

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Farrell Race Relations Project

Farrell Race Relations - 1960's

O. H. 150

WILLIAM L. HAMILTON

Interviewed

by

Ronald J. Rice

on

December 12, 1980

WILLIAM LLOYD HAMILTON

William Lloyd Hamilton was born in Farrell, Pennsylvania on December 4, 1920. Hamilton has lived all of his life in Farrell except while attending college and serving active duty in the Navy. After graduating from Farrell High School he went to Ohio Northern University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy in 1943. After college, Hamilton went directly into the Navy and took part in both the Allied invasions of Europe and Japan. He was discharged from the service in June of 1946. Hamilton went back to Farrell and began working in his father's drug store on 521 Idaho Street in Farrell. Hamilton and his brother have been partners in the Hamilton Drug Company since 1946.

Hamilton got married in 1945 and with his wife Audrey has had three children; William, Shelly and Audrey, ages 32, 29 and 26 respectively. He is a member of the Farrell Methodist Church, belongs to the Lions Club and is active in the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce. Hamilton's favorite recreational activities are golf and tennis.

Mr. Hamilton is very concerned about the Farrell community. He believes that Farrell's reputation has been unjustly treated throughout the years in the Shenango Valley. Hamilton has worked often with other Farrell businessmen in trying to improve the city's reputation concerning the downtown business district. He feels that the racial unrest has caused many businessmen to move their stores out of the

city. Hamilton is optimistic about Farrell's commercial district and he is working hard to insure it.

Ronald James Rice
December, 1980

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INTERVIEWEE: WILLIAM L. HAMILTON

INTERVIEWER: Ronald J. Rice

SUBJECT: Farrell Race Relations in the 1960's

DATE: December 12, 1980

R: This is an interview with Mr. William Hamilton for the Youngstown State University Oral History Project on the Racial Tensions and Violence During the 1960's in Farrell, Pennsylvania by Ronald J. Rice at 521 Idaho Street, Farrell, Pennsylvania zip code 16121, on December 12, 1980 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Okay, Mr. Hamilton, could you begin by telling us a little bit about what your childhood was like and where you grew up?

H: I was born in Farrell on December the fourth, 1920. Except for college and in the service, I've been here all of my life. I'm a graduate of Farrell High School. From there I went to Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy. After serving in the service I came back into our family Pharmacy and have been here ever since.

R: Do you come from a large family?

H: Yes, I have three brothers. There are four boys all together, no sisters. Three of the boys are Pharmacists and one is a Podiatrist, so it's all in the medical field.

R: Did your parents come here and move to Farrell or were they living in Farrell?

H: No, my father was born and raised over near East Palestine, Ohio. He came here in 1901. My mother was born up north of Meadville, Pennsylvania. She came to Farrell as a

school teacher. That's how they met. She came here in 1912.

R: What was school like for you in high school in Farrell?
Did you go to Farrell High School?

H: Yes, we were the last class to graduate from the old high school over on Fruit Avenue. Not only did you get a good education, but you got a very well-rounded education, because you had all nationalities sitting around you. It was kind of like a melting pot. I've always felt it's been a great advantage to me, that background early in life.

R: Where did your family live in Farrell?

H: First, I was born over on Fruit Avenue. Then, my father built a home up near the Farrell Senior High School on Romer Boulevard, which was Haywood Street then. Then, when he opened the drug store on Idaho Street in 1933, we lived in an apartment above there. That was my last home, because from there I went to college, then marriage.

R: When did you decide to get into the pharmacy business or profession?

H: When I was in high school, I worked for my father as a clerk. I liked it then, so I knew probably by the time I was a sophomore in high school that I wanted pharmacy.

R: That's good. You picked Ohio Northern. Any reason you decided to go there?

H: Yes, my father went there. So, I was very honored and very proud and I'd go back again.

R: What was school like in college when you went?

H: Very good. Of course, the war was on, so we went on an accelerated program. Many of my friends of course, had to go on into the service. I was fortunate enough to finish with the agreement as soon as I finished I would go into the service. Upon graduation, I applied for a naval commission and was given that.

R: So, you graduated from college in 1944?

H: Actually, I finished in November of 1943 because of the accelerated program but I was actually in the Class of 1944.

R: You went directly into the service?

H: Yes.

R: What branch were you in?

H: Navy. I went in as a line officer.

R: What were some of your responsibilities?

H: I was trained in amphibious warfare, which was in landing craft. We were involved in the final stages in the European Theatre. Then we immediately went to the Pacific theatre.

R: So, you did quite a bit of traveling?

H: Yes, in a short period of time.

R: It sounds interesting. Okay, you got out of the service when?

H: June of 1946.

R: June of 1946. And then?

H: I came back to Hamilton Drug. Then we bought another store, which we still have in West Middlesex. I stayed in the Farrell store and my brother went to West Middlesex.

R: Is that when you officially changed the name of the store to Hamilton Drug?

H: No, my dad in 1933 did.

R: Okay, you mentioned a short history about the store. Your father started it?

H: My dad came to Farrell in 1901 and he was working for a drug company that when they had a troubled store that they couldn't get their money out of, he'd come in and get it back on its feet. When he came into Farrell, three doctors owned this store. It wasn't doing too well. When he got it back on its feet, he saw the potential and bought it.

R: It was called Smith Drug then?

H: No, at that time, I don't know what the name of it was. It was way down on Broadway below the American Legion

Home. From there he went up on the corner of Broadway and Haywood and put a store there. The building was real new, but the Colonial Trust Bank wanted that corner. So, he sold that building to them and went up directly behind it which is the present Greek Club in Farrell, and put up another building. And at that time is when they formed the Smith Drug Company, which was four stores.

In 1933 in the big crash, that went out the window, so then he started on Idaho Street.

R: You referred to the crash. Do you mean the stock market?

H: The stock market crash of 1933 and bank closings.

R: What was a typical day like for you when you came back from the service and you began working here in the drug store?

H: Well of course, being out of the service and wanting to get started, it was a long day, because we had no relief. So, it was a one pharmacist operation. You opened the store and closed it, so you worked long hours.

R: You were there as long as the store was opened?

H: Yes. But of course, you knew the future and you knew it was going to be yours, so you didn't mind it.

R: How did you meet your wife?

H: We were born and raised together.

R: You're both from Farrell?

H: Yes. Her family and our family were very close. In fact, her father worked for my dad before going to dental school. When my father died until I was 21, he was my guardian. So, there was a real close friendship.

R: What was the early 1960's like if we can jump up a few years here in Farrell. What do you remember most about the early 1960's, 1961, 1962? By that time you had a family started?

H: Yes. You know I'm just trying to think. Chronolize the 1960's. They were all quite routine.

R: Well, do you remember much about the black minority leaders

during the 1960's? Do you remember hearing about Martin Luther King?

H: Yes, yes. And of course, I don't think that Farrell was affected any more than other communities, even though the higher percentage of the blacks were here in Farrell. We did have the one uprising of course. With that uprising I think practically every business in Farrell lost their front windows. For about a week there, we were kind of on edge. The State police were in and people were up on buildings with guns one night.

R: That was in 1969.

H: Was that the year? I know it was in August and I was on vacation at the time that happened. But, one thing about it, I realized it wasn't us they were angered at. It was just a general thing.

R: And they were dealings of the age would you say, of the 1960's?

H: Yes, of course what they did to our front they did to all fronts. It was just more of a national uprising. It just wasn't a local resentment.

R: Do you remember seeing anything on tv on cities, about rioting in other cities in the early 1960's?

H: You mean with King in Boston and so forth?

R: Right, right.

H: Yes, naturally it was current event.

R: Do you feel that could have had anything to do with maybe spurring some of the things that happened in Farrell?

H: Oh, yes. It definitely did, because it spread. It spread all over the United States.

R: Can you recall any kind of racial tensions growing in Farrell say between blacks and whites through the period of the 1960's? Being that it was a pretty turbulent time, could you see any tensions between the black citizens and white citizens?

H: Yes, among the younger set there was feeling like that, but there really was no need for it in Farrell, because the black person in Farrell, I thought, was always

treated well and given a chance. I think one thing probably in key positions and things like that they didn't get the opportunities. I think this situation did bring that out. For example now, we have Paul Flint, who heads Mercer County Housing, which was always held by a white. Paul has done a very fine job in this. I think there are positions like that that have opened up to the blacks that hadn't opened before.

But generally speaking, the black in Farrell, the older families, were good people. From business standpoint, it was a pleasure doing business with them. We extended a lot of credit to them.

R: Could you see any like snowballing effect? You know, maybe smaller incidents of tensions between people that maybe just built up until it finally happens in the later 1960's? Would you say something like that might have happened?

H: I don't think particularly in Farrell if it did build up it built up because of the national uprising. It was not here.

R: Most families got along pretty well?

H: Oh yes, yes. Fortunately, the Buhl Estate has its Carver Center, which was a real nice facility for the under-privileged. Have you ever been in that?

R: No, I haven't.

H: It's here in Farrell; a nice gymnasium and facilities for them. So, that has been good. Of course, in sports as you know, they've always excelled real well. Farrell has had a good educational system. They certainly have had the chance. Anyone that came out of Farrell that didn't get a good education certainly can't blame the system. It certainly was there for them.

R: Is there any events that you can think of or things that might have happened that stand out? Anything significant in Farrell during the 1960's? In the early 1960's, anything you could see as a racial influence in it?

H: No, no I can't. Think^{ing} back, I think that things in Farrell were just practically about the same as it was nationwide.

R: You think Farrell was more or less typical of things that

were happening in most other small cities?

H: Well of course, you have to bear in mind the percentage of blacks in Farrell are higher than the rest of the community. There are practically none in Hermitage. I think in the Farrell schools today, I think it's about fifty/fifty. I think in Farrell it's about a thirty or thirty five percent as far as total population.

R: Thirty five percent black?

H: Yes.

R: Once some of the violence did begin in Farrell in 1969 or in the later years of the 1960's, did your store ever receive any damage?

H: Only when they had that one big uprising. They did damage all over town.

R: That was in the summer wasn't it?

H: Yes, in August.

R: How much damage was done to your store, just the front windows?

H: The front windows, yes. One Christmas Eve here about four or five years ago, we had windows knocked out again by young blacks. One was just eighteen and the other was a juvenile. There were gifts and merchandise in the window. So, of four of the front windows they knocked three of them out and were seen taking items. They went over to Mercer for court, but nothing came out of it.

R: Was the store ever robbed?

H: This store has been broken into after we were closed, but we've never been held up. Here in January of this year, they took a big boulder and knocked the front door in and came in and stole narcotics.

R: Nothing more in the 1960's than would normally happen?

H: This store, we've been here since 1967. That was the first time this store had been broken into. Across the street we've had several.

R: Once the store windows were broken out and things were pretty tense in Farrell for awhile, how did that change

- things the way they worked around here? Was everybody pretty nervous, pretty on edge?
- H: Yes, naturally there was tension over it, I would say, for possibly a period of a week. As I say, I was on my vacation. At the time, Dan the Pharmacist, and my brother, stayed one night here. The State Police came into town and many of the business people stayed that evening for maybe a couple nights expecting maybe a fire bomb?
- R: Just protecting their own store?
- H: Yes, other than window damage, that was all we suffered.
- R: Did you ever fear for your personal safety or your family's safety during that time?
- H: No, no and we don't today. I think maybe sometimes I'm a little too courageous, but with our location many of these people are on welfare. At our location, I probably fill more welfare prescriptions, than all of the drug stores in Mercer County combined. I think we do a service for these people. We treat them the same as everyone else and I think for the most part people are for us. They feel that we're needed.
- R: Would you say that all of the violence that has been told that happened in Farrell never really happened? The reputation seems to have been that people feared to walk out of their house at night. Was it ever that way?
- H: I don't think anymore than any other community. I think there's been an image. If you remember back when Francis Petrillo was Mayor, they selected a committee here in Farrell to seek criticism for Farrell. By far, number one on the list for Farrell was the image.
- R: The city image?
- H: Yes, we try to overcome the image of the community, because there are, just like today in the summer particularly on the warm days, brown bagging the streets, blocking the sidewalks and double parking and stopping, just provoking people. It's a very small percentage. It has hurt the business places on the street that remain because many of the people who live on the hill don't come down downtown anymore. They go to the malls.

Farrell's unusual, if you stop to think. There's so many people in Farrell that don't have a car. They have to walk to the drug store. They have to walk to the grocery store. What it has done, this problem like I mentioned this summer, from the time our store opens at nine o'clock in the morning we are busy and at dark it's about all over, because too many women towards dark have had purses snatched or things like that. Those that have to walk get out early and then get home.

R: What would you contribute as some of the causes for some of the violence that did happen in Farrell. Do you think something like the curfew laws or the black recreation facilities might have contributed some of the youth getting riled up?

H: I don't think so. I think it was only an excuse. Farrell, as I say, being born and raised in Farrell, and the recreational facilities that I knew as a child compared to these kids today, that have playgrounds with baskets up. They are free until ten o'clock at night. They even leave the lights on on the playgrounds so they can play longer. The playgrounds during the day are supervised. It's sad that so many of the older boys come into these playgrounds and just destroy them, particularly the ones for the younger set. The cost of setting up those playgrounds is something and a few have really done severe damage to the playgrounds.

But, I think the youth in Farrell has had excellent possibilities as far as recreation. They don't think so. They feel they should have more. But, that is the reason for some standing on Idaho Street and hollering at people, blocking the sidewalk and molesting.

R: Do you think blacks have the same opportunity as everybody else in Farrell?

H: I think since Martin Luther King coming out for equal rights, I think that yes, it has. Particularly in the Farrell schools, they really have a chance. The Farrell schools have given the opportunity and it has shown in Farrell. We have an excellent black on Council now, Herb Williams, who is a Youngstown College graduate and a man that served twenty years in the service as a commissioned officer. I think when they have a good man like him if they'd get behind him. He ran for mayor, but they didn't get behind him. They split the vote and he didn't make it. They have Bill Hyatt, another qualified man on Council. They have talked about Farrell to be in

wards, setting it up in wards, thinking that that would give them better representation. Why they haven't pushed for it more I don't know, because it would serve the town better.

R: Instead of general election?

H: Yes. For example, a man that lives in the area let's say between Idaho Street and Spearman Avenue, which would be the first ward, would understand the problems of the area far better than a man that lives up on Romer Boulevard, up on the hill. This was something that they had talked about when they set up the new city-manager type government. But when they proposed it, the thing had all been written and they didn't want to make a change at that time for fear it might take the whole thing down. But, I've heard talk among the black people about that. I said, "Well, get it on the ballot. You've got a real good point." Frankly, the only ones that would be against it would be the politicians.

R: Could you see any other kind of causes? Do you think there was any kind of economic prejudices or real estate prejudices that might have made some of the younger blacks angry enough to go around and break windows and cause trouble on the block?

H: No, I don't.

R: Do they have equal job opportunities?

H: Yes. The younger black boys in the summer, with the CETA program have had golden opportunities for jobs. I don't feel the CETA program was handled properly. I didn't think the kids got the proper supervision. For some of those boys, it was the first job they ever had. I felt seeing four boys sweep a parking lot up here and take a couple hours to do it with their radio blaring and sitting down and all of this. This is a bad way to teach a kid to start out in this world.

The Farrell School System, they would have one of the school employees with maybe three or four of them. Well, in the Farrell Street Department they only had about a total of seven. Of the seven, only about three could be supervisors. So, they just didn't get the proper supervision.

For the kids who are high school age and college age, they're in the playground working. Yes, there were

opportunities.

- R: What do you remember about the Black Youth Action Committee and Cultural Center. Can you tell me anything about that? A young group of blacks who got together and sent some demands to city government. They called themselves the Black Youth Action Committee.
- H: Yes, I do remember that. In fact, that was what I thought I had the picture of. That was with Mayor Giroski. He was Mayor.
- R: Do you recall your feelings toward that?
- H: Yes, I feel that for the most part it was quite unjustified the way they went before Council. They went into a Council meeting and they had their picture taken with their hats on. It certainly wasn't the proper respect or the right way to go about something. I mean they showed no respect at all for the Mayor or the Council. It was quite unruly from what I was told. I think that if a group of them could have gone in and met as ladies and gentlemen and accomplished a lot more.
- R: A lot more than making waves if they would have gone about it through the system?
- H: Yes.
- R: Okay, how about the city government? Do you think they handled the situation adequately at that time? I think in 1969 when the violence happened, I don't think there were any black firemen, there weren't any on Council?
- H: No, I don't think there were. That's what I say. That's a good thing that came out of it. From that time on, they did get their opportunities to serve in the different departments. Well, we did have before 1969, I know we had black policemen. We had very good black policemen. We had Ed Smith, who also was in charge of Twin City Elks Band. We had John James, who was another good policeman. Ernie Saunders, who is just about ready for retirement now. James Gillespie was also Chief of Police.
- We had several at the fire department, but they didn't seem to stay. The reasons for it I don't know. But, from this, kids in the 1960's, more were getting a chance. That was one good thing about it. But again, I just didn't think they went about it. . .I don't think their belligerent attitude was a proper approach. Maybe they

did, because one thing for sure they did accomplish something.

R: Some people have argued that the only way they could get everybody's attention was to be violent and to draw attention to their problems, because nobody would listen to them. Do you think that argument has any justification?

H: Well, it's the way to get it nationally. But, I think the way they did it nationally every place certainly they were very much a minority. I never felt that the black in Farrell was that much a minority. The black families in Farrell that I remember back in my high school days for the most part were good solid people and very highly respected.

R: They weren't as segregated in Farrell as they were in other places?

H: No.

R: Besides your windows in your store being busted, was there any other times or places that your house or your family were victims?

H: No.

R: How do you feel the news coverage was about Farrell, especially the Herald and maybe tv? How do you think the media covered the situation?

H: I think they printed it pretty much just as it was. I think that many in Farrell feel that the Herald looks to Farrell to print things that if they had happened in Sharon that they might have turned their cheek and overlooked.

R: Do you think they were looking for news?

H: Yes, which, as I say, I think that if anything bad does happen, I think the Herald is most willing to pick it up. I think that what they printed certainly was correct.

R: You don't think they added to some of the violence then? Maybe threw a little fuel on the flame by printing stories?

H: Well, from the businessman's standpoint, we felt they printed more than they should have. We had wished they

hadn't because it certainly does harm to business. Because, just as I said today, our business here on Idaho Street, we don't have too many people from up on the hill. My business is from people within eight to ten blocks of the store. Even well into Sharon, we pull clear over as far as Budd Street in Sharon.

R: How did some of your friends and relatives feel about racial tensions and violence in Farrell? Some of your relatives maybe inside the city and maybe even some outside of the city? Do you remember how they felt? How they expressed what was going on to you?

H: I think they more or less felt that it was going to happen, because it was in the heart of the metropolitan area. But, I think for the most part they felt, why? As you say, they'll say because they don't have the recreational facilities and places to go at night, that's why they have to stand in front of the beer gardens and block the sidewalks and play their radios loud.

R: Do you think their opinions were mostly formed from what they would read about Farrell?

H: Yes, very much.

R: Okay, do you know anyone else besides yourself who was affected by some of the violence? Most of the stores around here did have some windows broken didn't they?

H: Yes, I think we all did. I know Murphy's suffered severe glass damage. Barry Meizlik with the peoples hardware of course. Barry replaced a lot of the glass. He could tell you very much.

R: Do you know anyone who was personally affected by it; or attacked?

H: No, not personally attacked. Phil Scardina, who has a cigarette machine and record machine place up the street here, was in the middle of it all, because with the investment he had there, he thought that possibly the whole neighborhood could affect him. So, that night I know he was right in the middle of it.

Other than the damage at one point my brother went outside with a shotgun. The State Police told him to please go back in with the gun.

R: Was that the summer of 1969?

H: Yes.

R: Would you call what happened in Farrell a riot? Would you classify it as a riot?

H: You had a group, yes. It would have to be considered, because a riot consists of six or twelve or eighteen people and there was that many involved in it. From my place, they went right on down the street. I mean doing it to others. Of course, Levine's Clothing Store which Merle Levine had was involved.

His father was mayor. Merle has retired and moved to Hermitage now. The looting took him out of Farrell. His building down here is now the Urban League building. He sold a lovely building to the Urban League for \$5,000 and it had a much better value than that, but they just consistently kept getting in the windows and taking the clothing out of it. The point that I'm sure is his insurance was cancelled out.

R: It's too high?

H: Yes. But, he had to be one of the most affected persons by it, because this was not in rioting, this was going on and on. Merle moved out of Farrell, I'd say, about eight or ten years ago and went to the Hickory Plaza. He sold his business last year. But, I would venture to say that he had windows broken, merchandise taken from windows at least ten or twelve times.

R: Do you think that all of the trouble that was caused in Farrell was caused by people from Farrell or people from out of town?

H: Both. It's a sad situation where at 6 o'clock at night in Farrell you'll find as many Ohio license plates on the street as you will Pennsylvania. Now, I don't know whether these are fathers that are supposed to be living out of town and coming home at night or they're cars that couldn't get Pennsylvania license plates. But nights in Farrell, and it has been this way for years, Bill Caputo the Police Chief will vouch for it, there are an awful lot of Ohio license plates in this town.

But there is day and night a big influx of blacks in this town.

R: Okay, were there any movements that you knew of that

attempted to better the race relations in Farrell perhaps try to prevent some of the violence that did happen? Did any store owners get together and try to better things?

- H: Yes, up until, I'd say, five or six years ago we did have a Farrell Businessman's Association. Of course, that was brought up. There have been periodic meetings with members of Council pertaining to these problems. As I say, and of course the formation of your Urban League. Your Urban League has helped us too, because they have had good executive people. We're seeing it. Right now Nadine Nester is in charge of it. But, that has been a big help. Of course, it's where Levine's was in that location there.
- R: Looking back now from a standpoint of twelve years or so, what changes would you liked to have seen instituted in the area maybe to better things?
- H: I think one of the best things for a community is a good business district. I don't think the city fathers have done enough to try to keep the business district intact in Farrell. Because, I mentioned stores like Levine's, stores like Myer-Frank, Karl Marks have left because of the image of people just not coming down. So, it's at the point now there's so few of us left.
- R: Do you think the reputation has been more harmful than the damage was? What I'm trying to say is, do you think the reputation has hurt the business district more than the actual damage?
- H: Yes, I think the people. Again we go back to image. I think it has been such that people and it's provoking in a way Ron, people in the summer can come to Farrell's curb market in the morning. It's one of the best curb markets around. They can come to Farrell in the morning and pick up the maid and they can take her back home at 4:30. But, they can't come to Farrell to shop because they say it isn't safe. We see so much of that with our own customers. We have to deliver.
- R: Do you think things could have been prevented, of all the things that happened, or do you think it was inevitable? Do you think the violence could have been prevented?
- H: No, I don't think it could have been prevented, because as I say, these people knew what was going on nationally. Many people of a minority have always felt they haven't

got a fair shake, and even today don't feel they have a fair shake. Because of that, it just had to happen.

R: How different are race relations now in Farrell than they were in the 1960's? Are they better or worse?

H: They're better. The person in Farrell who's not under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a good citizen in the community. He knows he's getting a fair break where he's working and also in his home life.

R: Do you think Farrell has any more problems with alcohol or drugs than another community?

H: Yes Ron, because wherever you have people that are in the lower income bracket or people who are on welfare, that's the type of people. And of course with the lower rent housing, this is where they come. So, it's bound to be there.

R: Do you think there was any single group of people who were responsible for what happened? Could you single any certain group or bunch of people out?

H: No, I couldn't. It was an age group of approximately sixteen to seventeen up through I suppose 25. That was about it.

R: Did you ever participate in any kind of meetings or something at times to prevent things or as protest to what happened to your buildings?

H: Yes.

R: Were you actively involved in something like that?

H: Yes, when meetings were called at the Urban League. I'll pertain to this I guess. They wanted to reactivate the Farrell Businessman's Association, because just in order to keep up with what was going on. We had good relationships with the Farrell Police Department and Urban League and the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce. I always knew pretty well what was going on.

R: Do you think something that happened in 1969 could happen again today?

H: No, no I don't think so. I certainly could see no reason for it. I could see in 1969, because as I mentioned, of the national situation, the problem. But today, the black

person in Farrell is getting his fair breaks. He's getting his equal chance.

R: What do you think would be the best solution for Farrell to better its image and reputation? Do you think it's been irreparably damaged or do you think it could be repaired?

H: Yes, I think one way it's being corrected now is trying to get more people to own their homes. When a person owns their home, they have more pride in the community. This is happening where they're getting and can buy some of these homes at a low figure and get a low interest in improving it. I think this is one.

I also think another real big thing, particularly when the kids are out of school in the summer, is planned summer recreation. I think from the day school's out until the day school starts. Send a kid home tired and hungry and he'll stay home and go to bed. But, too many of these kids don't have anything to do. They're standing around saying things that aren't good for a growing child.

R: Is there any real estate prejudice back in the 1960's. I've heard a lot of talk about a black had to live down on the hill, the so-called hill. He was stopped not economically, but he couldn't buy a house up on the hill if he wanted to. Whether he wanted to or not, nobody would sell him a house. They felt that they were trapped in that certain area of Farrell in the Projects.

H: Yes, I think possibly it was there. Your black people really were crowded people. They had moved partly up the hill in different locations. I remember the Adams', where they lived for years and also the Ramsey family. But, I think much of the prejudice were people that possibly were people in that area who were concerned about their behavior. Because, as I say, I can remember back when I was a child, of black people living up on the hill and they were good acceptable people. But certainly after 1969, it did open up more. I think many of those people once they go up on the hill and had to fit into that neighborhood and all did become better citizens. I think again many of the blacks thinking they were being abused. Really I think it was a pity party. They were looking upon themselves.

R: Feeling sorry for themselves?

H: That's right. What I'm saying is I can think of good black families years and years ago who lived up on the hill and were very well accepted by their neighbors.

R: Well, is there anything else that you think important that you'd like to add that we didn't cover?

H: No, I don't. As I say, the thing that Farrell has got to work on and work on hard is that particular image. They have got to show a better impression. I mean less loitering on the streets and less littering on the streets and try to get property owners and business people to take more pride in their businesses.

R: Okay, thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW