YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Farrell Race Relations Project

Farrell Race Relations--1960's
O. H. 532

THOMAS NEVANT

Interviewed

by

Ronald Rice

on

June 17, 1981

THOMAS NEVANT

Thomas Nevant was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on July 27, 1924. After graduating from Farrell High School in 1942 Nevant worked for a brief period and then went into the U. S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. After being discharged from the service Nevant attended Westminster College and earned a BS degree in chemistry. He then went into business with his father and uncle in 1950. Nevant went back to school in 1961 and received his teaching certificate from Youngstown State University in 1967. After doing his student teaching Nevant began to teach at Farrell High School at age 43. He is currently assistant principal at the high school. Nevant has four children and enjoys gardening and reading in his spare time.

Nevant was directly affected by the racial tension and violence in Farrell. His family business was forced to go out of business due to the repeated vandalism done to their store. Nevant feels the damage done to their building was the direct result of the racial unrest in Farrell. He believes most of the racial trouble in Farrell was caused by outside agitators and nonresidents of Farrell.

Ronald J. Rice

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INTERVIEWEE: THOAMS NEVANT

INTERVIEWER: Ronald Rice

SUBJECT: Racial violence, effects of rioting

DATE: June 17, 1981

R: This is an interview with Mr. Tom Nevant for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the racial tensions and violence in Farrell, Pennsylvania during the 1960's, by Ronald Rice, at Farrell High School on Roemer Boulevard, on June 17, 1981, at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Okay, Mr. Nevant, could we begin by you telling me a little bit about where you are from originally?

- N: Going back to the racial strife you have to understand I was not affiliated with the school district in the 1960's. I was in business; I was in business with my uncle. We called it Nevant Brothers. It was originally my father and my uncle, but then I took over my father's partnership when he passed away. We were in business at 420 Idaho Street. So I didn't begin teaching until I was over forty, which would be in 1967. So in the 1960's during the racial strife in Farrell I was very much involved in municipal affairs.
- R: Are you from Farrell?
- N: I was born and raised in Farrell. I was born right at 420 Idaho Street which we later used as storage rooms.
- R: What was your childhood like living there?
- N: Well, at that time as far as racists were concerned we had very few colored people in Farrell--Negroes, blacks, or whatever you want to call them. We had no trouble. Most of the people here were long-time residents. In fact, my father lived on Beechwood Avenue, and his next door neighbors were black people. They were very nice people. I saw a lot of

black neighbors or residents up close to you; there was no problem then. But the people we had here at that time were well-behaved, and we had no trouble whatsoever.

- R: You attended Farrell High School then?
- N: Farrell High School.
- R: What was high school like?
- N: High school? Again, we had black people in school; a lot of them did not graduate. They generally did lose their education. I will agree with you that we didn't have as many as we have now. But the middle school now, we have over fifty percent I would say—I don't know for sure the high school. I would say about fifty—two, fifty—three percent of our graduates are black people. At that time we had fewer black people. In fact, if I go back—I looked at my yearbook a year ago—I say out of a class of 265 I doubt if there were twenty black people. I'm motsaying that was the system in Farrell years ago, but probably a lot of black people started in kinder—garten—we didn't have a kindergarten—but from first grade they probably dropped out in seventh or eighth grade. They never made it to graduation.
- R: When you got out of high school, where did you go from there?
- N: I went to the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation.
- R: And you worked there for how long?
- N: I worked there for six months. My father thought that by putting me down at the mill that I could get out of the service. Otherwise, he wouldn't send me to college. He thought that would keep me from serving. But I went to Westminster, and they drafted me after six months. No way could I escape.
- R: You were in school for about six months?
- Six months, one semester; they gave me credit. I can't N: remember the president's name at that time. He was a very nice man. He called me down to the office. This was in the month of April. He said, "Mr. Nevant, your education is terminated." The Navy wanted law enforcement officers. He said that he would give me credit for the whole semester, and he gave me credit. Regardless of what I learned, when I came back in 1946, I had forgotten everything. Of course, I was a chemistry major. So I went back to scratch because I felt I had forgotten a lot of things. I had talked about math, talked about calculus, talked about general chemistry and this sort of thing. So in order to refresh my memory I started right there.

- R: So you went into the Navy?
- N: July 6, 1943.
- R: Did you go overseas?
- N: Yes, overseas.
- R: And you were discharged in 1946?
- N: 1946 on Washington's birthday.
- R: Then you went back to Westminster?
- N: I came back to Westminster, right. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.
- R Are you talking about in 1949?
- N: 1949, right.
- R: Then where did you go? What direction did your career take you?
- N: Then I went into business. When I came out of school in 1949, there was a combination coal strike and a steel strike. There was another kind of strike, but I don't know what it There were three strikes at the same time. I couldn't In fact, I was looking in Pittsburgh. I couldn't find a job. get a job washing dishes. As a matter of fact, I stayed at my sister's house who lived in Charlerol and I would use that as my base of operation. I would go every day looking for a job. After about four or five months I got disgusted. is like the old story. My father and uncle were in business; I came back here and I went in with them. That was the end of the chemistry until I decided to get back into the school business. Business was going downhill. I saw the handwriting on the wall, so in 1966 I took up student teaching. This was after I went to Youngstown State University to pick up my courses in education because I had no education courses.
- R: Just history and chemistry?
- N: History and chemistry. I was a non-veteran in teaching in the public school system. I went back to Youngstown. I think I went down there from 1961 until 1966. I did that, and I got a job here in 1967 teaching chemistry. In 1966 I did my student teaching under Mr. Bernard Uzelac. So I was forty-two years old at the time.
- R: So you began teaching in 1967?
- N: Right.

- R: What factors led you into administrative work?
- N: We had an assistant principal at that time by the name of Mr. Anthony Paulekas; he was a very nice man. I always thought that if I ever wanted to be out of the classroom that I would take a stab at his position. So I went and took all of my administrative courses at Westminster. Of course, I got my master's in education at Westminster and continued on and got my certification for this then. Seven years later I became the assistant middle school principal. I only taught for seven years. This is my fourteenth year, seven years I was teaching and seven years I was administrating. So this is my fourteenth year, seven and seven.
- R: Well what are some of your chief interests besides working?
- N: Well, I do a lot of reading, and I do a lot of gardening. These are not my principal interests or hobbies. This is sort of a personal thing that I'm glad I hadn't done away with.
- R: If we could jump up to the 1960's, what was an average day like for you in the middle 1960's, 1964, 1965?
- N: Well, I was in business. At that time my uncle was, of course, a lot older than I. He was like thirty or thirty-five years older. I ran the business. I had several employees. I had service men. We serviced televisions at that time, and we also serviced refrigerators and washing machines. We had about three guys. Some of them were part-time. They not only worked for me, but would do other people's work. Now at that time I was a lot more active than I am now.
- R: Can you remember hearing about some of the black minority leaders in the early 1960's?
- N: Oh, yes.
- R: What do you remember about them? How did you hear it?
- N: Well, one of the ways was through the store because I was there.
- R: How did you feel about them at that time?
- N: After the war it didn't seem to make any difference to me one way or the other. As far as Farrell is concerned it has always had a black population, again, high school. I was born and raised on Idaho Street—not really because I left there just prior to school when I was around five years old. We lived there on Idaho Street. It was a black neighborhood, and we had black customers.

R: What can you recall about some of the racial rioting in some other American cities at that time? Do you remember hearing about that?

- N: Yes, a little bit. Of course, it is always the big city stuff. Of course, eventually it filters down to the smaller towns. When I talk about that in the 1960's, it is hard for me to remember. There were several big riots in big cities. I don't even remember where they were at to tell you the truth.
- R: Most of your information did you receive through the newspaper?
- N: Newspapers, yes sir. Well, there was a little bit on television. That was when the marches and stuff were going on and all that sort of thing.
- R: During the 1960's could you sense any growing racial tensions in Farrell?
- N: Yes, sure.
- R: What do you think caused it?
- N: Well, at that time the black people felt that they wanted representation on these different commissions. Of course, after they got the representation, they didn't take advantage of it in whatever they were striving for. That is one thing that I will never be able to understand. They tore Idaho Street completely. We rather that they purchased it because they were going to tear it down for a parking lot to accommodate a multi-center. They spent a lot of money. There are elevators and everything in there. They are going to tear that down eventually for a parking lot, but they ruined the whole town. They never pulled any punches. They did it, and they have to take the blame for that. I was in business. I used to stay on Idaho Street during those days. That was in 1969 when they had the riots.
- R: Summer of 1969?
- N: Summer of 1969. In fact they had the summer of 1968; 1969 was the biggy. They hit the plateau then in 1969. I used to be down there. A lot of people thought I was crazy. I was down there every night. The windows were barricaded. I was down there every night with two shotguns and pistols and the whole bit. Everybody thought I was nuts, but I didn't think so.
- R: Were you protecting your property?
- N: Yes, I was protecting my property.

R: Do you think it was a growing thing in Farrell? Could you see anything happening over a period of years coming to that point in 1969?

- N: No. I heard a lot of stories. There were a lot of stories that a lot of those people were from the outside, were instigators from out of state. I wouldn't want to say Ohio. Some of them came from the south. They instigated this sort of thing. They prompted these young fellows. A lot of them were ex-basketball players here in Farrell and football players. Players were being honored. At that time we had a coach here by the name of Eddie McClusky. Of course, you know he won seven or eight state championships. We were doing quite well in football at that time. These fellows were all honored then. These were the guys who were smashing the windows. I could name them.
- R: Do you think they were pretty much pushed by from outside people then?
- N: Well, that was what they claimed. Whether that is true or not, I have no way of knowing. I don't think so. I think this was all instigated and perpetrated right here in Farrell. Well, I can't say Sharon because Sharon didn't have the black population that we had or Wheatland or any of our surrounding communities. The only other black population probably heavy would be like in Masury or around in here, but I don't think it was there. I think it was right here in Farrell.
- R: Mr. Nevant, do you think what happened in Farrell was a result of any type of domino effect like just things happening across the country?
- N: Yes, I think so. Yes, definitely. Just as I say, it just took a little bit of time to filter down here.
- R: When you talked about how you had to protect your own store, your life was pretty much affected by the violence?
- N: They ruined it certainly. That is one of the reasons why I am here.
- R: In education?
- N: Yes.
- R: The biggest result is why your business was . . .
- N: That is right. Nobody would come down the street anymore. That was why we went downhill. The big thing was in 1969. From there on in, as I say in 1967, it started. I could see at that time it was tapering down.

- R: You could see things getting worse?
- N: Right. White people would not come down on Idaho Street; even the good, black people wouldn't come down Idaho Street. Of course, they claimed these people were from the south which there was no way. They were local fellows who had come to school here as I say now, to repeat myself, who had been honored and had been given all of the privileges.
- R: Do you have any children?
- N: Four.
- R: Were they affected at all?
- N: No, no because we lived up on the hill. We are the rich people up on the hill. We live on Landay. I have a black next door neighbor. He was a very nice man. Even now up in our neighborhood we have about three black families who are very nice people.
- R: Is your neighborhood pretty much unaffected then with what happened?
- N: Yes. Now Boatner did not live next door to me at that time. What you are trying to say is were we in conflict with one or another?
- R: Oh no. Was there any violence in your neighborhood or any racial tension in your neighborhood?
- N: No.
- R: How about any clubs or organizations that you went to, were there any?
- N: Yes; I don't know exactly what you are saying.
- R: Was there any racial tension in some clubs you belonged to or any violent things?
- N: Well, at that time some of the black people felt that strictly white clubs were discriminatory and this sort of thing. They were trying, and a lot of them were admitted to clubs on this basis. Some of them stuck with the membership and some didn't. I don't know what determined it.
- R: Typical for the time.
- N: Yes, something like this.
- R: Do you know if any of your friends were directly affected by any violence or tension?

N: Oh yes, certainly. All of my friends for the most part are in business.

- R: How bad was your building damaged, mainly windows?
- N: Broke all the windows. In fact, we had to board them all up.
- R: Was it burned at all? Was there any burning?
- N: No, no burning. They burned several other buildings. They burned next door to Pic Electric there, Zolton's Furniture. Yes, they burned that place.
- R: Would you label what happened in Farrell during the summer of 1969 a riot?
- N: Yes, definitely. People from Sharon and surrounding communities used to come down Idaho Street to look at the damage. That was a morning thing. Every morning we had to look at the people coming up and down the street.
- R: Parading.
- N: Yes, parading, seeing how everything went.
- R: Do you know anything about the Black Youth Action Committee?
- N: Do you mean they have one now?
- R: No, they had the one then in 1969.
- N: Was this supposed to be a peace-making thing? There were so many splintered groups, you understand?
- R: Well, that was the committee with Bill Samuels, Jeanie Thompson, and Roger Winston. They had a cultural center. Do you remember anything about that at all?
- N: No. I know Bill Samuels very well through First National Bank as manager and from Westinghouse.
- R: Well, how do you think the Sharon <u>Herald</u> reported events in Farrell?
- N: Very factually; windows were broken.
- R: Were they fair about the reports?
- N: Yes, I think so. Sure.
- R: How do you think the Farrell police dealt with all the problems?

N: Well, I don't know. I thought about that many times. The then mayor, John Giroski, just started talking to me about two years ago. When he came down Idaho Street one day he stepped in our store, and I let him have it. I blamed it all on him. He thought that wasn't fair, but at that time you have to understand that there was the possibility of turning this thing over to state police and martial law and the whole bit because it was bad. In fact, one day in our store subsequent to these 1969 riots we counted them in the store, two or three of us, that something like seventy-four or seventy-five businesses left Farrell. Talking about Idaho Street, Broadway, Roemer Boulevard, those were the three main business sections.

- R: Main streets.
- N: Some seventy-four people had left.
- R: Before 1969?
- N: Yes, before and after.
- R: Do you think the city government could have done a lot more than what they did?
- N: Oh yes, sure.
- R: What do you think they should have done?
- N: I think if I was in their shoes I would have called in the state police absolutely. That was what created the little tension between Mr. Giroski and me.
- R: Do you think he felt that bringing in the state police would have added fire to the situation?
- N: No. According to the scuttlebutt again that he was called, thee y wanted to burn down his funeral home if he called in the state police. Talking about the black people, I call it just how it is; I have no reason to hide.
- R: Were there any groups of people or movements that you know of that have tried to better the situation in the 1960's, especially 1969?
- N: I think everybody was going different directions. I think a lot of people meant well, but anything we did--when I say we, I was in business--anything we did to try to pacify the situation, no way. I can remember at that time Luke Gillespie was chief of police--I'm not sure who was chief of police--but anyway they had a meeting. It was directly across the street from our store at 420. It is a plaza I guess you could call it, but I don't know if there is a name attached to it or not. At that time talking about pacification, the mayor and the chief of police were talking to these young

fellows. Of course, they couldn't get their attention. They had the cruisers there with the loudspeakers. They finally got them quiet. I don't know if the mayor spoke or the chief of police spoke, but two minutes after they began speaking they smashed the windows in the sports center. That was the kind of people you were dealing with.

- R: They wouldn't listen to reason?
- N: No way, no way. They were having a good time at the businessmen's expense. The final consensus of opinion was just to drive everybody out of town. Now they got what they wanted.

Going from one thing to another, now we remained in Farrell. We didn't close our business. I was teaching school and then going down there part-time. We closed our business in 1977.

- R: So you stayed open another eight years?
- N: Yes, another eight years. Colored people, black people, whatever you want to call them, would come in our store and complain--My God, there is no place to shop. My uncle was an elderly man, and he called it the way it was. There was no place; there were no supermarkets in town; you couldn't buy this, you couldn't buy that; you couldn't buy anything. He would just tell them, "Well, who in the hell's fault is it? You, your young people, you drove them off." Of course, then they would walk away with their tail between their legs.
- R: As a businessman did any of the other businessmen and your-self try to get an organization together?
- N: Yes, sure.
- R: What did you do?
- N: Well, one night we had a meeting at the Oak Room. I think it changed hands two or three times. We had a meeting there, and I would say that there were at least forty-five to fifty businessmen there. We had businessmen from every walk. We had gas station people; we had appliance people; we had furniture people; we had all kinds of people from whoever was left in Farrell. They (blacks) called the Oak Room and said that if we weren't out of there in ten minutes that they were going to burn the Oak Room. Now that was the kind of people that you were dealing with. Immediately, what is that guy going to say? I forget who owned it at the time, but he told us to get the hell out of there.
- R: That was the end of the meeting?
- N: That was the end of the meeting. We had the meeting; we had some . . .

R: It seems like your hands were pretty much tied as a businessman, so you really had to try to better things.

- N: That is right.
- R: It seems that you run into pretty much a dead end with the city government?
- N: That is right. They couldn't do anything. Either they couldn't do anything or wouldn't do anything because of the threats. They were going to burn down city hall; they were going to burn down Giroski's Funeral Home; they were going to do this, they were going to do that.
- R: Were you ever given a set of demands or something or anything that said--We want this or we are going to burn?
- N: No, the only thing that I remember was that they wanted representation, mostly on commissions.
- R: City council?
- N: City council. I think even at that time they wanted district. In other words, they didn't want council-at-large, they wanted a black councilman, which they are entitled to. There is nothing wrong with that. Of course, they still even now under the city charter, I think it still is at large.
- R: Well, you seem to feel that most of the damage was caused by the younger blacks?
- N: Yes, yes.
- R: Do you think most of the older blacks were just tolerant of what went on?
- N: Well, I don't know what you mean by tolerant. Do you mean did they just let it go?
- R: Did they just let it go?
- N: I thought about this many times, and I think they used these young fellows because they were juveniles. There wasn't a hell of a lot you could do with them. I think the master—minding was the older—I'm not talking about the guys who were forty—five or fifty years old——I'm talking about the guys who were in their thirties, the violent people who thought that they had something coming. But what they had coming. I don't know, because they were always treated as ladies and gentlemen in this town. You have your father who can testify to this. You have some background there. I really don't know what it was.

R: Do you feel that Farrell was pretty much a happy community before all of this happened and that most people lived in harmony together?

- N: A happy community?
- R: Yes.
- N: Oh yes, I think so certainly. That is what I don't understand what their beef was about. As far as them wanting representation, they could have had representation. There was no stopping that. After they had the representation, they didn't take advantage of it as I had said before. They were named to every damn commission in this town, every commission, not just one appointment or two, but a number of them. It was fifty-fifty.
- R: I think their voting records are pretty poor too. Can you recall any specific examples of racial prejudice before 1969 like in real estate or red linings? Do you know of any red lining that went on?
- N: No, I don't think there was anything specific. As I say, my father lived on Beechwood Avenue. I'm talking about before the turn of the century with black people as people's neighbors. Later on there may have been some unspoken or unwritten law, but as far as I am concerned, no; I don't think so.
- R: Can you recall any social type prejudice in your neighborhood or where you worked or anything?
- N: Oh, you always have that. I'm prejudice against you too to a certain extent. I've been through this. In my present capacity as assistant principal I'm in charge of discipline in school, both here and at the high school. I have the experience of both here and at the high school, so I have been in charge of discipline. We have the same thing here as far as the black population is concerned. They give us a little static. Most of the parents are very cooperative.
- R: Do you think any single group was responsible for what happened in Farrell?
- N: Yes, I would say so, but I can't say this club or that club. There was this one group, and then of course this one group picked up some satellites, other people.
- R: A black organization?
- N: Oh yes, sure, but I can't say. It is not that I don't want to say it; I don't know of any black organization. It was

just the young people in the community that took this upon themselves. I think the older fellows, the violent people, used the young fellows because what could they do with the juveniles breaking windows, slap their hands? Do you know what it costs us for windows alone?

- R: No.
- N: We couldn't get any more insurance. We had to board the damn windows up. Plate glass windows, I would say probably a conservative estimate \$7,000, complete glass. Now that is beside the robbing, the stealing, shoflifting.
- R: Over how long a period of time would you say?
- N: About three summers, talking about 1968, 1969, 1970.
- R: \$7,000 just for glass.
- N: Yes, glass, yes.
- R: When you were robbed, how much did they . . . You were robbed you said.
- N: Oh, yes. I'm talking about shoplifting and this sort of thing because, again, the white people wouldn't come down and patronize you. So you had to cater to the black population. Again now we had a lot of good, black people in this town, but it was this riffraff. That is what they were; they were riffraffs. I call it the way it is. Of course, they would come in. I was teaching school. So I wasn't there. My uncle being an old man, they would come in and shoplift and steal him blind.
- R: Looking back now what changes would you have liked to have seen instituted on Idaho Street or the community as a whole to perhaps better things than what they were? Can you think of any changes that could have helped?
- N: No, they just didn't call in the proper law enforcement officers. I made a statement some years ago, Mr. Nath seems to be doing a really good job. I said, "Jesus Christ himself couldn't straighten this town out." Mr. Nath was doing a good job. He has redeveloped northwest gardens and southwest gardens. I think the man is doing a wonderful job.
- R: So you think pretty much what happened was inevitable to the times?
- N: Yes.
- R: You don't think anything could have been prevented?

N: Yes, if they would have called in the proper law enforcement officers I think they would have stopped it.

- R: The National Guard?
- N: Yes.
- R: Curfews?
- N: Well, I think they had curfews, but nothing.
- R: Nothing was enforced?
- N: No, they couldn't. We didn't have the proper . . . We didn't have enough officers. The fellows who were causing this trouble outnumbered them, and there was no way. I think that to a point they were fearful for their own lives, talking about the police themselves.
- R: How did most of your customers react? I'm sure you had a lot of black customers as well as white customers.
- N: They didn't like it, no way. They didn't like it. They often came in and voiced their opinions. Everybody said that something should be done; but what the hell did they do?
- R: Some people feel that more recreation facilities for some of the young blacks . . .
- N: Forget that. We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in this community on recreation. Across from Carl Piciollo's they had a playground there. He used to come up about twice a week and buy basketballs. They would steal all the basketballs. Then he would come and supply them with basketballs. He soon found out.
- R: You don't think then that recreation centers or playgrounds really do anything?
- N: We have all kinds of recreation. In fact, they have their own center. Well, I wouldn't call it their's. I suppose that I could go down there. I wouldn't want to call it a black thing.
- R: How different are the race relations in Farrell now compared to what they were in the 1960's?
- N: I think we have hit sort of a plateau. Something has to be done. I have other people in the business and in the family

who are up on Idaho Street. They have other black groups who go there. They don't seem to have any trouble. Something has got to happen, but I don't know what it is going to be.

- R: Do you think things are better than what they were?
- N: Oh yes, much better, yes.
- R: Do you think Farrell could have more problems now?
- N: I don't see on what basis. Talking about school and Farrell programs, up until about three years ago the only way you could get Farrell programs was to get together. We have tried that. We have done everything we can, and we have been successful; school has been successful. You have got to keep the channels open as far as communication is concerned.
- R: Right.
- N: You have to do that. You must, otherwise you are shut down. You have to talk. If you don't talk, they think you are against them and you are not. I can see their thinking.
- R: Getting involved in the school system now do you feel that the attitudes of the youth now have changed from what they were in the 1960's?
- N: Oh yes, I think so.
- R: Do you think they are a little more realistic towards what is going on?
- N: Yes, I think so.
- R: Is there any racial violence now at all that you can see?
- N: Nothing, nothing more than an ordinary run-of-the-mill sort of thing.
- R: We talked earlier about how most of the seventy-five or so businesses left Farrell. How do you feel the racial problems Farrell has had during the 1960's has affected the reputation of the city overall, say in the Shenango Valley?
- N: As far as Farrell is concerned they have always had this stigma of black. I don't think that is ever going to be erased. You can do whatever you want.

Going back to the school system, we have the finest discipline in the Farrell area school districts of any school in and around. I'm talking about Sharon; I'm talking about Hermitage;

I'm talking about Kennedy Christian; I'm talking about all of them. We have over fifty percent black, and they behave. They behave in school. I think most of the young people here in the school have expectations of going on and making something of themselves. That is another thing. They come to school, and they behave. If they don't behave, then Mr. Sava at the high school and myself down here we have the parents on the phone right away. We tell them that it is this way or that. A student cannot disrupt a class; a student cannot do this; a student cannot do that. As I say we have ninety-eight percent of our parents, both black and white, that are very, very cooperative.

- R: Do you see the possibility of any of the lost businesses ever coming back to Farrell?
- N: No, no way.
- R: Do you think the fear is still there?
- N: The what?
- R: The fear of the same thing happening.
- N: I think not. Going back to them coming back, first of all the businesses, there are too many people in business. Look at the so-called strip out there. Look at the fast food and that. I know a person who was a realtor in business, and he told me that right now you can buy eighty-five to ninety percent of the businesses on State Street. I'm talking about upper State Street in Hermitage, not in Sharon. He says that you can buy eighty-five to ninety percent of this because of the competition; it is for sale. Look at the places you can buy furniture and food; it is ridiculous. Do you think the Strouss' in Sharon will ever go back to downtown Sharon?
- R: No.
- N: Well, okay, alright; it is the same thing for Farrell. Nothing ever comes back.
- R: How about the city's reputation overall? Do you think it has been irrepairable damage?
- N: Yes, it has been irrepairable damage, and it will take years and years if ever to clear that.
- R: Okay, well is there anything else important you would like to discuss that we didn't cover?

N: No, I don't think so. You did a nice job.

R: Okay, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW