

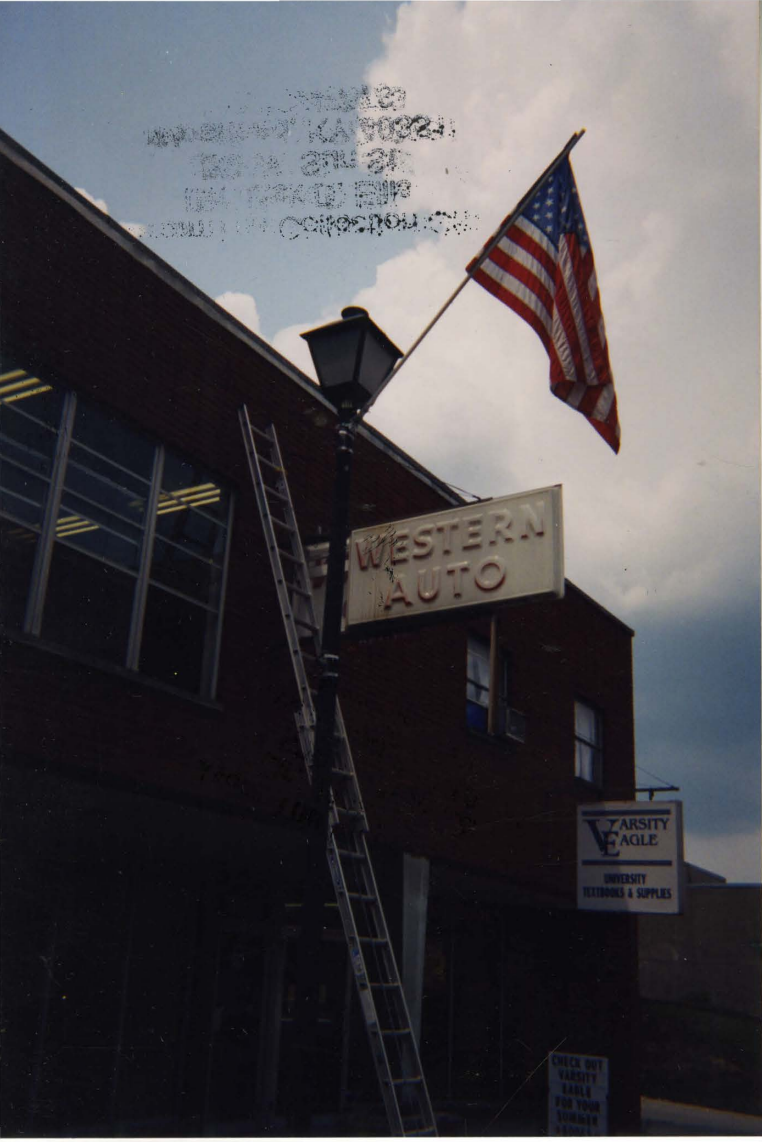


THE END OF AN ERA.
WESTERN AUTO SIGN
COMES DOWN AND
WILL BE TEMPORARY
QUARTERS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE.
2002.

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
806-784-7473

In 1962 THE WESTERN
AUTO STORE MOVED
ACROSS THE STREET
INTO A STRIP MALL
WHERE IT REMAINED
UNTIL IT CLOSED ITS
"DOORS."

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Jean Hill, OWNER OF
MOREHEAD'S WESTERN
AUTO STORE, AND
JACK ELLIS EXAMINE
A REPRODUCTION OF
1930 β STYLE BICYCLE
SIMILAR TO ONE
GIVEN AWAY IN A
"BREADWRAPPER" CONTEST.

Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
806-784-7473

2cols

120

TARKA®

(trandolapril/verapamil HCl ER)

2/180 1/240 2/240 4/240 mg tablets

Popper Rock Outfitters

Bill Lane + Bill Battson

Pat Mc Gary + Bill ~~Battson~~ - (Stueley's)

Boys' Bureau + Bill

Hill 1962

CCB

ACE

Devigt Pinner - (Luis)

(Hobbs)

2 sections up stairs

Mini store - Bill Star

Foxy Lady - Carlos

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A Complementary Combination

Sean Hill ^{Business}
Clothing Store
B

Women's Club Pres.
Many years a member

Garden Club - chair

Zoning Board -
Rover

Courthouse Comm. Head

Christian Church

Ran for Judge

Products ^{master} MSU

5 generations attended MSU

What other businesses are small?

Beer? Beer? Liquor?

What are they like any

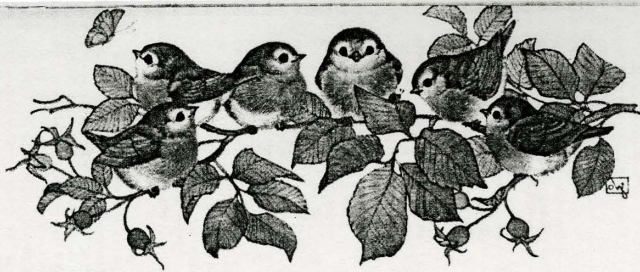
more in

Tom Baran
offer of share

789-4833

Tom Baran
in session -

Bill had clothing
Tom for offer



(1)

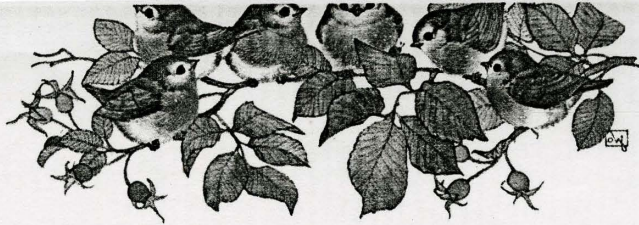
Western Auto Store was started in Morehead, Ky by C. E. Turner in 1939. Don Caudill built the building for Mr Turner ~~about~~ on the opposite side of the street where the store was located last. ~~to~~ Mr. Turner ^{owned} ~~ran~~ the Western Auto Store for many years until about 1952 when he sold ~~the~~ ^{it to} George Cline. In 1957 George and Jean Weil bought the Western Auto Store ~~and~~ from George Cline and stayed at that ~~same~~ location for five years ~~after~~ until the store outgrew the old building. In 1962 ~~the~~ George Weil built a new building in a new shopping mall ~~on~~ the opposite side of Main Street, in Morehead. The new store



had 6,000 sq feet compared to the (2)
2,000 sq ft of the old building. That has
been torn down in the last few years for
parking for city shoppers. The new building
also had parking spaces in the back with
entrances on ~~the~~ ^{the} back & front ^{level} of the
building. It proved to be a good move
and served the people of Rowan and surrounding
communities for 44 years. It was a
time when small stores could survive &
owners ~~and~~ ^{also} could be involved in church &
community affairs and ~~live~~ and ~~live~~
have a family that works and plays
together. ~~and~~ Morehead and Rowan
County have been a wonderful place
and have given us great support
in business and in life:

~~The most mention~~

Not only did our children all work in
the store at some time. Deary Hill
sister Dorothy Messer work at the
Hyster Auto for 38 years along with



(3)

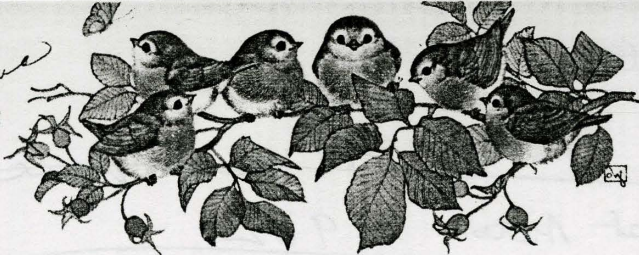
several other men and women over the years that were a great help.

He sold toys - bicycles - appliances ^{large} _{fridge} and parts - lawn mowers - air conditioners - hand vacs - tools - nuts + bolts - keys - some furniture - fans, batteries - radios - record players - watches - dishes - household and car cleaners - ~~vacuum~~ vacuum sweepers - typewriters - sewing machines -

at the time George retired and sold the store to M.S.U. He was the only owner still on Main Street that was there when he started in business in 1957. There were 2 or 3 business but the owner had sold out ~~on whose changed hand~~ as deceased.



21 months
for New Guinea
& Philippines



(4)

Orange Hills

1. Served on city council & Utility Plant Board
Voted for water plant for the City.
2. Served on U.S. Govt Draft Board -
Vit. War.
3. Served in U.S. ~~service~~ in W.W. II
32nd Signal Bn - 4 1/2 years in reserve
4. Member Marched First Christian Church
helped get 1st central air in the hall
also built storm windows for building
5. Served on Marched & Poor Com.
Joining & Planning Road for ~~10~~¹⁰ years
returning after heart bypass surgery in '95.
6. Member Marched State University Parents Club
& ~~also~~ attended M.S.U. + school functions
7. Active member Democratic Party.
8. 60 ~~year~~ year member Masonic Lodge.
9. Member of Lewis Club ~~for 30 years~~
in early years ~~at home~~



Photos

~~Old main St West Ave~~

~~West Ave 1962~~

~~George Lee Award~~

~~James Benjamin Stone
behind Cemetery~~

~~George F West Ave Rep.~~

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Western Auto
Associate
Store

KENTUCKY
RESTAURANT

PLEASE
ENTER
LUNCH ROOM

THE
BOWLING
ALLEY
BOB STANLEY
KIMBERLY JAMES

THE
TRADING POST
STACKE

NOW A PARKING LOT
THIS 1961 PHOTO SHOWS MANY
FORMER MOREHEAD BUSINESSES.

(L.R) EZZEL'S FLOOR SHOP
OPERATED BY EZZELLE LANE.

KENTUCKY RESTAURANT
OWNED BY GEORGE CASKEY -
AND LATER T. "PAPPY"
BLEVINS.

WESTERN AUTO OWNED BY
GEORGE HILL - (AND STILL
IN BUSINESS ACROSS THE
STREET).

PAT'S LUNCH COUNTER AND
POOL ROOM - A FAVORITE
HANG-OUT FOR COLLEGE
AND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS.
OWNED BY PAT MCGAREY.

J.A. BAYS JEWELRY STORE
OWNED BY J.A. AND SON
KENNETH BAYS.

TRADING POST A SPORTING &
GOODS STORE OPERATED
BY SAM GREEN WHO
WAS LATER KILLED WHILE
A SHERIFF OF ROWAN
COUNTY

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THIS WESTERN AUTO
STORE WAS IN BUSINESS
ON MAIN ST. AT THIS
SITE (NOW A CITY
PARKING LOT) FROM
1937-1962, WHEN IT
MOVED ACROSS THE
STREET.

Uet W W 21

D. Burlington March 19, 1921

When in college worked at Brown
Dropped out of college went to work

George C. Hill Sr + Roy + Dorothy Jones Hill
Dropped out of college went to work

Stomach look over

1 Hammer open books of sea old
Model T - New Parts
Old 28 rpm -

Ry Restaurants of Dot + Gerry Caskey moved at
Pat's kitchen

mayor Bill Lyne regular visitor -

Joe Curtia - Dennis Kisson Mamma Dad

Troy Alfrey - Honorable Sid Royce

Local Trivia

New beginnings

■ In 1957, the team of George and Jean Hill purchased the Western Auto Dealership from George I. Cline.

SECTION C

History

THE MOREHEAD NEWS, JULY 26

About the Author



Dr. Jack Ellis is a retired Morehead State University Library director and a retired minister.

Morehead Memories:

People & Places

Western Auto, 1937-2002, Part I

By JACK D. ELLIS
Special to The Morehead News

"They perceived that their merchandise is good" (Proverbs 3 1:18).

Three generations of Rowan residents fondly recall the red circled arrow sign of the Western Auto Store on Main Street in Morehead. It was a place where young boys loved to browse and examine the bright shiny tricycles, bicycles and "Red Ryder" BB guns. Also, bright red "Western Flyer" wagons or sleighs, as well as the huge "Tonka" toy trucks, tiny match box toy automobiles, electric trains and countless other things that are the stuff of a young boy's dreams.

The circle arrow store was also the place where young girls lovingly looked over the latest "Betsy Wetsy" or "Barbie" dolls, paper dolls, doll houses, doll buggies, toy furniture and dish sets. Young children who are now grandparents have happy childhood memories of the local Western Auto Store.

For many years it was the only independent automobile parts place in Morehead. That's where you purchased small car fans that attached to the dashboard. Also, that's where you bought car batteries, tires and inner tubes as

Federal District Attorney George I. Cline. Cline's brother Talmage managed the store until he moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1957 George and Jean Hill purchased the business.

George and Jean Hill a winning team

George C. Hill is the son of Ray and Dorothy (Jones) Hill. He was born in Huntington, W.Va. on March 19, 1921, and



Jean and George Hill, owners of the Western Auto Store in Morehead, were behind the counter for over 40 years.



This Western Auto Store was in business on Main Street at this site (now a city parking

well as patch kits for those inner tubes when they went flat.

It was also the place where you could "jazz up" your old car with such fancy things as seat covers, fuzzy steering wheel covers and bright spinner knobs that attached to the steering wheel. (For one handed driving and extra grip for turns since there was no power steering).

Auto store a Morehead landmark

The name was Western Auto Store, but for 65 years it was much more than just an "auto store"; it was a Morehead landmark.

The first Western Auto Store was established in Morehead in 1939 by C.E. Turner. It was located in a new brick building constructed by Dan Caudill on Main Street between the Kentucky Restaurant (owned by George Caskey and later "T" Pappy Blevins) and Pat's Pool Room owned by Pat McGarey. (That area is now a city parking lot.)

Following World War II in 1946, Turner's son Elwood, managed the store until 1952 when the business was purchased by local lawyer and

This Western Auto Store was in business on Main Street at this site (now a city parking lot) from 1937-1962, when it moved across the street.

moved to Morehead in 1936. He attended the local public schools and was an outstanding basketball and football player at old Morehead High School before graduating in 1941.

Following his graduation, he joined the Army Reserve before being called to active duty in 1943. He served in the Army Signal Corps in the Pacific Campaign until 1946. When he returned from WW II, Hill worked at Bishops Drug Store while attending Morehead State College.

In 1946, George C. Hill married Rowan County native Jean Fielding and they have four children: Carlos, Matthew, Rhonda and Sherry.

Hill soon dropped out of college and went to work for local furniture and hardware store owner Parnell Martindale. There Hill learned the furniture and hardware business, but soon realized if he were to be successful, he must go into business for himself.

In 1957, the team of George and Jean Hill purchased the Western Auto Dealership from

George I. Cline. Hill recalled the stock was so depleted that all that remained in the store was one hammer, two dozen 78 r.p.m. records, old books and a few old auto parts that included parts for old Model T. Fords. They immediately began building up the inventory and soon had a thriving business.

It was during a time when many of the returning WW II

veterans built their own houses and did most of their own auto mechanic work under a shade tree in their back yard. Soon it became obvious that more space was needed for their growing business.

Part II next week

"Morehead Memories"

by Jack D. Ellis

Mailed anywhere in the U.S.

Order today from:

Jack D. Ellis

550 W. Sun Street

Morehead, KY 40351

(606) 784-7473; \$35 plus \$2 S&H



In 1967, Morehead Western Auto dealer George Hill receives an award for 10 years as a local dealer.

Local Trivia

True 'Mom and Pop'

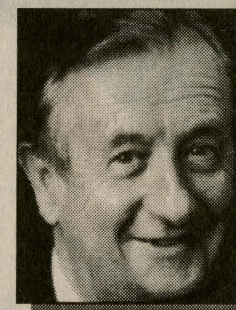
■ In addition to all four of their children working in the store, George's sister Dorothy worked there for 38 years.

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History

THE MOREHEAD NEWS, AUGUST 2

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People & Places

Western Auto Part II

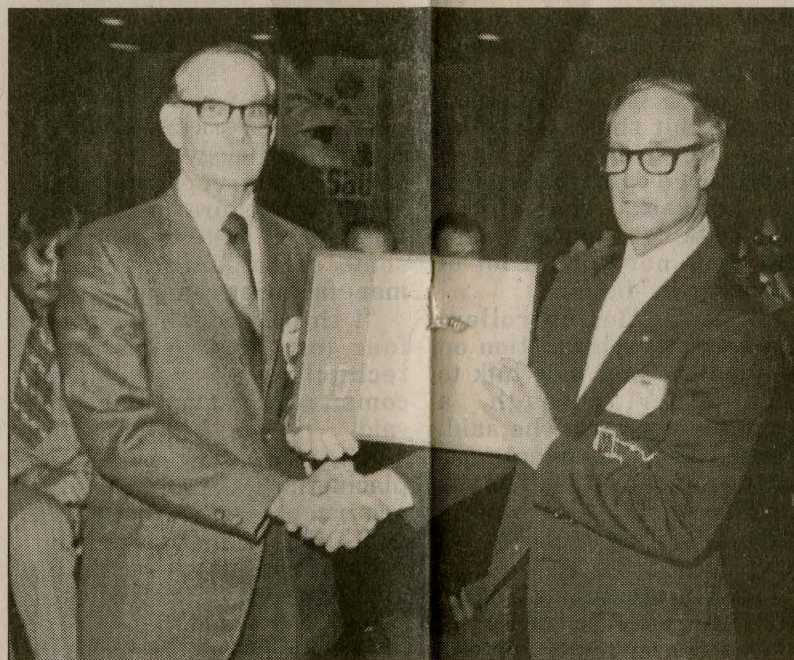
By JACK D. ELLIS
Special to The Morehead News

In 1962, Mr. Hill built a new building across the street in what was called a "strip mall".

The new building had 6,000 square feet on two levels, compared to the 2,000 sq. ft in the old building. Also the new Western Auto building had

include more toys, bicycles, tools, hardware, appliances, furniture, fans, batteries, air conditioners, watches, keys, dishes, typewriters, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners and all the latest automobile parts and accessories.

Owners of other sections in the mall included Mayor William H. Lane, Pat McGarey,



George Hill receives a certificate for 15 years as a Western Auto Dealer. He completed more than 40 years before closing in 2000.



The end of an era. The Western Auto sign comes down and the building will be temporary quarters for the University Bookstore.



George Hill served as a member of the local draft board for many years.

parking at the rear of the store, and the lot extended to Second Street.

Once in their new quarters, the inventory was increased to

Bill and Tom Burns (attorney Tom Burns' law offices were located on the second floor of their section).

Among other businesses

over the years in the tiny mall included Burns Clothing Store, Bill Layne's Department Store, Pierce's 5 and 10 Store, Hobbs 5 and 10 Store, Foxy Lady Women's Apparel (owned by Carlos Hill), Eagle Book Store and Poppin' Rock Outfitters.

Local businesses centers of activity

The Hill's operated a true "mom and pop" family business in Morehead. In addition to all four of their children working in the store, George's sister Dorothy worked in the store for 38 years.

In those days Morehead's small businesses were not only centers of business activity, but centers of social activities.

Customers would come to loaf, discuss current events and argue politics. It was an era before the major chain stores arrived in Morehead and small businesses could survive.

The local business owners were involved in church, community and civic affairs as well as politics. Over the years George Hill served on the City Council, draft board, planning and zoning board, and an active member of the Democratic Party. He also was a member of the local Masonic Lodge and Lions Club.

Jean Hill also was deeply involved in her home community. She was a member of the Woman's Club, Garden Club

and Christian Church. Jean was active in the democratic party and ran against Clyde Thomas for judge in his first primary election. She was chairman of the Committee to Preserve the Old Courthouse and served on the City Zoning board. Jean is proud of the fact that five generations of her family have attended MSU.

Morehead a wonderful place for family

George and Jean Hill recalled that during their 40 plus years in business, Morehead was a wonderful

place to live and rear their family. Sadly, they recalled that of all the people who owned businesses on Main Street when they started in 1957, though some of the businesses still survive, none of the other owners are alive today.

The Hills recently sold their Western Auto Building on Main Street to Morehead State University. They now have retired and moved to Ashland to be near their son. Today, the Western Auto remains a fond memory to many Moreheadians.