

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The Depression Project

Personal Experiences

O. H. 334

SENJA S. VAUGHN

Interviewed

by

Michael Marketch

on

July 21, 1974

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: SENJA S. VAUGHN  
INTERVIEWER: Michael Marketch  
SUBJECT: Depression, Unemployment, Radio, Movies  
DATE: July 21, 1974

M: This is an interview with Senja Vaughn for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program by Michael Robert Marketch at 179 Bonnie Brae, Northeast Warren, Ohio, on July 21, 1974, at 11:00 p.m.

Did you lose a job because of the Depression, and if so, when did you become unemployed and how long were you out of work?

V: I did not lose a job because of the Depression because I was a student in junior high school. However, it was difficult for me to find employment after finishing my nursing education in 1937 due to the Depression. I had an occasional private duty case at five dollars for a twelve hour day. In the later part of 1938, I was employed by the hospital at \$56 per month.

M: Did you know many people who were long out of work? How did this seem to affect them? Were they largely bitter about it, or did they tend to feel that, after all, everyone was in the same boat anyhow?

V: Well, there were some people who had rather a casual view of it, and these were the ones who sought the soup kitchens and any charity. But most people with whom I was acquainted felt that this was a situation with which they were very unhappy. They tried any odd jobs or honest means to earn even a few cents.

M: How did people who were out of work feel about accepting welfare?

V: Some people accepted it as a matter of course. They felt

that this was coming to them. But by far and large, the majority of the people who had been gainfully employed and were in the habit of working for a living did not wish to accept charity or welfare. They felt that any assistance that they did receive for which they did not work was charity and degrading to their pride and self-respect. Many sold apples on street corners.

M: Were there many local projects designed to help people out of work?

V: No, not too many local projects; part was federal, part was state. The local governments mostly encouraged people who had the money to hire people, to hire as many as they could. They also provided means whereby people could work for the city in order to pay for their city obligations by working on road crews and cutting weeds from roadsides, et cetera.

M: How did people feel about the federal government's unemployment measures, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps? Do you know anyone who worked on Local CCC projects, such as the ones in Mill Creek Park? Did such people think these were good things or not?

V: In answering the first question about the CCC camps, I did know a few people who had gone to them, who had worked there. The general impression gathered from these people was that they were satisfied with the program as it was, but they would have preferred to have other types of private employment. However, they felt that this was a substitute which they could improve later. The local projects, most people felt that they were totally inadequate in the area where I was living. I was not familiar with the Mill Creek Project.

M: What did people feel was the main cause for them being out of work during the Depression?

V: It seems to me that most people felt that it was a political thing. Of course, they were blaming the current president, and the party in power. However, there were some people, the more sophisticated people and people in business realized that this was not true entirely. This was due to business factors which had occurred. There were numerous strikes, long strikes, such as railroad strikes. John L. Lewis had organized the mine workers. There were mining strikes and there were steel strikes, which caused the growth of business to drop. This was not only in the United States; there was a dropping of business worldwide. The strikes caused companies great losses of capital cash, and equipment. Inflation was somewhat less troublesome than it is today, but nevertheless there was a worldwide inflation at this particular time, in addition to the Crash.

These factors were big contributing factors, and I feel that many of the people felt this to be true. However, the common man did not think this, except in a few rare persons.

M: What view did people take of the state government's efforts to relieve the Depression?

V: I think most of the people felt that the state was doing only a fair job to alleviate the Depression. They felt that more constructive methods could be taken.

M: The federal government?

V: As I recall, most people with whom I had contact, plus material which I read, gave me the impression that the average person felt the government was taking positive steps with the public works programs, with the CCC program and the bank holiday, which set into motion legislation to give banks the option of being federally insured, and the savings and loan companies. These were steps which the public did approve.

M: Do you remember anything of the efforts of the city of Warren to relieve the Depression?

V: I think Warren was about as progressive as any city was at that time. The city itself tried to get more people employed into the city's water department, and into the street programs. They also had programs for cutting grass along roadsides. They tried to encourage people to hire the unemployed and at this time much of the sewage work was done. Of course, this was an asset to the city. They were able to do much on the sewage works at this time because people were working for a very small sum of money.

M: Were there any specific individuals to blame for causing the Depression? If so, who were they?

V: As I stated before, there really were no specific individuals to be blamed. However, the general public felt it was the president and the government. I feel one long strike after another, which affected other industries, caused the economy to erode to the disastrous level. This is still my conviction after years of thought.

M: What did people tend to think of Hoover during this period?

V: They felt that he and the attorney general were just negotiating with Japan and not paying enough attention to the country's economy. That was the general discussion among the people around this area at the time.

M: What did the people tend to think of Franklin Delano

Roosevelt?

- V: In the election which followed the Crash, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was running. Of course, people felt that they wanted a change in government and they liked his proposed program and promises. They voted him in and they seemed to be generally happy with the program. There were exceptions to this view.
- M: Did people tend to worry much about the happenings around the world at this time, for example, the rise of Hitler in Germany during the 1930's ?
- V: I don't think they were worrying too much because everybody was so busy worrying about their own financial situation. However, in school we were very much aware of Mussolini's rise to power in Italy. People became concerned about Hitler in the very late thirties.
- M: What, if anything, did people feel about what the Russians were doing with communism during this period?
- V: Well, the general consensus of conversation among the family and social groups of my association at that particular period was that they felt that the communists, having put in their Five Year Plan, were our bitter enemies. They felt communism was entirely wrong and they were very strongly opposed to it. It was a great topic of conversation among the lay people, with whom our family associated. However, we didn't hear too much about it in school, in history class, or in current event classes. The stress was on Mussolini's activities.
- M: What did people think about the Democratic Party during this period?
- V: Most people were anxious to change to most anything, I think. The Democratic Party was there and it was the stronger party of anything that was being offered. They voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic Party and it was a landslide win.
- M: What did they think about the Republicans?
- V: They felt that they had been let down the drain and they were very unhappy with them. Naturally, they were voted out.
- M: Were there any times during the Depression when the people sensed that things were about to get better? If so, when?
- V: I think the feeling that things were getting better was so gradual that it's very, very difficult to pinpoint it. But there definitely were signs of improvement, slight

improvement, I would say about 1934 and 1935, with the Public Works Program and some increases in employment. People were becoming more encouraged. Although there was still hunger, there was still high unemployment, and everything--it was a bad situation--I think things were beginning to look up at that time.

- M: The stock market crashed in 1929, and it crashed again in 1937. Were people aware of any worsening of their lives as a result of the second crash in 1937?
- V: I feel that Mr. John Q. Public was hardly aware that there was a second crash. Business people would be, but the average worker was hardly even aware of it, except what they might have read in the paper. It made little, if any, difference to them. It did not have the mass impact that the crash of 1929 had.
- M: How did people feel about the industrial strike during this period?
- V: Strikes, in general, just were not a popular item at that time because everybody was just about ready to work under any circumstances and for any amount. However, the unions were pushing for better working conditions, for more money, a shorter work week, and there was a lot of strife between the union workers and those who would work for the industry as "scabs".
- M: Since people were reluctant to go on strike, were there any exceptions? For example, the Little Steel Strike in Youngstown in 1937, how did people feel about that?
- V: It was pretty much as I just said. People were not anxious for strikes and even the Little Strike was rather unpopular. I was not in Youngstown at the time, or in Warren, so I'm not too familiar with the situation, but what I do recall of it, it wasn't too popular. Strike breakers, called "scabs", were brought in to work because local residents who attempted to work were beaten and/or their homes were damaged.
- M: Were there any people who discovered surprising ways in making other livings during the Depression? Did you know anyone who was able to start a small business? Do you know anyone who became a hobo?
- V: Oh yes, they had numerous ways of making a living during that period. Just as when one is hungry, one finds ingenious ways. The young people especially, who had any musical background, did so. With the repeal of prohibition and the coming in of the bars, and so-called

nightclubs, entertainment was sought and people went in as vocalists, pianists, dancers, et cetera. They would form orchestras or bands. Some of them had small beginnings and made good later. There were those who had hobbies previously and made a business out of selling handmade goods, sold baked goods, and some later opened stores. Many kinds of odd jobs later became permanent jobs.

As far as hobos are concerned, hobos were very prevalent. There was never a week and many times not a day, between hobos coming around asking for sandwiches or something to eat, anything at all. They did not ask to come into the house. The railroad detectives were kept very busy by them. Some of the detectives would actually help some of the hobos by informing them which boxcars were available, which side to get out, which side to get in, et cetera. Other detectives were very strict. They would not let them "ride the rails", as it was called. Then these hobos gathered around the railroad tracks, not too far from the tracks. They were comrades really; although they did not know each other always, they soon became friends because they would share their little tidbits of food and build a fire for cooking and warmth. They helped each other and had a grapevine system of information. Many home fences bore an "x" to mark the occupants as donors. The ones I met were very courteous.

- M: Do you remember how well supplied the grocery stores were during the Depression? Were prices high or low? Did the fact that some people raised a part of their food affect grocery store prices in any noticeable way?
- V: Well, of course, supply and demand did take hold; with the lack of employment, people did not have money to buy. They were buying on credit and a little cash. If you had cash to pay, it was cheaper. Some areas issued script in place of money. If you were buying on credit, of course, your prices were higher, even in the same store. Stores were stocked well, adequately with food, but people bought only those items which were absolutely necessary and if the price went up too high, it just simply went unsold. People waited until the price came down. So your supply and demand, there again, worked. The storekeepers soon began to know--they were mostly neighborhood stores--who had gardens and what season they should supply foods. Certain foods--whatever was grown in the area--the surpluses were purchased by storekeepers to sell to non-gardeners and other foods were stocked only in the amount that they anticipated they could sell. Also, another factor was that certain areas had had certain likes and dislikes for certain foods, so what you might be able to find in one neighborhood you

wouldn't find in another neighborhood, depending on the ethnic and economic state of the area. Apples you bought in season. Oranges you got at Christmas time. Things like this were a luxury. You had meatless days most of the time. You had meat only a certain number of days a week. Script was issued by some municipalities as legal tender to pay these employees and was accepted by all in those cities. When cities got money the script was exchanged for money.

M: If people had regular jobs, what did they do with their spare time?

V: If they had regular jobs, they were most fortunate. Most people, if they had work, worked part-time. The companies would split up the work among the men as much as possible. I know my father worked full-time for quite sometime and then he was cut back one day a week alternately with a cut in wages until he was working there days, two days, and then one day a week. For about three months he didn't have any work at all. They then started back again, one day more to each man on the job. Then they gradually increased.

Now, as far as spare time was concerned, these men would try to find odd jobs. They might find gardening jobs. Some found jobs as caddies at the country club. But most of these were taken by the younger boys. Some of them tried to do hauling or carpentry work, or make things and sell them. Some of them just didn't do anything. My mother did washings and ironings for the more affluent. So when Dad was off completely, he helped with washing the clothes. But the rest of the family, we did the ironing. Of course, he couldn't iron. This is just an example.

Then as far as entertainment is concerned, numerous things came out. The radio was improved tremendously from the crystal set to the cabinet models, the consoles and the small table models. The electronic process was going on. People were listening more to the radio. They also were discussing it. There were church activities, concerts, sports competitions, and movies. People went to the movies a lot. They had a few dances, and there were many concerts. The church had many affairs to keep them busy. Jigsaw puzzles were very popular at that time. This is when they really came into popularity. Chinese checkers became popular also.

It was at this time that the numbers racket began to grow. One penny a number might win a dollar or two was their thinking. The time was right, people were ready to try it.



- M: Did lots of people raise gardens, as it's sometimes said? What about the people who didn't?
- V: A lot of people did raise gardens. This was not only a matter of necessity, it was also a matter of occupational therapy, which was a blessing in disguise. It helped many of the people to keep their sanity. Now, the people that did not raise gardens were those who did not have adequate yard space, mostly. But anyone that had yard space, or most everybody at least, had a garden of sorts. Some had rather elaborate ones. Almost everyone canned fruits, vegetables, and made jams and jellies.
- M: What about people who succeeded in earning and saving money, did such people put their money in banks, or did they distrust banks? Did anyone put their money in the stock market or anywhere else?
- V: There was a tremendous number of people who just simply did not trust the banks after the bank crashed because many people lost money and they only got a small percentage of their savings back. Some of these people stashed the money away at home or buried it. Then there were those who did not believe that the government was backing up the bank insurance and they were not depositing money in the bank. Others would only deposit it with an institution that had the insurance, whether it was a bank or a savings and loan company. Then, believe me, they really kept a watch on the bank's statement, the annual statement. It was many years before many people redeposited in banks. Many of these people never put their money back into the bank. During World War II, when the government war bonds came out, people began buying those. Gradually, the confidence did build back up along with more employment and growing inflation.

Now, going back to the actual Depression time, as far as stocks were concerned, the market was down. There were some who bought on the down market and sold when the market went up a little and they did make some money. People were not buying on the margin. Some bought when the market was going up and sold when it went down and lost money. The market activity was not too good until we really got a bullmarket going when World War II broke out.

- M: Did families try to get extra money? Were women and girls encouraged to find work? If so, what did they find? What kind of work did boys do?
- V: Of course, at this time, everybody had to try to work. I'll deal with women first. Married women generally were not employed in industry. They were not employed by the

school system if they were married, unless they were widows with children, or widows per se. The married women were not employed by industry if that was a job that a man could do. Women did find odd jobs, clerking sometimes, but mostly, if they did any work, it was domestic work or sewing. They would sew in their own homes for people or they would go out and sew for people in their homes. That was about all women did.

Then as far as boys were concerned, boys generally caddied at the country club, cut grass, or had paper routes. They did odd jobs of cleaning, helping clean stores and buildings. Incidentally, one of the jobs that was opened to women, married women, was janitress jobs in the bank buildings and office buildings. Going back to the boys, some of them were lifeguards at pools. Some went out on the farms and worked. Many of them who had to drop their schooling because the family could not afford to have them go to school anymore went to the CCC camps.

The girls as far as helping the family out, of course, helped at home. They applied for jobs and did get them, working in restaurants and as clerks and domestics, also babysitting. I, for one, would go around every Saturday morning, since fingerwaving was the style of the hair at that time, and finger-wave these ladies heads for 25 cents. I used the Dr. Ellis' hair setting lotion from the dime store which cost ten cents a bottle. So I made a pretty good income that way; I netted from \$1 to \$1.25. Also, I babysat.

Another job which boys had in those days was called a "soda jerk". Ice cream parlors were popular at that time. They frequently were working in the confectionery departments and made ice cream sodas and various fancy ice cream dishes, sundaes, et cetera.

- M: Did many young people tend to leave home during the Depression, or did young people tend to remain at home longer than otherwise would have been expected of them?
- V: Young people had a tendency to stay home longer at that time because there was no money at that time for them to go on for further education, to college, as we have now. Although the desire was there, the money was not. There were no scholarships available, so the young people stayed at home and worked if possible. It was cheaper to live at home and pay a small board than to go someplace else and try to find a job. If they were lucky enough to get a job, they stayed where they were. But again, here some of them went into the service, those who were lucky enough to get an appointment to either the Marine Corps, Annapolis or West Point. Some went into the Army.

Of course, at that time there was no separate Air Force. Some of them went to the CCC Camps and so forth.

M: Would you be able to say whether family life improved or suffered during the Depression?

V: I think that family life improved during the Depression. One point, it brought the family close together. They were working together to keep the family together, to keep body and soul together in many instances. Of course, we didn't have anything that drastic in our own situation, but I saw it. Numbers of families would actually go out and beg for food and clothing. Everybody got a little bit here and a little bit there. They brought it home and at least this fed and helped to clothe the family. It was a mutual thing, everybody working together. There were cases where some of the children would feel that they were getting nowhere. They thought that maybe they could make it alone somewhere else. They hit the rails and tried to get work elsewhere. Sometimes they were successful and sometimes they weren't.

M: How do you remember church attendance during the Depression? Was it up or down? Could what you remember be applied to all church groups or only some? If so, which?

V: I think on the whole church attendance was pretty good. Now there were some who became embittered to the extent that they even blamed the church. This was absolutely in the minority. Some people did not go to church because they felt they did not have presentable clothes to go. After they had been out of work for so long, they didn't have money to put in the collection plate and people who were proud just didn't want to go. In our church they collected the money by monthly payments and then they also put the collection bag around. But it was such that you could stick your hand in there and jingle the change and nobody would know whether you put any in or not. Everybody was so concerned about themselves that they really weren't looking to see who was putting money into the collection bag and who was not. During the offering they were singing a hymn so they had to keep their eyes pretty much on the hymnal. But our attendance was pretty good and from what I observed and heard from other churches, it was pretty good. People felt the need to worship in church.

M: Did many people not complete their schooling as a result of the Depression? Can you give any examples?

V: There were a lot of people who didn't complete school because of the Depression. Boys and girls both, from fourteen years on, dropped out of school because they

didn't have money to buy books and clothes. They dropped out in order to try to make a living for the family. Even if it was a small amount, every little bit added to the family pot and helped. Many of them did not have clothes to go to school and they would just drop out. As far as higher education was concerned, beyond the high school level, people were fortunate to even have graduated from high school. Many of them dropped out after graduating from junior high. There were no scholarships available, and unless your parents had money, enough for you to go to college, you just did not go.

M: How far did parents feel their kids should go in the school during the Depression, on the average?

V: On the average, they had a desire to have their children well educated. However, it was a financial matter and many people felt that if they got through tenth grade this was adequate, especially for girls. Now, they felt boys must get a high school education, but the girls could quit after ten years or even nine years. They felt that girls would get married anyway and have families, so their education could be sacrificed.

M: Do you remember kids as being generally more or less independent of their parents during this period?

V: Independent of their parents, well, it all depends on just exactly the meaning you wish to convey. If you mean independent financially, I don't think they were independent, but I think that they learned appreciation for the value of money because everybody had to help earn money. Mostly, they respected their parents' opinions.

M: How did people feel about obeying laws during the Depression? Was there any decline of law and order or not?

V: As far as law and order were concerned, I think it was pretty good at that time. There were, of course, the mobs and bootlegging gangs during the prohibition period, but after prohibition was abolished, they diminished as they went into some other forms. There were gangs in the cities, however. In towns like Warren, Youngstown, and smaller towns, the laws were pretty well obeyed. Those who were caught doing wrong, the law was pretty strict and they were punished. The law enforcement officers had the power to enforce the laws and, of course, the courts went along with them. I don't feel that there was as much criminal activity then as there is now in proportion to the population.

M: How do you remember people feeling about having to pay income tax

in the early 1930's? Did many people try to avoid it?

V: Of course, the poor people and the middle class people didn't need to worry about it because they didn't make enough money. Now, for the people that came into the category where they would have to pay taxes, I feel that there were a lot of loopholes and the tax laws were not as stringent. They had many deductions; they had many tax exempt forms of income. You just didn't hear too much discussion on it. One statement I frequently heard was, "I wish I earned enough to pay income taxes."

M: Were veterans' organizations active during the Depression? If so, what kind of things did they want?

V: The veterans' organizations, the veterans of World War I, made a march into Washington. They wanted a pension, improved hospitalization, and so forth, which they eventually did get. They were quite active. They had a lot of state and national activities.

M: Were women's organizations active during the Depression? If so, what kinds of things did they do?

V: There were very few women's organizations that were active at that time. Mostly they were church groups, educational groups, sorority groups, and so on. They would not be recognized in the sense of women's organizations today.

M: Do you remember there being any talk about conservation and ecology during this period? Can you give any instances?

V: Conservation, as far as farming was concerned, was discussed a lot. The Agriculture Department had a lot of information going out because the dust bowl period was at that time. They were trying to teach irrigation methods and there were brochures out in order to conserve the soil and the water supply. Ecology was not called ecology at that time. The people were beginning to complain about the loss of the land from strip mining. Top soil was lost and land was left with gully after gully filled with rocks and unfertile dirt.

M: Who had radios during the Depression, everybody or only some?

V: During the very beginning of the Depression radios were very rare. Only the richer people had them, the upper income people, and a few middle class people. Then, as time went on, in the 1930's or about 1931, they were becoming more popular. Of course, with the technology being improved, they had table models and console models.

People were beginning to buy them because credit was becoming very profound at this time. People bought them to use as a means of entertainment so they wouldn't have to go somewhere else. Of course, this was quite a novelty. If somebody had a radio, everybody who was a friend of this person went to their house to listen to the radio. When the Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney fight was on, I recall everybody had to find out who had a radio, so they could go and hear it.

Some of the people who were famous during that era and say within five years of that time were Grace Allen, George Burns, Fehber McGee and Molly, and Amos and Andy. Everybody listened to "Amos and Andy": Rudy Vallee, Kate Smith, and Bing Crosby became popular. One of the popular sportscasters was Bill Stern. Will Rogers was very popular at that time. I remember very well his line, "All I know is what I read in the papers."

M: What was your own favorite program?

V: I had to listen to Lowell Thomas every night and to Will Rogers. I loved to hear Kate Smith, and every Saturday afternoon I simply had to hear the New York Philharmonic Concert with commentary. During the opera season, every Saturday afternoon I listened to the opera. Perhaps I was a little high brow on some of this. Then when it came down to the popular guys, well, I did like Rudy Vallee really well.

M: Were crystal sets more prevalent in the early part?

V: The crystal sets were the very first. I remember as a child one friend who had a crystal set, but there weren't very many. Actually, by 1929 they were out of the crystal sets and into the more improved types.

M: Do you remember what movies were like during the 1930's? Could you recall and describe any that you especially remember?

V: I especially remember "My Blue Heaven" with Janet Gaynor. There was a lot of romance in it. These were all family type movies. They were boy meets girl, the great love story, and they live happily ever after. I suppose these were really very popular because voice was coming in. Another one was "Rose Marie" with Jeannette McDonald and Nelson Eddy. Audio was in the movies and they were called "talking pictures". Later on they were called sound movies or "vitaphones". I don't think it's actually true that "misery loves misery". I think that people liked to go see these movies and tended to daydream a little bit, and it was good psychotherapy. Also they had some musicals coming out. I don't recall for sure what all of them were.

I didn't get to go to the movies too often. I didn't have any extra spending money. Greta Garbo was the star of the era.

M: Did many people go to the theatre?

V: If they had spending money, they would rather go to the theatre where they could spend a good bit of time and see maybe a double feature, the news, and maybe a sing-a-long might be in there. Possibly, there might even be a little vaudeville show. At this time, Henry Ford was trying to bring back the country folk dances. He had sponsored contests throughout the country in the various theatres. I can recall that there were square dances and a dance called the "Quadrill", which he was trying to bring back. I just can't recall what some of the other dances were called. The group who did the best dancing, or the couple, or the person, got a prize. Those with the best costumes got the best prize. This had to be an original type costume. It was rather fascinating to me to see this because I had never seen anything like this before. People really did flock in those nights.

M: These were the times when people had the dance marathons and the goldfish swallowing and all that?

V: Oh yes. The goldfish swallowing came on in the latter part, but the dance marathons came on about 1931, I believe, maybe in 1930. We would listen to the dance marathons on the radio, oh my, yes! You got so that you would not miss a single broadcast. I know there were programs in Youngstown and there was a marathon at Idora Park. We would listen, and you got to know these people by names and you began to root for them as though you were rooting for your own home team.

M: Who had automobiles during the Depression and who did not?

V: The ones who had automobiles were the more wealthy, only the upper-middle class. The lower-middle class did not, unless they lived out on a farm and they had to come into town to work. Mostly the farmers had a truck because they could utilize it for transportation of farm products and getting to church.

M: Did you take any vacations during the Depression? If you did, where did you go? Was it popular for vacationers to stay at motels or did many people camp out when on a vacation?

V: Vacations? We would have said, "What's that?" Vacation to us meant no school for three months. That was what vacation meant. In the summertime, after we finally got

a car, we would go to visit our relatives. Prior to that, you went by bus or by streetcar. If you happened to go some place to stay overnight that was a real big thing. But you visited for the day and that was it. Now, you would read about vacations, and the people that your family worked for, bosses, they went on vacations. You heard about this and you heard that they would go up to Geneva on the Lake or to Madison on the Lake and rent a cottage. Some of the more affluent went to Chautaugua, New York. That was it. The people who got married, if they had enough money, or could scrape it together, could borrow a car if they didn't have one of their own, and buy gas for it. They would go to Niagara Falls for a honeymoon. There were no motels, only hotels and tourist homes.

M: Were you, or was anyone you know, in college during the Depression? If so, what kinds of groups were you active in?

V: I wasn't in college because I didn't have the money to attend. I was accepted, but we couldn't afford it so I entered a three-year nursing program. It was a hospital diploma program. I found in a diploma school it was a bit skimpy financially, but not too bad. For girls, nursing was not too bad of a program then because the uniform was furnished and your room and board was furnished. We bought our textbooks. You worked for clinical experience. This was considered compensation for the work that you did on the floor taking care of patients. We also had a small stipend then. I think we got a couple of dollars a month. This would buy our hose for duty and street wear. Of course, we could always ask for money for the necessary items for Christmas or birthday, which helped. There are very few people who I know who went on to college. Some of them who were fortunate enough to have the money had to take jobs as waiters in the schools and some of them worked their way through at other jobs. Maybe they would have to stop for half a year to work and then go back to school to finish. Some of them worked part of the day and went to school part of the day.

Collegiate activities were sororities, fraternities, et cetera. My group activities were limited to a study group and church.

M: Were you or anyone you knew a union member during the Depression? If so, what were unions most interested in during this period, economic matters or politics? If so, did they see themselves as democrats or socialists?



V: I knew a few union people, not many. The ones I knew were in the steel area. I think they felt that they were more democratic than socialistic. They were interested in improved economic matters and working conditions.

M: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW