Sam Lipkin of 3 East Frack Street was born in Mahanoy City and moved to Frackville with his family in 1922. His father, Isadore Lipkin operated a grocery store on the southeast corner of North Second and West Pine Streets. This building was owned by Mrs. Frompovich who later operated a tavern here. In 1934, Mr. Lipkin bought the land on the opposite side of the street from the Haupt family and built a double block building on this site. The grocery store was on the first floor of the right side with living quarters above and two apartments were located on the left side of this building. Sam drove a produce truck for several years and in 1940 took over the family grocery business.

This store was one of several corner neighborhood grocery stores in town. Everyone at that time bought on the "look". Some of the prices he remembers are: round steak-90 cents for a dollar; eggs—three dozen for a dollar; and butter—twenty-eight cents a pound! Many people raised chickens, ducks, geese, pigs and had cows within the borough limits. Sam sold bales of hay and feed which were stored in a hay loft on the second floor of the garage. Cows pastured on Burchill's field all day while one of the family kept an eye on them. They were taken back to the farm barn each evening and milked.

Sam recalled the depression years in town and said bread was five cents a loaf; milk—ten cents a quart; lard—five cents a pound; minced ham—ten cents a pound or three pounds for a quarter. Often times a woman came into the store with a nickel and bought two cents worth of lard and three cents worth of minced ham—dried it with onions—served with potatoes—and that was the main meal for the day! He recalled the mine strike of 1925 and said it was the corner grocery store that carried the miners and their families through this strike and also through the depression. Many people in those difficult times picked lumps of coal which the young children cracked to smaller sizes and the miner could discard and it is this coal, the rice, barley and buckwheat coal that sells at fifty dollars a ton today!

"Talk about honest people, said Sam, the garage was filled with store goods and a truck loaded with watermelons was parked outside and no one would ever take anything." He sold produce at auctions at Cressona, Lakeside and Schuylkill Haven in those days. In 1949 he had a "Rolling Store on Wheels." He sold at Frackville, Morea and Brooklyn, a patch which was located next to Morea Colliery. Twenty-three families lived here who had 400 boarders, all working in the mines.

Another patch he recalled was Whippleworth Colliery with the Evely, Omlor, Mackford, Jenkins, Morgan, Quinn, Whitego and Ike Thomas families.

This Rolling Store was equipped with meat, groceries, dry goods, medicines and anything you could ever ask for. He talked about people going for huckleberries, huckleberries, sunnies, and swamps and picking elderberries on the West End Field and making home made wine. People in those days bought several heads of cabbage and made their own sauerkraut, bought cucumbers and made their own dill pickles, bought bushels of tomatoes and made their own tomato juice and catsup in addition to jarring the tomatoes.

Sam recalled other corner grocery stores in town, the Lawlor store on the corner of East Oak and Railroad Avenue was a large grocery store and later was operated by the Martin Brothers. After several years Matt Beddow operated this store and then Emmanuel Eschrich was the proprietor. Jerome Valeria operated this store until his death and then his widow Helen operated a grocery store here and today as Mrs. Edward Clark operates a beauty shop here with several apartments located in the remainder of the building. Charles Seitzinger operated a corner grocery store at the southeast corner of Spring and Second Streets and Morris Atkins had a grocery store at Spring and Railroad Avenue. The Abram family had a grocery store on South Lehigh Avenue which was later taken over by the Factor family and Mrs. Zahurka had a grocery store on South Broad Mountain Avenue.

He recalled The American House which was a speakeasy in town and the E-Z Drug Store operated by Edward Zemalits. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Organization and in the late 1930's was a member of the Three Ring Club which met in a building on Broad St. Avenue which has since been demolished. He recalled another club no one had told me about and that was the Bucket of Blood Club which met in the basement rooms of Koval's Tavern on East Oak Street. These young men played baseball, football and cards and had a great social club. This building has also been demolished. And going way back, said Sam, "I can remember when Abe Yudacofsky was on East Oak Street a penny and two cents a cone!"

Sam was in partnership for ten years with Francis Stainski and William Curran and operated the Mountain City Diner. In 1954, due to health problems he sold the grocery and building and now resides in an apartment in the Behard building. In 1929, when he moved to Frackville, he didn't care too much for it and returned to Mahanoy City every chance he got but today he loves our town. "There's not a cleaner town in this whole area and some of the nicest people in the county live here," said Sam.