

Shelbyville Main Street Project

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

Interviewer: Mark Mefford

Date: 8-9-95

Interviewee: Charles & Jean Nash

Running Time: 44 minutes

Side One

COUNTER

- 000 INTRODUCTION
- 010 BACKGROUND BORN: CHARLES-MAY 10, 1931; JEAN- MAY 29, 1932.
- 040 EARLY MEMORIES OF THE DOWNTOWN AREAS: SATURDAY SOCIALIZING AND SHOPPING.
- 071 DOWNTOWN RETAILERS AND SERVICES.
- 088 POLICEMEN ON FOOT PATROL.
- 120 SHELBYVILLE'S POOL HALLS.
- 140 BANKS IN SHELBYVILLE.
- 160 DOWNTOWN RETAIL OUTLETS.
- 187 SEGREGATION IN SHELBYVILLE.
- 195 MOVIE THEATERS IN SHELBYVILLE.
- 210 PRESIDENT TRUMAN CAMPAIGNING IN SHELBYVILLE.
- 236 TOBACCO FESTIVAL.
- 292 SHELBY COUNTY FAIR.
- 300 SHELBYVILLE'S ICE HOUSE: BUYING ICE BY THE BLOCK.

- 350 WORLD WAR II IN SHELBYVILLE.
395 CHANGES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA IN THE 1950s.
450 TRANSPORTATION CHANGES IN SHELBYVILLE: INTER URBAN.

Side Two

- 009 INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON THE DOWNTOWN AREA.
024 WORKING AT THE FEED STORE: CHANGES IN THAT BUSINESS.
062 WORKING AT THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.
093 CHANGES IN THE MAIN STREET AREA: CLOSED RETAILERS.
220 END.

Charles & Jean Nash
Shelbyville Main Street
Oral History Project
Interview by Mark Meford
August 9, 1995

Charles & Jean Nash
Shelbyville Main Street
Oral History Project
Interview by Mark Meford
August 9, 1995

Meford: Why don't you start by telling me your name?

Charlie: Charles P. Nash, Jr.

Meford: When were you born?

Charlie: May 10, 1931

Meford: Mrs. Nash, would you tell me your full name?

Jean: Jean Hancock Nash and I was born May 29, 1932.

Meford: Mr. Nash, what were your parents names?

Charlie: Charles Nash, Sr. and Sarah Harvason Nash.

Meford: What was your fathers occupation?

Charlie: He was County Clerk up until 1967 when he retired at the age of 77. He'd been County Clerk for 35-36 years.....something like that. He ran the court house that long anyway.

Meford: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Charlie: One brothers and he is a Dr. or retired Dr. in Louisville.

Meford: Do you have any children? Do you have a son?

Charlie: Yes, we have two children. They are both adopted. Our son is 25 years old and our daughter is 23 years old.

Meford: Are the both away at school?

Charlie: Yes. Will is in graduate school at the University of Washington and Dottie Gayle has just completed her college degree at the University of Louisville. She's thinking about going ahead and getting her Masters.

Meford: Do you think they'll come back to Shelbyville?

Charlie: I don't know. Being in artictural work, it might be a little limited as to how good the future would be here for him. I just don't know. Of course, we're a growing community and he might fit in real well there. There are several artichets here in the county.

Meford: Mrs. Nash, what are your parents names?

Jean: Grant Davison Hancock and Blanch Clements Hancock.

Meford: Do they live in Shelbyville?

Jean: They were both born and lived in Shelby County.

Meford: What are some of your early memories of the downtown area? I guess.....heels of the Great Depression, how much do you recall? The war years?

Charlie: We were depression babies and fortunately we don't have a lot of memories of suffering from that like some people who are a little older. It used to be that downtown, everybody from the county would come in on the weekend, on Saturday. Up and down the streets, going in and out of stores, it was a nice situation and people got to visit with each other. You know, from around the county that didn't get to see each other during the week. It was right busy back in that time.

Jean: It would be crowded on Saturday. You could hardly walk up and down the street. It was just shoulder to shoulder almost.

Meford: What kind of activities went on? Did they come to trade?

Jean: Everyone came to do their shopping.

Charlie: The grocery stores were downtown rather than out in the suburbs like they are now. Your clothing stores and your restaurants, drug stores.....everything was right there in the middle of town.

Meford: So was coming to town and all day affair?

Charlie: For a while I think it was.

Jean: Yes, people would come and almost spend the day.

Meford: Stay until night time and then go on back:

Jean: Yeah, they would see everybody on the street and just talk and as you say, they did their shopping. They only came to town once a week. These were people out in the county you know.

Charlie: Of course the people who lived in town didn't do that much. More or less the community.

Jean: The rule area.

Charlie: It was definitely a rule town.

Meford: What went on in town during the week?

Charlie: Well I guess, primarily just the business activities that went on in a small community. Your police department, your court house, your lawyers, your doctors, you know, the routine.

Meford: So you mentioned that you went to town to get cloths and groceries, what other kinds of stores were open downtown? Were their banks downtown?

Charlie: Oh yes, your banks, feed stores.....

Jean: Hardware stores.

Charlie: That's almost all turned into antique stores now. They are probably selling some of the same things they were NEW back then.

Jean: You went to the store to buy paint and wall paper and everything you'd want was right there in Shelbyville.

Meford: Did people go to Louisville much to shop?

Jean: Well yeah, I guess we all went to Louisville to buy cloths.

Charlie: it's sorta funny I guess, I've always heard that the people in Shelbyville would be more apted to go to Louisville than the people in the county come to Shelbyville. I really don't know why but of course back at that time you would go into your department store up here and you didn't have quite the selection but you had an awful lot of choices up here, just as well as if you went to Louisville.

Jean: Some of the fun things you remember, there was always a policeman walking the streets downtown or maybe two. If you needed to get across the street and he was there close, he'd stop the traffic and let you go across.....anywhere you wanted to get across. They didn't have cross walks then.

Meford: You'd just find a policeman to cross the street?

Jean: If there was a policeman there, he would stop and let you cross the street, or stop traffic and you'd cross the street.

Meford: Do you remember any of the policemen's names in particular?

Jean: Well the Chief of Police was.....oh Charles, you remember.
Charles: Chief Jones
Jean: Yeah.
Charlie: Archie Ware, I remember Archie Ware, he worked with youngster and the Golden Gloves. His son participated in that as a boxer.
Jean: This was probably a little bit later, but what was "Frostie's" name?
Charlie: Forest Beckley
Jean: Forest Beckley, yeah, and of course he's still living.
Meford: Was all police work done on foot at that time? Did they have a patrol car?
Jean: I don't remember. Did they have a police car?
Charlie: Surely they did.
Jean: It seems to me like, maybe, Mr. Jones had a police car but I can't remember. I just remember seeing them on foot.
Charlie: Of course, they were supposed to be taking care of the whole city. I never did see them walking in the other areas. I'm sure they had something.....
Jean: Yeah, I'm sure they had some kind of vehicles. As I say, this was later, Frostie had a little motor-cycle thing.
Charlie: Yes, they put him in one of those so he could check the parking meters.
Jean: Yeah, he had to go around and check the parking meters.
Meford: How much did it cost for the parking meters at that time? Do you remember?
Charlie: No, I don't. I don't know if you got as much as an hour for a nickel or not.
Jean: Oh yes I think so. It seems to me that they even took pennies.
Charlie: Yes, they took pennies for up to twelve minutes or something like that. I don't remember for sure on that.
Meford: Well, what kind of social events went on downtown? You said that you could go down and socialize, what did they do when you got there?
Jean: Stood on the side of the street and talked. I don't know when they put the bowling alley in, that was much later
Charlie: That was 40 some years ago when they put the bowling alley in.
Jean: Ever since I can remember, there's been at least one pool room.
Charlie: There used to be two and maybe three.
Jean: Of course, the women never frequented the pool room.
Meford: Is that right. Men only?
Charlie: Primarily. You might have one or two to go in occasionally to check on their husbands.
Jean: Well I didn't know any of them.
Meford: Did they just play pool or did they serve beer or food?
Jean: They served beer and some kind of food. You could tell when you walked by.
Charlie: People smoked their cigars and the smoke would follow up on down the street.
Meford: What were the names of some of these pool rooms? Do you remember?
Charlie: Well, we had Donahues and Dewy's, they were the two I remember.
Of course Dewy's went out of business in the last 15-20 years, I doubt it was that long.
Donahues and Dewy's were the two main ones back then when I was growing up.
Meford: Where were they located at?

Charlie: Both of them were on the south side of Main. One between 5th and 6th Street and if I'm not mistaken Donahues was between 6th and 7th.

Jean: There was one, where they added onto the Bank of Shelbyville.

Charlie: That was Dewy's.

Jean: Yeah. It was right next to the bank wasn't it? The Bank of Shelbyville, I guess, has been there ever since it began.

Charlie: Now it 's The Liberty National. They used to have 4 banks within, well 3 are still there, one was on the corner of 5th and the other on the corner of 6th and the other two were in-between.

Meford: Are any of the banks that are downtown now the same bank that was there in the 40's?

Charlie: Shelby County Trust and of course The Citizens.

Jean: Not in the same location.

Charlie: Now the trust company is. It's in the same location.

Jean: The Bank of Shelbyville too.

Charlie: It's not local anymore. It's Louisville, a branch of Liberty National.

Jean: We always have jewelry store. It's was Kenny's wasn't it?

Charlie: Yes, before it was Mark Scarce's.

Jean: Before Mark Scarce took it over.

Meford: What did the women do while the men were playing pool or what ever that did in the pool hall?

Jean: Well, I don't know because.....well my father did not frequent the pool hall.

Charlie: Well they were probably milling around in Lincoln's or Lerman's or Lawson's or Ruben's.

Those were all dry goods stores.

Jean: The drug stores had lunch counters and ice cream and you'd always go in and get ice cream. There used to be, now my sister could tell you more about this than I can, a place called the Hitching Post and that's were the young people would hang out. This was probably.....what..... more than 50 years ago.

Charlie: Well it probably was. I remember it.

Jean: Then there was Clyde Hall's, he sold ice cream and I don't know what else he sold. Do you?

Charlie: No

Jean: Young people used to hang out there too. He always got along with them nicely.....the young people.

Meford: Did he serve sodas, ice cream and things like that?

Charlie: Yeah, just a nice gathering place after school.

Meford: Were these pool halls and places like the Hitching Post segregated? Did you see blacks go in there? Was it social segregation?

Charlie: It was primarily social as you say.

Jean: No, I don't recall ever seeing any signs.

Charlie: I don't either. It was probably just a case of where they didn't feel very comfortable and they just didn't go. I don't know what the percentage of whites to.....you know, how many of them were around here at that time growing up.

Meford: Was there a movie theater here in town?

Charlie: There was two of them.

Meford: What were the names of those?

Charlie: I think one of them was Shelby Theater and I don't know what the other one was called. It was down just below the bank the other one, I can't remember the name of it.

Jean: Well, of course, we used to have the old hotel. It burned.

Meford: What was the name of it?

Jean: Armstrong's. Wasn't it?

Charlie: Yeah.

Meford: When did it burn? Do you remember?

Charlie: It was somewhere between 1945 and 1948. It burned when I was in high school. They let us out and we walked down there that day, if I remember correctly. The same way they let us out to go and see, Truman was campaigning for president. He came through on a train.

Meford: Oh, he came through Shelbyville?

Charlie: Yeah. He gave a speech there at the train station. He never got off the train.

Meford: Was it the L&N or the Southern.

Charlie: The L&N.

Jean: All the county schools, of course back then we had 1-12 grades and I came in town to see him and I don't recall, what year was that? I think all the county schools brought kids in to see him.

Meford: Now do you remember.....you see him? Do you remember what he said?

Jean: Heavens no!

Charlie: He had his family traced back to somewhere here in the county. I don't remember what the connection was but there was some family connection. Some of his ancestors were from this general area.

Jean: Of course a lot of them are buried down at Long Run and in that area.

Meford: Harry Truman's people?

Jean: I think so. I think I'm right about that.

Meford: Were there any annual social events? Like a fall festival?

Charlie: Yes, we had a Tobacco Festival every year. That was a big thing. Of course the county fair and that's been going on in excess of 100 years.

Jean: The Tobacco Festival was a pretty good event. They'd have a parade and they always had a king and queen and that was a big event. That's been going on ever since I can remember.

Charlie: Didn't they discontinue that for just a short period?

Jean: Yes, I think they did. I think they lost interest.

Charlie: I don't think they were getting enough support. Back in their "hay day" there was a lot of floats.

Jean: Every school would make a float.....they'd do their float. I can remember one year, I was probably in about the second or third grade, (of course I went to Finchville School) and they covered something, and what they used, I don't know, with leaves (it was in the fall, September or October) somehow they covered something with leaves to make a float. It won first prize.

Meford: What other things went on during the Tobacco Festival besides floats?

Charlie: Well they had , what they called a Coon Drag. They had a lot of activities, a dance (closed off part of Main Street) at night, I can't remember all the activities.

Meford: How long did it go on for? A week? A couple of days?

Jean: Just one day.

Charlie: One day.

Jean: I guess the parade probably was in late morning and then, I don't know anything else that did go on.....they had the King and Queen contest. Now I guess they held that the day before or sometime because they always rode a float in the parade.

Charlie: That may have been from the fair.

Jean: No, they used to do that for the Tobacco Festival too. Because I remember that year that they had that float, Helen Youngman and (Oh dear, I said I remember.) well, it won't come to me now but I know who the king was.....Kenneth. I could give you (Charlie) some hints and you'd know who it was but I'm not going to. Oh, what was his name.....well it doesn't make any difference. But they were the King and Queen.

Meford: What time of the year was the fair?

Charlie: Usually July or August.

Jean: I guess about the same time it is now.

Meford: What went on at the fair? Was it located at the fairgrounds where they are now?

Jean: Yes, same place it is now.

Charlie: They'd have the carnival there with the rides and all. They would have the cattle show and the horse show.

Jean: Oh, I'll tell you something else that was downtown. It was almost, it was right next to the bridge, on the other end of town.....it was the ice house. I can remember when I was quite young, we would stop by and get a great big block of ice, wrap it up so it wouldn't melt and put it in the trunk of the car. We didn't have a refrigerator.

Charlie: They delivered ice all over town back then. When I was a youngster, I remember we used to chase the ice truck and he would chip off little pieces occasionally and throw it to us and we'd chew on ice.

Meford: How big were these blocks of ice?

Jean: Well they came in different sizes. They would cut it the size you wanted. I think you could get 5lbs or..... it came by weight.

Charlie: I don't know how big the heaviest ones were. They'd take those ice picks and split those things pretty easy.

Jean: The ones we'd get were about this long.....

Meford: 3-4 foot?

Jean: Well it wouldn't be quite that much I don't guess. That's just about 2 ½ feet isn't it? But anyhow, it would be maybe this big and it was the smoothest ice you could every imagine.

Meford: It was over by the bridge?

Jean: Yeah.

Meford: Did they get their water from the creek?

Jean: Surely not. Oh, I'm sure they didn't because you'd use it in ice tea or whatever. I don't know where they'd get.....did they make it here?

Charlie: I feel like they did. The Montgomery's had it for years.

Jean: The building had a porch on the front of it and a great big door.....of course it was refrigerated.

Meford: What was the name of it? Was it just called the Ice House?

Jean: It probably had a name but that's all I remember. But I guess maybe, at least once a week, we'd come to town to get ice. Some people that lived out in the county used to have ice houses. My grandmother had one and it was quite large, I couldn't call it a pit but I guess it was and they would, in the winter they would take ice from the pond or the creek, put it in there and then put straw on it and it would stay almost all summer.

Meford: Is that right? At the end of WWII, do you remember any parades for the veterans or did anything go on at all?

Charlie: I don't know that it did locally. Of course when they had VJ-day, what time of the year was that? Jean: It was in the spring.

Charlie: It was in the summer. VJ day, I was out I St. Louis at that time and I'm telling you everybody went wild out there. They tied everything they could get their hands on to the back of automobiles and dragged them up and down the streets. I can remember, they raided junk yards and pulled fenders.....anything to make noise. Everybody was just.....

Jean: Well, I was in Richmond. My sister was in college up there and I was visiting. I'm 51/2 years younger than she and we, it was, everybody was just out on the streets and hollering and jumping and somehow, someone had a car (there were 10 of us I that car, all of them college students but me) and we went to Berea because they had a Navel.....something.....the Navy had something over there at Berea College and we were driving down the street and here comes all these sailors. I don't think they ever dress like that anymore, with the little hats.

Charlie: And the bellbottom trousers?

Jean: Yes. They were hanging on the outside of that car, oh it was just somethin! I guess so many of people who had lost brothers in WWII or had them I the war, naturally they were quite excited. I don't know what went on in Shelbyville. I was not here.

Charlie: I wasn't either.

Meford: What kind of changes happened in the downtown area in the 50's, the Main Street area?

Charlie: From then to now, do you mean?

Meford: From the 40's to the 50's. Is there any.....

Charlie: I have a hard time establishing what happened in that 10 years. When I was in high school, that would have been in the 40's, we still had the movie going on at that time because we would come down and go to the movies occasionally. Scofields, at that time, had a counter there, ice cream and the old Co-Cola tables and chairs, and a bunch of us could get together there in the afternoons after school.

Jean: Most of the young people's activity, at that time, was centered in the church.

Wouldn't you say that.....other than school? There were a lot of church activities.

Charlie: Yeah, I'd say so.

Meford: Any one church in particular or just what ever church you happened to go to?

Jean: You could go from one to another. You'd go to one and then a youth director from another that would get popular and you'd switch.

Meford: What kind of things went on at the church?

Jean: Charlton can tell you more about what went on up here that I can. I went to a county church.

Charlie: Well the activities, we'd have picnics, they had cases of "Pick Up" or "Clean Up" days where you'd go around and help older people maybe.

Meford: What church did you go to?

Charlie: Presbyterian. The Christian Church had a right active "Young People's Group" back at that time. They'd just get together every Sunday afternoon.

Jean: Well, they'd always have a young people's group on Sunday evenings.

Meford: What kind of changes have occurred in transportation in the 40's and 50's. Not only in the downtown area but to and from the downtown area?

Charlie: Well, there's almost always been automobiles around here since I've been old enough to remember. Now, right up US60, there used to be an interurban type thing. It had tracks in the middle of the highway. A lot of people caught that. My dad used to use that to go back and forth to work. In the late 30's is when they tore that track up and it was scrap. It was almost all together automobiles. Well we had the Greyhound Bus running up and down, but primarily automobiles.

Meford: Did the interurban make stops between here and Louisville?

Charlie: That was the building, right over there.

Meford: What is the name of that road it's on the corner of?

Charlie: Scott's Station.

Meford: That building was the stop? So I guess it stopped in Simpsonville?

Charlie: I don't know if it stopped other places along the road or not. It was sorta like a street car. Dad used to ride that back and forth in the 1930's.

Jean: When did they take that out? Have you.....

Meford: Other people told me that they took it out during the war to sell.

Charlie: They sold it to Japan.

Meford: Someone told me that they used it for the war effort. Now if they sold it to Japan, it must have been a little earlier than I heard.

Charlie: Well, it was in the 1930's and they used to always tell the story that we sold a bunch of that scrap to Japan and then they came back and bombed us with it.

Jean: I never did ride it but I remember the rails.

Charlie: Well, they tore them up and I don't know, I may be a little off on my dates but I was thinking it was in the middle to late 30's is when they pulled those things up.

Meford: How as the railroad changed over the years?

Charlie: Well you don't have near as much traffic going back and forth. I guess you don't have any passengers to amount to anything. It's all freight now and it used to be, well people would catch the train right over here at Scott's Station Road, there was a station where the train ran though the summer and you could catch a train over there and go to Louisville or Frankfort. You could catch the Southern right there in town. I can't remember riding the trains very much. I don't guess I ever did just going to close places. I rode trains when I was in service a time or two when I had to get back.

Jean: I remember riding the train one time to Louisville and back.

Meford: What kind of influence did agriculture have on the downtown area? Say, like, your tobacco market and thing like that?

Charlie: Tremendous, because we are primarily an agriculture area. We've changed in the last 20 years to a certain extent. We have more factories and things come in but it's always been very dependent on agriculture. Not quite as much not as it used to be. When I first went into the feed store down there, there was so many different dairies that had 20 cows or something like that, you just don't hear of that anymore. There are just going out and they are not economically feasible I guess to try and continue. The big dairies are about the only thing that's still used. I don't know how many dairies have gone out of business just since I left the store. There have been several pretty good size ones that have gone out.

Meford: What years were you running the feed store?

Charlie: I bought into the business in 1966, the middle of 66 and left in the first of 1990.

Meford: What kind of changes occurred in that business.

Charlie: When I was first there, we used to buy a world of orchard grass and fescue and we would process that and we had a salesman on the road and delivery trucks that ran routes everyday. We custom ground feed right there on the farm and all of that has just about gone by the wayside. They don't use a salesman out on the road anymore. Most all of your feed is picked up by the individual farmers. There is very little delivery except for your bulk feed and that for the dairy. Most of it is picked up by pick-ups and we don't have any routine deliveries anymore.

Jean: You used to sell a lot more fertilizer.

Charlie: Well, now most of that has gone into bulk and we never did sell any that way. There is just less farming going on than there used to be. So much land is being developed and small acreage, 5 acres and things like that. I guess our show horses and Thoroughbred horses have taken over more in the last 15-20 years than they used to. More property like that. We have across the road two different farms, both of them have Thoroughbreds.

Meford: Well is agriculture still as big a part of the community as when you took over the feed store.

Charlie: Well no, I would say not. We have more people working in factories or you know, other types of jobs rather than in agriculture. For one thing, they've come up with bigger equipment, takes less people to do it than is used to and so there's not as many people working at it full time. The town is still I'm sure reasonable dependent on agriculture because that's where a lot of the money comes from.

Meford: Now, did you say that you worked with your father in the County Clerk's Office?

Charlie: Yes, I started there before I went into the service and I worked there after I got out in 1955 till 1966. I was actually there off and on for about 12 or 13 years.

Meford: And your father worked there?

Charlie: Yes, 30 some years. He was in the Court House from, he left there in 67', a year after I did. He had been there when I was born in 31'. He was probably in the sheriff's office at that time. He was a deputy sheriff for one term.

Meford: What kind of changes have gone on the County Clerks Office?

Charlie: Well, it used to be that everything had to be hand typed. All the records and in order to check them you had to have two people. One reading and one comparing from the original document to what you typed on the books. You had to be sure they were correct. Now you have the photo-copying machines and everything and you don't have to do all that and it's much faster. Now days when they issue an automobile license, Frankfort can tell you almost immediately who owns that car because it goes right on into the computer up there. It used to be, say if you went in and bought a license for your car on Monday, it wasn't even mailed into Frankfort until the next Monday. So there was a delay there along those lines. They were all hand written back then and now it's just done by computers and stuff. There is a tremendous change in the way records are kept now. It's entirely different, we were still doing it the old way when I left there, so I can't even relate to a lot that goes on now.

Meford: What do you think were the biggest changes that occurred in the Main Street down town area up to today?

Charlie: Well, your individual businesses have gone out now and some much of it is antique stores. You've probably noticed when you go up and down the street. Wal-Mart has beat out the downtown.

Jean: There's no longer a drug store downtown. It used to be that we had clothing stores, the departments store were there. Let's see what else?

Charlie: The down town area now is primarily filled up with lawyers, antique stores, offices things, a couple of restaurants are down there, and the banks are still down there. The lending institutions, however, I think Farmers Home and all them have moved to the out skirts now.

Jean: You had grocery stores.

Charlie: It was awful handy for people who had apartments above the stores down there because they could get anything. They didn't have to worry about driving or anything else. They could just walk and get whatever they wanted. Of course, once they left, it made it real hard on some of those people that didn't have any other way except to walk. Your doctor's offices are right down town, and of course none of that's downtown except maybe one or two.

Jean: Your parking spaces were at a minimum. You had to drive and drive and drive to find a place to park. —

Charlie: Well, you still do.

Jean: Yes and I don't understand that. I don't understand that at all because I don't believe that many people are shopping in the antique malls.

Charlie: It does seem strange because there are very few parking spaces when you are driving up and down Main Street. You can usually find a place but it's not as easy as you'd think since most of the business has left and moved to the outskirts.

Meford: Well, that's about all the questions I have. Is there anything that I should have ask and didn't? Are there any other memories you'd like to talk about?

Charlie: Well, of course as far as progress is concerned, I'm not sure what's good and what isn't. Now, between here and town, now I've lived here all my life, I used to ride a bicycle from school out here. I wouldn't get on a bicycle out here on US60 for love nor money. I don't believe you could get to Shelbyville from here without getting hit. We'd do that. We'd take my bicycle in when I was going to school, we'd tie it on the front end

of the car and when I'd get off from school that's the way I'd get home from school. Practically all the way from here, a few houses, but mostly it was just farm land between here and town. I guess it's a little sentimental, in a way, it does give a lot more people a chance to make living here close by, but I do hate to lose the atmosphere of the country. But, as I say, with more people you need more facilities and more jobs. There's no questions about that. It doesn't seem to me like according to the census, that we've grown as fast as it looks like when you drive around. It looks like every place has more homes, building going on all the time, but yet the census doesn't seem to show that we are increasing that much in population for some reason. I guess 1990 was the last census we had. I would have thought it would have been more than doubled from the time I was back in high school.

Jean: There's good things too. We didn't have a swimming pool then, you had to go to Cox's Lake or Tucker's Lake. We did have a skating rink off and on, I guess. I don't know if it was always there or not.

Charlie: It was there for a long time. It was on Clay Street.

Jean: We did have movie theaters. You didn't have to go to Louisville to a movie, you could go to Shelbyville.

Meford: Do people rent movies a lot these days?

Jean: They probably must. We don't do that much. Just when the children are home and want to watch something.

Charlie: There are several different places in town where you can rent them. Obviously, there is quite a demand for them. That type of thing has changed tremendously.

Jean: You know you were talking about segregation, now I don't recall ever seeing a sign in the theater but of course we always sat..

Meford: Did the blacks sit I the balcony?

Jean: Yes, but I don't recall ever seeing any signs.

Charlie: I guess it was just sort of an unwritten law. I don't know. If things changes as much in the net 20 years as they have in the last 20, we're really gonna be in for a ride, aren't we.

Meford: We just have to slow down sometimes.

Jean: It would be kinda nice if it would. If we could just slow down and take a deep breath.

Charlie: Chances are, what we're thinking of is the "good ole days", if we'd interviewed our mother and dad, they probably thought those time were fast. They'd be looking way back. You'll do the same. The "good ole days" will probably be in the 80's and 90's.

Meford: I guess it's all relative.

Jean: I guess it is. As you say, there were advantages then, I mean that we think of as advantages but now you probably wouldn't think it was at all. I think that's pretty nice to be able to go to a movie in Shelbyville and not have to go all the way to Louisville.

Charlie: Well, back at that time, you probably had one car in the family and you didn't have a lot of shots at it. Now, everybody's got a car or supposed to have.

Meford: Well, I appreciate you taking the time to talk to me.

Charlie: We hope you get some benefit out of it.

Meford: I hope I wasn't to much trouble.

Jean: It is kind of funny when you think about how we used to go into town. Of course when I go to the Market, I usually see someone I know. But you go downtown, down the street you see people but nothing like you used to.

Meford: Did you used to know everybody on Saturday, did you look I the crowd and know just about every one there?

Jean: Well, no, not everybody. But you would know enough that it made it interesting. Not just Saturday but any day you could go and you'd see people that made it interesting. I guess, to an extent, that's still true.