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**KUIK Radio owner and General Manager Don McCoun**  
**Interviewed by Rosely Romero**  
**May 24, 2005**

The following interview was conducted on behalf of the oral history program of Century High School. The interviewee is Don McCoun, the interviewer in Rosely Romero. The interview took place at the Radio Station KUIK on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2005 at 1:00 PM.

**Rosely Romero:** Describe and analyze changes and trends in crime and law Enforcement in Hillsboro, Oregon from 1980-2005. What is your relationship to this question?

**Don McCoun:** Describe

**Rosely Romero:** and analyze

**Don McCoun:** And Analyze

**Rosely Romero:** crime and law enforcement in Hillsboro

**Don McCoun:** since 1980, and what is my relationship?

**Rosely Romero:** Yes

**Don McCoun:** Well my relationship, that's the easy part of it I'm a citizen here, I'm a businessman here in Hillsboro and I am part of the media I watch read, and particularly listen to the news a lot, so I guess to analyze 1980 to 2005 it would be that it has gotten a whole lot bigger. In 1978 when I arrived to KUIK 16 thousand people lived in Hillsboro and in 1980 it probably a little larger than that. And now we're at 80 thousand a lot of it through annexation still we're at 80 thousand people now. So more people cause more problems.

II. A  
and  
II. C

**Rosely Romero:** How long have you been living in Hillsboro?

**Don McCoun:** I don't live in Hillsboro, I live in Scholls, but my business has been in Hillsboro since 1978 August 1,so its almost 26 years.

**Rosely Romero:** What inspired you to work for KUIK?

**Don McCoun:** I had to, I was force to cause I bought it. Yeah on August 1 of 78. I am the general manager and one of the owners and it was my choice to come to Hillsboro and buy this radio station.

**Rosely Romero:** What are the common crimes in Hillsboro?

**Don McCoun:** you know I might not be a good one to ask that, but I'm sure theft is a big one. I would think we probably, I don't know probably do no more dugs than other markets but there are a lot of drugs and drug usage which perpetrates crime. Drugs mean they need money and so they steal a lot and in the mean time somebody gets hurt in the line of theft.

III.C.3

**Rosely Romero:** When you think of Hillsboro in the 1980s vs. now, what changes come to mind?

**Don McCoun:** More people, more stop lights, more houses, more crime, and many, many victims as well.

**Rosely Romero:** Are there any changes in crime and law enforcement since then?

**Don McCoun:** Ah yes, I think, ah, I think our system has gotten very, every decade so two decades ago it was, I'm just guessing, I'm not in the justice system, but I would say our sentencing has gotten to the point that doing the crime and doing the time, doing the time is a lot easier on the criminal than it used to be. I think in Washington County and in Hillsboro, we're very fortunate to have the judges we have but over all, as the state of Oregon, and also we control somewhat, I guess, by the justice system. By the federal, we're too lenient. People need to get punished for what they do when it's bad.

III.

**Rosely Romero:** So how do you feel about Measure 11?

**Don McCoun:** I think it was a good thing, I think it was necessary.

**Rosely Romero:** So you do agree with it?

**Don McCoun:** I do agree with it. Yes, I believe I voted for it. I think it was a good measure; yeah I did vote for it. (Pause) And that's an example of, of our system being too soft. The judges could really didn't have anything to do and so when people scream about themselves or their own children being sentenced too harshly, I guess that child had a choice to not do what they did: stab somebody, shoot somebody, or steal from somebody, so they get what they deserve. And I'm glad about Measure 11 this year.

IV. H.

**Rosely Romero:** Have you noticed a trend in crime or in law enforcement?

**Don McCoun:** Ah, I think the trend in law enforcement; I would think, well, I do think, in my opinion, the police officers are better, I wouldn't say better than they used to be but they're better equipped, they seem to handle situations very well because they are trained well, I'm proud, pleased or whatever. I think our police are very, very good, I think the punks and the drugs, and everything else, it would just be nice if we could just take a very big broom and sweep the hurt away.

III.  
and  
IV. A.

**Rosely Romero:** Is there a certain group of people that are often linked with a certain type of crime?

**Don McCoun:** Well yeah, I think they are undereducated...by their own choice perhaps, but still. I saw the other day, it was amazing, it was early in the afternoon, it was like five or six, I think I was heading home, and I saw some guys that, well, in fact this was earlier. The first time I saw this, I was paying attention to it, I saw some guys that were in, I would guess, in their early twenties with skateboards and with a whole bunch of guys I put in the punk category and so I wondered what the heck is a guy 24 hanging out with some guys that are 16, and what the hell is a guy that is twenty-four years old on a skateboard at three in the afternoon? He should be, he should be at work And um, I just think, you know, racially, I would say, in my opinion, its everybody gets in trouble. Its brown, as well as it is white. And it's, it doesn't discriminate, jerks, or jerks. Regardless of the color, I think you were pointing for that. You were going to ask me about that right?

other

**Rosely Romero:** Yeah. How has crime changed over the years?

**Don McCoun:** I think it's gotten easier to do. And I think, you know there's always been things that harms peoples state of consciousness, now the hot new drug is Meth, but recently, it was cocaine, and recently before that it was heroin, and then somewhere after heroin came cocaine then I think came crack cocaine, so there always been drugs that do two things to people; they cant hold a job, so they have to steal for the money, cause they need the money very badly. And they would do terrible, terrible things to acquire money, so they could go buy money, they could go to buy drugs. And that really puts, puts the citizens, it puts everyone in there, in a bad position.

III.C.3.

**Rosely Romero:** What is the role KUIK has played in this issue?

**Don McCoun:** Well, unfortunately we haven't solved anything. We report local news, and we mostly do more news on national basis. We really haven't been able to build up the resources to do ah well we have reporters on the street. I think if we did, and I was in any position to be able to that, we would talk more, we would report more a lot of things that people don't read in newspapers, or don't see on television, just really the challenges that faces the police departments and the justice system, how bad it is and how dangerous it is out there. You're a young woman, and you shouldn't be out and around very late at night, in most parts of Portland, and now most parts of Washington County you cant walk around at night if your alone by your self, because its not safe. And that's really, really, really, a hundred reallys a shame that you cant walk around on the streets at night at 9:30 or 10 o'clock at night. That's too bad, that's terrible, cause we could when I was a boy. We could be out when I was very, very young and our parents didn't have to fear for our lives, because no one was going to harm us, and we even hitched hiked all the time that's how, that's mostly how we got around...with, with our thumb, we hitched hiked, everybody hitched hiked, and everybody got picked up. And single women would pick up two boys, you know, I've done it many times, and she had nothing to fear because we weren't going to harm her. It didn't, didn't even entered our heads, and that's the change and that's because of, I think, a lot of drugs, also, our system doesn't allow us to punish people...harshly enough.

III.

**Rosely Romero:** In your opinion, what is the crime that needs the most attention?

(Long Pause)

**Don McCoun:** I would say if, if, we did not have the dope available, then there wouldn't be nearly as much crime and then you could probably deal with just a bank robbery, a car theft once in a while, so I can't tell you which crime is the worst, but I think most of the ones I'm concerned about come from a need of money, cause of the need for drugs.

III.

**Rosely Romero:** Do you think today's youth has more access to crime and violence?

**Don McCoun:** Absolutely.

**Rosely Romero:** Do you think the youth of 25 years ago had more or less access to crime and violence than today? Why or Why not?

**Don McCoun:** I would say they had less. And I think they were a little bit more afraid of getting caught, so they did less of it.

**Rosely Romero:** Is there an age range, in your opinion, in which crimes occur the most?

**Don McCoun:** I'm really not the person to ask that question to but I would just take a guess. Even in the late teens it begins, but I don't know which age is the worst.

**Rosely Romero:** What can we do as a community to lower the crime rate?

**Don McCoun:** Well, unfortunately, I think what we can do as a community is really just first and foremost protect ourselves, assist the police department when anything we see or do. I think that, we particularly have to be very aware of your surroundings, your environment: where you park your car, where you go, daytime as well as night time even in an automobile. You just have to be, you just have to be as cunning as you can be and be, keep yourself safe. You go where the crowd is, you go, you don't get caught alone, you're constantly alert, you stay off the cell phone, and you just have your eyes and your ears, and your mind, I heard a thing on the radio discussed, and it says, our best, our best tool against crime is our mind. And I believe that, you just have to be aware of what you're doing but, also the sense is that we can take the people we love the most...our children, and just do anything we can to keep them away from people who do dope, and protect them from that, because I'm not so sure that once you're on dope that you are the same person. And you really become your own victim. You know, you cause that, once you're on it it's just it's a tough thing. I don't have any sympathy for them, but I do have empathy for them.

**Rosely Romero:** Is there a particular crime that comes to your head that occurred in the past, present or both?

**Don McCoun:** That relates, that I just recall?

**Rosely Romero:** Yeah just, you know, a certain crime that comes to your head.

**Don McCoun:** Personally, or that I'm aware of?

**Rosely Romero:** That you're aware of or personally.

**Don McCoun:** Yeah, I'm really distressed when on my Friday Morning show, that somebody from the sheriffs department, they were discussing our new jail, its not so new now, its about 8 or 9 years old. And they had pods, which I just presume in my mind is just a floor of about a hundred twenty-five people that are incarcerated here in Washington County, in Hillsboro, and I says you obviously don't mix men with women and he says oh no, and I says, so what, what's the break down? He says, well right now we have about, were quite often full. We have about five pods so you time that by a hundred twenty-five, I think that was the math, and he says we have four pods for men and one pod for women. And I was hoping, well I wasn't, I just thought I would here that the female pod was partially full, he says, no its full to the hilt. And I says, whoa really? I mean, I just, I just font ever think of women being as bad as guys and but you know, there are four floors for men and so I guess there's more men who do the crime and I that's the way I thought. And I says why are this floor filled with women, and he says Meth. And I says, your kidding me? There's not, if there's a hundred twenty-five in jail right now this states probably 97% are there because of Meth. (Rubs face) Oh gosh, how many of those women have children? Probably half or 70% or 80%, I don't know, oh God, those poor kids. And then they're getting shuffled around, and they're just bringing another generation as their children. She can't manage them. She can't teach them anything about morals, or not do anything cause she's a, so anyways, I would say that that's the most disturbing news I have and had in a long time, Is how many people are on Meth, and what they would do to, to stay on Meth, because they have to have it until they get it broken.

III.C.3

**Rosely Romero:** Have you ever had an experience with crime yourself?

**Don McCoun:** I've, I would say no, nothing like I'm referring to. I know people and that's about as close as I come to.

**Rosely Romero:** To what extent is Hillsboro a safe Community?

**Don McCoun:** I'm going to venture a guess, I don't know what, I don't know, as opposed to the most perfect place in the world, I don't know where we rank in there, you'll have to ask the Hillsboro PD on that. I think they would know. I know that, that, I know where I travel and I go to a lot of meetings at night and I know that I am constantly getting my car, and as I walk to my car I do look around and I'm aware that I'm not a mute from something happening and I would guess Hillsboro is probably as safe as most or any, and I know the Hillsboro PD works their fanny off. And got some really sharp officers as does the Washington County. The Sheriff's office has, the officers I've met

are just top-notch people and they work very, very hard, a lot of them are undercover that I've met work very, very hard and it boils down to punk, gangs, and drugs, which probably make our, our community unsafe to any degree, whatever that degree is.

III.C.2  
III.C.3