

Shelbyville Main Street Project

An Oral History Project of Shelbyville, Kentucky's Main Street

Interviewer: Mark Mefford

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Interviewee: Ben Baily

Running Time: 46 minutes

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An Interview with
BEN BAILEY

Interviewed by Mark Mark Mefford on August 16, 1995
Transcribed by Susan McMullan Groves on September 30, 1997

Uh, I was born and raised in Shelby County and, uh, I have worked, uh, in this business with Southern States Coop here in Shelbyville now for 35 years. And, uh, my earliest remembrances of Shelbyville was coming to Shelbyville with my dad who was a farmer and bringing tobacco into Shelbyville to the tobacco warehouses to get it, you know, ready for auction...for sale. And uh, of course, those earliest days like that, uh, he brought his to town with, uh, horse and wagon and, uh, we would bring it in to town and probably it would take all day and sometimes even up into the night before you could get into the warehouse to get unloaded and get it, you know, on the warehouse floor ready for auction. You know that, also, you know, at that time, we're talking about right after World War II, uh, in the late forties, uh, coming into town with my dad to do some of the other things, uh, such as, uh, buying seed or feed or something like that for the farm operation and, uh, coming to maybe a welding shop or something like that. Even a blacksmiths shop cause there was several blacksmith shops in Shelbyville at that time.

Do you remember the name of any of them?

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I knew the old welding shop up here, uh, so also coming to town on Saturday afternoon. At that time, Saturday afternoon was the big day in Shelbyville because nearly all of the county people...the rural people...farmers and all out in the county would come to Shelbyville usually by noon or shortly afternoon on Saturday, spend the afternoon shopping. Uh, in the summertime, of course, it was on even later up into the night, uh, doing their shopping and going to, uh, maybe a movie or something like that. There were a couple of movie houses up in the house right here on Main Street. And so those are some of things that I remember, you know, coming to Shelbyville for. But Saturday afternoon was the big day in Shelbyville, uh, the streets, uh, would be packed with people. Of course, all the stores were...there wasn't any shopping centers like it is now on each end of town, uh, all the stores was on Main Street in Shelbyville so that's where everybody was congregating. We didn't have any stores like we have now in the shopping centers on the east and the west end of town and everything...all the stores was in town. So that was before the days of shopping centers. Uh, um, you know as far as early like that when I was a youngster, that's about...some of the earliest things that I remember. But I did not live in Shelbyville but I did come to Shelbyville quite often for lots of different things...groceries or to buy feed and whatever, you know, for the farm.

How far outside of town did you live? About two miles out of town...north. And, of course, what we did back in those days was mainly raise tobacco. Uh, that was our main, uh, livelihood...farming back then...as it is with a lot of people even now. Uh, farmers, I'm talking about. And, uh, that's pretty much our livelihood was...farming. Probably

more so than then there is now although there was a lot of dairy operation and, uh... Another thing about farming back in those days that has, uh, changed, uh, quite a bit, uh, is sheep. Now, back at that time and up until probably the early 60's, there was a lot of sheep in Shelby County. Now there's not very many now. In fact it's almost nil. But, uh, we had some sheep and some, uh, cattle and mainly it was tobacco is what we made our living from.

Hows tobacco changed growing and selling of it and everything else over the years?
Well, it's like, you know, it's like everything else that we deal with, uh, whether it be, you know, business and computers and government and the news media and everything else, tobacco has changed just like everything else has. And, uh, the big overall change has been in production technology. Uh, and when I say that I'm probably thinking more about labor than anything else. They've gone away from... now tobacco is still more labor intensive than any other crop we grow. But it's nothing compared to what it used to be. Uh, they've taken a lot of the labor out of it. Uh, they've mechanized a lot of it, uh, both in the cultural practices as well as in the handling of it after its been harvested. But, uh, there still is a lot of manual labor but not near as much as it used to be. And, uh, that's the big change in tobacco is this production of it as far as less manual labor. Uh, it... you know they're still winding up with the same product. The overall product is still the same but it's just the way they go about producing it compared to what they did, you know, fifty years ago. And, uh, and labor is the big difference. Like I said, cultural practices, uh, chemicals, uh, pesticides and things that they do and spraying now like they used to didn't do but they had to do a lot of manual work. A good example there's is sucker control. I don't know how much you know about tobacco, but, you know, after tobacco has reached a certain point in its maturity, uh, they go out and chop the top our of it and then they let it grow some more to get a good size to it. But after you break that top our of it, you'll have suckers that grows on it where the leaf nodes are on the stalk. But used to, when I was a youngster growing up, we had to go through there and break all of those suckers out of there by hand. And now they don't do that. They use a growth regulant... a spray on that controls those and the suckers won't grow. And so that's just an example of the reduction in labor. That and then another more recent, uh, I guess you might say, a cultural or a, uh, a production renovation type of thing, was in the stripping of tobacco after its been cured in a barn and getting it ready for market. They used to strip it off the stalk and tie it up in a little... in a hand hold, I believe, and you wrap the leaf of tobacco and that was called a hand of tobacco. Well, they don't do that anymore they bale it. They just pull the leaves off and throw it in a box and press and tie it up with strings and make a bail out of it. Something similar to what a hay bail would be... what we're talking about. So, that saved a lot of time. So those were some of the big changes in tobacco production. Tobacco is still our number one cash crop just like it was fifty years ago and I guess it has been for sometime since the early part of the century. Tobacco has been the number one cash crop and it still is... by far.

Now, does Shelbyville still have a lot of tobacco warehouses in the downtown area?

Yes. They're still pretty much where, you know, they've been for years. As I said, there's one less now than there used to be. Uh, and I'm talking about a long time ago not

recently, but a long time ago there was one more than there is now. But they're pretty well still located... and I know that there has been no new ones built, is what I'm saying. And they're pretty much just where they were. And, uh, of course, that building is still there and they still pretty much have the auction the same way that they've always had, it's just the way the tobacco is prepared for auction is different in that they bail it in those square like bails rather than having it hand tied like they used to. That's the big difference. If you looked... if you had a picture comparison now on the tobacco warehouse floor versus, you know, fifty years ago, uh, the interior of the warehouse, of course, would be exactly the same. And you still have the rows of tobacco lined up on the baskets just like they always have but instead of having the round baskets fixed with the hand tied tobacco on it now you've just got the square like bails sitting on the baskets. And that's the difference there.

How many counties do you think Shelbyville draws farmers from for the tobacco market? It draws from all the surrounding counties. When you get past the surrounding counties it's not a whole lot. Uh, I really, you know some of the guys in the tobacco market could tell you a lot more about that than I could but they do draw from all the surrounding counties of Shelby County. And then when you get past that I'm not sure whether there is that much for that past the surrounding counties. I'd say that it's not a whole lot but they do draw from all the surrounding counties which would make it probably, you know, an area... a radius of, uh, twenty... twenty to twenty-five mile radius that they're actually drawing. Now I used to know and I think they still... there's a few of them that still comes up here. There is a small allotment of tobacco in the southeast corner of Missouri over there somewhere or in the eastern part of Missouri there is a allotment of burley tobacco and those folks used to bring... I say folks, I'm talking about... I can think of three or four different farmers that brought their tobacco to the Shelbyville market from Missouri because there was no markets over there. And, uh, so they brought it to Shelbyville. Now I haven't seen some of those fellows in the last several years so I don't know whether they've quit or taken it somewhere else or what. But I do know there was some Missouri tobacco that came into Shelbyville for a good many years. And then I'm sure there was some Indiana tobacco too that comes to Shelbyville cause there is some Indiana allotment in the state of Indiana. Uh, they do have a warehouse over in southern Indiana and I'm sure it gets a lot of it but there is some that comes out of Indiana too. So, it, uh, the tobacco market has always been a big draw for, uh, the city of Shelbyville. The other thing about the tobacco market which has also changed here in Shelbyville is the tobacco redriers. Now used to we had four tobacco redriers. That's going back thirty, forty, fifty years ago... there was four redriers. Now what a redrier is to explain that a little bit... after the tobacco had been sold to the tobacco companies they take it... it's not ready, of course, to be used immediately to be put into cigarettes. They have to do a lot to that tobacco. And what these redriers did... they took and, uh, they steamed it and actually cleaned it to a certain degree with steam and air and got it in the proper moisture content and packed in big thousand pound hogs heads. That's what they called it... hogs heads. And it was spelled just kinda like it sounds... H-O-G-S-H-E-A-D. That's the name. They were big wooden barrels. Big, huge wooden barrels and they called them hogs heads. And they put a thousand pounds in each one of

them and they packed those and then shipped them to the processing plants where they make their cigarettes or whatever they was gonna make out of them. And that was, you know, there was four of those operations here in Shelbyville at one time. And, of course, they operated during the tobacco market after once the tobacco market started and then they'd continue on after the tobacco market had actually closed down for awhile in order to finish processing, you know, whatever tobacco was sold. Uh, so that was, of course, here in Shelbyville they don't have any of that now. Those are all gone.

All owned by the tobacco companies now? Right. They do it at a different place. Most of it is being done in North Carolina is where most of it is being done.

How would they ship these hogs heads out of Shelbyville? Truck.

Did they ever use the rail to ship tobacco? I...I'm sure that they probably did. I'm not going to say that they didn't but I don't remember seeing any loaded on a rail car, of course, but I'd say chances are maybe they did. But mostly they went out on truck. And that's the way it's actually hauled today too. It's hauled from the auction warehouses now and loaded directly onto the trucks and taken to...mostly to North Carolina for its processing. So that is one part of the Shelbyville tobacco market that we don't have anymore is the redrying system. And, of course, I'm sure here again some of the fellows that's in the Tobacco Board of Trade and, uh, the warehouse people and all and some of the older fellows, I'm sure, could tell you probably more about that than I could. But that's some of my memories of seeing and being around the warehouses and the redriers.

Uh, did any other agricultural activities center around the downtown area like the tobacco market did? Like dairy or...? Well, another thing that you had in Shelbyville, uh, related to agriculture, uh, you had a lot of smaller associated, uh, small stores, or shops or whatever you want to call them. For instance, uh, one was cream. There used to be a couple of places in Shelbyville where the farmers could bring cream and sell it. Of course, that's no longer...hasn't been in I don't know how long but it's been a long time since anybody here in Shelbyville did that. But there used to be a place...two different places that I knew of, uh, where you could sell cream. Uh, then, of course, the other thing that's no longer in existence and been gone a good time is the, uh, Climax Mills. Down here on north Seventh Street. That's where you could take your wheat and exchange it for flour. Or buy flour if you wanted to or cornmeal and all that and, uh, but I remember my dad bringing his wheat into town. It might be twenty, thirty bushels...fifty bushels of wheat or whatever and he'd trade it for flour and take flour back home with him. Now they didn't make flour out of his wheat while he was there right at that time but they just weighed his wheat and gave him so much for it and in the exchange of flour. So I remember that operation. Of course that's been gone a long time. In fact, the place is tore down now.

What was the name of it? Climax Flour Mills. Or just...I don't think it was Climax Flour Mills, I think it was just Climax Mills was the name of it. And, uh, they made flour and they made cornmeal and I'm not sure what else they made but that was the two things

that they made a lot of. And, uh, as well as there was places that you could come sell cream, uh, there was places where you could...there was actually some places in Shelbyville...at that time where you could sell raw fur. Uh, of course back at that time most of the farmers would do a little trapping on their farm and normally would catch, you know, some mink or coon or foxes or whatever and there was a couple of places here in Shelbyville with a...actually you could bring, if you wanted to, and sell fur. And of course those guys would take it on and sell it to some big fur buyer somewheres or whatever but there was places in Shelbyville you could do that too.

Do you remember the names of any of those? One in particular that I remember that bought cream as well as, uh, bought, uh, a fur and I'm not sure what all else...I think he probably bought some poultry products...eggs maybe or something too. But I know he did buy a lot of cream and he also would buy fur too. It was Bartlett's. That was on Clay Street. The building is not there now. It's on the...let's see, it's on the south east corner of, uh, Sixth and Clay Street...is where it was. And his name was Bartlett. And, of course, that's been gone for a long time also. I don't know exactly how long...I don't remember a time but that was one of the places, uh....

How much would a pelt get you...like raccoon? Back at that time, uh, of course those prices fluctuate just like a lot of stuff does over the years but, uh, I'd say probably back at that time, uh, mink would probably bring you twenty, twenty-five dollars. Probably a fox might bring ten or fifteen dollars or something like that. Maybe a raccoon probably wouldn't have brought over four or five dollars at the most. Maybe not that much. You know I'm talking about...here again I'm talking about forty to fifty years ago. Say in the late forties and fifties...that period of time. And that's some of the earliest times that I remember some of those type things. And, uh, there was a, like I said, all the businesses...stores and all, of course, located right in Shelbyville. You didn't have the shopping centers now like we have at the west end of town and the east end of town so the downtown area of Shelbyville was a lot more crowded with people than it is now. And traffic too, I might add. Uh, even though the traffic is bad now too, you know, I remember well on Saturday afternoons there would be a lot of people in town. But the traffic would be bad. Everybody trying to find parking places, you know, and of course there wasn't any interstate 64 at that time so all the traffic was coming on US 60 right through Shelbyville, see. And so traffic was bad as well as it was just crowded usually with a lot of people. Particularly if the weather was good...like in the summertime.

Were the roads a problem getting your tobacco to market when you were growing up in Shelbyville? Well, the roads, you know, in those days was somewhat of a problem more so than they are. I don't know as it was any big problem unless you had some real bad weather, of course. Uh, of course we had lots of gravel roads back then. See, we don't have any gravel roads now in Shelby County. Every one of them has been blacktopped. Every county road, every state road in Shelby County is blacktopped. But it wasn't that a way then, of course. It was...in fact the majority of the county roads...well, in fact all of the county roads was probably gravel. And maybe even some state roads was gravel at that time. And, uh, so, you know, consequently you could have some problems

in real bad weather, such as the snow, more so than you do now, as well as maybe a real hard rain or a lot of freeze and thaw out weather and rain and all would make the roads real muddy and ruts in them, you know, that type thing as well as snow would be to make them a problem to more so than it is now. Roads wasn't as wide, of course, as they are now either. Of course I remember riding the school buses on the county... going to the county schools at that time and, as I said, most of the roads that we traveled was gravel. And, uh, usually when you met... the school bus would meet another vehicle, why you'd just have to about pull over and stop was the way you'd have to do it. And, of course, there wasn't near as much traffic out in the county as it is now. But, uh, when you did meet somebody you usually had to pretty much pull over to the side of the road and stop. The roads were narrow. There's big improvement in the roads, of course, since those days.

Were there any ditches in the side of the road then like there are now? Oh yeh. They had them ditched. Oh yeh, they were ditched. But, uh, they were just gravel construction and there wasn't any hard pavement on them. And, uh, that created problems after a hard rain had washed the gravel off in places in the road... the water would actually wash it off and flooded over the ditches or the culverts or something. And if it washed the rock off, why, you'd have more dirt or mud or whatever. The roads would be a lot softer. It was just... needless to say the roads wasn't nearly as good. That's what it amounted to. Wasn't only that they wasn't paved, but they wasn't as wide either.

Did you all go to church in the country or in town? We went to church in the country. Uh, I never did come to Shelbyville for church. We went to a country church before we went to two or three different ones over the years that I can remember. And I can... and you know that a... you know we've got a lot of old churches in the county, uh, most of the ones that I can think of back at that time are still in existence today. Uh, I guess one of the bigger things that I remember about in the county and having been educated, raised here in the county is the school system is, of course, a lot different than back then. Uh, let's see, at that time, before 1950 or before 1949, I believe was the year, either '49 or '50... there was, let's see... one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight... I guess there was eight high schools in Shelby County at that time. Well, then they consolidated down to, uh, well, three really in the county and then, of course, one in Shelbyville... including that one. But that one was, of course, a different district all together and of course now it's all the same but at that time Shelbyville's school system was a different school district than the county was. But the county consolidated in either '49 or '50 to three high schools. That was Bagdad, Waddy and Simpsonville. Before that they had, uh, I guess, before that, I think I can remember all of them, they not only had Bagdad, Waddy and Simpsonville, but they also had Gleneyrie, they had Finchville, they had Henry Clay, and they had Cropper, and, uh, I guess Mt. Eden. All of those were high schools.

And where'd you go to? I went to Bagdad. Graduated from Bagdad in 1959. And, uh, so, like I said, there was more schools... smaller schools. To give you an idea of what we're talking about, when I graduated from Bagdad in 1959, there was 28 of us in the senior class. And there was only one more graduating class at Bagdad, Waddy and

Simpsonville and they all merged into Shelby County High School in 1961. There was only one more class after I graduated...that was 1960. And then in '61 they was all consolidated. So, uh, but then in '49...it was either '49 or '50, I can't remember which year, was the last year for all the other high schools that was in the county. They all consolidated to three. And then, of course, like I said, they still had Shelbyville High School. That was a different district. I forgot what the year was that they all consolidated. Both Shelbyville and Shelby County, I'm thinking it was 1973, I believe was the year that they consolidated. I'm not sure of that date but I think it's about right. And then that's all one system now.

Well, you say you've been here at Southern States for 35 years? I've been here for 35 years.

Has it always been in this location as long as you've been here? Has it been what now? Has it always been in this location? Yes, in this location it has. Now as I said we had our 50th anniversary, uh, this year. Southern States...this company was organized in 1945 and actually opened for business in April of 1945 in a little rented building down here on Clay Street. It was a rented building at that time. Uh, this building right here where we're setting now was built in 1948. That's when it was constructed. Constructed by Southern States. And, uh, they started their operation here I'm not sure of the date of when it was actually completed...the month or whatever but they started working out of this building sometime in 1948 doing business. And then since then we've expanded around and we now own property up on the west side of Seventh Street, we own property on the north side of Bradshaw Street, as well as the south side of Bradshaw street but we have kind of expanded over the years to where we now cover, I guess we probably cover...our total area probably covers close to a 2 block area that we actually cover here now. But we've got Seventh Street and Bradshaw Street running in between us and we own property on both sides of the streets. But, uh, this as I said was a...

----END OF SIDE 1----

All right, you were saying you were the third manager? As I was saying now I'm the third manager that's been here in 50 years so the first manager was only here for a little less than 3 years and then, uh, he was promoted and moved to another location and there was a fellow then that became manager that was manager for 30 years. From 1948 to 1978 and then when he retired I became manager here in 1978. And, uh, I started to work here in the winter of '60-'61 and, uh, I was in the...was drafted into the military in '65 and '66 I was in the Army during that period of time for two years. I came back to work...when I was discharged I came back to work for Southern States and, uh, became assistant manager in late 1966...I became assistant manager. And then I was assistant manager for 12 years and then in '78 after Mr. George VanHuss who was the manager that was here for 30 years retired, why, I became manager. So, I've been the third manager in fifty years. I might add a little history of this piece of property right here as to what it was and all. This property right here next to the railroad...Southern Railroad track...uh, was known before this building...before Southern States purchased this

property and built a building on it, this was know as the Turkey Pens. Uh, and what it was was, uh, an area where they collected turkeys, ducks, geese and several other things I understand... chickens and all that and they shipped it by rail to Louisville. The railroad track is right over here next to us. But they called this the Turkey Pens. It's what the local people called it... the Turkey Pens right here. But it was a place where they brought... the farmers brought in... or anybody brought in, uh, fowl, whether it be ducks or turkeys, chickens or whatever they wanted to ship for sale to Louisville and that's where they loaded them at on the train right here. That's what this area right here was called.

Well, what kind of changes have gone on in the business here. You're pretty close to Main Street. Well, the big thing, I guess, that's happened in our business that has changed since I can remember in 35 years is pretty much mirrors everything that has happened in farming and agriculture. The big thing has probably been the reduction of manual labor that we do so much now with more machinery, uh, even the bookkeeping systems and all are all computerized whereas, of course everything was handwritten when I first started. Uh, all the statements, the monthly bills and statements that went out was all handwritten and all that. And now, of course it's all computerized. We don't hardly have to write much of anything, you know, as far as invoices and statements and bills and, you know, things of that sort... it's all computerized. That part of it is a big change. Of course the products that we handle, you also have to realize that is heavy tonnage material. I'm talking about fertilizer. I'm talking about feed. I'm talking about seed as well as fencing supplies and things that I mean... that's heavy weight material. Lots of tons involved. And back in those days though it was all done by hand. I guess the closest thing that we had to a piece of machinery to handle that with was a duck bill. Just a cart... we called them duck bills... a two wheel cart that you could stack a few bags of something on and push it around. That was it. Everything was loaded off of... unloaded off of trucks, loaded back up on trucks and put in patrons vehicles or whatever was all done by hand. Now we have two things that have changed. One of them being bulk. We have most of our tonnage in fertilizer in a bulk. Most of our tonnage in feed is bulk. Even some of our seed is in bulk. And it's handled with a loader. One guy can load a whole bunch of tons in a short period of time. Forklift operation. You know a lot of our other stuff is loaded and unloaded with a forklift. And, uh, front end loaders and all for the fertilizer and conveyors and delivery systems for seed and all that. So that's a big change as far as the manual labor part of what we do. Uh, but the other bigger changes, you might say, besides the manual labor part of it is technology. Uh, I don't think a lot of people outside of agriculture... I don't think they realize how much technology is now involved in agriculture. Uh, well let's put it... let me put it another way. The technology in agriculture has changed just as much as it has in all the other fields of business. Whether it be medicine or whether it be news media or whatever it is. But the technology... people don't realize how much the technology really has changed. And what I mean, well, trying to give some examples of that. One of the big changes in technology that has developed since I have been here in 35 years has been no till farming. That was a very drastic change from the way everybody grew their crops when they started no tilling. In other words, they didn't work the gourd... they didn't plow the ground and work it up and that was a big change. But it took a lot of technology in equipment and pesticides and

seed varieties and all of those things...it took a lot of technology to do that. Uh, you know, the other big technology that you don't hear a whole lot about but it has made a big change in the production of farmers crops and that is seed variety. You take hybridization is one...that was a big change that took place in the late '40s and early '50s. That really didn't start happening big time to really affect agriculture until, I guess, in the early '50s. They started with hybrid corn on the first thing. But now we have hybrid crops of all types of crops. And those have boosted production is what they've done. Uh, technology in pesticides is another big one. For wheat control and no till and insect control and disease control. The technology there has changed tremendously. Equipment technology is another one. Uh, machinery that they use for combining, for planters, sprayers, the tractor itself. You know hay making equipment...all of that technology had changed a lot and, uh, those are some of the big things that has changed in agriculture over, you know, my lifetime and, uh, naturally it has boosted agricultural output by a lot. You know farmers production has increased tremendously as far as his output and efficiency per man hour...and that type thing. If it hadn't of, they'd of all went broke. Because we have to look at pricing. Let's take today...the price of a bushel of corn today compared to what it was fifty years ago or forty years ago. It's a little bit higher but just a little. We're talking about maybe it might be 40% higher. A bushel of corn today is about \$2.75. A bushel of corn forty or fifty years ago was probably \$1.50 or \$2.00. Now you compare that to a lot of other products. Let's take for instance the things that a farmer has to buy such as, well, let's just take a piece of farm machinery would be one. You know, just a medium sized tractor that's, let's say, 40, 40 horsepower tractor today compared to...of course that was a big tractor back in them days, the medium sized ones now is the real big ones back then. But the prices would probably be, I don't know, 500% probably higher. But yet, stuff that he sells is nothing like gone up that much. So his efficiency had to go up or they'd of went broke. And that's the way the farmer has survived. He has survived by being able to be more efficient in his production. That's the way he's...whether it's milk production, tobacco production, grains, beef cattle, hogs, whatever. He has survived because of his efficiency has improved. Not because the prices of his product has gone way up that he sells. It has gone up some though but nothing like compared to, let's say, inflation is or say, uh, the cost of machinery or the cost of petroleum is a good one, the cost of health care or whatever it is. Those are far and away higher than, uh, as far as inflationary factor over what his products are but he has survived because he's been efficient. No, like any other sector of business in the country, there has been a lot of farmers gone bankrupt. Just like any other businesses out. But yet the good ones...and there's a lot of old farmers in the county that've been farming for longer than I can remember. And they're still farming. And they have...over the years they have survived because, not only...the way that they have increased their efficiency. That's the way that he has done it but what has helped him do it is that they have been a lot of changes made and they have had to accept changes...sometime some of them accept it slower than others but they have accepted change just like everybody else has and they've had to change the way they do things. The ones that didn't change...most of them are gone the wayside. That's kind of the way that whole thing works...just like any other business.

Well, that's about all the questions I've got. Is there anything else you'd like to add? Something I haven't asked you about? Well, uh, you know, of course looking at changes in Shelbyville, you know, getting back to that thing. As I've said, I've been around Shelbyville all my life and, uh, of course we've grown...of course we're not a big city by no means but yet we have grown from just a small, country town in the last fifty years to, you know, a sizable area now with the increase in the population of Shelby County not just around Shelbyville but also Shelby County. And, of course, the growth around Shelbyville...the subdivisions and shopping centers and roads and everything that have happened over the years...interstate 64 and all that came through in the 60's. And all that has changed, of course, our proximity to metropolitan areas like Louisville have had a big affect on that and, uh, you know, Shelbyville and Shelby County, I'm not just saying Shelbyville, it's fast, I guess, leaving...or not being necessarily known anymore as a farm town or just a rural community but with all the factories now that we have and all it's becoming known more as a industrial area, you know, shopping area or whatever, you know, along with...we still have a lot of agriculture in Shelby County. It's still, I think Shelby County is still, uh, what the...I think it's still ranked in total agriculture we're still ranked...now this is as of 1993, it's the last full year of figures that I've got...but as of 1993, we are ranked 9th in the state in total agriculture commodities. The value of all agricultural commodities sold, we rank 9th in the state. So we're still a very large agriculture area. But we are...that is changing with this industry thats come in and, uh, you know, uh, growth in houses and subdivisions and things of that sort. What has brought this about...Interstate 64 was the beginning of it and then its grown from that because of our proximity to Louisville as well as even Frankfort and Lexington and whatever. And I think those areas are expanding also. People moving out. Our industries that have come in has attracted people...businesses of all kinds and also people building homes and whatever so its...Shelby County is fast changing. I think it's probably changing about as fast as any county in Kentucky. What it's going to be 20 years from now or 50 years from now, I don't know, I'm sure one thing that you can say is it will be different. Just like everything else is...it changes.

Well, I appreciate your time. Well, I'm glad that you're working on this thing. I think that's probably a pretty good thing to do is to start putting down and getting things down as far as history is concerned. Because I tell you what, you'll be surprised just in my lifetime...which I'm not necessarily an old person, but just thinking back since you and I have been talking of the things forty years ago when I was a kid growing up and in high school and all the things that have gone by the wayside how quick that you forget them. And you know what happened as well as how things were once and where things were located at and just like the things...you know, history is lost pretty quick sometime. It really is. And the older you get the more that you realize that.