



## The Hillsboro Story – Excerpts

### People Talk

Hillsboro, population, 5280, is nestled in the foothills of Appalachia, thirty-eight miles north of the Ohio River. The river was a section of the Mason Dixon Line, a boundary that separated Kentucky in the south from the “free” state of Ohio in the north the years before and during the Civil War. John Quincy Adams called The Missouri Compromise, from which this line was drawn, “the title page of a great, tragic volume.”

Hillsboro, Ohio didn’t act like Alabama on the surface; but at the Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis movies on Saturday, colored kids had to sit in the back of the Colony Theatre, off to one side. I ducked out during the newsreel to buy my *Good and Plenty* candy, clueless.

I ask a white person *now* about segregation and hear that this was the past and things have changed and they never knew about any Klan in Hillsboro. I ask a black person *now* and hear that the town is still prejudice, hasn’t’ changed much, and sure, out there off Greenfield Pike on Anderson Station Road, past Roush’s farm about a mile and a half. That’s where they met. The president of the Merchant’s Bank and Farmers Bank was the Grand Duke Wizard.