) Sid B. Garland, City Administrator, Paintsville, Kentucky, 1970.