

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

DUANE E. RADCLIFFE

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
4 August 1988
OHRC accession #88-80-1,2

INTRODUCTION

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Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with Catherine Jones,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on 4 August, 1988, to Indiana University.
Date

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yes - copies may be left 3-20-91 - CJones

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<u>Duane E. Radcliffe</u> Donor	<u>8/9/1990</u> Date
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RADCLIFFE

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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Duane Radcliffe
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones
SUBJECT: Family business; the square--past, present, future
DATE: August 4, 1988
TRANSCRIBER: Liz Faier

Jones: I'm Cathy Jones and I'm with Duane Radcliffe at Radcliffe Hardware.

Radcliffe: Furniture.

J: Furni--is it just furniture or is it...?

R: Furniture appliances.

J: Furniture and appliances. All right, I guess we'll have to...

[tape recorder shut off]

...and today is August 4th and we're working together on the Paoli project, okay.

And I see you've got a picture in your hand. What is that that you have?

R: Okay, well I'm relatively young compared to a lot of the people that you may have talked to around the square or in town. I moved here around 1937, the year of the flood. But I stayed here at the store quite a bit even when I was a young fellow. So, and I lived a lot on the square you know, with friends or with my father. And he is the one that came here, from Hardensburg, (?) Indiana. His name is D. C. Radcliffe and the original name of this store was Paoli Hardware and Co. in 1900. And was that owned by the Throop family as I understand. There were several brick buildings built on south side of square after a fire or something and this is the brick from this building and Kemple Hardware and also the one with the hotel--that's about the same type of brick. And they may have been made here in Paoli. And Throop family had it for several years, then the Polson family picked up a little later on around, I'd say around 1920. And bought the store--kept the hardware store. And of course they carried a lot--the started carrying implements and seed and feed and grain too and fertilizer. And then my dad was here, came here with John Graves in 1930s.

J: Is that the one that had coffins? Someone was telling me.

R: No, that was on the other side of the square. Other side of the square there was this picture building that did sell coffins. Many times furniture stores had coffins and even at a funeral parlor it's quite a bit of business. And...

J: Sorry to interrupt your train.

R: And...the Graves Brown Company was operated by a Brown family from Paoli and Graves family from Salem. John Graves. And then my father got to meet John Graves sometime when he was a school teacher in Washington County.

J: When your father was a school teacher or when, when you...?

R: My father was a school teacher and John Graves was in the financing or banking business of some sort in Salem. So then he bought in the partnership was school teaching because it was difficult to keep a steady job at school teaching unless you wanted to move every 3 or 4 years. And he didn't want to do that anymore. So he felt like it might be an opportunity so he talked to Mr. Graves, said he needed a manager and dad came up here, bought a share in the business and so it still stayed the Graves Brown Hardware Company till, and that was with Herschel Brown and John Graves and my dad, Daniel C. Radcliffe.

Then in 1943 my dad had pretty good business going at that time so he bought out the other partners--one of them wanted to retire and the other was getting older and so then it became D.C. Radcliffe Hardware. At that time they were handling some tractors and implements--anything they could get during World War II they carried.

J: Was it still like seed, like you just mentioned, horse...?

R: Seed, fence, fertilizer, linoleum, paint, kind of a general store except no food.

J: No food, yes.

R: No clothing.

J: Okay.

R: But they had some novelties--a few toys like wagons and tricycles and scooters and...things were hard to get during World War II and so he bought anything that made from cardboard, plastic, steel, tin foil, anything that you could buy, you could sell--you had to trace around the country to find stuff and he'd load up the truck and take a delivery some place and then he'd try to find something to bring back and he would many times stay overnight or call ahead. And he'd just say I'll take anything you can throw in the truck. So that was...

J: Wow.

R: That was how it was and then after World War II and I worked with him part time in between. We sold a lot of wallpaper and paint and I worked some on deliveries and some with the wall paper and paint and...and it was very unusual experience because you, you learned so much about everything--from stoves, heaters, and you learned about people and got to meet farm people and city people.

J: Right, merchants and...right.

R: And people that needed things and needed a boat for this or a brush for that or a wire or pipe or a piece of metal. We sold steel and pipe too.

J: Wow, you all really just sold...

R: And then we got into furnaces and septic tanks and bathrooms and we worked on filling stations and of course horse drawn equipment began to draw to a close, see.

J: What kind?

R: Horse drawn equipment.

J: Horse drawn, yes.

R: Say plows and horse collars and pumpheads and wagon parts--things like this started selling less and less but we started selling it in V-belts for motors.

J: V-belts.

R: V-belts and motors took up the place where their horses and the electricity started moving in where people used to have lamps and lanterns.

J: And this was in the 40s that we're still talking about?

R: Late, well right after World War II.

J: Right after World War II okay.

R: Why the electricity started moving pretty fast into the rural areas.

J: Okay, all right, okay.

R: Previous to that time you had a lot of homes with no electricity and no central heat.

J: Right, I think some people have told me it was like...

R: No plumbing.

J: ...like 47, 48. The people I've talked to said they remember now they had electricity...

R: Electricity got into rural areas, started the Rural Electric Corporation and membership corporation and they started developing and reaching many people. And this store here at one time had a post, post office on one side. On the west side was post office and they had a maple ceiling and a maple floors made to specification. Maybe some people remember when this part of the building was built. So large or larger than an average store because they were going to rent part of it to post office and they made specifications. In fact, for a long time there was a little indentation in that maple floor where you can see where people came up to get their mail and have things weighed and you can see where it wore right there. And there was a little mail slot outside and then on this side over here was the hardware on the east side. And then we had a feed store over here called Paoli Feeds Company ran by Marion Smith. And then on the far side of our warehouse, on this corner of the square on water street...

J: Also you had a warehouse.

R: Warehouse over there.

J: Right down there.

R: And they had Clement Poultry House there. And then beside, further of that was Otis Waynick had a creamery station. And up from the feed store on this other side--by the way at Clements Poultry there's a good friend of mine, Harry Clements, have you heard of Harry?, and he and his dad ran that and my dad ran this. And they were friends and worked...so Harry and I became friends and then he, then we both went in the navy together and he, he came back and was in the business as well as me.

And then over on the corner here was Clements Poultry--not Clements Poultry pardon me, I got that already--Turner Creamery Company.

J: Okay. So there was Turner, I heard about Turner and the other one here was...?

R: Clements. Oh, Johnson...there was a Johnson Creamery down here but they didn't actual buy milk and make it. Over here at Turner creamery they bought milk and cream and made ice cream and ice cream novelties and, and popsicle and made things like that and soda--a lot of it to Andy's over here. Andy's Restaurant.

J: Is that where they made the whey too or was that, that was something else?

R: The what?

J: The whey. Farmers used to buy to feed their pigs.

R: Oh no. That was up at the Kraft, the Kraft...

J: Was that Kraft?

R: The Kraft Cheese Factory up on the hill during the late 40s and early 50s started accumulating a lot of whey. They were moving such an amount, large amounts of cheese that the farmers came in and bought and then fed it to their pigs.

J: Oh, okay, all right, okay.

R: Up on the hill by the chair factory.

J: Right, okay.

R: All right now. So that pretty well takes care of this corner right in here and the next place up was the Bow's Drugstore. I've been telling you about what was happening between the 30s and the 40s and the 50s.

J: And how old, how old were you, how old were you when your dad started, started, when he went into business?

R: When he bought the business? Actually when he moved here I was 5 and then by the time he bought the business I was about 11.

J: So you all actually moved to Paoli? You didn't stay in...

R: We moved to Paoli from Hardinsburg, Indiana in the late 30s--in '37. And so the Bowle's Drugstore was ont he corner here and Lewis Bowles ran that with Labon Lindley and Coy Taylor worked in there, so. And they were friends of mine. I had a lot of friends who were older people. So I moved from being down here in this corner, and I knew a lot of people who were born in the late 1800s, so I, I were able to talk to a lot of them and do business

with a lot of people. Parents and grandparents. We've done business here with, oh, I'd say 4 or 5 generations.

J: I was just going to say, yes. but, starting here young and getting to know older people, I built you really have entered the time that you've been, that you've been growing too.

R: And this Bowles, Bowles family had the drugstore here on the corner and he was also, he kind of, grew into that business from his father. His father was a druggist and I think there was a Bowles building here on the square. And then Bowles family was prominent from down at French Lick and so I think they had some pretty good money. And...but he was interested in fishing and hunting and cameras and things like that so, as time went on he sold the drugstore business and, and started up a sporting good store next to Bowles and then somebody else, my sister, Rosemary MacIntosh, now Rosemary Noble and her husband started a pharmacy in the same building that used to be the Bowles Drugstore.

So we moved into Paoli in '37 and we bought a home north of time and fixed it up. They owned Doan property and we still own that property today.

J: What was the, okay, during the early years, the 30s and 40s, let's say before World War II, what was you know, the pace of...?

R: Business and how...?

J: Yes. I mean now I mean I know you're very busy and you and your wife own this place and you're so busy. What, how, how was it when someone walked in then? Okay? And you're here in the store with dad.

R: Well, years ago, during the week you didn't have a whole lot of business unless there's an emergency. People didn't shop much during the week but we did have long hours. We may open at 6 in the morning and stay open until 6 in the evening on, during, during the regular work day. And then people would come in and they got to where's they got automobiles they shopped more. And then World War II, of course, they were anxious to get anything they could get too. If somebody had a refrigerator break down or stove, it was hard to find so they had to order parts and there was big parts business. And...but people came mostly in Saturday. Came early and then stayed late. But a lot of times a family would come early and then the dad would come in later because they had to work to make a living and when the weather was good. And so, I'd say that probably Saturday was a very unusual day and you hated to close because were people still on the square at 8

or 10:00 o'clock at night and I'd talk to a barber named Mr. Glenn Beaty and he said sometimes he'd stay open to maybe midnight cutting hair because of maybe the farmers wouldn't get in to get their hair cut till maybe later in the afternoon or the evening. But they wanted to look good for Sunday and so they'd come in and I guess a lot of them came in and needed, and took baths. A lot of the barber shops had bathrooms.

J: Oh, I didn't know that.

[both speaking at same time with phone ringing in the background]

R: _____ And they would take baths for Sunday.

J: Yes, yes sure.

[Radcliffe answering phone. Tape recorder turned off]

R: All right and then I told you about the barbershop.

J: When would people in the town come in, would they kind of, come, wait till Saturdays too. Or were the ones...?

R: They save and wait to Saturday--people in town, of course, no. No, of course they didn't get paid until Saturday...

J: Right but they'd be coming....

R: And the people who worked in the factories, and we had a tomato factory here and the chair factory--they didn't get paid till Saturday so a lot of working people wouldn't shop till Saturday but they like to come to the stores especially the novelty stores and the grocery stores and grocery stores were getting more packaged goods all times. They're getting more cookies and candies that were not homemade and people got to the point where they'd rather have something that was factory-made than home-made. And, I mean today you'd give a lot of money for homemade bread but back then--the other way they liked factory bread. And it was different. All right.

The kids would play on the square during Saturday and the parents went shopping and they'd chase up and down. And then we had a movies then, of course, and they went to the movie.

J: At the movie theater. Oh.

R: And we had with the old Buck Jones and Gene Autry and Roy Rogers and that bunch and they would set down and stand a movie maybe 3, 4 hours or...even kids, while their parents were out and

finally they'd have to come out. And they would run around the square and you couldn't park on the square--it was too deep on all the cars and the few buggies on the square in the 40s yet. But they begin to thin down and finally there was just cars every place.

J: When was it cars every place I mean...?

R: Like in the late, late 40s they put in parking meters or the early, early fifties, along in there and up to that time, on Saturday night why there was usually one car parked behind others too. They put up a sign saying no double parking because somebody'd park on the inside and another car would block them in. And there were a lot of times there'd be a medicine show on the square and occasionally some nights they'd have a band concert and different things of that nature. And so, Saturday was just a fantastic busy, just like what you see at the shopping centers today is what we had, we had at that time.

J: Has that changed? How, when did that start, if it has changed?

R: Well since the parking meters put in, why then the shopping centers saw, saw where they had chance to get some of this business so the shopping centers put in the big free parking areas and the malls and things to that nature and they started to build more and more and your supermarkets and your larger grocery stores and then they, they started putting in more merchandise. So that's when you start seeing that pull the business away. But in the 40s it was, it was fantastic and you still, people did a lot of hometown business--they didn't shop much out of town unless they were looking for specialty clothes or something like that. Because they get to be where the hometown begin to have everything. You know, they had refrigerators and radios and then begin to have televisions and our business here when we first started out they had your radios were, battery pack. And heaters and cook stoves were either wood or coal or kerosene and they developed gradually up to your gas heaters and your [pause] electric heaters and your better quality oil heaters and then built in furnace, then finally.

J: And when you did, you were talking about people starting to go to malls and things like that. When did you notice, you know, that the hometown business started kind of being filtered off?

R: I would say in the late 50s it was beginning to see that the upper stair, up, the second story offices all around were beginning to not be filled and there were a lot of 2-story

buildings and some 3-story buildings without any elevator. And then pretty soon there was just one shop on the main floor you know. And then pretty soon you noticed that shop on the main floor then didn't carry as much merchandise.

J: Is that because they couldn't afford, the stores couldn't carry as much because...?

R: Well, they weren't getting the hometown traffic.

J: That's the thing, yes. So it's like, the cycle, it sounds like the kind of fed into. Enough people weren't coming so they could have the same variety.

R: Well supposed they used to buy maybe the drummer, the salesman come around and he'd say you want to buy a gross of this or a dozen of that or 2 dozen of this and it was not unusual to see a great huge shipment to come in you know. And you'd buy enough because you were going to take care of all the people around.

J: Yes, yes.

R: And you'd go into clothing store and maybe you see the same pair of pants 5, well 2 feet high. You just had to pick out your size and then it finally got to where the, you go into the store you might only find 3 pairs of the same size pants or dress or something like that. because women never did like their dresses to be the same, I guess but the men with pants were, like the same shoes and things. So they found out they could get more variety and so they started shopping further out and....

J: As a merchant here has that affected your business as much or and if so, you know what kinds of like different strategies have you come upon?

R: Well, Mary Alice and I we got married in '53 and I worked here on and off from the time I was 6 or 7 till I was around 19 or 20. And then we got married in 1953 after World War II and I went, I'd been to college a couple of years. And we went in the Navy, with the Navy and I was in storekeeping in the Navy. I learned a lot about that and learned a lot about people being with the Navy and being worked here. Of course we were in high school here. And so, our daughter Brenda was born while I was in the Navy. And we came back here and a lot of people didn't come back to their hometown after they'd been out--especially if they'd been to overseas and they wanted to make better money. We had family here and we knew a lot of people and enjoyed them so

we came back. And my dad wanted to sell an interest in the store so I started out with a third interest in the store, about like he did. And so what we had to do was to start making decisions what we were going to keep. If we were to kept the same lines we had then, we might have, might have gone under, you know.

J: This was 50?

R: In the 50s, early 50s.

J: Early 50s, okay.

R: Or late fifties. When I got married here was in the 50s and then I got back in 1956 and my dad had, had pretty good business so he had hired a manager by that time. And the manager wanted to go out. He wanted to start with the Belknap company--that's one of our suppliers was Belknap, another company was Stratton and Terstegge. Both out of Louisville were our means and Van Camp out of Indianapolis and that were your hardware supplies. So we decided to started dropping some lines. So we decided not to carry coal heaters anymore. Then we dropped some of the horse items.

J: Like you mentioned, yes.

R: Like, horse collars and things of that nature. And then we decided to...but we had to find new items to take their place, see as we...when you drop something you take something.

J: Right, right, right, right.

R: But television, see started taking their place and we had on television, started out very small then and just 2 or 3 sets. Now we have maybe 20 sets. And radios were a big item them so we maybe carried a dozen radios. Now we don't carry so many radios because more people watch television but still everybody's got a radio. So we do keep a few of those and then we dropped, quit selling plows and we quit selling tractors. And we dropped, finally decided to drop coal furnaces. We carried those upstairs and we carried the Maytag line for years. We finally dropped that line and just went from entirely general Electric and quit handling conventional washers. Used to conventional washers was, you know, you had to had conventional washers--wringers on them.

J: What...? Oh.

R: See the wringer washer finally faded away and now you, Maytag Company doesn't even make a regular washer anymore.

J: yes, okay, all right, okay.

R: And so automatic washers and then dryers came in their place. So we were seeing that we were getting more business with being busy with appliances. And so in the late 50s or early 60s we decided to start handling a little bit of furniture.

J: I see.

R: And, because there was no furniture store in town and one day somebody came in and said, is there a place in town to buy furniture and I started to go outside and point someplace....

J: And there wasn't.

R: And I said there's no place to buy furniture in town, right now, there's no furniture store. So then I decided to start carrying a few things--bunk beds and sofa and chairs and dinette set, a couple of lamps and a couple of coffee tables and first thing you know I started getting a little furniture business. And I started going to an auction and picked up a few things too and so I had the big warehouse back here with nothing much in it anymore see. Because I was dropping seed, dropping fertilizer.

J: Oh, I see what you're saying. Yes, right.

R: And I started buying furniture and selling it out of home, and so gradually....

J: And not, not having the same quantity that agriculture too (?).

R: And you had to buy in quantity nor at any price because of bigger, out-of-town bigger deals were selling for the price that you could buy for. And so us gradually we just decided to develop into the furniture business and so we decided to drop hardware--having been a hardware for over 60 years. And then we went into, even dropped paint. And we did keep the wallpaper though. And a few little sundries--sweeper parts, things of that nature. Sweepers were another thing we picked up a little more and more see. So, it's been almost a 360 you might say in the business.

J: Oh, yes, right, right, right which is exactly was I thinking of. What would you say is your bread and butter right now? Besides air conditioners.

R: Well, this time of year of course, air conditioners have

been great but steady, the bedding business is good, and the springs and mattresses and then, oh, you usually bring in year sometime when we have a good run on living suites or bedroom suites and then, when business gets a little slow why, the clients business usually keeps us moving along. So, and we keep 4 or 5 people working either full or part time. So we have been able to changing and trying to adjust with the times but being on the square and having parking beside us has been a big help.

J: What was I going to say?

R: And the extra warehouse space has helped a lot too.

J: Now I remember last time we were here, you mentioned that, is Saturday still a busy day for you all?

R: Oh yes. Saturday is still the busy day for us. Since we've been doing business with many of these families for, like I say, 2, 3, 4 generations, they know our hours pretty well and they know me and know when I'll be here. So, it's not unusual for a husband and wife to come in on Saturday and say well, we're ready to buy something and we want to look at something. And you know, they, they come when they can both come but then a lot of them, since they've been doing business for so long, maybe the wife will just shop for herself and buy things that they don't have to have both of them together. There's still a lot of husband and wife shoppers.

J: Has that changed with women doing more of the shopping by themselves?

R: Yes, that's, that's helped a lot because on Saturday years ago see, the wife didn't want to come buy anything without the husband with her. Now the wife can get in a pick-up truck, come to town and of course, we don't have all this farm business. Just farm....

J: Oh, no, no.

R: The townspeople and from Springs Valley and Orleans and maybe toward Marengo and English. So we get, we get a wide range of customers. If we just depend on the business in town we would have to reduce it down, quite a bit. We might not even be here.

J: I guess what I'm wondering is, you all have down real well in terms, of like you said, adapting to the times and...

R: Trying to.

J: ...Yes. And I wondered, I guess I have the impression that other businesses have not been....

R: Well, I don't know--either didn't adapt or didn't want to work as hard or they didn't have the husband-wife combination like us, you see. And so all the businesses on the square pretty well have changed since I've been here.

J: It seems so.

R: Hollans is still in business down here. And he started about the town I got out of the Navy. And Mr. Hill is still here of course and the Clemens drugstore which was the extension of the Boyd drugstore is still here and of course Orange County Bank and everything. But, but Mary Alice and I worked as a team and so with who we knew and our contacts and everything we were able to go through the recessions and depressions and stay here this long. We been here now since 1956--over 32 years now, wow!

J: Are things still changing like in the last 10 years.

R: Yes. The squares are beginning to come back.

J: Oh, oh.

R: But they have to be more specialty shops and, and services of course becoming interesting. But they're trying to make them, they're trying to make them the old shopping centers and I don't know what the word is exactly but they're focal points of the county are in each town the square [or courthouse] is the focal point and kind of you say, hey that's a neat little square there or I like this, like go to this town because they've got this....

J: Right, right, right, right. Oh, so it's....

R: Point of....

J: ...Of interest or something like that. So, it's becoming a place that people go, "oh, let's go to Paoli and walk around the square" because there's neat, there's neat stores there and stuff like that.

R: [talking at same time]

...And take picture of the courthouse and of course, the ski slopes and the lakes that help bring a few more people in from out-of-town and, and the people are looking for [pause] lake lots to spend time in the summer. Summer home is beginning to be

a popular thing all around the country and a winter home in some places. And so a lot of people have 2 residences and so when they go through, come to Orange County and down at the lake...why then they want to get out and shop around. Then they end up buying stoves, refrigerators, televisions, while they're down here.

But the square itself has changed so much and there's nobody nearly next to me that was before.

J: Well, how does that make you feel? I mean besides lucky that you're still here, I guess.

R: Well, I've always tried to keep an optimistic outlook on things and so I figured that most people that moved near you were successful. And were ready to retire and did of their own accord. I didn't look at as they were forced to. And I tried to take the optimistic point of view. And most of them would have if they had quit when they were at their highest point, didn't able to retire comfortably but, if anybody stayed in business too long, and that can happen, could happen to me because I haven't left yet, but someday I will sell out or let somebody in my family take it over but you have to be changing--constantly changing. You can't keep the same business and you can't do business the same way. And expect to survive, because you can see all the different changes. Mr. Wilson Roberts just recently decided to retire and he didn't do this for me.

J: I heard. I guess his daughter is taking over though. Yes, yes.

R: His step-daughter.

J: His step-daughter, yes, yes.

R: And he does have other relatives but they're out of state or in the northern part of the state but he was in business for a long time--long as I could remember. And Mr. Hill, of course. And so I've seen most everybody come and go and--on the square. And for that matter in Paoli, I have a lot at stake for the county. So, I've tried to learn from it and I still make a lot of mistakes but I enjoy it and I enjoy people, so.

J: Do you ever miss the, I don't know how to say it--do you ever miss the Satur...

END SIDE ONE TAPE ONE

J: Okay, all right, okay. So you were just saying there was pharmacies and a new market and things like that.

R: [at the same time] That there was more shops in town, they had 2 or 3, 4 lawyers' offices in town. And all the lawyers at those, at, in those days just had what they put out--what they called it, put out signs. With the grandfather clause and they might not had all the training--or your doctors and dentists either for that matter--but they begin to gradually to change and they moved out to the outskirts and they moved from the upstairs building to the downstairs building, see.

J: Like you mentioned, yes.

[phone ringing]

R: Your dentist and your lawyer used to be all upstairs and...and then, then gradually they moved down to your lower steps.

J: Is that, I guess when you said that I....

R: Cheaper rents.

J: Oh, yes.

R: [talking at same time]

They started and they would just stay up there until they get established, you see. And so that was, that was part of it and the feedmill was always a big thing on the square. Or the--any town. And that's now, most towns don't even have a feedmill. A few of them do. But, it's all together different. Your farmers have changed the way of farming--the ones that are still in business.

J: And that closed just last year or something like that or?

R: Oh, it closed about 10 years ago.

J: About 10 years ago.

R: After we had a big flood in 79 and it never did recover from that. Bridge went out and just never been--that was, Jim Mattox had the feedmill there. Bernard Morgan ran it last and then somebody bought it just as a building but not for feeding. And then Heise Feed came in, it was over here for years, finally closed down and that was our last really feed company. And they even sold ice and coal to stay in business over the years.

J: Wow.

R: And then we started selling fertilizer, delivering in a tank you know--liquid fertilizer. But around the square, big clothing stores and things like that took care of your rural and local business pretty well--all gone. A lot of specialty shops now and they seem to be doing all right.

J: Do you think then that the square would be specialty shops and what not coming in--in the last 10 years you said that the square has, has it kind of revitalized?

R: Well, I see a few people willing to take a chance.

J: [talking at same time] To try out, yes.

R: And landlord try a little shops and, and try a personal--give the little--shops ready to give a little personal attention and, and....

J: Which is ironic.

R: The small shops come back again.

J: Okay, okay.

R: People that maybe worked in factory all their lives or they're retired and they decided to change their lives.
What was your first name?

J: Cathy. Cathy, sorry, yes.

R: Okay.

J: Were there very many husband-wife teams. I guess I don't, I guess my impression was that it was mainly just you all and then maybe the Hollands.

R: The Hollands were a husband and wife team and of course, down at Ray Gardners was Ray and his wife and then, then their son Eleanor and Chris, then, the--a lot of the restaurants were husband and wife teams. And Plemons Drugstore up there was a husband and wife team and those things, you heard the mom and pop grocery, they pretty well gone out but we still have one grocery in town that's run by Donny and Theres Hooton and it started by Donny's dad and...and mother. And it was a husband and wife team before there and we've had, they're one of the last

one of those around. It's, it's rare.

J: In fact, I interviewed him just a week or 2 ago.

R: Did you?

J: Yes. We _____.

R: Well, he could tell you about it.

J: Yes, yes, yes.

R: The upstairs of this building, by the way, was...we had a masonic lodge up here and then the boy scouts used it for a while upstairs. And I stayed in the masonic lodge--that was further down--American Legion was up here.

J: Was upstairs, oh.

R: Even had a pool table and we had several lodge halls in town and those were all interesting and people...
[to a people in the background] Hi! How are you today.

J: Shall we turn it off?

R: Yes, turn it off.

[tape recorder shut off]

R: One of the things that helped our business was the warehouse. You just happened to see a customer going over...

J: Going up that way.

R: ...there's a ramp. You go through ramp from the second story, first floor of this building, the second story of that building. And so we were able to cross over and double our floor space.

J: Oh, wow.

R: Without having to go upstairs or downstairs. We did have to go out in the weather in the wintertime, zero weather is pretty cold over there, in the summertime right now it's pretty hot. But we more than doubled our floor space and so we have just almost as much merchandise sold over there--maybe not their quality--over there that we have here. So, we're being able to make use of that warehouse. It was a big help. And then we have a huge

parking lot in it where trucks can get out to load, customers can park, they don't have to rush if they have a repair and that's been...

[both speaking at same time]

J: Really helpful, I'm sure.

R: Extremely helpful with the appliance business being able to load or unload.

J: Right, right, right. So give me more an...I guess 2 questions. And they're different and I'm sorry if I seem to be jumping around again but I know that we don't have as much time and I'm trying to float around maybe too much. Okay, this is flipping back to your customers and you were saying how lots of them, you've been working, you've been dealing with the families for 2 to 3, 4 generations.

R: Some morning I'll see a young man come in that I knew as a baby, see or a young woman, maybe. And they're surprised even because they maybe didn't expect me to be here. They may have been gone for several years and they come back and they do business with me and then all of sudden then their children grow up and in 30 years you, you cover this couple generations and then, then if you knew their grandparents already with babies again from the youngest. Why you get entrenched with quite a few people and if you're fair with them and, and treat them right and try to help understand their problems when their buying or trading, why you know, they come back. That's kind of interesting.

J: I guess, from that perspective, the fact that you do know a lot of families and you've known them and you know, you've seen them.

R: I know a lot of them by first name,...

J: By first name.

R: ...I maybe know several thousand people by their first name so that's unusual. You don't get that in a supermarket or, or a mall or shopping center.

J: Yes. And just knowing that....

R: And I know where they live and what color car they've got.

J: And you know maybe what their parents bought or what their...yes, right. First of all, are those kinds, are those regulars, are they the mainstay of your business, do you know what I mean?

R: They, they may be. They may be. But we have new customers every month we get a brand new customer and we probably lose a few, you know. When your business is this small and a lot of your old customers die or retire and move away and so you have to keep looking for new customers.

J: Yes. Yes, and that's where you mentioned about not just depending on the town right here but going out and just bringing customers in.

R: Yes. we advertise in other towns which you wouldn't maybe have done that a few years back when we were just in the hardware or furniture business. You advertise just locally and, and said well, you know, I don't need to advertise out of town but we, we do and we have and of course, we pick up, excuse me, we pick up a lot of our furniture in customers sales and a lot of it is hauled in. Same with appliances.

And so, the highways have helped but they've hurt see.

J: Oh, I see because, it helps brings the variety and everything in but it's also helps other people go elsewhere, yes. A bitter sweet thing.

R: You know, and they're talking about building or having a bypass around Paoli now to go to the lake. The lake bringing a lot of people in and the bypass will maybe help the factories come in and then, maybe in turn bring shopping here. But it move businesses then away from the square again or people will not even come into Paoli but road bypasses.

J: On the by...yes.

R: So, we, you have to know what that'll do. Many men and business people say well, we'd like to have a new road--a four-laner like highway 37 and many people will sign the petition.

J: To have...

R: To have it.

J: To have that done.

R: Not knowing that one person in our family signed the

petition and one didn't but we don't know exactly what's going to happen so we're just going to--all depends on this.

J: Oh, dear. Well looking back at the Paoli that you've grown up with since 1937 or whatever it was when you all moved here and everything. I mean, how do you see it? Do you see it, has it been like just a progression or was it once real busy and towards a slow down or how do you--is it steadily still growing or...?

R: Progress. Progress is progression and if a town survives it has to progress so Paoli did and has. We have many more factories. We've got doubled our population over that period of time. So we...would say maybe modern town maybe tripled or quadrupled but we did at least double. And our high school, we got a new high school and new hospital, a country club, radio station--things that we didn't have 20 or 30, 40 years ago so we have a lot of things that a small town this size doesn't have. And, and a highway--you have to have a highway. Most towns that survive have to have a good source of transportation but we don't have a railroad anymore.

J: So, you're talking about, I mean, I'm, I guess I'm assuming you're talking about the fact that 37 is you know, 2-lanes in Bedford.

R: 37 is 2-lanes and then _____ further south where it's still the old buffalo trail type road you know and it's not, not safe to drive on or really anyplace that's unfamiliar [background noise in the warehouse] new roads and improvements. We'll just have to adjust to that when it happens. And I think of all the cities that--we were in Madison last week and they have a new highway up above town but they still have a bustling downtown. They have some adjusting to do but they still have a good, awfully good downtown.

And we have our festival here which creates some interest every year.

J: The Indian Summer.

R: Indian Summer festival.

J: Is that, I, God, I just right now forgotten--that's not still on the square is it? Hasn't it been moved?

R: It's been moved to the...

J: To the 4H?

R: No, not the 4H building. Part of it's gone down to the Jaycee park. But they try to keep part of it on the square and they have a queen crowning and they have a parade which is on the square and so...they moved out to...originally see, we started that a few, few years back. A buddy and I decided that we ought to have a parade.

J: You all started that? I'll be darned.

R: Norman Gregory and I was on the Chamber of Commerce. And a lot of people were involved but we just took an idea and so Mary and I used to take our kids and we'd watch the Macy parade on...

J: On tv.

R: On tv. On Thursday, no Thanksgiving.

J: On Thanksgiving, yes.

R: So, I said, well why don't we have a parade then on Friday? To try to keep the people in town instead of letting them go out of town on Friday. So another buddy said well, they're going to have a battle of the bands over here. And somebody said well, just have a Santa Claus in the parade and then we're going to have the people in here for the battle of the bands so that'll bring a good crowd. And then the First Chance Center decided to get in and that was out momentum--was the First Chance center because the funds that we made from our queen crowning thing went to the First Chance Center. And the same thing we had the battle of the bands was for a while. And we've always had good bands in Paoli and one of the first things that stayed.

J: Was that--oh, the high school band. I was, I was going to see if it was that or the bandstand that was on the square.

R: And so then with help from the Chamber of Commerce and all the merchants developed the parade. And for a long time we had the parades on Friday, I think. And then we decided to have them on Saturday so we had them on Saturday for several years and then we found they kind of killed business if we'd had them on Saturday because you had your flea market and they took all your parking spots on the inside of the square and with the parade after dinner, everybody was looking for a place to park so there was no business then in the afternoon. And, so we decided then and I was instrumental in the like of that to say, let's try to have it on Sunday. So, now we have a parade on Sunday and....

J: To stores have like sales on Saturday and stuff like that?

R: No. Yes, well. And, but we don't stay open on Sunday.

J: Right, right.

R: We do have a kind of a [chairman]...Mr. Don Stafford over here at the Plemmons drugstore has now helped develop a Sunday Christmas shopping day after Thanksgiving.

J: Oh.

R: You know, kind of a afternoon but we, many of the stores don't stay open on Sunday. So it's just that but, but the parade helped, was the predecessor of our festival. Now the First Chance is not involved in it anymore and Santa Claus not involved in it anymore.

J: I'm sure he's sorry. What year was it that you all did this?

R: '69.

J: '69. And is that what was called the good, the countdown parade?

R: The countdown parade.

J: Okay, all right, okay, okay.

R: And we had a lot of fun with it and there was a lot of nice floats and everything.

J: I kind of get the impression that--it sounds like its kind of growing. Has it grown and grown and grown? Over the years?

R: Yes.

J: Sounds like its quite the _____.

R: And with a lot of competition because there's Dogwood at Orleans Festival and then there's the Pumpkin Festival at French Lick. So we have 3 festivals. Orleans is in the spring. But we have 2 fall ones. French Lick and Springs Valley--the Pumpkin Festival is almost the week before or the week after ours so there's competition there for time and interest, getting people for the parade. But, theirs is usually the largest and ours maybe second largest and at Orleans probably the third but we could be all equal at times. And there's one at Mitchell.

J: What kind of stuff goes on at the parade? Is it?

R: Well, they do have the flea markets and they have--did you folks find what you're looking for?[to people in background] Do you have any questions? I see, okay. take your time and look around--...

J: They look awfully young to buying _____.

R: They do. You'd be surprised how young people look now. I find out some of these people are seniors in high school. I'm getting to the age where young people are 35 or 40 years old.

J: Yes, I see what you're saying.

R: And that's funny. Okay, well we had the flea markets and then they have some little stands where they sell food and a lot of the churches out stands in. And, so, that revives a lot of the homecoming effect that you get for people seeing each other again. But they don't see maybe at the alumna banquet or the memorial day services or things of that nature. Or the homecoming football game we have is more for high school kids. It really hasn't developed into a alumna...

J: Reunion kind of thing.

R: Reunion thing. And that should happen someday but our sports has always been a big thing here. We used to have some good basketball teams. I played on a team that won second on 2 years in a row. See my picture up there on the wall?

J: Yes.

R: And basketball was a very big thing because we didn't have football. But now with and and football and basketball and volleyball and baseball, it's hard to get one really great time. Because otherwise you've got the same boys playing everything and you just can't do it. You burn out. And even I have to admit that I even, even I burned out my senior year and probably my junior year too. Not realizing that I was participating in so many things.

J: In too much, yes.

R: And you just get to where you can't go any further, you know.

J: You, you brought up something interesting and that--I guess

I was wondering myself, you know, before Saturday nights was the time for everyone to kind of see each other and what not. And I guess I wondered, you know, what's, is there some other place or event or something, you know, that does the same thing, that gives people a chance to come together and see each other and just kind of socialize or relax a bit. Do you see what I'm saying or is that, is that or is that part of the way it was just gone.

R: [speaking at the same time] That's just almost a thing of past--that's part of family life that's gone. And or community life that's gone. They don't and most people get together don't know each other anymore because air conditioners keep you inside, television keeps you inside, gas furnaces keep you inside, prefab buildings--you don't work together as much and you and your neighbor may not see each other but just over the fence. You don't, you may not build anything together,....

J: I see what you...yes.

R: You may not have a strong circle, you may not put up a building together, you may not fix a sidewalk or driveway together, you might not even know each other and be neighbors.

J: Do you personally, you know, miss any of that or ever think about it?

R: Sure, I miss it. I walk up and down the streets sometimes just, just, you know, just...seeing who I know and just...and I speak a lot. Even in the business, I guess I do it--my wife gets out and says I'll speak to somebody even though they are from out of town. Because I see a friendly face and I speak to it. And so, sure you miss it but you learn to adjust it. Like I say, I try to look, keep optimistic so I, I speak to strangers. See? And I don't try to be obnoxious I'm just willing to carry on a conversation with somebody just....

J: [laughing] You don't wise off to them.

R: No, nobody, just friendly and, and I'm glad to see new people come to town and I don't expect everybody to be from town. You know, somebody come and says they're from out of town and they want to shop and that's fine. And, it's okay.

J: Well, I guess, here's something also. I, I'm trying to figure out, kind of how Paoli feels to people now. And the question I'm having is okay, you, when you were first getting into the business here, you know, most of the people that came in, they were people from the town or from the country. I mean,

it's like you knew everyone. And now....

R: Well, you have more churches. It used to be just 2 or 3 churches in town. Now say there are 15 or 20 so you have your church groups. And then you have maybe more groups, lodges, and clubs. Or, not lodges but more clubs than used to. Masonic lodge is still pretty strong. But it's not as strong as it used to be and all the other lodges have pretty well gone to the wayside but there's still some sororities and home ec clubs but people get their togetherness and their friendship through these clubs. You need them. And they all do some little something during the year--they have bazaars or they do something...

J: Yes, yes. Dinners...

R: And dinners and churches. So you get a chance to meet everybody and all your country churches have a dinner at least once a year and most all of them have a Christmas play or an Easter play. So, outsiders are invited to become part, at least once a year with other groups. But your community thing, there's no other than your festival, and you might just have as many people outside as inside and you may not see that many people there.

J: That come to that.

R: But your festivals are still one of your ways of coming together and maybe meeting a few new people.

J: So, I guess what I wonder is...

R: But we don't have what you call Settler's Days or anything like that like they do have in some towns like in maybe Corgen or Salem.

J: What...a day...kind of like...

R: Settlers were people, hundred years ago see, a lot of these towns were just starting. One hundred and fifty years ago and so for the first 50 or 75 years, they had grassroots settlers you know and so those people and their families would come back and their families and meet with the other families year after year--would be at the churches or the school because there was maybe only one school you know or 1 church or 2--you see what I mean?

J: Yes, I do, I do, I do.

R: One hundred and fifty years ago we had pioneers in this

town.

J: Isn't that something. Just 150 years ago.

R: It seems so long but when you get to be over 50 years old, 150 isn't that far back. And yet my great grandparents would not have somebody...

J: No, I mean, yes, because that keeps it within your own generation but you...yes, yes...relate to or something.

R: Relate to.

J: So, I guess what you're saying in the sense with all the different lodges and clubs and stuff like that is even though, it sounds like, even though life is more spread out, you know, people go around there and whatnot and you get customers from outside... Does it still seem like...?

R: Well, it seems like to us.

J: Stable and...?

R: Well, it still seems kind of countryish and a little bit old fashioned to us because we're still in the same building and we still have an old fashioned cash register and an old fashioned elevator here in the building.

J: Yes, I just opened that--that's great.

R: And this building was built in 1900 and I used to think it was an old building and now this building is still standing good and solid and I'm getting older, see. So the building....

[both laughing]

J: And it's going to help _____ you. Yes.

R: So, that's the way it goes, see.

J: Okay.

R: But I raised, I have 3 daughters.

J: Those are the 3?

[telephone ringing]

R: And a son. And they've all worked here at some time or other.

J: Well I was going to ask you, you mentioned one of them I figured it carrying it on, is that what you said?

R: Well, you don't know.

J: You're not sure, yes.

R: You see I didn't come here till I was 26 and I have one daughter here that's in her 30s that likes to work here but she doesn't want to run it. Then I got another daughter that her husband works here and he likes it but he's a school teacher. And then another daughter's in college and I don't know what she's going to do. And then another son is out of state and he might, my son rather, he's out of state and he may come back someday. I mentioned it to him but he said he didn't think so because it's hard work and you have to know a lot of ins and outs and you have to be able to stretch it, dollar now and then.

J: Real well, yes.

R: But it's...in the upstairs of our store we're not using, you see and the hotel over here which we have people looking at and hoping that maybe making some kind of....

J: That would be great if....

R: ...of a use out of it. And maybe again. And everybody's got their ideas. Nothing has happened and I hope it stays just on the national register. And maybe a lot of these buildings will be someday but they're starting something called mainstreet U.S.A. so we hope, Mary Alice and myself, hope that, that the town restores, the square restores to the, be attractive and a focal point to other people from other towns as well as people staying here. We want to keep our young people and we have a small college here too.

J: Here?

R: Yes, it came from Northwood. They started a college.

J: Oh, I didn't know that.

R: Where the dome is. And it got to the point where they couldn't keep a big college so they have a little week-end college here now. And it's a shame that they didn't take over the

old high school when they moved out because....

J: That would have been....

R: Fantastic situation because a lot of colleges started in a much smaller building. But they didn't and now they're just in a small building and they're called week-end college so we, that's another thing that we have here.

We have a lot of good people here in town and a lot of people who have been here for years but Lindleys, and the Rileys, and the, and the Farlows, and the many families in Lachbrook, Murrays, Kathryn Murrays is a person that you should talk to and Mr. Hill up there. And Taber Murray should talk to, the Tuckers. So, and Arthur Dillard knows a lot and I could just go on and on but....

My mother's still alive but she didn't get involved in the business and, but, she was willing to move to Paoli and stay instead of with her family and so they stayed here. They've been here over 50 years. That's young compared to some but old compared to a lot more.

[both laughing]

J: Right, right, compared to the building and the school.

R: Yes, compared to the building....

J: Well, gosh, I could probably keep you here all day long but I know you've got to....

R: Yes that's true. There's a lot of things going on around the square and town I'm sure a lot people that you've talked to told you about that and but I do remember a lot of the old people going out and the new ones coming in. It changes. The Orange County Bank and, the...

J: The recent changes with?

R: Well, not the recent changes but the...

[in background]

Woman: Where's Kevin?

R: Huh?

Woman: Where's Kevin?

R: He's gone to deliver a television, he'll be back in just a few minutes.

Woman: This lady bought a mattress and box springs and bed and she wants him to load it up.

R: Okay, he'll be, he'll be here in just a few minutes to load her up]

R: The changes in, pardon me, the changes in the, in the way of people shopping and the changes in the types of automobiles and changes of lighting and air conditioning. I never thought that I'd be in this store that had carpet and fluorescent lights and air conditioning see? But that's what we had to have to stay in business and survive.

And but yet we've had the Amish people move in. And they moved in and gave us a little bit a boost when business was slow in the late 50s.

J: Oh, really?

R: They moved in.

J: Oh, well, I guess they must have bought....

R: Bought us a lot of things that we were stuck with.

J: The horse stuff, yes, yes.

R: Old horse drawn equipment and old boats and plowshares. Sold it to them by the pound to get rid of it. And things that were worth a \$100 maybe sell it for dollars and but, they picked up a lot of that old coal stoves. And so they came in and made life interesting.

J: I guess they don't come in too much anymore, so they? I mean, I'm just looking around.

R: You'll see the family _____ once a week. We used to have hitching rack out back for the Amish people. And they bought here for years and now they buy at Kemples and the Kemple family has been another, father and daughter and wife operation. And _____ down there.

But, the town taverns that they used to have they don't have so much anymore, they have more of just, just small bars, you know. But that used to be a big thing years ago to have a big tavern and a big hotel and, and that kind of thing. And then we had a couple of hotels and of course we had springs--Livia Springs here. We tried to develop a spa here but it didn't go.

J: Oh yes. I remember reading about that. Oh I guess one thing that always kind of interested me--I haven't talked with very many young people--just 2--and one of them was Chris Lindley who's pretty interested in this this historical stuff so in a

sense he's not the typical kind of young person. But the few that I've talked to, somehow I get the idea that they don't have a clue, I mean that they don't even....

R: They're not really a part of it.

J: Well, they don't have, they can't, they don't see Paoli the way, the Paoli that you've grown up with. And....

R: Maybe, they not be able to imagine it. But it's, I don't know. It's...I guess I still feel like part of it's here, you know.

J: Well, for you it must be.

R: Well you ever heard of the ghost of Christmas past?

[both laugh]

J: Well, I mean, I guess my idea would be, for you in a sense, would be just because you, you still working with the same families, I don't know.

R: That's it. That's is, see--that's probably it.

J: Do you think? I mean, am I just making up things for you or?

R: No, not since the old families--I have the connections.

J: Yes.

R: And I know where their homes are. That's....

J: You think?

R: That's it. That's the connection.

J: Because even though, I don't know, even though the square changes it's like that's, kind of maybe some stability or continuity with the past.

R: Where you from cathy?

J: I'm from, right now I'm living in Bloomington. I've lived in Indiana, we moved here in guess, I can't remember.

R: What town?

RADCLIFFE

J: My parents live in Indianapolis. I went to high school and then college in Indiana.

R: Well, I've lived in Indianapolis for a little while.

J: Oh you did? Oh okay.

R: When I was, the year between I went to IU and Purdue. I went up there. My brother and I, we all stayed up there at the Y. And they had their electric street cars then. And you could live downtown and people commuted and be comfortable and not worry about things and there's a lot of changes up there too. But we still go up once in a while. And I do, most people down here go towards Louisville.

J: Yes, I've heard that.

R: That's a regional thing, see. Not because they want to. It's just a regional thing, Louisville, New Albany, Clarksville. But Indianapolis is semi-remote _____. Chicago and East Chicago is far remote to these people. We don't know what goes up there and they don't know what goes on down here. That's part of Indiana.

END SIDE TWO TAPE ONE

J: I was going to say I think part of that is probably just being young. But one of the things I wanted to do was go to the high school and, and kind of come up with some questions one day.

R: You see, we connect to the old high, see, I connect to the old original high school...

J: Hillcrest, yes.

R: ...and the next high school--no, before that. The one that's torn down.

J: Oh.

R: The old original normal school was here. See, I connect with that.

J: Oh, okay, all right.

R: I went there in grade school.

J: And then did you...where did you...?

R: Then I went to the high school--everybody called it new high school then.

J: Oh, I see what you're saying. Okay, right.

R: And that was the new high school when I was here.

J: So what I was going to ask you is...what organizations, clubs, whatever, activities you're involved and whatnot.

R: Cathy, I don't know whether you have my name or not.

J: Yes, yes.

R: Oh do you? Okay.

J: Yes, Duane.

R: Okay. I first came back and joined Junior Chamber of Commerce--Jaycees they are called and Mr. Hooten you talked to. Most all of our leaders, men, have developed through the Jaycees and not the Chamber of Commerce but the Jaycees. And that's kept the young men interested and active and give them this little incentive to come up and be a success and be active in Paoli. But I'd say a great deal of them and the ones that didn't join

Jaycees, a lot of them left town and Jaycees aren't strong now as they were but they boast talk family--I've been awful active in town and two of their sons are trying to keep it going right now but over the years we've had a lot of strong young men represent the Jaycees and do a lot of their Christmas lights and keep the interest up and around Paoli during Christmas and do a lot of the little things that other people can do and now they've taken on the fourth of July celebrations that we have that. And the whole day long, fourth of July the Jaycees are in charge of it.

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

R: And used to, the Jaycees put all our Christmas lights up, see. And the town with their help. And the Jaycees bought them and got the money for them and sponsored but that's becoming more of a town thing now--a Chamber of Commerce thing. But I could name you one person after another that were in the Jaycees who were important and helped us get our swimming pool. That's another thing that small towns don't have but we have. And thanks to Mr. Gene Cornwell who ran the Cornwell factory years ago--helped us get the swimming pool. And Mr. John MacIntosh was and my folks were active and helped in getting the land for the hospital and in the other side of town we helped on the grade school and they also started the Throop building and then another family who may be owned part of the ground where the high school is but the Jaycees--on the men's side--the women's side they had the sororities--Tri Kappa and Phi Betas and they had Psi Otas later--but they had their lodges and the Masons were important for a lot of the older businessmen and...the Chamber of Commerce was very strong but the young people are source for new businessman became the Jaycees and we lost some of that now because it's not as strong.

J: Why do you think it's not as strong?

R: I can't tell you that again except for maybe during the recession or something many of our young men had a hard time getting jobs and a lot of them went to college because that was because that was considered more of an in thing to do--when you go to college then you're able to command a little bigger salaries so you can go up to the bigger towns before you come back to your small town. But we have a lot of people moving in to Paoli that came from large towns. And so but...I could name you one business after another that we have here or have had here that the owner was a Jaycee and he and his wife are by themselves and Dr. Clark was instrumental in our first hospital we had here, John Macintoshes and the Jaycees built out Jaycee park down here where the school pool is.

J: That's right.

R: And one of our young businessmen in town that was a high school athlete--Bob Leonard--started our country club. And he wasn't in the Jaycees very long if at all but a lot of his friends were. And Bud and Ed Farlow were members of the Jaycees and they run the Handle Factory now which was started by their father and their family. And the Jaycees kept a lot of little things going that might have died back when we didn't have a good Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber of Commerce fell out for a few years.

J: Oh did it?

R: And then it started out back in the late 50s or early 60s with a...when Mr. Owen Wellman gave us a track of land out there for a small amount of money. And developed what we call our industrial park and that's where so much of our business is and we needed that and so we have to thank the Willman family for that and the Chamber of Commerce for developing that. Within a small period of time we had a million dollars worth of business along that hospital road going to the industrial park. So and I was a member of the Paoli United Methodist Church--that's one of the main churches--this town is known for their churches--the Quaker church and the Presbyterian church and the Baptist church and the Christian church have been very strong--the Church of Christ and the Nazarene and the Holiness church has been here a long time but I was married in the methodist church and we moved to a new church on the edge of town on Indiana 56 where it could serve the community better and other than that....

I wasn't too big on organizations. I never joined the Lions, Kiwanis because I didn't want to limit myself to one, helping one organization--I helped them all. In one way or another.

J: Okay. You just--on last question _____ for doing this--one last question for a long time is--you mentioned about the new Methodist church. What happened...is there one in town and one coming up there or _____?

R: Yes, something did happen. We even had a United Brethren church but that didn't get mentioned--it was very strong in this town. And their talk--of one time of joining some other other churches and have a national reunion of churches and the Presbyterian was going to join with the United Brethren and the Methodist but it didn't happen. But the United Brethren and the Methodist finally got together with an agreement to build a new church and both of them sold their old churches and gave up a lot

of their old root and built the new church together here and it's one of our strongest congregations in town today if not best _____ and it's very actively supporting the community.

J: And that's the one that's up at....? Was this a nation-wide or a national decision?

R: Yes.

J: Okay.

R: It was a national but not all towns did it and not all towns had the luck. We were one of the first ones and we made a good union with the United Brethren and the Methodist church there in the late 60s I think or the early 70s. And we had the building built on Highway 56 east towards Salem.

J: Yes. Actually I can remember someone else telling me but I guess I forgot. And I think the reason I forgot is that I worked out of my mind they were really quite different.

R: I could give a lot of names--Jim Bowen and Rachel Bowen are very prominent in that, helped a lot in getting that church started and their mothers and their families. And the churches worked so well together that they gave a piece of property for it to be built on.

J: Okay, thanks for telling me that. Okay, now. You need to get some lunch. And I thank you so much. I really had _____.

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