Nestled in the foot hills of the Cumberland Mountains in Eastern Kentucky is the small rural town of Salyersville. It lies on the east bank of Licking River at the mouth of State Road and Burning Fork Creeks and a residential section on a horse shoe rolling hill west of the river known as Dixie Addition. To the west and south are low lying hills which are the results of ancient plaination or penaplaination. Beyond these are more rugged and much higher hills. To the east and north the town is surrounded by very high and very steep hills. The town as a whole stretches along the river low lands and also along the low bottoms of State Road and Burning Fork creeks and has sections known as Cheyene, Burning Fork, Howard Addition and Dixie Addition. The Public Square lies on the east bank and just below State Road Fork creek.

The climate of the community is very mild winters and not too hot Summers; often the spring has more than average rain fall causing the town to be damaged by floods. On the whole it has a very agreeable climate.

Salyersville is the county seat of Magoffin County and serves as a focal point for the entire county. On Saturday many of the people come to the town where they gossip with each other or to exchange information and do their shopping.
The city has long prospered from the oil fields which lie just east of town. The revenue from this oil has enabled the town to have a reasonable economy and has been the main source of revenue for the county government. To the south lie the state's largest gas producing wells, but this has not added much to the town's economy for all of the gas is transported out of the county and the city of Salyersville is without any supply of natural gas. This lack of fuel has been the major drawback to the economy of the town.

The land use has not been properly planned and most of the layout of the town has been without any definite plan in mind. However, now there is a planning commission and it is beginning to make long range plans both for the city and county. There is also a project proposed by the United States Corps of Engineers which is a comprehensive plan which details the future of the town and county for the next fifty years. This plan incorporates the industrial growth and also the recreational needs of the six county area. If this plan should be developed then this area would become the major industrial center of all Eastern Kentucky.

As for as the historical development of the community, provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution there had been an effort in 1794 to establish a settlement near what is now the site of Salyersville but only to be driven back by Indians (probably Cherokee).
However, that still didn't keep settlers from returning, maybe not in the same place but in different parts of the county. Because our forefathers (men and women from North and South Carolina) were men and women of strong will and determination, later records show that the first permanent settlement was made one-half mile below Salyersville at Licking Station so called from the Indians having once temporarily occupied it. Here the Licking River flows in a great semi-circle and the land was nearly in the form of a horse shoe. Below the Licking Station was flat ground and here was where junctions of creeks met and emptied into the Licking River. Settlers had no way of distributing their goods except maybe on horseback and that took too long so instead they would float their goods down the creeks until they reached the river, here they would meet other settlers who done the same and eventually the low level land became a stopping point and since the early settlers saw that the level land was fertile and abundant crops could be produced they cleared away the trees and built a fort in the center of the open area and it could easily be defended.

Salyersville (Now the county seat of Magoffin County) is 875 ft. above sea level. It was first known as Adamsville named in honor of Uncle Billy Adams a respected pioneer noted for his shrewdness and who operated a grist mill, a flour mill, a tannery and a black smith shop and who lived in the area. In 1860 its name was changed to Salyersville
in honor of Samuel Salyers, the district representative in Frankfort, who was responsible for the creation of Magoffin County.

As years passed Salyersville grew little by little and the people were happy and enjoyed themselves especially when Jockey-day came around the first day of the circuit court in January, April, and September. Here the old favorite stopping place was an open field behind the Court House where oldtime horse trading, gun swapping, watch, dog, harness or just about anything of value was traded or swapped. Even today one only has to be there on a Saturday or a Monday to realize how truly Salyersville is a center of interaction for these are the days when people within and also outside the town go to the public square just to see and to be seen. The sidewalks and the square around the courthouse are crowded with people buying supplies, attending court, seeing to courthouse business, getting information from the county agent or just visiting with neighbors and relatives.

Salyersville has been fairly stable in population since World War Two remaining between 1,000 and 1,200 all the time. The 1970 census showed a total population of 1,196 with a few more females than males. It also showed only one not of the white race and only one family living as a group which was the jailer and some of her in-laws. On the average there are almost four per family which is slightly higher than the national average. Other information for the 1970 census has not been made available as yet. Fertility and Mortality
is average for Kentucky. Migration is the leading factor for even though there are many more births than deaths that population has remained virtually the same because of people leaving to seek employment elsewhere.

The economy of the community is very low because of insufficient work for the labor force. At present the unemployment is standing at 26% which is better than four times the national average. There is only one manufacturing plant, The Continental Conveyor which employs about ninety workers, but is being expanded to employ from four hundred and fifty to six hundred workers. This will greatly relieve the unemployment. Due to this lack of work we have almost all the various government welfare agencies operating in the county and city. We have such agencies as Senior Citizens, Main Stream, Head Start, N.Y.C. in school and N.Y.C. out of school, Emergency Food and Medical and on the job training. Also there are over 50% of the population drawing food stamps and the monthly outlay is approximately $130,000.00. The city obtained approximately $60,000.00 dollars to upgrade their police force and fire department. This money was from the Emergency Employment Fund. There is also Title I which has functioned to greatly aid the needs of the citizens.

The total assessment of property within the city is approximately 5,000.00 dollars and the tax rate is set at 17¢ per $100 dollar valuation plus 12¢ additional for a new fire truck special levy. The
The collection of taxes have been very poor in the past but a determined effort is now being made to collect present taxes as well as back taxes. This year the records showed that there were $17,000.00 dollars of delinquent taxes on the books. These are now in process of collection. The town's economy is improving rapidly. They are now getting a facilities building costing over $400,000.00 and a new housing project is under construction which costs over $700,000.00. We are also in process of obtaining another factory and have optioned 27 more acres for industrial.

The family is the backbone of all communities and that is where Salyersville is greatly lacking. There is a great deal of delinquency among both parents and children. This is to be expected when you have a high rate of unemployment and also a population looking to the government for their livelihood. The dependency upon others for their living seems to demoralize the citizenry. Since there is very little recreational facilities in the community the young folks have nothing to do but get into trouble. Dating is mostly done by the couple driving here and there, maybe to a drive-in restaurant or sitting in a parked car. If the city or county had more supervised recreational activities this situation would improve.

The government of the city is that of the mayor type. It has a mayor, Robert Watts, who heads the city government and a five man city council.
Both the mayor and city council are elected, the council every two years and the mayor every four years. Since the city is third class, the police judge is appointed for a term of four years. The Police Department is headed by Pat Montgomery as chief and five other policemen. The water commission is an independent agency of the town and manages the water and sewer system. There is also an up-to-date fire department. The council passes ordinances which become law and these are enforced by the mayor and those working under him. There is also the city attorney, Ralph Lee Gardner who presides during police court and represents the city in all legal matters. The city uses assessment of the county and does not have an assessor and the police usually collects taxes.

The educational facilities of the community consists of Head Start, which is similar to kindergarten, grade school and a four year high school. There is also day care, rural child care and mental retarded classes. All these are furnished by and through the county school system and none is furnished by the city itself. At one time the city maintained a grade school and a four year high school, but in 1935 it was consolidated with the county system and a new high school and grade school was built in the town, but this building burned in 1969 and since then the grade school has been poor holding classes in make-shift trailers and temporary buildings. However, this year there
will be in operation a new grade school building which cost about $1,000,000.00. This new building will be used by the grades until another $1,000,000.00 addition shall be added then the grades will exchange with the high school. It is also planned that there will be a vocational part added to the new school.

The religion of Salyersville is very varied in that it has a church of almost all denominations common to Eastern Kentucky. There are the Christian Church, a Church of God, a Church Of Christ, a Methodist, A Southern Baptist and a United Baptist. This allows almost anyone a church of their choice. Most all the churches are devout in their beliefs and are one of the greatest social benefits to the community. All the people are considerate of the others religion and their friendliness has attracted people from as far away as Australia who came here and never left but lived and died and was buried here, and when asked why they stayed on, sometimes under adverse conditions, they would reply that there was something about Salyersville that made them never to be leave.

Since Salyersville is not a very big community it doesn't offer like other relative big communities too much opportunities for social participation. However, there are a few organizations such as the Kwanis, P.T.A., Rural Development Corporation, Woodman of the World, Jaycees.
These organizations offer a challenge to the business people and in turn they contribute to the welfare of the community. There are fraternal organizations such as American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star and in the past there have been Eagles Clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Red Men's Lodge and Junior order, but these have been discontinued. There are clubs for women such as the Lady's Aid, Women's Club, Junior Women's Club and various church clubs. These offer varied activities for the women. In the schools there are Future Farmers of America, Future Home Makers of America and Sportsmans Club. There are also Little League Base Ball Clubs and also minor league for the small children.

There is only one indoor theatre for the public which shows some very interesting movies. There has been from time to time effort made to have a swimming pool and public park but these have failed in the past. We now have the greatest hope of something worthwhile being done as we have just been approved a community building grant which will build a community building with varied recreational facilities and will provide a place for the people of the city as well as the county to assemble and to have programs suitable to their needs. There is usually a county fair held in the city and a fourth of July celebration held along with carnivals each year. The Connelley farm is used as a place for horse racing and stock car racing, picknicking
and sometimes as a circus location. The above pretty well covers the recreational facilities available to the city of Salyersville.

However, since Salyersville is located in the heart of the Cumberland mountains these mountains provide the area within fifty miles radius with many attractions. Some of these are: Jenny Wiley State Park located only 23 miles from Salyersville and Natural Bridge State Park only 42 miles away. These Parks offer and are equipped with modern facilities such as camping, lodging, swimming, dining, horseback riding, golfing, and picnicking. People from Salyersville go to these places to relax and enjoy themselves.

Services for the community residents include a number of different things such as: Transportation, Communication, Library and new health and welfare services and a number of new utilities. Below is listed a number of things that fall under these services:

1. Transportation

   A. The Cheasapeake & Ohio Railway, the nearest railroad serving Salyersville is located at Royalton, seven miles south. This railway furnishes transportation of freight only and is the main way of transporting goods such as lumber, coal and other products out of the county.

   B. Salyersville is also served by the following highways:

      Mountain Parkway, Ky. Route 7, U.S. 460 and State route No.30. All these either pass through the town or at its outskirts.
The Mountain Parkway has a tremendous effect on the community in that it furnishes modern transportation to the town.

C. The following truck lines also give ample transportation to the town. Point Express, Bell Lines and four buses each day furnished by Southern Greyhound Lines.

D. Salyersville is also furnished adequate taxi service in that it has six full-time taxis.

E. There are two commercial airports that serve Salyersville namely: Tri-State at Ceredo, W. Va. and Blue Grass Airport at Lexington, Ky. There are also two small airports that serve Salyersville. One between Prestonburg, Ky. and West Liberty, Ky. Each of these are about 25 miles away.

II. Communication

A. Modern Telephone service is supplied by Foothills Rural Telephone Coop. Corp. and they report 1,134 customers in the Salyersville area. Telegraph services is furnished by Western Union at Paintsville, which is 18 miles east.

B. Salyersville has a second class post office which furnishes excellent service to the town and entire county. However, there is no local delivery but boxes are available.

C. Salyersville is also served by a weekly newspaper "The Salyersville Independent" and has a circulation of 2,000. The editor is Tim Bostic. Others papers include the Lexington Herald, Courter Journal, Ashland Independent and the Huntington Herald.
D. Radio reception is from Ashland, Paintsville, West Liberty, Jackson, Hazard, and two stations in Prestonsburg.

E. Television is furnished on a T.V. cable owned and operated by Frank Howard. This furnishes excellent viewing on all major networks including N.B.C., A.B.C., C.B.S., W.K.Y.T., and Educational T.V.. In July and August of 1972 there are to be added three more channels.

III. Public Utilities

A. Electricity is the most modern system which include Ky. Power and East Ky. Rural Electric Coop. Natural gas is not available but liquidified gas, fuel oil and electricity is abundant for fuel.

B. Salyersville is the owner and operator of a modern water system, which includes a modern filtering plant and sewer treatment plant. Water is obtained from three deep wells. The plant is capable of chlorination and filtration and its peak capacity is 150,000 gallons per day and the average daily use is 85,000 gallons. Storage capacity is by means of a 350,000 gallon tank. The average pumping time is 8 to 9 hours per day and distribution is through 4 and 6 inch lines.

The sewer system is newly completed at a cost of 95,000. The Salyersville water and sewer system is operated by the Water & Sewer Company and has a designed capacity of 120,000 gallons.
The average daily flow is 40,000 gallons. The type of treatment is primary and secondary aeration. The effluent discharge is emptied into the Licking River. Sanitary lines are 8 inches storm mains are 18 inches. The rates of charge are 80% of the monthly water bill.

Salyersville is also served with many good stores of all kinds and some of these are better than found most anywhere. They are always well stocked and prices are reasonable.

18. Health and Welfare Services

Salyersville has recently completed a Medical Clinic which serves the community and county. There are two doctors (M.D. Anderson and M.D. Leslie) one eye specialist (Joe Conley) one dentist (Ractliff) and one Mountial Mental Health Worker (Conley). Also there is a Public Health Dept. which has one registered nurse, one clerk, one medical consultant.

Some of the Welfare Services I have already mentioned: Public Assistance, Rural Child Care, Day Care Centers, etc., all these services serve the community in some way.

There is only one Library in the community, which serves both city and county. Their size collection is 30,000 volumes.

In Salyersville there is only two classes socially speaking these are the lower classes or the poor and the middle class. There are no real wealthy people. Most all of them have to work for their living. There are no racial barriers for there are no negroes and only one Cherokee Indian.
Since Salyersville has adequate roads now the problems that are unsolved that will most likely affect the future of the community is those of recreational, educational and industrialization. All these factors have been well planned in the core of engineers which is incorporated in the pilot project known as the Royalton Reservoir and Salyersville. This project is planned in ten five year periods and is said to cost at present prices approximately $300,000,000.00 dollars. In this project there is 1,861 acres set aside for factories, roads, railroads, several parks as well as industrial parks, three golf courses, three new schools, boulevards around Salyersville and the present business section as a shopping mall. There is also a fish hatchery and sewage systems, water systems, three small dams with recreation aspects and a large lake above Royalton which would be a pure water lake. The best part of this proposal is that it has been approved by all who has studied it and now it is under study by the Appalachian Regional Commission. It is estimated that the population of Magoffin County would within ten years jump to 50,000. In the beginning the core stated that this project was contingent upon the local people doing certain things. The people now see the need of this project and have taken several steps suggested by the core and everybody familiar with what has been done feels that this will come about and this will cure most all the ills facing Salyersville and the entire surrounding territory.