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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

HAROLD REX MORRIS

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
9 February 1988
OHRC accession #88-70-1,2,3

INTRODUCTION

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2/9/88
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Catherine Jones
INTERVIEWER

2/9/88
DATE

PAOLI PROJECT
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Biographical Data Sheet

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Harold Rex Morris (goes by Rex)
(First) (Middle) (Last)

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Date of Birth: 1939 Place of Birth: Paoli

Sex: M Ethnic Origin: _____

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Occupational History: started in construction after graduation; is now a
builder

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: _____

Father's Name and occupation: Harold Morris; self-employed carpenter

Mother's Name and occupation: Ethel Winningert ??

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

Full Name: Catherine Anne Jones
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Date of Birth: 8/58 Place of Birth: NY

Association with the Paoli Project: assistant

Subject of interview: buisness in Paoli and Paoli's future; early life on
farm and in school; leaving and returning to Paoli; the sixties

Number of Tapes: 3

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Rex Morris
INTERVIEWER Catherine A. Jones
SUBJECT: Paoli business and future; Farm life; H. S.; 60's
DATE: February 9, 1988
TRANSCRIBER: Liz Faier

Jones: ...the 9th, I believe. Okay. You were just saying.

Morris: I said when I was a kid, growing up, traffic on 150, truck driving especially was really heavy. You had a lot of activity going on in Paoli, I'd even say there was in the neighborhood of 10 restaurants probably,...

J: On the square or downtown? In Paoli?

M: Yes. Yes.

J: Really?

M: At least 10. There was probably 25, 20-25 filling stations.

J: What time are we talking about now?

M: Oh, between 1950, '48-'57, right in there. That time period. Up to, we'll say up to '59 which '58 was the last I was around here.

J: Well, how did it seem at the time. Did it seem like, you know, a bustling city or...?

M: Well, it wasn't a bustling city but it was a busy town.

J: It was a busy town, yes.

M: On Saturday night, Saturdays was the big day in town. Stores stayed open until 9 o'clock. The square was full. The square was full of people. Farmers a lot, of course, go to town on Saturday, on the week ends, like we all did. Just had a lot more, you know, seem like you had a lot more activity. I'm not saying that there was more money cause that, you know, when I was...I didn't pay that much attention to it. Because nobody had any money. Now it's really...well, our family did have money, so. Really, money didn't matter that much. Were you had money, didn't money, you didn't pay attention to it.

J: Well, let me ask you this, since we're talking about when you were a kid. What did bring your family to Orange County? To

Paoli? How long have you all been here?

M: Well my family's been here probably for, let's see, I would say probably 120 years, probably maybe more.

J: Do you know what, do you know where they came from?

M: Pennsylvania originally.

J: What brought them out this way?

M: I was, I really don't know. Probably just wandering more than likely, I would imagine. And...but...my...I had a great uncle, great uncle, that was here during the civil war. And the family had settled all in one _____ and...

J: I'm sorry, settled...?

M: My family all settled one spot. And they branched out from there. But up until, I would say up until middle to late '50s, Paoli was really a bustling town as were a lot [of towns] in southern Indiana. Because you had...there were very few toll...very few interstate roads, very few interstate roads...

J: Well, at that time there, in Paoli there was what 37...?

M: 150.

J: Okay. And that was it at the time.

M: And 64, Interstate 64 did not exist. No interstate existed at that time. So all the traffic that was going west came through here. And traffic going north-south from Minneapolis to Louisville went through here and because it's a main road going to Louisville and.... You had like a crossroads.

J: Well, that's what they called Paoli right? Crossroads of southern Indiana.

M: And after, it's my understanding, you know I was gone at the time, that as soon as 64 was completed and opened, business started to go down. I mean, you're talking about restaurant business, your filling stations closed. There's not one, there's not one all night restaurant in Paoli anymore. Not even one.

J: Had there been then--all nighters?

M: There was..let's see. All during the '50s there were 2 completely during the '50s that I was going to. (?) There was 2

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that stayed open all night. And most times there was at...there's was 3 that stayed open 24 hours a day. And...but after the...

J: [someone walked into room] That was Terry.

M: ...after the highway opened, most of those shut down, that...you know, it was not economically feasible without truck traffic and...

J: Yes, sure.

M: So I think that was, I think that was the biggest change to Orange County was...

J: yes, to all of Orange County, not just Paoli.

M: ...the highway. And I think right now that's, that's the biggest downfall to economic development is highway system.

J: You mean in terms of Paoli or all of Orange County or...?

M: Well, I mean the whole area. I'm, I'm talking about the whole area.

J: Southern Indiana?

M: If we do not get highway systems, there's is no way that you're going to draw any people and the commerce. You can't do it.

J: You're talking about stuff like the fact that it, Bedford at 37 just about stops and you're in a , you're in a 2-lane road coming back into, coming to Paoli.

M: Yes.

J: Well, you mentioned, you know...that, that, that the northern part of the country...

[responding to wife, Carol Morris, in room: No, we haven't met. In fact I just met, I just forgot her name this second too, Robin]

...but yes, you were just saying Indiana in terms of state politics, they haven't paid the same amount of attention to southern Indiana.

M: Oh, definitely not, no.

J: Why do you think that is? Why...?

M: You go with your economics, your pull, political pull. Anybody that's a politician is going to go where the pull is.

J: Yes, where the money is.

M: I mean you going to...and if you...you're a politician from say, you're not going to...or if you're a politician from Bloomington or Indianapolis you're going to try to keep money in your area. And here we just don't have it. We don't have that big a pull.

J: Yes.

M: Just, that's just natural. You know, it's just politics you know. And it's, it's bad for the surrounding area right here.

J: Do you think many, many of your friends share that idea that, that you know, the northern, that the state just hasn't paid enough attention?

M: Well, sure. Sure, most people do.

J: Yes, yes, yes.

M: Matter of fact...Lou (?) ran to Indianapolis, week-last week, she mentioned to one of the...no really it was a union lobbyist in Indianapolis about Tillery Hill which is going to be a 70...supposed to be a \$70 million resort. And he's a lobbyist that stays in Indianapolis throughout legislation all the time and he had never heard of it.

J: Wow.

M: Never heard of it. So it was never mentioned in Indianapolis around the statehouse. Around the capital.

J: And so you're saying this is a real big development thing that's going on and they don't even know if it's going on up there or not?

M: Well, this is one of the things that could help us this economy down here. Pull in and pull some pull because they're demanding our most demanding roads.

J: Because they're...I'm sorry?

M: Well, the investors. Some of them from Cincinnati, some from

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New York. One of the speculations they have is highways.

J: You mean speculations in terms of whether they're going to go ahead with this project?

M: Well it's...it's parts of if don't--the highways don't come out, some of their money will come back, see.

J: Yes, sure. So this is something that they're going to take into consideration. And...in fact, in fact you'd mentioned something about a new highway being built last time we talked.

M: Well, they're talking about it--inter...toll road. that's what they're talking.

J: A toll road?

M: That's what they want--a toll road. No it's just being built...well, they're talking about one _____ between Evansville through Jasper.

J: Would this be something just for Tillery Hills?

M: Huh?

J: Would this be something that would be built just for Tillery Hills?

M: No, no this..this road here is, in fact, the road that they are even considering right now goes for Jasper. Right now there is not one for us even in consideration. Now there's...they wrote a survey.

J: Wait a minute. I'm not sure I've caught this. Tillery Hill won't come in and build a project if there's not a road that's going to....?

M: Well, see some of these...not, not...some of the investors say that they will...their money is hinged on road situation because...

J: Yes, sure, sure.

M: ...see with that money they're, they're without money speculation there, return on their money. So they say well, we'll give you a certain amount if you can get a commitment for highways.

J: Yes, okay, yes.

M: But if you don't get the commitment for the highways, we don't..you don't get our commitment for our certain amount--how many millions they want to give us.

J: So, there are people who, who are trying to work with people in Indianapolis to get the deal for the road to go through.

_____ I see. All right. And so what, what you're saying is that, there needs to be pull to get people in Indianapolis to go. Do you need...?

M: The whole thing about it is, that you going to have to have something to stimulate the economy to keep your young people. Now this stems right back to the fact that you can not stand still. You either go forward or you go backward. Any community that can not keep their young people is on the way to destruction because, sooner or later you run out of resources. The...

J: Sure, they're it.

M: A lot of young people grow up, go through school--which is a great place to raise kids--right? I mean you've got a very small community that you don't have to worry about your kids getting killed in the _____ or you know, murdered. There's, there's probably drugs over there. There are drugs everywhere but I mean not...you know?

J: There's not gang fights and stuff like that.

M: And you don't, you don't have to worry about them, usually. _____ them tear down the street and you don't worry about them walking on the street. But, when they get out of school, if they want to make a living, they've got to leave.

J: Now, how come you left here? You left when you were how old?

M: Same reason. I was 18.

J: And it was 58 years...it was 1958 and you were 18 years old. Did you even consider trying to...did you just want to leave Paoli or did you really try and think of a way you could stay in Paoli and make a living and just...?

M: Well, there was, there was nothing here.

J: There was nothing there.

M: I left here, I was making a dollar an hour.

J: What were you doing?

M: Driving trucks. Making a dollar an hour driving trucks.

J: Did you take....did you leave here with friends or how did you decide where to go and stuff?

M: Well, well my brother was on the east coast, I went to visit him. I was going to go to service. Matter of fact I did sign up for the service but in 1958, '59, they didn't need anybody in service. There was no war going on. They had all they needed. And I got married.

J: Out, out there? Or?

M: Yes, on the east coast. And once I got married, you had to pay _____ your marital status. Once I got married, they won't take you. You're automatically disqualified to go in, they won't take you. [Because they didn't need anybody] and they didn't want to pay the extra money. Because it was [completely] full.

J: So, what made you stay out east. Okay, wait. You went out east and then you started doing what?

M: Construction. Worked construction. I worked construction till...well, I came back here in 1970 and...only because I, you know, you always want to come back home, you know. You can tell [it's a better] place to raise your kids, which it is, it really is, but you know good and well that your kids are going to leave, too. They've got to, you know, that's no doubt in your mind, it's...if they going to succeed in life, they're going to leave.

J: Is this something that you've told your kids?

M: Not really, I've not told them that they have to go anywhere.

J: No, no but I mean have you tried to... have you pointed out to them that it's hard to make a future in Paoli and that...?

M: You don't have to point that out. [laughs] Anybody that lives here you don't have to point that out. They know it.

J: Well what do you think your kids are going to do? I know Mark and Mike have joined the Air Force.

M: Well, I don't know really. Christie changed her major. She goes to Ball State right now. She was going to be a music teacher. She's changed her major to, last time, right now, the

medical field, but I don't know. I still think she'll teach something, probably English.

J: Do you think she'll do it here in Paoli or do you think she'll take off?

M: No, I doubt it. Well, there's not, right now there'd be no openings.

J: Yes, yes.

M: And if she would find an opening, yes she would. Because you know, they make good money--teachers. If for..now you get away from Orange County teachers are not paid up to their best but in Orange County, teachers are highly paid compared to Orange County wages. Most teachers for 9 months make a lot more than most people make around here for a year.

J: Well, do you have any idea, I'm just curious, what they do make--a starting teacher?

M: Well, a starting teacher will make around \$14,000. 14 to 15 sort of, depends on their degree. A teacher with 10 years would make \$20,000. That's good money for Orange County.

J: And for 9 years work...9 months.

M: 180-85 days, how much ever it is. It's hard _____ and...but...the turnover is not there either.

J: Well, how about, do you think she would...would she rather stay in these parts if possible?

M: I would say so, yes.

J: And how about the rest of them?

M: Oh, I'm sure they would too. _____. But they could change their mind as they get older. Right now they, you know, they're of the age, they've really not drug themselves away from us, you know.

J: From...? Family?

M: Being--their home, their....

J: Yes. Being out on their own yet in the world.

M: That takes a few years. To get away from home, completely

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away. I mean I'm not talking about just leaving for, to go to school or leaving and then..., I'm talking about living completely separate from.... It took, it probably was 3, 2 or 3 years before I ever completely broke ties with home. Now I didn't come home at times.

J: Did you come home during that 12 years at all?

M: I'd come home on vacation, yes. But as far as...I'd come home every couple years. Sometimes I would go 3 years. Depends, just depends on.... The first year I probably came home 2 or 3 times, first year. And it was probably 4 years before I came home again.

J: Now what was it like the place that your brother, that your brother lived was where? Was it a town...?

M: Connecticut.

J: It was Connecticut. Did he live in a smaller town like Paoli or was it...?

M: [No, no, it was a base.]

J: It was a big city?

M: Submarine. He was in the submarine service. It was a submarine base so it was a big place.

J: Well, what was that like for you having grown up in Paoli?

M: Well, it was big to start with. A lot of traffic.

J: Was it hard to get used to?

M: Oh yes, to start with. But you sort of adapt. You know, to traffic and people and there's just a lot of people but you never do get that out of you, your mind, that there's more to it than that bunch of people. There's too many people and I still have kind of a soviet (?) as it gets lots and lots of people. I worked in New York and hated every minute I was there.

J: New York City?

M: Hated every minute I was there. Worked construction but I mean, I hated every minute I was there. There was...I didn't live there, just worked there. Just on a job. And you live in a hotel room for how ever long the job took, sometimes you'd go for a week, sometimes you'd go for a month, depends.

J: Were you homesick during that time?

M: Oh no.

J: You weren't?

M: You see, I just lived 125 miles, 120 miles from New York City when I lived in Connecticut and that was my home then.

J: Connecticut. But still you're saying where your brother, that your brother lived in a big town.

M: Yes. Well he lived in Connecticut _____.

J: But during the time you were in Connecticut. If it had been possible would you have rather...if you had been able to make a living in Paoli would you have wanted to come back and make a living here?

M: Oh yes. You always do. You always do. You'll find, I think, _____ if you [interview] around you'll find, for some reason or other and I couldn't--I can't tell you what it is--[Carol'd] tell you the same thing--that there's a drawing card for Orange County, maybe not always Orange County, but I'm saying _____. I don't care where you go or how long you've been gone away, you always want to be back there. I got a brother that lives in Phoenix. He would give anything...he makes...

J: I remember, yes, I remember.

M: And he wants to come here so badly he can't even see straight. And he's been [in the Air Force] for 14 years and in Phoenix for almost 20. So, you know, that's how long he's been gone. He been gone since '52. And...

J: And he, and he would like to come back. Well, I remember last time we were talking about this and you said then, you just don't know why it is but for some reason there is some kind of pull for you here. But I remember last time too, I think for you it came down to your sister's farm, too, where you grew up. But it was, maybe it was Paoli but it was also that farm.

M: _____ that farmer. You know, home.

J: But what was...

M: Because a lot of people that live in a city don't actually have a place that is home.

J: But when you say home do you mean, I mean, in your heart, when you think of home is it your sister's farm, is it Paoli? Is it your sister's farm?

M: Well that is home. that's your home. This is actually your home town too. And...but the _____, this, that farm there, even though, you know I'm not there as much now as I used to be, it's still home as far as when you was a kid. A lot of people don't have that.

J: Yes.

M: You can take people that grew up in the city, either in a subdivision, in an apartment or whatever, there is no attachment to...place. I'm not saying [necessarily] that you can't leave it or anything like that. I'm saying there's just something, something that's there. And it's, it'll probably always be there. And to, as far as I'm concerned [every one of] my brother's had been gone but there is not one of them.... I have a brother that's in Lafayette. He's lived there for, I'll say he's getting ready to retire, he's been there since, probably 30, probably 30 years in Lafayette. Now when he retires he will be here.

J: So, he'll come back.

M: If his, if he can make sure that his wife will come here. Now as far as he's concerned he'll be here.

J: How about the rest of them?

M: Well, there's only one more left that's not retired. Johnny, he's ready to come back. And I got a younger brother that lives in California right now and...I don't know about him. You don't hear, ever hear from him much. But I'm sure he would if he could.

J: Now you said the rest of them are retired?

M: No. I got a brother that is retired. And this is from the Navy. The one that was up in the navy but he's, he's here. He lives here.

J: So he does live here. Because I remembered last time we talked you said, I think you had 8 brothers and sisters and then 6 half-brothers and sisters?

M: I got...there's 8 of us, which are 3 brothers, 4 sisters of the main family. I got a half-brother and a half-sister. I got 3 step-sisters and...then there's, of course there's 2 that's dead.

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J: Out of the main family, of your 7 other brothers and sisters, how many of them have left?

M: Just the boys. None of the girls.

J: None of the girls. Did the girls marry local people?

M: Well, all but one did and she came back. And she didn't get to go out of Indiana but she went to Kokomo and they retired down here and he has since died. Her husband has since died. They all live here. All the girls.

J: And how about your half-brother?

M: Now he lives in California.

J: He's the one. Why did your brothers and he leave? Was it for jobs, was it just to get out of Paoli?

M: The armed service, jobs, job-security. You know. There's nothing here to make a living. So that's the same reason all of us went. And it's the same reason that you'll find 90% of the people that graduate from school leave because there is no opportunity.

J: Did many of your friends...there you were in 1958, you know, a young guy...did many of your friends, your male friends leave too to try and make it better somewhere else?

M: Oh, almost, almost all of them. Out of our class there's only about 10 of the men that still live here.

J: Really? How big was your class? How many are we talking about?

M: 64 people but...

J: So, like 30 men?

M: 30, probably 30. There's probably...a third of them live here. 2/3 are willing to leave here.

J: And you think most of them left for economics?

M: Oh yes. I'm _____ that all of them did.

J: How about the women? Did more of the stay here and marry local?

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M: I would say over half of them left.

J: Can we flip back a bit? Let me ask you a bit more about growing up on a farm and stuff like that. Okay, you mentioned...you said that your family had been here for about 120 years...is that on your dad's side?

M: Yes.

J: How about your mom's side? Where were her people from?

M: Well, we weren't very close to my mother's side of the family. My mother died when I was only about 4. So her side of the family, you know, and indeed, my grandmother on her side was, I never knew her. And never knew any of my grandfathers on that side of the family because they were all gone. And they were, but they were in French Lick and they was, they've been here a long time...the family had been here a long time. How long, I don't know.

J: In French Lick, though.

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE ONE

MORRIS

M: ...grandfather's uncles were all either carp, most of them were carpenters and my grandmother was a preacher. My uncle was a preacher, Quaker.

J: Oh. Are you Quaker also?

M: No.

J: Carol's laughing.

M: No. I think my grandfather probably was the las...I think my grandfather was the last of my _____ of the family that was actually Quaker.

J: Did you all grow up then, as a kid, going to the Quaker church?

M: We did when we was real young. There again, the family split up very young.

J: When your mom died?

M: Well, they left, I left at 10. I was about 10 or 11 and when I left to live with my sister and...

J: Well, where, where you were born with your mom and dad-- where was that located? Was that around Paoli?

M: Yes, south of town.

J: South of town.

M: About 2 miles south of town.

J: And was your dad, he was a carpenter? Was he working at one of the factories?

M: No, no. He worked for himself and...

J: Oh.

M: He was a carpenter. He worked around and worked...and he works in Louisville. Or he worked where he could find a job, you know because...

J: Well, like....

M: Build houses.

J: Building houses. Okay.

M: Did a little farming on the side and things like that. Did anything to make a living, really, like you do around here.

J: Yes, yes.

M: But after my mother died, things were not too good at home. We went to live with my sister, you know. We lived on the farm with my sister. My brother-in-law's farm.

J: This was your, your older sister?

M: Yes. My oldest sister, yes.

J: Your oldest. At that, what order are you and...?

M: Let's see. I'm...of the main family, I'm the youngest boy. Now I got a sister that's younger than I am.

J: Okay, okay.

M: There's 6 of the main family that's older than we are.

J: And you were 4 when your mom died. But you stayed on with your dad till you were about 10?

M: Well, yes, till we was about 10.

J: Now were you helping him out in any way? Did you start to work when you were young?

M: Not when I was too young. We worked on the farm. We had chores on the farm, that's all. We didn't work out anywheres.

J: Did it seem at the time, you know, that it was hard making ends meet for the family? I mean, did you have any kind of sense of...?

M: Well, to us, being a kid, you don't pay attention to that.

J: Yes, yes, as long as you got food and _____.

M: Well, you lived on a farm, really food was your main concern because you always had food. You had food and you didn't have anything else, you know. Because we raised most of our own food.

J: Did you live in a small town? I mean, not a small town but were there many neighbors close by or what was the neighborhood

like, I guess is what I'm trying to get at?

M: Well, there was, there was neighbors within walking distance.

J: Was the school very far away? Or had you, yes, I guess you started.

M: Well, school was probably 4 miles. It wasn't too far. But we didn't walk. There was buses.

J: There was buses. And what year were you born, I never asked?

M: I was born in '39.

J: In '39, okay. And let me ask you this too. What was your dad's name?

M: Harold.

J: Harold, okay. And your mom's name was?

M: Ethel.

J: Ethel. Do you not remember her maiden name?

M: Weinger.

J: Weinger. When you moved with your sister, did she live very far away?

M: No. Well, you see, she brought...they bought my grandfather's farm. It was from where I grew up when I was a kid, well my dad had part of my grandfather's farm. Like they split it up amongst the kids, you know. And they, my sister, brother-in-law bought, after my grandfather died bought the main part of his farm. Off the family and that's where they lived. That's where I grew up but see, the fact of where I was young, I only lived, just right, right next to it. And then I lived there all of my life _____.

J: Oh, I see. Okay, all right, yes, all right. So when you moved it wasn't...

M: No, it wasn't no biggie.

J: ...across, across the way.

M: Because it was still part of the same farm.

J: You mentioned, when father's died, would they split up things between mainly the men-sons? I mean, the men-sons.

M: Well, he gave the land to the boys long before he ever died. He split the land long before he ever died. He gave, he gave my father, I don't know, 25 or some acres, something like that and he gave another to one of the sons, he gave them 35-40 acre track down the road, there. one of the other cousins, some on the other side, you know. It was just, you know, he wasn't, he didn't die. You know, he didn't give it to them, [didn't wait until] he died. He gave it to them long before that and...I'd say when they got married. i don't know for sure because, like I say, they've had it so long when I was born, probably that...but I would say that when they get married or had a family [of their own], then he gave it to them.

J: You mentioned he was a preacher. You mentioned....

M: My grandfather was.

J: Your grandfather.

M: And _____. And my great uncle was.

J: Was the...how can I say this? Was there much of the Quaker church in the family? I mean, was that important to your parents?

M: Well, not to my dad. I mean, that's when it kind of melted out. To my grandfather, yes.

J: Yes. But your dad...

M: It just...stopped with him. And he was not very believing in it. Because it really, it is really rather strict. It was.

J: Why did you get out of it?

M: Well, we were not...we were in it only for...that's where you went when you was real young.

J: Yes.

M: And if your parents don't believe in it, you don't believe in it either. You know, you know, you've got to be, you've got to be drummed into you when you're young. You just can't take it, you can't.

J: Can't take it...

M: Can't accept it when you're older.

J: Well, now do you go to...have you started going to any church around here or anything like that?

M: I haven't been to church since I...1 or 2 times since I've back...you know, we should. We went to church for a little while and, I'm really a, I belong to the Episcopalian church when I was in Connecticut and I went for probably 9 years--I never missed a Sunday. And, now, the closest Episcopalian church is Bedford.

J: Really? There's none in Paoli? Did you go because your brother was a member? No, you just went.

M: It was just a small _____. I moved to a small community. In Connecticut. A rural community that really...by Connecticut standards, a rural community. It was small, like a little New England _____ village church, really. One church in the village and that was it--a Episcopalian church. That's where you went to church.

J: That's interesting, yes.

M: And I enjoyed the people and I enjoyed the minister that was there. I really enjoyed the whole church there. And really, the minister of that church, when I first come back home, to Indiana, I stayed in contact with the minister of that church. Two or 3 years after that, he would, you know, we would write back and forth. I really thought a lot of him, you know. I imagine if he's still there, I'll...I heard from him about 3 or 4 years. No, it's been longer than that though--probably about 6 years ago.

J: Wow, well that's something. That's a long time to stay in touch.

M: And he's still, he's still there at that church.

J: What was it like or can you...you were born in '39 you said. But when you were growing up, I mean that wasn't very long after the Depression.

M: Well, no it wasn't. You know, we didn't drive the most _____ in the war years _____ after the war. Right after the war. And times were very difficult for us. I mean as far as money. There was no money but like I said before, you...you know...you never really looked at yourself as poor, or didn't have any money. You know.

J: Sure, sure, yes. Yes, you're a kid.

M: Of course you never had any money you don't miss...you don't...what your damned (?) miss what you don't have.

J: Yes.

M: And you were never used to, like kids today, they, they don't think about going for uptown, and they're walking into a restaurant, [and they're buying a coke]. But when I was a kid you didn't [have a nickel all the time]. If you went into a restaurant and had a coke or an ice cream cone, that was a treat. That wasn't something you expected. That was a...you know, that was a big deal.

J: Do you think you, you got any sense of, I don't know, the worth of money or something like that? In growing up and....

M: Oh, I would say that you put money...you don't put money up to the high point in your life. When growing up like that, there's other things a lot more important, you know.

J: Like...

M: Either all the money, you know, money...the lack of money is very hard, is very difficult. But if you don't have it, it ain't the end of the world either, if you know what I mean. Because you know that you can get along without it...money. You can get along on a lot less. And I...I really truly believe that if a lot of...a lot of kids would have to do it...but you, you know, you don't want to see your kids going through any of this. You don't want to...but I think if they would have to do it, they'd be a lot better off for it.

J: Knowing it that money is not the end all and they can make it through hard times?

M: But...I am not sure that in today's society or today's kids they can handle it.

J: Handle not having money. Yes.

M: I don't think they could.

J: Well, I remember last time we were talking you said something, we were talking about being parents--not that I am ones--but we were talking about it. And remember you saying that you tried to keep your kids from knowing the feeling of, you

know, you all having to sacrifice, that you've tried to give them the things that they've wanted, yes.

M: Oh yes. [And which is] probably wrong. You shouldn't do that.

J: As long....

M: That's a lot things we disagree on, too, you know.

J: Yes, you and Carol. Carol, jump in any time you want.

CM: I have to _____.

J: Okay.

M: This, this is probably the wrong thing to do, is to keep your kids from knowing.

J: Well,....

M: Find out how tough things really are, you know. And...but you want....

J: You want them to have a better _____.

M: You still should let them you know, that you know that, you know, money don't grow on trees and all that stuff. But it is something that you don't, you don't want to see them really having...be with, do without. In other words, like you did.

J: So you want them to _____ [know] the lesson but you don't want them to have to earn it, kind of. In a way.

M: No, you feel it's, I don't know. You go through it, you know you go through it and you know how hard it was. And you don't want to have them to have to go through it.

J: Well, was it the kind of things like...was having enough clothes ever a problem or? You say it was hard but can you help me understand that a little bit better. You know what I mean?

M: Well, I mean, what are you talking about. My kids or?

J: No, no, I'm sorry, no.

M: Or when I was young.

J: Yes, yes, yes.

M: Well, I'll tell you...when you started school, we started school, you got 1 pair of shoes, 2 pair of blue jeans, and 3 T-shirts, and that had to last you all year. You didn't get another. No more T-shirts, no more blue jeans, no more shoes. That was it. For the whole year. And...it was not always the best, you know, but they were always [deletion] clean. But [pause] you just [thought]...you didn't know any different.

J: And I imagine, I mean, your neighbors and kids you went to school were probably in the same situation, so.

M: Oh yes. Everybody was.

J: Well, you went to...did you go to a school that was out in the country versus coming to school in Paoli?

M: No. I always went to Paoli schools.

J: Oh, you did.

M: Because that was Paoli district there.

J: The...okay.

M: Now you had to live out a little further before you got out of Paoli district.

J: Oh, I see, okay. So, was this just a few miles then outside the town or...?

M: It was about 2 1/2 miles, probably. You know it was still the, you know, in the town--well, not the town itself but the township--what they call the township.

J: Yes, yes.

M: You had to live, oh probably 5 or 6 miles from town before you actually went to a country school.

J: What kind of chores...what was the day like being a kid. I mean what kind of chores did, did _____ you do and playing and stuff like that?

M: Well, depends on when--you was young, you had so much to do--you fed, when you was really young--you fed the chickens or you had to feed the hogs. You had a chore to do before school, you had a chore to do when you got home.

J: What time would you get up, like in the morning?

M: Well, about 5, 5:30 usually, up until the time I went to high school. Then when I went to high school I had to get up earlier.

J: To get the same amount--to get chores done before...?

M: Well, see, as you get older, your chores increase because like, you milked the cows. They had to be milked morning and night. So you had to get up earlier in order to get it done--you got up earlier. But there again, anybody that lived on farm or had any kind of animals, they've done the same things, [you never thought anything about it].

J: Yes, yes, sure. It's just what had to be done. But then you have people like me who haven't really done that.

M: And...when we was living with my sisters...when we moved out to my sisters one of my chores was to get the water. We had no running water. So you walked down over the hills, brought up two buckets of water. You done that morning and night. That was for your drinking water. You pulled the water for the wash and everything out of the cistern, pumped it out of the cistern. Wash day you hand pumped the water up for wash, to wash clothes.

J: I guess there wasn't electricity or anything like that out there.

M: Well, we had electricity but we didn't have no...

J: You did at that time?

M: Yes but we didn't have our own pump. Didn't have a water pump. No running water.

J: Did your sister, this farm...was it...were there cash crops growing or what _____.

M: Well, he worked...my brother-in-law worked out. He worked at the quarries.

J: Oh, okay.

M: And they just bought the farm to live on it and they ate...what they raised was for themselves and to pay for redoing the farm. Really, you didn't...oh we sold chickens and eggs and you sold your corn and stuff like that. [But as far as] making any money--you didn't make no money.

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J: Would they use some of that stuff to when they came in town for trading and stuff like that.

M: Well, they would sell like, you'd sell the corn, sell the eggs, go sell the eggs. Sell your corn to the feedmill, sell your eggs...

J: Just to people? Or?

M: No, you'd sell the eggs to the hatchery or to the, at that time there was a place that would buy your eggs. Fifteen cents a dozen or...10...no...it wasn't 15...10 cents a dozen. Remember. So if you sell 30 dozen you got \$3.00 and some what. Thirty dozen eggs.

J: How about...well, what was it like being a kid? How about playing and stuff like that? Did you have time for playing? Maybe you were too busy with school and chores.

M: Oh yes. In the summertime you did.

J: Well, well, what kind of stuff would you do as a kid?

M: Basketball mostly. Everybody had an outside basketball.

J: Oh really.

M: Yes. Play some of the play_____ next to the court at Graver Shot Lewis(???). More than _____.

J: Well along with basketball...was like high school...would you go to games at the high school if there was a high school game there or...?

M: Usually. If you had the money to go. If you could earn the money to go.

J: To go into town, you mean.

M: Yes. Or to buy the ticket.

J: To buy the ticket, yes.

M: You know, you sold something or...if you sell enough eggs or anything like that. Now when I went to high school, then I got a part-time job in Paoli.

J: Doing?

M: I worked at the Jaycee store for...when I was working...11th grade, you know. I worked at the Jaycee store. I worked at the drive-in in the summer time, at night.

J: And did your chores too. So what...?

M: This was just not to get _____.

J: This was just enough just to get some spending money.

M: Yes. So you could go out on Saturday night. Because that's the only time you went to town. [Remember, you just didn't] go out, but Saturday night.

J: Well, as a high school kid would you come into town, like with your sister and stuff like that for grocery shopping or is it...a high school kid what kind of stuff would you do?

M: Well, when I went to high school, I very seldom was, except when I worked...up until the time I worked...I wasn't in the town hardly at all. Except on Saturday night.

J: Was that because you were busy doing chores or you just didn't want to?

M: Busy...there was...there was no reason to be there. There was nothing to do.

J: This wasn't until high school?

M: Until, well, until I went to work.

J: Okay, all right, all right.

M: Because the only time you went to town really, was Saturday nights.

J: But, okay, again what I'm trying to understand here...what would you do coming to town on a Saturday night? Is what I'm saying--would it be just with your sister for grocery shopping? Or would you come with friends and...?

M: Well, no, you didn't go with friends. Now you, you, you got to town, you'd go to a restaurant, usually they'd drop you off and they'd pick you up or you can get a ride with somebody. But...

J: Was there a hang out for kids?

M: Yes, restaurant.

J: What...which, which one was it?

M: It's gone now.

J: Yes.

M: It was...Andy's was the name of it.

J: Is that the place where they, they had like a griddle, you know for cheese sandwiches and soda fountain and stuff like that.

M: Oh yes. It was...it sat up on the corner. We even got a picture of it--do you have it Carol?

J: Do you have one of another place?

CM: Slides.

J: Oh, you do.

[the three talking softly in background]

CM: It was in the yearbook.

M: Civetts (?) probably.

J: Oh.

M: I don't think we...we even had a picture of Andy's at all. We made that thing.

J: When you made what?

M: You didn't do anything exotic. You know, you just worked and went to school.

J: Well, did it seem, I mean, now you're saying you didn't do anything exciting but at the time did it seem that way? Or at the time was it perfectly fine and this is what, you know, you did?

M: It was just something you did.

J: Yes, yes.

M: I mean, you never thought about it.

J: Yes, sure. Well, did you do any like extracurricular kinds of stuff at school?

M: You didn't have time.

J: You didn't have time.

M: Well see, now...the things like the kids do at school today, when I went to school, there was very little of that. I mean, there was some but of the town kids did. But at 3:30 when the school closed, the kids went home. You didn't have half the school staying at school to 5 or 6 o'clock like you do over here now.

J: Yes, I'll tell you what. I've been there a couple of times at 4:00 and its packed. I can't tell the difference. Yes. Well,...?

M: Well, see lots of the kids, their whole life wraps around things that go on at school. Now for us, when we was kids, when 3, 3:00 o'clock came or whatever time to go home, you went home.

J: Well, do you think that was.... Was it different for town, for town kids? Or...?

M: I don't know. I wasn't there, you know.

J: Yes.

M: Because I was never, I was never in any activity that took me to school at night.

J: Well, let me ask you this--would you have had a car or would a kid living out in the country, at that time, have had a car if he had wanted to come into town? Did many kids have their own transport?

M: No. No.

J: I didn't think so.

M: No. There's a few. About 2 or 3 kids had a car.

J: Total?

M: Of their own.

J: Not just the farm kids but total?

M: Total.

J: Total, okay. So....

M: That was their own and maybe meant 2 or 3 that drove their parents car, maybe. Not all the time, either.

J: Yes.

M: Very few people had access to cars.

J: Well, was there any, like, dating, you know, where mixed, dating, you know, between people from the town and farm kids and...?

M: Oh yes.

J: Yes.

M: But...like I say, you know, I'm trying to think of a good example of that. [pause] Let's see. [pause] I can't think of a good example of farm kids.

J: Maybe I

M: There was Freddy and Sue, maybe...Hawkins.

J: Freddy and Sue Hawkins?

M: They may have been. I don't know. I think Freddy lived out in the country and I think Sue lived in.

J: Well, okay, all right. Here's what I'm confused on. I guess, I'm wondering if, how can I say this? Were kids in high school very aware that this kid next me was from the town, this kid sitting next to me from the farm, I mean, did kids kind of know that about each other? Was it any...was it any big deal?

CM: Sure. I heard that a lot. I've heard that a lot. Especially from women.

J: Oh. really.

M: Well, we...

CM: What's...how...what's the age difference between you and Marilyn?

M: Huh?

CM: What's the age difference between you and Marilyn _____?

M: Two years.

CM: I know she's talked about that a lot.

J: Really, she has.

CM: Becky Gillman (?) talked about it a lot. Leon Johnson always talked about it a lot.

M: Well, I see it, now the girls paid more attention to that than the boys did. Boys don't pay attention to stuff like that.

CM: But girls lived in the country, they couldn't really get a date with a city guy because they'd have to drive all the way to the country to get them, [and their parents complained that] they lived so far out into the country. Or you couldn't communicate with your boyfriend because you lived 10 miles out of town and the only dating that you did was when moms and dads could go to take her into a ball game. And this was a problem with the girls, maybe more than with the boys. I don't know. I've just heard this in conversation.

J: Well, that's a good point. So for the girls it could be more problem if they were from the country because...

CM: Boys if they had a car, they could go where they wanted, I guess. You know if they....[I don't know.]

M: Well, it...very few girls at that time, even had access to their, even to their parents' car.

CM: Well, Marilyn said they _____ they had a hard time getting a date.

M: Well, it happened, probably, to a lot of people but like I say, girls probably paid more attention to it than...

CM: It would be a problem for them.

M: ...the boys did.

J: Well, did you date during high school? Did you...?

M: Very little.

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J: Very little.

M: Very...

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M: Nobody, really. Very few had cars.

J: Okay, but you had to have access...access car.

M: ...you had access to being one...

[both speaking at same time]

M: And....

J: All right, well.

M: I know I didn't. Very little up until I was probably...a junior or senior. Very little. I didn't...I don't know...a lot of mine was, were even away from here. A lot of mine went on in other towns.

J: You mean...?

M: Because there's more, there was more...I mean there's a lot of rivalry between towns, a lot more than there is today.

J: What do you mean? Like French Lick and Orleans and stuff like that?

M: Yes and Marengo and things like that too. There was a lot of rivalry around them...between the kids. You know, in towns.

J: Like....

M: You don't supposed to date girls from this area and that area. You don't supposed to go date them. And...and that's why you did.

J: Well, who said you weren't supposed...or there....

M: In other words kids, you know, just like kids do, you know.

J: Oh yes.

M: It's a lot like in a city you call it your territory, you know that, it'd be territory, you know. Like you didn't want to...a certain block area...you live within a certain block and stayed within this block area, you know, and you didn't go, like, to a different neighborhood.

J: Right.

M: That's what it's like in these towns.

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J: Right, right or this other high school is your rival you don't go date a guy from that high school, okay, all right. I got you.

M: But if you only date on Saturday night and you don't go and you don't have a telephone, for one thing...you don't have a telephone. You don't have a vehicle. You only go to town on Saturday night or maybe Friday if there's a ball game, maybe Friday. So there's very lit...I mean when you growing up like that, there's on a farm especially, there's very little opportunity to date. And we go to, like when we happened to be seniors, then you'd go to dances in English on Saturday night which is why you'd meet girls from Marengo. So you'd spend your night time actually down there than in your home town. And it was only something...it was a square dance. It was someplace to go every Saturday night, that's where you went. When I was a senior.

J: How would you get there though?

M: Friends usually. Friends would borrow their dad's car.

J: Okay, okay. So then you could meet the same girl in English every week or Marengo or whatnot. Have you always been a square dancer? I know you're a square dancer now.

M: No. We've just been squaring, what, about... '74 _____. I mean this is a different type of square dance than you did on English. You know. They did the old time square dance in English.

J: What is the....

M: We do western style now.

J: With the square, the 4 couples in the square?

M: Yes.

J: Did they do like the old hoedown or whatnot?

M: Well, in English they did. We don't, we don't do that.

J: That's what Carol said was rowdier I think.

M: And English was every Saturday night. But you really didn't go down there to dance. You really went down there to meet girls, like any other kids _____ you know.

J: Well, you mentioned coming in for shopping. Were there ever

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any other things going on at the square that you all came in for? Or that went on at the square that you know about?

M: Well on Saturday you just come in to shop. Unless there was a _____. On Saturday nights every store stayed open till 9:00 o'clock, every one of them, on Saturday night.

J: Well how late..._____for the carnival or any band concerts or stuff like that?

M: Oh they always had band concerts on the square in the summer time. And they had, they had something going on in the bandstand usually. At least 3 or 4 times a summer time. Some kind of band concert or something. And...but that's...that's just things that go by the wayside too, you know.

J: Oh, the band concerts.

M: The changing times and.... People don't go to that stuff anymore. In a way, they just don't do it. It's...it's a shame. That's another thing that I think the young people lost. That's the.... I mean it's hard explaining how it was. I would say that probably a town kid could explain it more than _____ but.... On Saturday night, like now you can look there on Saturday night and you'll see cars parked on the square, kids sitting around on the square. Kids, young kids, you know, today, right now. But at that time, you seen people from 12 to 90 sitting there on the square, talking to each other, leaning against their cars till maybe 9:00 o'clock, 10:00 o'clock at night, on Saturday night. And, I mean, there was just not young kids, it was everybody.

J: It was...yes, yes.

M: Of course you got to realize that at that time too, that I would say, 75 % of the people did not have a television.

J: A television, right.

M: Seventy-five percent of them didn't.

J: Even when you graduated from high school in '58.

M: Now, we had television. In '58 but we only had television since, I think that we got a television around '50...'55, '56 we got television.

J: I see what you're saying but it was just during that whole time when you were growing up and you'd go in. People at that time generally just didn't take it easier.

M: And, you know. I remember, as a young, you know--say, in the early '50s to start walking into towns. And one of the biggest things was in the early '50s, was to count the TV antennas in town.

J: Really?

M: I can remember when there was 1 and there was 2.

J: Really, wow.

M: And there was 3, you know. Everyone. We were sure that there might be another one coming up you know and you'd go count them. I remember going up to people's windows to stand and watching the tv, you know, that was playing, inside their house.

J: Someone told me she remembers, I guess at the hardware store, at the square, there was a tv there and she said that she remembers when it was first there, people really just lined up all around to get a chance to see it.

M: Well, something like that was...you never'd seen anything like this, so.

J: Well, when you were coming to town like that, did you.... Okay, here's 2 questions. All these people who would gather around the square were they mainly people from the...were they mainly farmers who were coming in or was it, would it be town people too or....?

M: Well, there'd be town people too but usually shopping up on Saturday, completely, Saturday night mostly, it was mostly farmers because that's when they come into town to do what they call trade.

J: Trading night....

M: That's what they called it, trade, and they had all their business that one day and...most of them wouldn't be back to town till the next Saturday. They would never be back into town till the next Saturday.

J: So that was, that was just a great chance for everyone to see each other and talk and relax and socialize, yes.

M: Because they wouldn't, you know, 90 % of them that were up there, I would say 90% probably was farmers.

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J: Now I may have asked you this, were people at that time still trading stuff or money at that point.

M: Oh, most of them were trading money at that point, at that point. In my grandfather's day, he was what you calla trader but, I mean that was for, I was, you know,...he was a trader because he grew a lot of vegetables. he grew, he would dig roots you know, dig sassafras roots and anything good. He was a peddler and he just done anything to make, you know, he was a carpenter, he was a peddler, he was a preacher...he'd done anything to make a buck. And then the farm where my sister lived is where, you know, he had all of his vegetables and...and he had 10 acres of strawberries and things like that.

J: Ten acres? Wow. Would he sell it then the strawberries?

M: Yes, he sold them. Had people pick them. He'd sell them.

J: Did this used to be pretty good strawberry country? One or 2 other people mentioned....

M: It still is.

J: Is it, is it still...are many grown still?

M: Oh, there's still lots of strawberries grown _____.

J: Oh, okay. I didn't know that.

M: Oh yes. There's still big strawberries places around. We got some as big as _____ around here.

J: Oh, I didn't know that.

M: Down here, there's big ones down here.

CM: In Orange County.

M: Orange County _____ bigger but there's a lot of big ones right here too.

CM: _____.

J: What, let me ask you about World War II. Oh wait. Let me ask you one other question. Did you ever think about being a farmer?

M: No.

J: No, you're laughing, why?

M: Well, because we never had enough, you never had enough acreage to be a farmer and I'd never...I like farming but, but, but there was...but you could tell even when I was a kid, there's no money. There was no future in being a farmer.

J: Now, okay just while back you said that...I mean looking back now there's just something about you're sister's farm or something like that. At the time did you feel that as a kid or kids are too busy being kids to think about that kind of stuff?

M: But...what...I mean do you just meant the land or...? Oh it was just...I was just...I really enjoyed it...I enjoyed going out there and working in fields and.... It's not really a job or...it's not really a...you know...it was just something you done but you enjoyed it at the same time.

J: Well, what kind of satisfaction was it for you? Keep in mind, I've not farmed.

M: Well, we...I don't know, you just, it is something. You just get, a little, you know, you took pride in what you did and...I think that mostly mine was to make sure that I had a very feeling that I owed a big debt to my brother-in-law and this was the best--to make...the best crop I could make for him, was the best way to repay him. Because he put out a lot of money. I mean considering, what we consider a lot of money for growing up.

J: How many...how many kids went with you to your brother...to your sister's house?

M: Well, when I went, just me and my sister but see there had already been another 2 sisters and another brother, already before me.

J: So that was 6? 5, 6 kids?

M: Then he had 2 of his own.

J: Then he had 2 of his own, yes.

M: I mean, they were gone. By the time I got there the others were gone but at one time or the other he had all of them.

J: So your 6, your sister was actually, actually took care of 6 of you all, in a sense. Or 5 of you all.

M: She promised my mother when she died that she would take

care of her family and that's what she done. That's the last thing she told my mother before she died. That she would take care of her family. And she still does it even today. You know, I mean she doesn't do much you know, even to, even, as old as I am she still does it.

J: She still...she kind of half-mother....

M: She still, she still considers herself to be head of... If she thinks we're doing something wrong she'll get Tate to tell us. And even my brother-in-law in Arizona just said it wasn't very long ago that he had a little problem with...real-estate problem and my sister was involved. And he said I can tell anybody, get mad at anybody but I cannot bring myself to tell her. And he can't, he can't do it. There's no way.

J: You can't do it either.

M: No.

J: No. Yes. In fact I remembering last time to...something about the fact, I guess with a parent, with someone who's your parent, somehow you just maybe assume or expect them to kind of take care of you but I guess when it's your own sister, in a way, doesn't have to do it, but does.

M: Especially your brother-in-law who you know don't have to do it. And this is, this is where it's very, very unusual because there is very few, you know people that way would, are very rare. Very rare. That will actually put up with that, very rare. Matter of fact, I don't know that I could. That I could do it.

CM: We just about have.

M: Well, no, not like him.

CM: We had _____.

M: No but what I'm talking about, not like him though...taking on your sister's kids. Your brothers and sisters. Your brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws...

J: Yes, so he's saying it's different--they're your children but you all were her, just her brother and sister. I mean he knows when he marries you he's getting your kids.

M: John took care of me, Katie, Patty, Joey....

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CM: I still think that somewhere down the line that, that would sort of put into you kids but you were too little to understand. And that somewhere down the line it was put into you [that you would].

M: No.

CM: You were too young to know that.

M: No, I don't think so.

CM: How old were you when you went there?

M: Eleven. Yes, eleven.

J: Well...it's funny too to think about something like that because today, you know there might be social programs or something like that but at the time it was just, it was just family so you all had to take care, take care of each other. I never did ask you, speaking of politics...can I ask you what, what party you are...what are your politics? Rex, Carol's laughing.

M: Well, I really don't have any. Democrat mostly but not all, not always.

J: Now I...

CM: First democrat you've talked to.

J: Well, I've got to say, Carol's...

M: Well, not always.

J: ...well, what were you before? You mean, not always, you don't always that way or before you were something else?

M: Because I don't believe in it to start with. I don't believe that one party in, in, in saying that I'm a democratic vote _____. In Connecticut you, you know, in Connecticut when I first started to vote, of course I first started to vote, of course I first started voting in Connecticut because that's where I turned 21. You would, you was a democrat, you was republican or you was an independent. And I always was an independent because I could not stand to be affiliated and say well, everybody on this side's bad and everybody's on this side is good.

J: Well, okay, let me ask you something here then. What,

what's different about you than, than other people here who are just republican and that's it.

M: I don't know. I believe the way I believe. I believe in individuals. I don't believe in politics. I'm not a politician. A lot of things that I don't believe in that...probably wrong.

I believe the computer is the downfall of the world. I really believe that. And I believe we're going to computer ourself right into oblivion.

J: What, what...

M: Because I'll tell you what, the way I believe, I mean [and this is just probably, there again, it's probably wrong but it's my belief, that they're going to get down to where they can set Washington DC and punch you up on the computer but not only them but somebody...all they'd have to do is take over one building in Washington DC and have every person in the United States right there. Really, one punch of the computer and you're ruined. You're financially ruined.

J: So you think it's just too much control and too much information.

M: Too much information, too much control on people's lives. Because it don't, it would take nothing for an enemy to take over 3 billion, 3 buildings in Washington DC. I mean I'm not talking about taking over by force. I'm talking about infiltrating. And ruin all the people they want to ruin in the United States by pushing a few buttons. And they could do it today really because all they got to do is punch the right, the wrong information into a few towns and you can't get it off there.

J: Huh.

M: And people don't think about that but it...they better start thinking about it.

J: I never thought about it that way but I guess that's where we're going in information....

M: It is where we're going. And 1917, _____ I mean I don't want to get into political, _____ political but there's a lot of things like that that I believe. 1917, one of their, Russia's biggest things put out, and it was brought back from the war, was the fact that the fact they would take the United States over near and never fire a shot. By infiltrating it over generations and getting into the right position that could, all they got to do is step in and take it over.

J: Yes, someone even suggested that the '60s, all the crazy stuff going on then was stuff that had been brought on by Russians.

M: Well that well. Okay you take the...[said something to Carol]

CM: Careful.

M: Well, she knows. I'm not talking about you did--I mean, what you did is crazy. But I'm talking about, okay, you take people--like the colored people that went to Washington DC--and even your hippies that went to Washington DC. Okay that, they're on welfare, they ain't got money enough to live, where did they get money enough to go to Washington? Stayed months. And they _____ union but unions had to push it for some reason--_____, unions didn't push all them...

CM: Unions and political campaigns _____ the minorities to install a man for future _____.

J: I can tell we're heading into the hot discussion right now.

M: She does...me and her have very different beliefs.

CM: '60s were good years.

J: Okay let me, let me, let me steer this toward something a little cooler maybe and that's World War II--this is something else I want to ask you about. How did that, first of all did that have any direct effect on your family? Any uncles or...?

M: Well my brother, 2 of my brothers were in the war. My brother-in-law was in the war. Of course I didn't remember too awful much about it because I was just...

J: ...you were just a kid.

M: I remember being, them being gone, you know and...but as far as remembering a lot about it, I don't remember a lot about, remember a lot that we, you know, that...oh, that you didn't drink--you drunk goat's milk--you didn't drink regular cow's milk. You, you, everything that was raised on the farm went to be sold, you didn't use anything that you didn't absolutely have to use. You, all the milk went to the creamery, all the...everything you raised went for the war effort--everything. You didn't use anything unnecessary.

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J: So, how did that work? It would, say like with the cream that would be taken to the creamery and then...

M: You take your, you would, you would put your milk in a five-gallon milk container and you know like that...and that's...either the creamery would pick it up or--well, the creamery picked ours up usually. They had a route then, to pick up. Now-a-days they don't do that because it's illegal and unsanitary.

J: Right, right. Well in high school or maybe even in grade school do you ever remember there being any, like on memorial day or armistice day or things like that, were there ever any kind of remembrances or...

M: Well they always had something doing on memorial day. Always. And always veterans day was a big day around here. When I was a kid, now today there ain't nothing, but when I was a kid it was. I mean...

J: Well, was it a big day--did the school have something or the town or both or?

M: Well, they always had something in town. They always had a parade or something went on in town. You never went to school on veterans day.

J: Oh you did.

M: Everything was always closed.

J: Would you go to the town for the parade or...?

M: Oh yes, usually for veterans day you went to town.

J: Okay.

M: And when I was a kid, then, they quit that. Memorial day they quit. Memorial day was a big day because you went to the graveyard, put flowers on every grave, you know like all your family and everything like that. You did that. Every Memorial Day.

J: When did that stop?

M: I would say probably during the '60s, probably.

J: Is that something, someone mentioned, mentioned to me, I think that, I guess school would close and there would be

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something going on in town and then all the, everyone would bring their flowers in and then all the school kids would take the flowers out to the graves.

M: Well, we never did that.

J: Yes.

M: We had our own family things.

CM: There was usually a parade.

J: There was usually a parade.

M: But we went to the graveyard as a family--took all the--you know it was something you did every memorial day.

CM: And _____. I remember that.

J: And Carol said if they were far away, you'd take a picnic lunch.

M: Now all the, why we got it up until the, why I would say [pause] late '60s, early '70s probably when ,before we ever got out of it. Well, when we came back here we didn't much when we were out...we'd go like take it to my mother's grave.

J: You and your wife?

M: Yes. Or me and the kids or whoever happened to go, but we would definitely take something over to the graveyard and to my mother's grave now.... Like we don't do it anymore. I don't know why. It's something you can't explain. You just, all of a sudden it's just don't, it's just not done.

J: You're not doing it, yes.

M: A few people still do it.

CM: _____ our kids won't do it either.

J: Well, was it something that--did many families have this custom, then?

M: All of them did.

J: All of them did.

M: Well all that I knew of did.

J: Yes so it's something that slowly everyone's just kind of....

M: Well, it was a big thing and then it slowly just...

J: ...petered down.

M: ...went down. Just like veterans day...was a big thing but then after in the '60s, well, I think _____ '60s--everything since the '60s--up until the '60s, all your soldiers, sailors, your military persons were thought pretty highly of. During the '60s it was something dirty to be in the service. And it was made to feel that way. And everything changed after that. And it will never be that way anymore. It will never be the same, ever.

J: Now you ment...

M: And I'll tell you what. Hey this country is going to be in the worst for it because, if there is ever any kind of a conflict, like World War II where you've got to have your country together _____. You might as well just lay down to _____ and they better, everybody better hope that there never is. Just better hope there never is because you got nobody to do it.

J: Now of course you were gone during the '60s from Paoli, Paoli. When you came back you came back with a wife. How by the way did she cotten to Paoli?

M: She didn't.

J: She didn't. She was from a bigger place out in Connecticut and just didn't cotten to a small town. Was it just a small town, was it southern Indiana?

M: Herself.

J: Her, her....

M: She wouldn't been satisfied. It would make no difference where it was at.

J: Oh, okay.

M: And I'd say today she's still ain't satisfied today. And she lived, I think she lives in Florida right now but I mean she'd lived up...she still ain't satisfied. And she wouldn't be satisfied no matter where she is. Just that type of person. But

she just despised it here.

J: Well that must have been rough for you.

M: Well we didn't get--we got along for about the first 4 or 5 years, 6 maybe. Then it was, after that it was....

J: Yes. When you came back, what did you start doing? You'd left because work wasn't to be had and then you started doing construction.

M: Well, I started, I kept working construction when I came back and I went to work for myself.

J: Did you know that there'd be work. I mean, why did you sudden, I know you had kids and you wanted to raise them up here....

M: Well, I didn't know anything, know that I had work, no.

J: No you just....

M: Because I had work to do up there. I had plenty of work up in.... I never knew that anything at the time, worked for anything. But I had...

J:but you just _____ back or...?

M: ...I had [pause], you know, I had the money and the opportunity to do it so I just took it.

J: You mean, wait, when you came back?

M: Yes.

END OF SIDE ONE TAPE TWO

M: It was either you got to it then because we had sold the house and if you reinvest in another house you would....

J: Yes, yes.

M: It's like us now. If we decide we want to, live someplace else, we couldn't just walk off and leave this and not have any money. I suppose if we sold this place and we decide that we want to live some place else and we had the money and the opportunity to do it see, but if you turn around and bought another place you wouldn't do it because you just don't walk off.

J: Right.

M: A responsible person don't walk off. An irresponsible person does but a responsible person does not walk off.

J: Well this raises, well, let me save this for later on and ask you this instead. When you came back, you'd been gone 12 years, okay '58 to '70, what was Paoli like then? Had it, did it seem like it changed? Did you seem like you slipped right into it and nothing had ever changed or...?

M: Oh, it changed. People changed. Town never changed that much. People changed. As far as I was concerned because I was remembering when I was a kid.

J: Yes.

M: All my, most all my friends were gone, that I knew were gone. Wasn't here any more. And the friends I have today that I graduated with like Donny Hooten and Tina--I graduated with them. Okay, we were not friends in school, at the times we were in school, we were not friends because I did not fit into their...

J: ...circle or...

M: ...circle.

J: Yes.

M: I was a poor bumpkin, okay--not that they--but they lived in town and their families were nice families--owned grocery store which has to, by most people's standards, they were pretty well off. You know, I mean I'm not, they probably weren't but most people's standards they were well off.

J: They could buy a coke or something.

M: Yes, yes. And Tina was an only child and they, she had everything she wanted and more too.

J: Right.

M: And they're the friends we got today and so it's...probably are, probably the best ones we got, but it...when I was in school now, they weren't the friends I had in school. And some of the friends I had in school--there's only 2 of them left here that I run around with and very seldom ever seen them, very seldom, ever. When I came back, you know I, would see them a couple times but their life and ours have changed drastically you know to,...so we didn't. You just have to change completely around your friendships around. It was nothing like it was when I left. The town was basically, geologically, geologically, it had grown but the basic, the basic square itself was the same but like they had a country club and they never had that when I was a kid and a subdivision which they didn't have when I was a kid and--what we call a subdivision--what most people would call it would be houses--[radio sounds in background] _____ what they call a subdivision--there's maybe 10 houses there anymore.

But I came back to let the kids grow up in a smaller community, I thought was a lot safer because I didn't...To get back to the political _____ because it all stems, a lot of it stems, because we had a lot of bad experiences up there as far as this '60s bunch--that she was talking about because we did work construction, we worked nuclear construction a lot of time--nuclear power houses and things like that and there was a lot of these that tried to stop us from going to work. Well, you don't stop of bunch of grown men from earning their living--you just don't--it's just not done. And a bunch of college kids laying down in front of a gate--it not going to stop 4 or 500 constructions workers from going through that gate--they're foolish if they think so. Because those guys got families to feed. And that's what was tried with us several times. And it got to be kind of silly, you know.

J: Did any of that radical hippie stuff get down here?

M: Well, not, I don't think much in Paoli. It did in Clarksville and places like that--closer to Louisville but...

J: Closer to the bigger towns and cities.

M: Paoli--it didn't really effect Paoli too much. Oh you get a little bit of it.

J: Well how about like VietNam protest and stuff like that.

Although again I guess, well you were here in the '70s.

M: _____ I was there for much of that--there wasn't much of it here.

J: Did people when you come back, did you hear much about it?

M: No, not really. It wasn't like it was up there.

J: Yes, yes.

M: Your biggest part was you, you know how you get to Bloomington or someplace like and you get [deletion]--some place down around Louisville you get it but 90% of that too, if you, if the police study it was put up, paid for and if they ever come right down to it they'll find out 90% of it was paid for. Well, directed because it was too much, too many glibs in it for it to be...

J: ...just spontaneous.

M: Right. If anybody, if anybody ever pulls a study which they probably never will but if they'll put it to study--too many went by the same time that it was not programmed. It just looked programmed and selected for--just like programmed for entertainment--for your tv news, you know. Just like your tv news shooting war shots--was programmed to draw people's attention to how bad the American soldier was--not showing the other side--and it's all you'll ever see of _____. That's one thing I would, you know, one reason why, I don't know why people are gullible not to see through it--I don't understand it. I don't even understand it today but there was before _____ they were, they were, they were...brainwashed. And Americans, America lost that war when that war could have been, been over. That war could have been over in 6 months. But they didn't have no will to pick--if they went in there to win that war 6 months _____ there would have been no worry about VietNam--there would be no refugees heading over Thailand and every place--there would be--it'd been all over.

J: You're saying that part of this is just that the American people were fed the wrong view of the American soldier and...?

M: Well they programmed what they wanted them to see. Five people in the United States tell you what you're going to watch going to watch on the evening news every night. Every thing happens in a room--just 5 people who are in the United States _____ what you're going to watch--what they want you to see. That's a lot of power. That attitude's mine (?).

J: So you support....

M: And I mean it too--but I think a lot of it did sink down into here because you got a lot...here you got a lot more adult influence here than you've got, say in a place like you know, well Bloomington.

J: Bloomington--a more adult influence.

M: Well I mean like, well I ain't going to say (?). Well when you lose most your kids, your town is 80 or 90% adult, older adults, that is... _____ kids between 16 and 25.

J: Yes, so you're saying it's more stable and people...

M: More stable and you don't play with people's minds--that's older people's minds. Like you do, you see you can play with a kid's mind because they're open. They're learning all the time they're opening up--they're also vulnerable to be played with--kid's minds, because they want to believe this stuff. And naturally, none of these kids wanted to go to war, don't matter, nobody you see wants to go war, no little kid wants to go to war. But at the same time their minds were played with.

J: Well, okay, let me ask you this--okay so I can see what you're saying about why Paoli's a better place to raise kids but what are some of the good things and some of the bad things about living in a small town or what were some of them that...?

M: Well some of the good things, I think is that, okay, if I need something I can, I mean right now I can get it. I got a neighbor who has a rotator. I went out seeking him once because he, I mean he lives over there, you know and he needs something he comes to me, and if I need something I'll go over there and get it. Now I lived in Connecticut and I had a guy that lived right next to me. I lived there 2 years and I didn't know the guy's name. I didn't talk to him and here you know everybody. I mean, maybe that's good, maybe that's bad I don't know; but when you're somewhere, if you're here and I broke down anyplace around here, you probably, I can pick up a phone and call 50 people or walk to the person's house and you couldn't do that in the cities. Like if you broke down on one of the streets int he city you couldn't get out of the car and walk to somebody's house and say "well, I want you to take me over here", now here you could do that--here you could do that.

J: Yes. Me?

M: Anybody.

J: Okay.

M: And 90% of the people here would get out to their car and take you wherever you want to go.

J: Is this part--this is part of why you came back, right, I imagine?

M: It's...well, it was getting bad in my kid's school, they went to what they called the open school. In other words, no discipline. Kids didn't learn...as far as I was concerned wasn't learning. Only had 2 in school at the time, right then but.... Went to that school one time during the day and it was nothing but constant roar because _____. No kid could learn anything at that school, no way. Absolutely no discipline in school, no, they didn't believe in it.

J: Were kids also somehow, I don't know, taught values or morality or something like that here in a way that they're not there? Did that enter your _____?

M: Well in my opinion they were.

J: Yes, here.

M: That's what my opinion.

J: Are kids going to be taught something about what's right and what's wrong and what you should do and shouldn't do and stuff?

M: And they had this proposal--you couldn't get _____ here. You had signs. And kids were there studying. If you walk in that school there the kids were running to do whatever they wanted to do. If they decided they wanted to walk up and down the hallway..._____...or they wanted to holler and run and go on.

J: What else about being in a small town?

M: Well, you, you did it mostly for your kids. You did it for them, them growing up, there's sex____, there's drugs. Drugs really started pretty heavy at that time.

J: Yes. yes, yes sure, sure.

M: And when I was a kid you didn't know what drugs was. You never heard of such a thing. A beer now and then was, now that was a big deal. Have a beer, that was a big deal.

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J: As a kid?

M: As a kid. Well, really yes, I'll tell you I've been using my . Have a beer was, that was a big to do. But you, you let you...it really, the drugs, the drugs and the school situation really turned me to that I had to do something before the kids got too old.

J: How old were they when you brought them back?

M: Well, my youngest is now in college and was a little over a year old.

J: Is this the girl?

M: college in, the one that's in Ball State.

J: At Ball, Ball State.

M: She was just a little over a year old.

J: Okay.

M: And I had one in the first grade and one in the second grade, one that started kindergarten here. One hadn't started school and I had 2 in school.

J: And by the way, was there any age difference between you and your wife?

M: Six months maybe.

J: Now I know tonight you cooked, you helped cook. And, I kidded you about being a man of the '80s, you know. Did you ever do stuff like that with your first wife?

M: I did.

J: Yes, you did.

M: Oh yes.

J: Yes.

M: I've done that all my life.

J: Oh yes?

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M: Because I enjoy it. I don't do it because I have to, I enjoy it. If I didn't enjoy it I wouldn't do it. I used to cook Sunday dinner all the time.

J: Was this, did you learn growing up at your sister's or?

M: Oh yes. You cooked your, you did a lot of cooking.

J: I guess I had it, I had it in my mind that it was probably girls that learned to cook more.

M: Well, they did.

J: They did.

M: But you learned to cook too. I mean, you learned to do everything.

J: Living on a farm like you did.

M: You know you did everything--everybody learns to be self sufficient. You know, there's no such thing as you know, you can't do anything--you can do it. They tell you, a lot of people tell you they can't boil water, they can't do this, they--you have to when you are ____.

J: Okay. Let me ask you something else--this is about the square when you came back. You said that the town really hadn't changed--did the square still seem, did business still seem the same or...?

M: The only thing that had changed really drastically, or I thought drastically, by the time I came back, was the difference in the hours. The square was not open anymore on Saturday night. The people didn't come to the square at night to congregate like they used to. But the business was still there at that time when I first come back. The business was _____ but it was still there to start with because we, you know, like 3D wasn't built, the other place over there wasn't built and it was...

J: So people were still shopping at the square.

M: Yes.

J: Yes. For groceries? Pharmacies?

M: Yes, there was a grocery, there was, 2 pharmacies on each square and they were own both doing well.

J: Were there still as many restaurants?

M: No. No. Part of the restaurants had closed. The kids hangout was there...no longer the kid's hangout.

J: The square you mean.

M: No, the restaurant. The one just off the square, It was no longer the kids' hangout like it was when I was a kid.

J: Do you know where they were hanging out at the time?

M: No. [pause] I'm trying to think. I wasn't a kid so I wasn't.

J: Yes, I know, I know, I know.

M: I don't know really but I could, the restaurant had been turned into like a cafeteria style place and it was just not the same, you know.

J: So when you came back, I know what you were saying having all, your friends, the friends, the guys who were your friends weren't here. When you came to Paoli was everybody different then or, you know?

M: Oh yes. It seemed distant, you know. Like when they tell you can't actually come home again, you know you can't. You'll never go home again. Once you leave, you'll never go home again because it's never the exactly the way you left.

J: Was that hard to get used to? Like you said, in your mind you had this picture of a certain Paoli.

M: Oh yes. Oh most definitely. But after a couple of years then you get, you get back used to it again because you yourself have changed to. You don't realize it but you've changed yourself.
[to someone else] That the rot-out wood, Terry?

J: How do you think you have changed by being away and living in a city and going through all the things?

M: My ideas, a lot of my ideas that I have when I was a kid wasn't the same ideas. You know...when I came back.
[a lot of background clanking and sharp noises]

J: Were they changes just because you were older?

M: Probably, mostly you change your values, priorities, like your, you know, my priorities then were turned not to myself but

to my kidss, you know. Making sure they had,
[banging wood and metal
sounds] you know raise them, that was it.

J: Yes, sure.

M: And when I left I didn't have any kids.

J: Yes. There's a big difference being single and being a father.

M: Night and day.

J: Now, Carol works, well she got a whole big company that she's making a go of. Did your first wife work at all?

M: Not for the first 14 probably years that we was married, she didn't work, no. After we started changing ourselves as for toward each other then she started working. And of course she never worked at all--she worked about the last 6 years, maybe 7 years we were together, off and on.

J: And you were together 14 years. Fourteen years you said you were together?

M: Twenty-two.

J: With your first wife? Well, I know she, you said after the first 4 or 5 years....

M: First 14 years she did work.

J: No but when you came back, I mean when you came to Paoli she didn't like it very much. You all were still together for another...?

M: Oh, well see, almost 10 years. No, it was 10 years after we came back. Must have been. We came back in '70 and she left at '80 so, so, we was married about 22, 23 years.

J: Of course you were still just a man of, in your mid-forties at that point, right?

M: Yes.

J: Did your second wife work very much or at all?

M: She is, well, she....

J: I thought Carol was your third?

M: She is, but I, well.

J: Should I not mention that?

M: The first one only lasted for a month--I don't count it.

J: Oh, I see, okay well.

M: However she counts it...

J: I didn't know that, okay, all right, all right, okay.

M: I was too young to even know the difference. It didn't last long enough to even know the difference. I wouldn't pay no attention to that.

J: Okay.

M: That I was too young. That was, that was just kid stuff.

J: Okay, all right. I'm squared away then.

M: That was just pretend stuff, you know, kid stuff.

J: You should have just given her your high school ring and left it at that.

M: Yes.

J: Okay.

M: _____ that's the biggest reason that I came here was to get away from the drugs and the traffic and the--I don't know whether you've been much around the East coast or not, but even today it's even worse, I guess _____ but I haven't been there in a long time. But, today it's even worse but then it was, it was just getting awful. You go to work bumper to bumper you and even though you work construction you still go to work bumper to bumper and, and people were just getting, I don't know--you felt like you was getting closed in on, you know.

J: Well, can I ask you this. I've had the experience of just moving to, you know, you grow up in one place and you go somewhere else and just going somewhere else and meeting people who are different you learn something about where you came from that you didn't know before.

M: Oh, yes.

J: What, did you, what did you learn about southern Indiana or about Paoli, about the people there? Do you see what I'm saying? About their ways, were there any like different ways of thinking or outlooks on life or talking or?

M: Well there's a lot of different outlooks on life there because up there the only outlook they got is, I'm not saying all of them because I don't like to lump sections of people or all together because people are different no matter where you are--you got some good, some bad, everything, but most attitudes up there were, they were self-centered people, I felt. The people from the east coast are very, I felt were very selfish, very self-centered. I know my ex-wife was that way, her family was all that way. Still that way today, even no, they're so...and in our circle most of the people down in this area are caring, they're not so self-centered. Now I'm not saying, there are people that way like up there there are people the other way too but as a section I would say, that's the way it is. And that is a big difference. Really is the biggest difference is the people are self-centered--that's the biggest objection I had to my in-laws. And that's what we had, usually had most of our trouble was over the very people that was, never had a good word to say about anybody, cut everybody down, that's just the way most people were.

J: Were people more in a hurry, too?

M: Oh yes, definitely, everybody was.

J: Because I guess that's one thing that struck me was just the fact and here is people, you know, take the time of course to say hi and you know what I mean.

M: Well, you couldn't do that, you couldn't walk around up there like you walk around up here on the square and talk to people. They'd think you was crazy. They'd look at you like you was crazy--if you spoke to them they'd look at you like you was crazy.

J: Didn't that make you feel nuts sometimes?

M: Well, after just a few--little while you quit doing it. You don't speak to people on the street.

J: I'm curious, did that make you feel weird that suddenly you couldn't walk down the street and talk to people and have them know you and you know them and stuff?

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M: Oh yes. You felt, you feel [that you're a wall].

J: Yes, yes and I guess you don't...

M: Then after a little while you don't, you just don't do it no more.

J: How do you think Paoli has changed since you've been here, since '70s, since '70, this is 1988?

M: Well, Paoli is getting more outside influence now but it basically as far as economically, it's going backwards.

J: Okay, first what do you mean by outside influences or whatever?

M: Well, we got a lot of outside influences here that we never had before. We got Mennonites which you never had. They are very influential in the town. _____.

END OF SIDE TWO TAPE TWO

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M: Well, yes, definitely because it lost one of their factories that wasn't replaced. Now they have factories here but it's tied into the...

J: The Cornwell.

M: The Cornwell factory's lost but the factory they got here now, they got [Brittany, which is] a big factory but also when you look at that factory, they sell everything they got to one customer.

J: Sears.

M: And all that that customer has to do is cut, one customer cut them off and they're out of business. I think that is very unstable but they don't care because they got a place someplace else or they could start another factory tomorrow. As far as the company itself don't care. But choice, to me that's not, they're not diversified enough to [deletion].

J: For the town to have to depend on them.

M: And, they don't, they're not really getting in to the industry that they need to get into to grow. So if you don't grow like I say, you cannot stay on a level plane. You either go forward or you go backwards but you never stay level. It just don't work.

J: Do you think that's what Paoli needs is to get more industry.

M: Oh definitely.

[telephone ringing]

Because you got, you got to keep your young people.

J: But let me ask you ask you this, I mean, it's kind of funny, and in fact this is what we're talking about the other night. The kids that go off and go to college, I mean the ones that'll stay and work at the factories, that will work at the industries aren't the ones that go off and go to college. They're the ones that don't want to go to college or maybe?

M: Well, you see this is, this is _____. You're losing your top kids. The kids that have, you know, that, you've got to keep your young people here. You have to keep your inhibitions healthy. You've got to give them something to do to stay. No incentive to stay here. We're not giving it to them. At Paoli...what kid wants

to go through 12 years of high school to pump gas? Or to go down there in a wood factory and push a piece a wood at the saw blade [all day long]. I mean you don't have a 12 grade education to do that, you know what I mean?

J: Oh, sure, yes. I know you're a businessman, you're a contractor. Is there something that you and your friends, like that night when we talked with Donny and Tina, is this something that you all would talk about? You know, just in terms of what are we going to do?

M: Yes but see, you're not in a position to, I'm not...

J: To do anything.

M: Now Donny is. Donny's on the town board, on city chamber. But you got to, you've also got to have the backing and the want to do it. And you'll find there's a lot of people, and there is a lot of people around here that do not want to grow any.

J: To grow? Does this tie back into what you were saying that a lot of the people here are older people and some of these people just might not want change?

M: Oh yes, oh yes. Oh definitely. There's people right here that--okay, factory owners, they will fight it tooth and nail. And they are the influential people in town.

J: They don't want competition.

M: No. It's for their labor, because that means higher wages, it could then _____ got a big force, labor force to choose from. They can pick and choose who they want. At lower wages. If there was other factories here they would have to compete for these people and they'd have to pay higher wage to get the better qualified people. They don't want it. So you got the influence, you got people who really have the influence that want to hold it down.

J: That want to?

M: That want to hold it down.

J: That want to hold it down. Do you think that then is one of the main problems?

M: Oh, yes. Well, water and sewage but they, there again you go the same thing. They didn't so you _____ the quarry (?) should have been here years ago.

J: It's here now.

M: And, yes they got it in. But, it should have been here years ago. They covered them so, I don't know whether it's too late. But maybe with [this Tillery Hill deal it will] come to pass. It won't, it won't do me any good because about time everything gets around to done and highways and everything, I'll be past [the age to work]. So, but maybe it will do some of the kids some good. The young, the younger kids, some, some good.

J: Are there any events or people or just anything at all that you think have been especially influential or important in Paoli? Like any turning points or just any...?

M: Oh, I would say that biggest turning point in Paoli was the loss of Cornwell because it did make people start to realize that the water situation, it really woke a lot of people up to water.

J: Because there wasn't enough water to put the fire out?

M: Well, they pumped it down.

J: Oh, I'm sorry, yes, yes, yes. They pumped it down.

M: And it woke them up to the fact that that creek cannot supply water. I think that, I think that the was the most biggest influence to a lot of people.

J: So one, it woke them up to the water thing and then two-- you might not think this had any effect--but it also put what 300 or 400 or how ever many hundred people out of business.

M: Out of work, yes.

J: Out of work.

M: And I think it, you know, it kind of got them thinking, you know. After that they really pushed for water and they really were pushing for water and they really went to push for, you know, to get that industrial track. Some of the, you know.... They had to fight for it and they are still fighting for it. And there are still people that are fighting just as hard against it. There was people that turned down industry, had no, I wouldn't name any names, I was told this but _____ turned down industry that was going to come in, with no authority--wrote a letter told them it wasn't wanted. And...

J: Just private citizens?

M: Well, some of them were in the town government.

J: Okay.

M: And but with no authority from the town government. They were just asking on their own. And seeing so they, they was fighting for it, yet there was still people fighting against them and it's still going on today. But I believe that was the biggest turning point to wake up people. You know, something had to be done. You know, and they couldn't, just couldn't sit around--something had to be done. And I think without that, they would never have been--they'd just sit there. Because it's hard for people around here to get really excited over something. I'll tell you that you don't get excited too awful much--you probably noticed that away--you don't really get them excited about much of anything.

J: Yes. Yes. Well, is there, I'm sure there's a lot of things I forgot to ask you about. Are there anythings that come--any last thoughts?

M: No. The thing is that I think 10 years down the road from now, I really believe 10 years down the road from now that...that you won't be able to recognize this area if roads come to pass, this area will look nothing 10 years from now like it looks right now.

J: What, what...?

M: I think it's going to grow so fast if we can get some roads.

J: Are you specifically just talking about the one for Tillery Hills or are you just talking...?

M: No, I'm talking about this, the whole area. Get a road from 37/64, 37 by way of 64 and I think you'll see this place double in size in 5 years if they get the road.

J: Okay, wait a minute. 37 get it to...

M: By Bedford.

J: Okay, down...

M: To interstate 64.

J: Sixty-four is where?

M: Below Marengo, about 20 miles from here.

J: Oh so you're saying that they, if they just have 37 running straight through...

M: ...it's connected...

J: ...as a highway.

M: ...if you make a 4-lane highway you can do it.

J: ...all the way down to 67.

M: This is where they would go there to Evansville and on west or _____. I think this place would double itself in 5 years.

J: Just from having people passing by, having truckers, all that _____?

M: _____?

J: Oh just because all the increased flow, traffic flow. You'd have truckers and passer-byers and....

M: Well mostly just traffic flow, being able to get fuel, goods--industry's got to be able to get their goods or they're not going to show up.

J: Oh, I see what you're to saying. It order to entice industry to come here.

M: Oh yes. You never'll entice them without the roads--that's the thing. They're not going to...there's no railroad.

J: Right. That was closed. Right.

M: So this area needs transportation _____.

J: So that means though in order for that to happen there has to be some influence in Indianapolis. Is that going to happen do you think? Is it changing? Is it looking better?

M: They're, they're pushing. You can get plenty people pushing but money talks.

J: And you think, you think the right people are starting to push?

M: Well, there are people putting money in and all they have to

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do is get to the right influence. Because the money, money talks to money, in other words, you know. And that's the ways of the world.

J: Yes. Let me just look through here for one second. [pause]

Okay, well, I thank you very much. It's been a real pleasure.

END SIDE ONE TAPE THREE

END OF INTERVIEW

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