

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Depression Project

Depression Experience

O. H. 266

SALLIE PATTERSON

Interviewed

by

Dolores Margiotta

on

May 7, 1976

SALLIE HARRIS PATTERSON

Sallie Harris Patterson was born on November 15, 1904, a daughter of Janet Percy Harris and Charles Harris. She was one of six children and as a child lived in the Lansingville area of Youngstown where she attended the Poland Avenue School and Adams School.

The Harris family then moved to Indianola Avenue where they bought a farm, where Woodside Receiving Hospital is now located.

Sallie graduated from South High School in 1922. She then went to work for John Rodic who owned a beauty shop downtown. At that time, no training was necessary to become a beautician so she gained her expertise by working under the tutelage of the owner.

In 1936, Sallie married William Patterson and they had two daughters, Janet Patterson Hammaker and Shirley Patterson Eckley. Janet has three children, and Shirley, who is an elementary school teacher, has two children.

When her children were grown, Sallie went to work for Strouss' Department Store as a knitting instructor. She worked from 1962 until her retirement in 1975. Today, Sallie is enjoying her leisure time by doing crocheting, knitting, and needlepoint work; and of course, like all grandparents do, she enjoys spoiling her grandchildren.

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INTERVIEWEE: SALLIE PATTERSON
INTERVIEWER: Dolores Margiotta
SUBJECT: Life during the Depression, WPA, Canfield Fair
DATE: May 7, 1976

M: This is an interview with Mrs. Sallie Patterson for the Youngstown State University Oral History Depression Project, by Dolores Margiotta, at 15 Kokomo, Hubbard, Ohio, on May 7, 1976, at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Patterson, what do you remember about the Depression?

P: When you say Depression to me, the first thought that comes to my mind is the market crash in the newspapers, headlines about the market crash; also, men jumping out of windows in New York. That's the way I remember it. Whether it was an actual fact or not, that is what is in my mind. Then comes the remembrance of men out of work, married children going home to live with their family. I know my sister and her husband came home to our home. Someone was usually working in the family, you'd get one person not making too much, but at least they shared. Almost everyone had a garden in the summer. We would have to get ready for the winter. Then I remember too, about a cousin of mine. This goes back again to his cousins. The banks were starting to foreclose on people's homes and these people had almost paid off their homes but the bank was going to repossess it. They wrote to President Roosevelt, and somehow or another the bank didn't repossess it. Of course, Roosevelt was a great hero to them and they told people about it and they all learned what Roosevelt had done for them. Then my brother got a job with the WPA (Works Progress Administration) as a supervisor, and I can remember

when he came home from work in the evenings, men coming knocking at the door and pleading for a job. Of course, when he first started you could get some a place, but finally all the jobs were taken up. My brother almost used to run around and hide, rather than have to have somebody asking him about a job and he wasn't able to do anything. It was pathetic, the circumstances people were in. There were, I suppose, soup lines in Youngstown. I don't know of ever seeing any, but I think I remember hearing about them.

M: What part of Youngstown did you live on?

P: On the south side of Youngstown.

M: Where about?

P: On Indianola Avenue, between South Avenue and Shady Run Road.

M: Did you notice anything different, how was your neighborhood at that time?

P: Well, houses were pretty well run-down then. People couldn't afford to paint their homes.

M: Did many people own their homes or did they all rent?

P: Well, around our neighborhood most of the people owned their home, I imagine. They were mostly older people, because my parents, well, my mother was 48, my father 50, when they had me.

M: Mrs. Patterson, you said something about being a young lady at the time, and working because you were out of school. Could you tell me something about that?

P: Well, I worked in a beauty shop at the time. Business slowed down. The average young woman didn't come in to have her hair done as often as she had before. We had some wealthy people come in. I think they came in as often as before. They grumbled about Roosevelt. They didn't like him. They were very much opposed to him. The average person, he was quite a hero to us. Then at that time, my husband and I were planning on getting married, but he was the only one, my husband was the only one working in his home at that time. We had to postpone getting married until the Depression was beginning to end, and his father started working.

M: What year was that?

- P: Let's see, that must have been about 1936, because we were married then. Of course, times were still a little bit slow. My husband was working driving a bus with the Youngstown Municipal Railroad Company in Youngstown, at that time. He was making 52¢ an hour, but he was working steady. He had enough seniority, that he worked, so even though we didn't have anything, I suppose we were kind of rich people too. If you did have any kind of a job at that time, just imagine working for 52¢ an hour, in 1936. There were a few years after that, that he didn't make too much more, just a few cents more. It was really when the war came along that we really started to get out of the Depression.
- M: Were you able to live comfortably on 52¢ an hour? Were the hours long?
- P: Well, I think he worked at least a six day week, and we could pay our bills. We couldn't save any money on 52¢ an hour. Then sometimes his father wasn't working quite good, and we would help a little bit with them, shared a little bit, but we managed.
- M: Mrs. Patterson, you mentioned something about working in a beauty shop during the Depression. Can you tell me what a typical day at the beauty shop might be like?
- P: Well, it was very slow because not too many people came in. The girls that were working in the office came in, but not as often as they did when times were good. They too were probably sharing at home. The wealthy people came in regularly.
- M: What time would you get there in the morning?
- P: Oh, about 10:00. We worked till about 5:00 or 6:00, depending on how long it took to finish up on your customers. During the Depression, permanent waving started to come in. Before that we gave Marcelle Shampoo, and a Marcelle to people. It would be hard to compare prices, the good times before the Depression and the prices of the Depression. You were doing the shampoo and a Marcelle.
- M: What is a Marcelle?
- P: You used a hot iron, we heated them on a little gas stove that they had with a little blue flame. It gave a flat wave. It was very attractive. And women usually got one, when they had the money, once a week they came in for a Marcelle and shampoo. They would be very careful with their hair at night. They put a net on it

so it didn't get messed up, and that usually lasted them one week to the next.

M: What would that Marcelle cost?

P: \$1.25 for a Marcelle and 75¢ for a shampoo.

M: That was expensive, wasn't it, for that time?

P: Oh, yes. At that time we were probably making \$15 a week plus tips. We had a guarantee, but it didn't mean anything. It just guaranteed a percentage.

M: How much did you make a week?

P: Before the Depression I probably made about \$50 a week, and then our tips would come to about \$8 to \$10. Around Christmas time you did better than that because everybody that came to you regularly was a little bit more generous, maybe where they gave you a quarter for a shampoo and set during the year, at Christmas time they would give you a couple of dollars for your tip, just the week before Christmas and they were in. During the Depression, of course, tips were scarce, 10¢ or 15¢. Your wealthy people usually gave you a quarter. They were never too generous. We found the girls that worked were the secretaries or waitresses that came in to us too, to have their hair done. When times were good they were the ones that were really generous. When the Depression came along you didn't see them very often, and they didn't have too much money to tip with either.

M: Where did you work?

P: Oh, I worked in the arcade, under the bus arcade. You went down some steps there, just as you went into the entrance of Federal Street, John Rodis had it. Oh, it was a big shop, we had seven or eight operators. Although, they weren't costing the boss too much money, because in those days we worked only on commission. Nobody got salary. You came in and you worked on commission. If you had the customers come in, you made a little money. If you didn't, you didn't.

M: I had asked if you had done anybody famous or did anyone well-known during that period of time.

P: Well, I remember Joe Flynn's mother used to come into me. Joe is a movie actor. She came in with little Joe one day, just a little fellow. I don't know whether he would be four or five, or what he would be. He had

his first pair of trousers with the fly in them. He was so proud of that. (Laughter) As soon as they got in he told me he had a fly just like his daddy's. His dad was a dentist. Joe Flynn and his widowed mother moved to California and Joe became well known as a comedian in both movies and television.

M: Mrs. Patterson, you mentioned that you lived at home at the time and you were making a fantastic amount of money, \$50, \$60 a week. What did you do with all of that money at that time?

P: Well, that was in the good times, before the Depression. I suppose I probably spent it all on clothes. You paid \$2.50 for a pair of silk hose in those days. A pair of shoes were \$15, \$16 a pair. You look back years ago and think everything was cheap, but things weren't always so cheap during the good days, before the Depression. I can remember then another thing I did with my money; we lived sort of out in the country, and there was no bathroom there, and I thought I would like a bathroom in the house, so I made arrangements and we had a bath put in the house. Each month I had to make a payment on that.

M: What were your payments?

P: I believe they were about . . . I don't know what the bathroom cost. They had to put the tub, all the fixtures in, bring this pipe in quite a ways from the street. We must have been back about 60, 75 feet from the street. It was probably \$800 or \$900 to have the bath put in then. I suppose I paid \$40 or \$50 a month, made payments of \$40 to \$50 a month on it. Payments in those days weren't too popular. That was before everybody charged things and started making payments on them. Then I remember during the Depression, those were the good times, but I remember the Depression. My father was dead and my mother and I were together. We had a little apartment. With about \$6, my mother would go to the grocery store, come home with a big bag of groceries. It would last the two of us almost all week long, about \$5 or \$6. Of course, we would have roast on Sunday and there would be a stew out of that and maybe some hash. The roast probably lasted three or four days, but we ate good. Hamburger was probably two pounds for a quarter. I don't think it was ever three pounds for a quarter. I know it was at least two pounds of good hamburger for a quarter. But, oh dear, when you think about cheap things, I would rather pay what we are paying today and have the money coming in. Those weren't good times at all even though things were cheap. They were hard times.

- M: Do you remember what your average salary was during the Depression, because you did say that the salary you mentioned before was before. How much did you make then?
- P: Well, I suppose that there were weeks that I didn't make more than nine or ten dollars. Remember it was commission and no guarantee. Some weeks it might have been a little more than that. My mother had a little bit of money coming in and if I brought home nine or ten dollars a week, I think we paid eighteen or twenty dollars a month rent. You could get coal for five or eight dollars a ton. I am not sure. We could manage, but you always worried about what was going to happen next week, what were you going to make next week, would you have enough money to make ends meet.
- M: Did your mother work at that time?
- P: No, no. My mother was a widow, she was probably up in her 70's then. I think when my husband and I were married, my mother was about 75 or 76.
- M: Well, you talked about buying groceries and everything, where did you buy these groceries? Where did you buy these groceries, was there a little corner store somewhere?
- P: Yes. At that time my mother and I had a little apartment on Earl, near Hillman Street. At the corner of Earl and Hillman there was a grocery store, meat market and grocery store. Old Zimmermans, McBate and Zimmerman it was. They were two prominent men in Youngstown. They had the grocery store there and I had to go across the street practically to haul our groceries home.
- M: Now you talked about your families paying cash for things. Is this what you did with groceries? Many people at that time just ran up a bill.
- P: Well, we paid cash, my mother and I. There was just the two of us and we were kind of on our own so we just, we didn't want to get in debt, we wanted to make ends meet, and we paid cash. I suppose a lot of people did charge though. A lot of grocers probably had a hard time collecting their money during those days.
- M: What about when you got married now, do you remember something about that? Did you have a big wedding or were times still hard?

P: Well, I wanted to run away and get married quietly, but my husband wanted a wedding. It was March, that was the year of the big flood in Pittsburgh and down around Wheeling, West Virginia, and it was the eighteenth of March in 1936. We went up to First Christian Church and we were married in the church parlor as they called it. Some of my friends from work were there, and some of the relatives. Reverend Levi G. Batmon was the minister that performed the ceremony. We went to a tea room after the wedding was over. I had knit my wedding dress. It was turquoise blue with pink trim on it. It was hand knit. I looked for a dress to be married in and couldn't find anything but a print, so I decided I had some yarn, I was going to knit my dress. I had a big, felt hat. We went up to the church and went to a tea room for dinner. We had some of the uncles and aunts, probably eight or ten of us. The lights went out during the meal. The storm was starting then. We left and went home to our apartment and had a little reception afterwards, my husband had saved his money. My mother and I weren't able to pay for it. We didn't have enough. My husband gave me the money. My mother and I put on the wedding reception, but really he did. We had some of the close relatives, that is all there was to it.

M: You mentioned the flood? Did this cause any hardships for your wedding or for your guests?

P: Well, it took some shoveling to get the snow out of the way. Some of them had trouble going home, but they all managed to get home. The snow continued then for a few more days. Then the thaw came and the snows melted and Pittsburgh was flooded. I remember my brother lived down across the river from Wheeling, I can't think of the name of the town now, Martins Ferry. They lived in the high ground wood that was right next to the river. If you had ever seen it when the river wasn't high, you would have sworn that it would never have gotten up to their house. They had to be taken out of their second story window in a rowboat, after, oh, I suppose that was a few days after we were married. The floods came in and did a lot of damage. Their first floor was really flooded, they had to go up to the second floor. As I said, a rowboat came and got them out. I don't know whether they had been warned at that time, whether they did it or not at that time, warning people about a flood, like they do today. They were all taken out of a second story window in a rowboat, down along the river.

M: Is there anything else that you remember now about the Depression that you want to talk about?

P: Well, when I first told you about the Depression, I started to think about it. It is all so unpleasant. Oh, not all unpleasant, because families, I think, were closer, you helped one another. People did for one another. Times were bad and you worried, there was so much worry connected with it. We had good times before that, made big money, everybody was working and then suddenly the bottom fell out and this Depression came along. I don't even like to think back on it, it is just an unhappy, unpleasant time. I remember one time, going to see my sister. Her husband at one time had some money and the Depression came along and he lost his. He had to go work on WPA [Works Progress Administration], a man with a college education, he was out there swinging a shovel. My sister had a lovely home and they lost things, and I remember taking some meat and a bag of potatoes to her. An expensive cut of meat probably and some potatoes and taking them to her and she was thankful for it. I bet it kind of hurt too, to receive it too, even though she was thankful. Those things must have hurt.

M: Do you remember anybody who was on welfare or accepted charity at that time?

P: No, I don't. All I remember is people helping one another. Hey, we were all too proud to go on welfare then. That was something disgraceful, something you avoided. You went home to mama, that was one thing. Mother could help you out, or somebody in the family. Welfare, that was unthinkable in those days, it really was. I can remember my husband telling about when times were good and the buses were packed. Then the Depression came along and they didn't carry very many passengers. Anyone who lived from Chalmers Avenue on towards Youngstown, they walked to town, they didn't ride because the money for bus fare was scarce. They would walk downtown, at least from Chalmers Avenue on down.

M: You talk about it being an unhappy time for you, what did you do for entertainment? Did you go out to movies, or to dancing?

P: Oh, I think living at that time wasn't so unhappy. You worried a little bit. You were young and you didn't worry too much. We would go dancing, my husband and I, even though he was helping out at home. There was a dance hall, open-air dance hall out at Southern

Park, out around there somewhere in a nice home, and it was open-air. There were tables under the trees. It was a big home, I think, at one time. The big dance bands used to come to Youngstown then and occasionally we would go out to dances. I don't know how we managed, but we did.

M: How much did it cost you to get into the dance?

P: It was around 50¢. That probably took a little scrimping and saving to get it, but once in a while we did get out. Then we had friends we played cards with. We went to one another's homes, or your house usually had some relatives in it. There was always enough to play cards, bridge at that time. I can remember when time got better and people would start complaining about paying income tax. My one brother, the one I told you about, in the flood, they took him out of the upstairs window. He would boo people for complaining that they had to pay income taxes. He would say, "I can remember when I didn't make enough to pay it and I am sure glad that I can pay it now." I suppose that is one way of looking at it. I can remember Christmas time too, I don't remember whether we bought a Christmas tree or whether there would be woods nearby where we got one, but I think perhaps we bought it from the store. It was probably 50¢ for a Christmas tree. We lived at what had been an old farm at one time. We got a bucket and put the tree in it and then we put coal around it, that would hold the tree up. Maybe they had tree holders at that time, but I don't remember anything about them. The tree was held up with the coal. Of course, the trimmings, you had had those for years and years. We did a tree.

M: Did you ever make popcorn or did you have candles on the tree?

P: Not at that time. When I was a child I can remember popcorn strung on the tree. I can remember candles, but we didn't light them. Maybe your mother stood there and lit one and you looked at it and it was put out. What impressed me the most, and I remember the most about the old Christmas tree, was the bird with the little feathery tail. You can still buy them today. The trumpets, you blew in it and it made a little noise. We had popcorn balls. As a child times were pretty good. I think when I was a child I don't remember the Depression. My father was a road and sewer contractor. Oh, I can remember too, when I was young, my father paved Poland Avenue with brick.

The bricklayers, you know, one brick at a time. Those were good 'ole roads. I can remember he paved part of Market Street too, that part around Dewey Avenue. I don't know whether he went south or north in paving it. I can remember my father paving that. The old horse and buggy, we had a barn. Of course, my father, in the business he was in, he needed teams and wagons. We had horses up in the barn. There was always a driving horse and a buggy. I can remember my mother too, and my father, going to the Canfield Fair when I was small. They didn't take us along because it was an all-day trip, and taking a six or seven year old child then was too much, because they started out early in the morning and it was probably getting dark when they came home from the fair. That was a big occasion. They got out there and they saw all their old friends from out around Boardman and Poland, and probably some they knew in Canfield. Today that isn't very far, but in those days that was a big occasion to get to see old friends that had perhaps moved away.

- M: Did you take the horse and buggy?
- P: Yes, they went in the horse and buggy. They started out early in the morning; they would take their lunch and then it would be dusk when they came back again.
- M: Mrs. Patterson, where did you live as a child? You talked about living almost on a farm, where was that?
- P: Well, the farm had been an old farm, on Indianola, near South Avenue. When I was a child we lived on Poland Avenue, near the mills. I imagine when my father and mother built there, it was out of town. It was land called Lansingville. Then gradually the mills came down the river. They went on down to Center Street and then on down below that. Then about that time we moved from Poland Avenue and moved up to what had been an old farm at one time. My mother and father later bought, I suppose, a couple of hundred feet in front of the house, you know, a frontage on it. There was a barn, but one summer it burnt down. We didn't use it much. It was just the barn there and I think some of the bums or whatever we called them in those days would sleep in it. It caught fire and burned down.
- M: Did they have any type of fire department at that time for you to call?

P: Well, oh, they had fire departments when I was a child, yes. By the time the fire department got there, it was pretty much, it had burned down. It had been an old barn and probably dried out, you know. A little bit of hay in it, not much, but probably just enough to . . . Oh, and another thing that I remember from that, I remember the first airplane that came to Youngstown. It landed in a field in back of this barn I am talking about. It had to make a forced landing. It was just one of those one-man, you know, probably two-seater airplanes. People came from far and near when it landed. There was a fence around the barn to start with. The people climbed the fence and before it was over so many had climbed and gone across the fence that it was lying flat. (Laughter) Everybody came to see that airplane.

M: Did it land because it was out of fuel or what was the reason for landing?

P: Well, it must have been a forced landing. No one was hurt. I don't remember anything like that, nobody heard about it. It was probably out of fuel or something and had to make a forced landing. There was no damage done. They landed in the big field in the back of our barn. Everybody gathered. I must have been probably twelve, maybe thirteen years old, and I am 71 now. You figure it out.

M: Had anybody seen an airplane before that?

P: It was the first I had seen. There were probably people in Youngstown that had, but the neighbor kids and even the grown up people came. It was their first sight of a plane. How many years ago would that be?

M: About 55 years or better.

P: I suppose that might have been the beginning, maybe the early part of World War I, before the United States was in the war. Wouldn't it be around that time?

M: Yes. Now you talked about this being the time of World War I before America got started in it, do you remember how it felt that day or when you heard that the United States was at war? For the First World War?

P: No, I don't. But I know that two of my brothers went. One brother was about 22; my brother Jack Harris was about 22 and he decided to enlist. Then I had a brother Hugh that would be about 32 or 33. Brother Jack enlisted in the Marines and my brother Hugh said that

he would enlist too, if they could go together. He was past the place where they could draft him, he was 33 then, I suppose. My two brothers went down to Quantico, Virginia, the marine base, and they needed three men to fill out an old company, 80th Company, 6th Regiment. They needed men, five men to fill it up. My two brothers were two of the five. Out of the five, they were the only two that came back alive. Both of them had been wounded. Jack came back first because he was hurt worse. He came back, one of the early returnees. They made quite a hero out of him and another Marine he brought back with him. They made quite a fuss over him at that time. There was a little piece in the paper. I still have a tattered part of the article about the fellow that came home with him. In the war he had a mule team, to take supplies back and forth to the men. He got quite fond of this mule and he told how coming back from taking supplies up to the front, the mule sort of bucked or something, at whatever was being fired at the time at them, just ahead of it. This landed and the mule was wounded, but it didn't quite hit him. There was a piece in the paper about this Marine and his mule.

- M: We talked about, talking about now the First World War, but the Second World War brought an end to the Depression. Can you relate any ideas, the home life, what it was like for a young woman, like you could be home, or working, or by yourself?
- P: Well, World War II, I can remember Pearl Harbor, the shock of that, the Japanese. Then I can remember my mother lived with me at the time, sort of blackouts and that sort of thing. I don't know if we actually had them. I do remember Pearl Harbor. That seemed like such a dark time. Then things picked up a little bit after that and men started getting lots of work in the mills and there was prosperity. What happened on the outside world I don't remember too much. By this time I had two children. I spent my life, I suppose, in my home. I had an older neighbor say that she never saw a woman stay home as much as I did. I think most mothers stayed home and raised their family in those days. We weren't working women. Especially if you had children, you spent your life in your home and the rest of the world just went by you. I remember shortly after my husband and I were married, we decided to go up to see the quints in Canada.

M: Which quintuplets?

P: The quintuplets born in Canada. I can remember too, when they were born I was working in a beauty shop and one of the wealthy women in Youngstown at the time, I don't remember the name, it isn't important, but anyway, it was just her attitude about this woman having five children all at once. It was, oh, having a little like an animal or something. It was rather superior and supercilious. I just couldn't help resent it. It was just the way the wealthy felt about the poor then.

M: What was it like when you saw those five babies? Were you able to get up close to them?

P: Well, they were in an enclosed place that had windows around it. We could see in, but the babies couldn't see out, and they were playing.

M: Was this in a building?

P: Yes, it was in a building. It was glass enclosed, the part they were in. I don't know if the part was just for show, they brought, perhaps there just for a certain time of day. We could see in and they couldn't see out. They were busy playing away and happily it seemed. It looked like good, healthy youngsters. Of course, the government took them over and they were raised. Their money was saved for them, but taken away from their parents. It didn't seem to be quite right. They seemed happy enough.

M: When you went to see them was there an admission charge, or can anybody just go in?

P: No, I think we paid a little bit. There wasn't a big crowd at the time that we went, just a few people. Times weren't too good, I think we went a couple of years after we were married. The youngsters, I can't remember exactly, but they could walk. They must have been three or four years old. There were not too many people going to Canada in those days, a few.

M: How did you get up to Canada?

P: My brother-in-law had a car and two couples of us went up. We stopped at roadside motels and they weren't big motels, they were homes that people rented out their rooms. I don't suppose it cost us more than \$2 a night.

M: Do you remember how much gasoline cost at that time?

P: No, I don't. My husband might remember, but I have no idea what gasoline was then. Automobiles were cheap, you could probably buy an automobile at that time, a Ford or something like that, for about \$800. When I mentioned about buying a car for about \$800, just about that time, my husband and I had the opportunity to buy a home for about \$5000. It was down on Delason near Glenwood. It was a rather nice section then. It was a nice, three-bedroom home, two story. There was a little attic in it. It was not too big of a lot, probably 50, 60 foot lot, but a nice home, \$5000. My husband remembered when the Depression was so bad and some of his bus driver friends were having their homes repossessed by the banks because they couldn't make their payments. He worried that, oh, times had been tough, maybe they would be again and he didn't want to take a chance on buying a home and then having the bank taking it away from him. We lost a good opportunity then. I remember a woman, when I was working in the beauty shop, her husband had been with one of the stock brokerage firms in Youngstown. He had been selling stock and probably investing his money in stock and they were really going big. They took a trip to Hawaii, trips here and there, then the bottom fell out of everything and he lost his money. One time when she was in the shop after that, we were talking about losing their money and I said to her, "Well all the money you spent on the trips and those things, don't you kind of wish you had it?" "No," she said, "we would have invested that in the stock market if we hadn't taken a trip to Hawaii or here or there." She said, "At least I have some good memories anyway." I imagine that man probably made money again. He had the know-how. When you talk about the Depression, the way it was then, people were, well, sort of hang dog. There was nothing rebellious about people then. I mean if you want to get up and fight . . . I mean here it is, it is terrible. You just buckled under it and took it, that's all. It seems to me you would think people would rebel. The worse times are, it seems to me the more humble people are. At least they were in that day. Today, they are going to do something. There are always some radicals and so forth. Well, let's thank God for some radicals too, even though we disapprove of them. Nobody thought of fighting or rebelling. This is just the way it is and you

just accept it. There was a march on Washington. That was fine. We hoped they would accomplish something, but you didn't think about getting into it yourself. You always hoped the other fellow would do it. You just accepted it, it seems to me. We were too humble; we were too meek.

M: Do you remember the day when the banks in Youngstown closed?

P: Yes. It was utter despair. Nothing about, they can't do this to me or anything like that. They are closed, what are we going to do? That's all there was to it. Just hopelessness, what are we going to do? I knew some people who didn't have a lot of money. A friend that I worked with, she is from another town, had no relatives or anyone here, all on her own. All she could make was a few dollars that she could make in the beauty business. That wasn't much at that time. Her money was in the bank. It was closed, what could you do? You just had to wait. That is why I think Roosevelt was such a Godsend, it gave you hope. Before that, it was just despair. No fight in you, nothing. The banks are closed, what are we going to do? Eventually, Roosevelt got into office and the bank did open and pay again. Until that happened, people just took what came.

M: Do you think that if the young people were more militant, like they are today, things might have been different at that time?

P: The times weren't right for militancy. I know when I got out of high school, I knew nothing about politics, you knew how your father voted or something, but you just accepted those things. We didn't do much thinking of our own, politically, in those days. The times weren't right for it, I don't think. We just accepted it. God bless the young people today with their attitude of questioning and militancy. I think that it is kind of right. We have an old family book on the Harris family. It takes us back when the first one came to America, and it tells about the first Harris man that came here. He had, oh, I think about five or six sons. Three of them were on the British side and two were on the side of the colonies. Always there has been, I suppose, a difference of opinion. Maybe our young people today are more like our early ancestors that came. I remember during the Depression there wasn't much spunk left in us. We just accepted and didn't question much, I don't think. We have come through a lot in the 200 years. This will be the birthday this July, 200 years. We came through a lot, but I

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don't think you can beat the United States of America.
Our young people today, I have a lot of hope for them.

M: Thank you Mrs. Patterson.

END OF INTERVIEW