

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

LLOYD W. HILL

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
30 June 1988
OHRC accession #88-76-1

INTRODUCTION

This interview was conducted by Catherine Jones for the Oral History Research Center as part of "The History of Paoli, Indiana." The transcript has been edited by the Oral History Research Center's staff, and by the interviewee. The original tape and final transcript are kept on file in the Lilly Library. Copies of some interviews are kept at the Paoli Public Library and the Orange County Historical Society library. Duplicates of the tape and transcript may be consulted at the Oral History Research Center.

The reader should bear in mind the fact that this material is a verbatim transcription of an interview, not a written document. Very few persons speak with the precision with which they write. We have done our best to make the transcript easily readable, while remaining faithful to the tape recording.

Short quotations from the transcript may be used, providing the interviewee, interviewer, and the Oral History Research Center are given proper credit. For any photocopy, or for extensive use of the transcript in any publication, permission must be obtained from the Oral History Research Center. Duplicate copies can be made only through the Center, either by writing the office at Memorial Hall West, Room 401, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405, or by calling 812-855-2856.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Lloyd W. Hill, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)

my oral history interview with Cathy Jones,
Interviewer (please PRINT)

which was conducted on June 30, 1988, to Indiana University.
Date

It is hereby agreed between myself and the Indiana University Oral History Research Center that all rights, title, and interest in the transcript (verbatim and edited) and/or tape recording belong to Indiana University.

These rights, title, and interest include all presentations and publications which may result from the reading of, or use of excerpts or full transcript selections from this interview. If necessary, indicate below any provisions or restrictions on the use of this interview.

In addition, indicate below whether or not a copy of the edited transcript (that is, with all restrictions edited out) may be deposited at the Paoli Public Library, where it will be available to the general public. In addition, a copy may be left at the Orange County Historical Society library which is in the Museum of Local History..

OK to send
5/6/91
BT

In full accord with the provisions of the Deed of Gift, I hereunto set my hand.

Lloyd W. Hill 12-8-90
Donor Date

Cathy Jones
Donor Date

PAOLI PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Lloyd W. Hill
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: Hill's Hardware, PO 286, Paoli, IN 47454
** address to L.W. Hill

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: @ turn of century Place of Birth: _____

Sex: M Ethnic Origin: _____

Education: _____

Occupational History: operated a bakery on the square; then changed it
to the still present Hill's Hardware

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: _____

Father's Name and occupation: _____

Mother's Name and occupation: _____

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: Catherine Anne Jones
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Local address: 211 S. Grant 47401 331-1058
and phone

Permanent Address: 11705 Eden Glenn Drive , Carmel, IN 46032 317-844-7935
and phone

Date of Birth: 8/59 Place of Birth: NY

Association with the Paoli Project: assistant

Subject of interview: this is not a full life history; rather is focuses
on the business on the square

Number of Tapes: _____

final
copy

HILL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE BAKERY:	
opened	1
grocery stores in Paoli	1
prices	2
work hours	3
FARMERS AND SATURDAYS	4
HARDWARE STORE	5
his sons	5
reasons for change to	6
current schedule	6
inventory	7
credit	8
the competition	9
PAOLI SQUARE NOW	10
ON BEING NINETY	11
HIS LIFE	
now	12
birth	13
education	14
PAOLI CHANGES	
cars	14
people	14
"town visiting"	15
THE BAKERY, AGAIN	
remarks on bread	15ff
PAOLI'S PAST BUSINESSES	17
SCHOOLING	18ff
THE COURTHOUSE FIRES	19ff

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Lloyd Hill
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones
DATE: June 30, 1988
SUBJECT: Life History in Paoli, Indiana
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

Jones: Lloyd Hill, at Hill's Hardware on the--let's see--on the north...

Hill: ...west corner...

J: ...northwest corner of the square in Paoli. And today's the thirtieth of June, 1988.

So, let's see, you've been in this building how long, Mr. Lloyd...er Mr. Hill...?

H: Since 1921.

J: 1921. Now, when you first opened up, you were a bakery?

H: We were a bakery and...Raymond Burgess and Lloyd Hill... a young fellow and I went in together.

J: Why had you...how old were you at the time?

H: I was--let's see, that was '21, I was born in '98--I was 23 years old, wasn't I?

J: Yes, yes. How did you learn to bake.

H: Burgess, he knew something about it and he taught me.

J: How was business? How did...?

H: Well, it was the only bakery in town and the only bread come to town was from Louisville--in here in boxes. And we delivered to the grocery stores around the square and at that time there was about two...(pause) there was about four grocery stores around the square.

J: Do you remember what they were called?

H: Well, there was one on the lower side there was Witmeiers and then there...let's see....

HILL

J: J.C.?

H: No. No J.C.

J: OK.

H: MacIntyres. Sam MacIntyre's Grocery out beyond the corner where Welcome Inn is.

J: Yes.

H: And...particularly one down there on the westside...well there was Dermeiers. Yes, _____ Dermeier's grocery...

J: OK. OK.

H: ...over on the westside. We delivered them bread...we'd take it out of the oven and deliver it unwrapped while it was hot. And they had cases; we'd put it in those cases and they'd wrap it up in just white paper--in grocery paper and sell it out while it was hot.

J: I was under the impression, I guess, that most women baked bread at home at that point.

H: No, they didn't.

J: Not any more?

H: Well, they did...I guess they did, yes. Yes, most of them did bake their own.

J: But they would still buy it at the stores?

H: Yes.

J: Yes. Huh. What else did you-all bake?

H: Oh, we fried doughnuts. Baked cookies and salt-rising bread with _____ for salt-rising bread. And sweet rolls and cookies and cakes, pies...and we made a fruit pie--cherry, apple, raisin, or you name it--a ten-inch pie and sold for a quarter.

J: Geez. (laughs) You can't even buy a crust for a quarter any more.

H: And we sold doughnuts twenty-cents a dozen; cookies in the oven a penny apiece...

J: Wow!

HILL

H: ...and bread was eight-cents, twin-roll for a pound-and-a-quarter, or two for fifteen. And then at one time we made a single loaf and sold it for a nickle and... Doughnuts twenty-cents a dozen that costs you twenty-cents apiece now. And sweet rolls were fifteen-cents a dozen. And buns were a penny apiece...they're about a nickle apiece now, I imagine.

J: Wow!

H: And, that's how prices went up. But we bought sugar then a nickle a pound and shortening a nickle a pound and flour...and flour was about six dollars a barrel--five or six dollars a barrel--it was cheap. It would cost you about twelve or fifteen now.

J: Yes. Yes. When you opened the shop, did business take off right away? Or did it take awhile before people got used to the idea....

H: Oh, it took quite awhile. We started in...we had an old-time mixer we bought the shop of the...McCoy. _____ and old _____ they...he moved over here from Orleans and put a shop in here. And he died on Saturday night and they couldn't get anybody to bake for him and they wanted to sell it. And Burgess, my partner, was nephew--I guess, he was--and they wanted to sell it to him and anyhow, it had a mixer run by a gasoline engine...

J: God!

H: ...and there was...only had electricity--220 volts--we made it over here at the light plant in the southside of town. And 220 volts, and it was just going of a night a little while and of a morning a little while. It would go off at ten o'clock at night and wouldn't come on until about six o'clock the next morning. And we had to use lamps here to work by.

J: How late...how late would you be baking? Or how early would you...?

H: Well, we'd get up at...we'd set the dough there of an afternoon and then we'd come down at midnight and start working it out.

J: Wow!

H: And we'd get it out the next morning about six o'clock.

J: So, you would work from twelve to six?

HILL

H: Yes.

J: Was this you and your partner?

H: And then you'd work the rest of the day--until noon. We worked till noon and then we'd have a girl or somebody come on... A girl come on at seven o'clock of a morning and they would go home at eleven for lunch and then they'd come back at twelve and laid us off at twelve. And they would run it for the rest of the day. And they'd stay here till six o'clock--from seven to six--and they paid seven dollars a week.

J: You have a very good memory (laughs). This was you and your wife?

H: Yes. Then later I got a young fellow to learn to bake and he done the night baking. He done the doughnuts and the buns and then I'd mix the dough of a morning...bread dough as later years at six o'clock, I'd go down there at six o'clock of a morning. I'd mix a dough; he would load the truck then and take stuff and go to Orleans and round town here and deliver. And he fried doughnuts...

J: Yes.

H: ...and make buns by himself during the night and he'd go to work at midnight himself. And that way I didn't have to go to work of a night--only on Friday night I'd have to come down here and help him and...we had a lot of extra buns on Friday nights to make.

J: Is that because the farmers would come in on Saturday...?

H: Well, the restaurants would want extra buns.

J: You know, Mr. Hill, a lot of people have told me how the farmers used to come into town on Saturdays...?

H: They'd come in and just lying around the square and sit around on Saturday night...they'd line up around the square. Didn't have no parking meters and just set and watched people go by.

J: What kind of hours did your store have on Saturday?

H: Well, we stayed open usually until about nine or ten o'clock at night.

J: And what kinds of things would they buy?

HILL

H: Oh, a lot of times they didn't do too much business at night. Because the wife's sister lived out in the country and her husband would come to town and he wanted to loaf around... and so she'd come in here and set and talk to my wife. And I'd have to tell her I was going home around ten o'clock or they'd stayed until midnight, I reckon. That's why we stayed open on Saturday night because they just wanted to loaf. Talk...visit.

J: When you say "they", you mean...

H: My wife and her sister...

J: OK. OK.

H: ...lived out in the country.

J: So you didn't do.... (both adjust the recorder)

H: So, where do you live?

J: Me? I live in Bloomington.

H: Bloomington, oh! (recorder is shut off)

J: OK, we were talking about the bakery. Where were we? You're saying that it took a couple of years for the idea to catch on...oh, I know, we were talking about Saturdays when the farmers were up here...

H: Yes, and her sister'd come in from the country and visit her and set here and talk till ten o'clock and I'd get ready to go home and I'd make them close up. And I don't know anything much more to tell you.

_____ then in '46 I was getting tired of running the bakery, wanted to know if I couldn't do something else. So in '46, why I quit the bakery and soon I sold my truck and sold the equipment. And I'd been renting the house--my partner owned half the building, I was paying him rent--so I bought his half of the building and remodeled the building and started a hardware and sporting goods store here in 1946.

And my two boys, when they were going to school, they helped me out and they're both gone now. One lives in Louisville and works for York Refrigeration and the other one lives in Miami, Florida--twenty miles north of Miami, in Pembroke Pines. And he drives to work at the airport in Miami. He's been working down there twenty years for Eastern Airlines, in electronics work. So both of my boys took a correspondence course and both making good money and a good living by just taking a correspondence course; one in refrigeration and the

HILL

other in electronics and...what he's doing now working for Eastern Airlines. He repairs everything that controls the jet.

J: Wow! (pause) Why did you decide to go into hardware?

H: Well, I thought it would give me a rest.

J: Why were you tired of...

H: I wouldn't have to work on Sunday. In the bakery you had to work on Sunday and seven days a week, 365 days out of a year. With hardware, when you close up Saturday night you don't have to come back till Monday morning. I could get me some rest.

J: Did you and your wife work together the entire time in the bakery?

H: Yes.

J: Was she also tired of it too?

H: Yes, she hired a young fellow to work of a night here and she didn't work of a night any more.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: And she would come down here and let me off for lunch in the hardware after I started up, for a while. And any more I close up for an hour or two, I eat at the Senior Citizens--eat lunch--and then I cook my own supper and breakfast at home.

J: Do you have any help here at all?

H: No.

J: None.

H: I do everything myself. I'm the only guy in the United States that gets up at six o'clock and gets his breakfast, washes his dishes and once a week does his laundry while that's going on and then come down here and run the hardware myself. I'm the only guy in the United States that does that. (laughs)

J: We ought to get you a plague, Mr. Hill. (laughs)

H: I'll bet it would be hard to find.

J: Yes, yes. (laughs) You're right.

H: At eighty...at ninety years old...

HILL

J: At ninety years old. Like I said...

H: ...on the fourth of July.

J: Congratulations. (laughs) Oh dear. I'm looking around your hardware store and there's so much stuff here. Did it take a long...?

H: I buy just a little. People come here and ask for something and I'll buy just a little of it till I just build it up. You could name a thousand different articles in here, I imagine.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: And not the same... Just like now, there's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven...there's eight packages of nails, little nails.

J: Yes, yes.

H: That one, you see. And there's a bunch of locks, padlocks there--that's just one thing. And this is fishhooks, that's one thing. And these are washers, that's one thing. You see, that'd be just one thing. You see, there's _____ and there's a doorlock and there's gaskets for pressure cookers and there's a thing you put on your door so when somebody knocks at the door they can't open the door and walk in.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: And there's C-clamps... There's just.... eye bolts and stove bolts and carriage bolts... carriage bolts, screws, and going back, electrical stuff...it's just....

J: Well, when you opened up, how much did you open up with?

H: I didn't have hardly anything. I built it up over a period of years.

J: That's what I thought. That's what I thought.

H: Yes, it took all these years.

J: Geez. Cause there's so much stuff. Well....

H: I've had about...oh, I've got about \$20,000 worth of stuff in here, at that.

J: Is it insured?

HILL

H: Yes. Like you take Kimple(?), a place down there, they've got at least \$100,000. And the Wellman place over here, I imagine they've got \$100,000--75- or \$100,000 in their store. I've just got a...doesn't look like I've got anything you go walk through Kimple's place down there.

J: What's your biggest it... what's the bread-and-butter of your business now? Or what has it been in the past?

H: Oh, I wouldn't know. I don't have any bread-and-butter right now.

J: (laughs) What was it?

H: I don't know what would be. Fishing tackle till I got so much competition. And now it's slowed down. The Amish come in and buy a lot of stuff and they...

J: Oh!

H: And then the caretaker of the Courthouse, he buys a lot of stuff of me that way. Light bulbs. That helps out.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: And I don't give any credit. Amish people like that. And I could increase my business 100 percent if I'd give credit.

J: You don't do credit?

H: I don't do any credit, only just...somebody you're sure you'll get your money, like the Court or the County.

J: Why...do other business men around here do credit?

H: Yes, yes. Hoosier and Kimple, they do credit. They got to because they sell gas out in the country and they got to do that on credit, you see.

J: They sell gas?

H: Yes, they sell bottled gas.

J: What's it used for?

H: Cooking and baking.

J: Oh! OK. OK.

HILL

H: You've seen these cans of gas sitting around....

J: Yes, but I didn't.... OK.

H: They've got big tanks and they fill it up.

J: Has that hurt your business, not doing credit, do you think?

H: Credit is bound to hurt.

J: Not, wait... doing it will hurt or not doing it hurts.

H: It hurts my business by not doing credit,...

J: Yes.

H: ...as far as income. But I don't have any stenographer and you've got to have a stenographer to do credit.

J: Yes.

H: Send statements and...

J: ...stuff.

H: ...keep books.

J: Well, when you opened up...I mean, when you turned from the bakery to the hardware, that was in 1961.

H: 1946.

J: I'm sorry, 1946, that's right. Were you the only hardware store around?

H: No, there was the Hoosier Hardware and Wood Holiday on down there where Kimple is ...

J: OK.

H: ...and Hoosier Hardware was down the street here. And there was two hardwares. Hoosier Hardware was one of them buildings where Kimmons(?) is down there in the drugstore. Kimmons bought them buildings out and there was three rooms there and he made it all into one big room, a drugstore.

J: Yes. I'm just curious if there were two other hardware stores right here, did you feel, you know, you had something special at the time?

HILL

H: Oh, mine was more...when I opened up, I sold a lot of radios and...

J: Oh.

H: ...record players and sold records, gramophone records, when I opened up. That was more business than anything else. Then later, I just quit that entirely...

J: So, how has your business changed though. In 1946 you started out selling a lot of, as you said, radios and record players, how has it changed over the years?

H: You mean, in the matter of income?

J: Well, that or even just the kind of stuff that you have.

H: Oh, I don't know.

J: Hard to say.

H: Yes. Ordinarily, you have more income on this, but in the last year or two, since 3D started out here and now Walmart started over there at Bedford and there's about three or four more over there, why they go over there and compare prices and I do very little business now.

J: Well, it's just like you were saying to that man that walked in here now, yes. How has that... I've talked to other business people and they've all said....

H: It has affected others here in town, especially Walmart.

J: When did Walmart open? Was that just last year?

H: This spring.

J: And when did 3D open?

H: Oh, several years ago. A lot of people come in here, naturally they say they don't like to go to 3D. Well, that's the reason they come in here. They don't like to go to 3D.

J: Do they not like to go because...I mean, are they saying, no, we want to shop in Paoli? Do they say that or they...

H: Well, they just don't like to go out there, they claim, I don't know why.

J: Well, are...yes. And the other people that I've talked to

HILL

have also said that, you know, businessmen try and...are trying to kind of get people to shop hometown and...

H: They are, but they're not doing any good. There's... whenever a big shopping center starts, you don't have to be too big, why...take the county square with the Courthouse in the center, like Paoli, Bedford, Salem, and when these shopping centers start, why business places just close up around the squares. Gets to be ghost towns, the square does.

You _____ Paoli around the square, there's one big building up here, she wants a hundred-and-something thousand--I forget how many thousand dollars worth--and its not got anything in it. And you take down the street here, the corner building down there's vacant. And then, all the way down on the lower side, that big building down there is vacant. And...there's not hardly anything around the square any more.

J: When did it all start changing?

H: When the shopping centers started out here.

J: OK. So that would be, like, fifteen years ago or ten...?

H: Oh, about ten years ago.

J: About ten.

H: Yes. Soon as they got these shopping centers in, it changed it...

J: Yes. Well, I mean, how do you feel about that? When you look out at the square and see that there's all these empty buildings now and...

H: Well, see, I'm not at all worried too much; I'm ninety years old.

J: (laughs) Yes.

H: Yes, I'm not going to worry too much. Just like the lady that run this book store up the street-here was in here yesterday and I said, "In ten years, I'll either be dead or close up probably, because at ninety-years old, why, you know I'm not going to be here at a hundred-years old."

J: Yes. Yes.

H: That's the law of average.

J: Yes. Yes.

HILL

H: Probably'll be in a nursing home or dead, one or the other, ninety- or a hundred-years old or less.

J: But it's not the law of averages to have ninety-year old men, like you said, do...

H: ...doing what I do.

J: Yes, so you know...

H: ...the law of average, you know....

J: No, you just might beat it. (laughs)

H: They tell me you don't know how long you'll live. I just, like here...two or three weeks ago, I flew with my son and his wife down to Fort Lauderdale and then he flew with me...come back on Wednesday, went down on Sunday--I told him I wanted to come back on Wednesday--and he flew with me to be sure I got on the plane to Louisville. And he seen that I got on the plane to Louisville, why he caught a plane right...there's one leaving right away, and he caught a plane back to Fort Lauderdale. It just worked fine; he got one back right away and I got one out. And so I fly on a pass and I come to Louisville first-class from Atlanta. And naturally if you work for an airline you get to fly on pass--like you used to work for a railroad. And they've been all over the United States and England and Canada, Hawaii and they're going to England in about a week or two and...

J: Wow!

H: ...and drive around out in the country and see them old mansions and things out in the country.

J: Yes.

H: So, I want to see my great granddaughter down there, just two-weeks old when I went down there. And my granddaughter come over to my son's and picked me up and we went to a park at a lake there. We fed the ducks bread. I guess we've run out now.

J: Can I just ask you one or two more questions about the square here? Do you ever miss...do you ever miss the days when the square was more busy and...

H: Do I ever miss the days?

J: You know, when the square was more busy and....

HILL

H: Oh, I just didn't have television then, so I just turn the television set on, if there's anything on to watch, and I set here and watch television to kill time--and sleep. See, I get Social Security and got a little interest on little investments I've got, and so I don't have to make anything in here to live. And my sons...don't make no difference whether you do any business or not, you go down there and you been open-up ever since 1921 and if you don't go down and open up that store, you'll be in a nursing home inside of six months. So I go ahead whether I make anything or not.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: I stay in here just for--I don't know--pass away the time.

J: Well, you know, so you've been coming to this store every day, almost every day, for sixty years now. How do you...is this home? Is this like a home to you since you've been... you've been in this store....

H: If I don't unlock that door and come in here, it's just like coming in my house.

J: Yes. (laughs) Yes.

H: If I didn't, I would be.... If I just set up...what would I be up home today, I'd just set around there and watch television.

J: Right. We wouldn't be talking.

H: And there wouldn't be nobody coming in to talk to.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: And look out the door. And see people down the street and just a lot of things that you couldn't do at home.

J: Actually, you've got a real good view here.

H: Yes, I do.

J: Yes. Do you try and keep up on what goes on out there?

H: Oh, sometimes. If I'm not watching television or reading. I get the Paoli News and I get the Indianapolis Star and _____ Republican.

J: Are there any special TV shows that you watch?

HILL

H: I like to watch game shows. I watch "Price is Right" at noon before I go to lunch.

J: Yes. Say, I didn't ask you, Mr. Hill, are you from Paoli? You were born here?

H: I was born in northwest Paoli on a farm out here. I was on a farm until I was twenty-one years old.

J: How far away was the farm from Paoli?

H: About six miles.

J: OK. Did you go to highschool...?

H: Orleans. I graduated in the first year of highschool after the first of the year. Me and the teacher couldn't get along and so I graduated out of the eighth grade. I never had a highschool education.

J: Did you ever think about leaving Paoli? No?

H: No, my father-in-law lived in Paoli, over there where I lived. And he gave us a piece of ground-lot and we built on it in '24 and that's where I live.

J: Your wife, was she also from...where was she from?

H: She was...she lived out on that place.

J: Yes. Yes.

END OF SIDE ONE

H: We started...pay days

J: I can't even imagine a town without cars. I mean, cause now that's what we hear out there. Cars and trucks and things.

H: Then Model T's come in. Right after we started the bakery they had Model T's.

J: Um, you know, now there's...I've heard that there's a lot of, you know, newcomers who come to Paoli? People who come here, you know, live in the outside town...

H: From all over.

HILL

J:; From all over. But when you first opened business, I mean, did people....

H: Just natives, natives.

J: So, everyone that came in your store, you knew?

H: Yes, you knew them. But I didn't get to see anybody; I was back here in the back working. We had a partition there and the clerk up front waited on them.

J: Oh!

H: I didn't get acquainted with anybody. I got acquainted with more people now than I did then.

J: But when you started to work the hardware store, then you were out front.

H: Then I was beginning to get acquainted with people.

J: Yes. Yes. Have you noticed a lot of change in....

H: Oh, I don't know. I don't know in what way you mean.

J: Yes. Are people--how can I say it--are people as friendly?

H: People what?

J: Hm. The newcomers who've come to town, do they seem as much a part of Paoli as....

H: Oh, they soon become a part of Paoli, yes.

J: Yes. OK. Well, when you said that Paoli was different, OK, horse and buggy, what else....

H: People come to town and they just come to visit, a lot of them. They come to town just to visit. They'll be out there in the country by theirselves all week, and they'd come to town to visit. And after they got the cars, they'd come here and set around the square and just watch the people go by. And park and just set and watch people go by. And people walk around the square. Why, now you don't see anybody walk around the square. They drive up at the parking meter and get out.

J: Does that make you sad at all? Or do you care or do you just think "well, that's change; who cares."

H: I don't think anything about it.

HILL

J: You don't think anything about it. (laughs) (long pause)
When the farmers came up, did they buy stuff from your bakery?
Or was it mainly...I know you said that you stayed open late,
that that was....

H: They would buy bread, yes.

J: They'd buy bread. But I guess not pies and stuff like that.

H: No, just bread, was about all they ever bought.

J: And what did the people in the town buy?

H: Oh, they would buy cookies and jellyroll and cake and bread--
salt-rising bread especially. Not many people made salt-rising
bread and it got a sour smell to it. Some people don't like it.
It's kind of like cheese, you got to learn to like it.

J: Is that a bread that people make around here or is that
something different?

H: No, the old-timers used to make salt-rising bread.

J: OK.

H: It's a specialty bread. You scald meal and let it sour and
that's what makes it raise. It don't...loaf don't get very big;
it's heavy.

J: Hm. Sounds good.

H: I think you can buy it... a bakery in Bedford used to make
it over there. Whether they still do or not...?

J: When you closed down, did another bakery open up?

H: Yes, but it didn't last long.

J: Why not, do you think?

H: Competition. You can buy bread in a filling station.

J: It's a different kind of bread, though, you buy in a filling
station.

H: Yes, but they thought it was better, made out of town. They
couldn't make home-made bread like it.... but they come in here,
"Boy, I wish I could get some of your bread, like you used to
make it." They said, "This puffed-up stuff now is not bread."

HILL

J: Yes. Yes.

H: But I...you got... They had a cheese factory up here and the farmers hauled cheese...the whey away for their hogs.

J: Yes.

H: Well, I'd tell them everything's got hog-slop in it. Now, you look at anything--cookies or cake mixes--contain whey. Well that absorbs a lot of water and it don't cost them a anything and they just put dried whey in there as a filler.

J: Oh.

H:; If you look at anything you buy, it's got whey in it.

J: Huh, you would never have done anything with whey.

H:; And I can see them coming down the hill hauling that hog-slop. They gave it to them. And now what you buy has got it in it.

J: I remember when I was a kid, we used to have Wonder Bread and as a kid I used to have so much fun just rolling up the white...the bread part, because it would just roll into a small ball cause it was all air. (laughs) There was no substance to it. Hm. (long pause) Well.

H: We've run out of anything to say.

J: Anything else you can think of? No? Just that....
Have you seen a lot of businesses come and go here?

H: Yes.

J: Yes?

H: Yes.

J: Why can't they stay? It's because people shop outside?

H: You see, it's just like I say, there used to be--up here on the corner where the Welcome Inn is--that was MacIntyre's Grocery. And then on down the street a little ways, there was MacIntyre's Clothing Store. And then on, a little down, there was a restaurant. And then there was a shoe shop. And then you come on down further, there was the Hoosier Hardware. And then this place in here where the Republican Press(?) was a drugstore. And this here was a harness(?) shop at one time, a

HILL

shop. And then on the corner here was a drugstore. And this was just a home here. Where that Orange County Antiques, that was a shared home.

J: Yes. Yes.

H: People lived in it. And then they had...let's see, a beer tavern there on the corner at one time. And then a restaurant and then a grocery store and then they had a clothing store and then a drugstore. And then around the corner, we had what's called a company store; they sold clothing and groceries and everything. And then you went on around there, there was a little shoe store and then the Orange County Bank. And then, let's see, then a grocery store on the corner--Fleming's Grocery Store, on the corner. And then there was...the lady down there run a...oh, I don't know what she did do, sold hats I think. And then you keep on going around there. Then there was...
(Voice calls "Hello, there." Machine turned off.)

H: I should have went through school...graduated there in highschool.

J: The students now? No?

H: It wouldn't affect them. You see, back then, there were very few who graduated.

J: Well, that's the thing. I mean...

H: There'd be about twenty in highschool maybe. Now where there's two or three hundred.

J: Yes. No, I mean...

H: People didn't graduate from highschool back then.

J: Yes, exactly.

H: In the twenties. Eighteens and twenties. See, I went to country school till I was in the fifth or the sixth grade, and they consolidated the schools, the country schools. And we went to Orleans to a consolidated school in a pack pulled by two horses.

J: Hm. Wow.

H: That's the way we...they...all around over the country and picked up the children and hauled them into Orleans.

J: Hm. Yes, education's different now. Yes. Like you said

HILL

with your sons. Even now, people can do...can get an education just through the mail.

H: They can educate theirselves if they want to.

J: And they can educate themselves. That's the most important.... You're right.

H: See, I've educated myself by just a living, since I've been...I've learned more out of school than I learned when I was in school--just being in business and talking to people and everything.

J: Yes. Yes. Boy, sixty years.

H: Better than sixty now.

J: Yes, you're right. Sixty-five. No, sixty...

H: One from eight is....

J: Sixty-seven.

H: Sixty-seven years!

J: Geez. Boy.

H: In the same building.

J: In the same building.

H: I've put this ceiling in--drop ceiling--by myself. I built all these cases around here, all except this. I didn't build this. But all these displays around here, I built myself. And I dropped this ceiling myself. My wife said I couldn't do it, but I did.

J: Geez. The whole cei... it's huge...the building is so long and big.

H: You see, you run those sills along there and then put those cross-pieces and then drop those two-foot squares in them....

J: Yes. Yes.

H: ...and that makes the ceiling. See, that ceiling--was a wood ceiling--was about fifteen or sixteen inches...oh, maybe about two feet higher than this. This makes it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

HILL

J: ...warmer in the winter. Yes. When did you do that?

H: I don't know what year I did it. Since I been in the hardware.

J: OK. Yes. During all that time in business, are there any special memories or big moments or--do you know what I mean?

H: Any what?

J: Any kind of big moments or anything like that, that stand out?

H: Excitement, like when the Courthouse got afire.

J: (laughs) Like that, yes. When was that? Which fire was that?

H: I don't know what year it was. It got afire twice.

J: Yes.

H: First time, it was from lightening, I think, and shorted the wires out on the southside. And then, they hired a man to paint the outside of the Courthouse and he was using a torch and burning the paint off. And they told him to quit doing that. And the guy, he set it afire once or twice and they put it out.

And my grandson was up home with me and we was going to Tucker Lake fishing. And we come around the square, the smoke coming up the northeast corner, just drifting over the Courthouse. And I said, "Well, the Courthouse is afire." And that was about daylight. And, so, I was going to turn in...going to come up here and turn it in. I seen a guy running up the street, so I said, "Well, he'll turn it in." So we got down here at the corner, the fire whistle blowed and I said, "Well, I can't put it out. Let's go fishing."

We went ahead out here to Tucker Lake fishing. We come back in about ten o'clock--nine or ten, I don't know which it was--and you couldn't get around the square. Everybody in the county had come to see the Courthouse burn down. But they finally, with help from French Lick and Orleans and different places, they got it put out. But it burned the top of it off and they had to rebuild it all, the roof and... Put in new sills up there, new plates, I mean. And repair the clock, put it out of commission and... The blaze was coming in the northeast corner and just coming around up there and that clock made a _____.

J: Did it...did it hurt the clock?

H: Yes, they had to have it repaired. _____

HILL

J: Wow. That must have been a sight. Seeing the whole square just full of people.

H: Yes. They all come in to see the fire.

J: See the Courthouse burn.

H: Yes. (long pause) Well, the time flew, it's quarter after three.

J: Yes. Well, listen Mr. Hill, I thank you kindly. It's been a...

H: You're welcome.

J: ...real pleasure.

H: It made the time pass.

J: OK. Good. (laughs)

END OF INTERVIEW

INDEX

3D 10
Amish 8
bakery 1, 5, 6, 9, 14-16
Burgess 1, 3
business 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 12, 14, 18, 19
credit 8, 9
electricity 3
farmers 4, 5, 15, 16
grocery stores 1
hardware 1, 5-7, 9, 15, 17, 19
hog-slop 16, 17
income 9, 10
MacIntyre's 2, 17
mixer 3
Model T's 14
newcomers 14, 15
Orleans 3, 4, 14, 18, 20
Paoli 1, 10, 11, 13-15
salt-rising bread 2, 16
shopping center 10
square 1, 4, 10-12, 15, 20
television 12, 13
the ceiling 19
TV shows 13
Walmart 10
whey 16, 17
wife 4-6, 12, 14, 19

Interview with Lloyd W Hill, p. 22. Conducted by Catherine Jones, 30 June 1988, Paoli, Indiana, Indiana University Center for Documentary Research and Practice, OHRC accession #88-76-1