

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Great Depression Project

Personal Experience

O. H. 387

JIM KERTI

Interviewed

by

Dan Flood

on

December 1, 1975

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Great Depression Project

INTERVIEWEE: JIM KERTI

INTERVIEWER: Daniel Flood

SUBJECT: Education, CCC, F.D.R., "War of the Worlds", WPA, Idora Park, Recreation, Gardening, Army, Radio

DATE: December 1, 1975

F: This is an interview with Jim Kerti for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the Great Depression by Dan Flood at his apartment, 69 N. Main Street, Mineral Ridge, Ohio. It is December 1, 1975, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kerti, why don't we begin by allowing you to give us some specific background information such as when and where you were born, names of your family members, and the occupation your father was in at the time of your birth.

K: Well, there were five. I had two brothers and a sister. Of course, a mother and father. I was born in Youngstown in 1920. Right now, I'm 55. I had a brother Mike, Andy, a sister, Helen, and of course, myself, Jim. We lived on the west side of Youngstown since I was about six or seven because we lived in Hazelton, Ohio, for awhile.

About my childhood, it was pretty tough. I was pretty young during the Depression. I was about ten or twelve, around there. There weren't many jobs. I wasn't old enough to work--I mean for my father. He worked for US Steel. First of all, he worked for Sharon Steel--if I remember correctly--then he got a job with US Steel. He stayed there until he went on pension. In those days they weren't paying very much, and we had to go pick up kindling wood, old railroad ties, and saw logs for the fire.

The three boys spent some time in the CCC camps. In those days they paid you \$3 a month. They sent \$3 home and you would keep five. Of course, it was just like the Army; you had clothes and three meals a day. You had a store like a PX in the Army. You had Coca-Cola, ice cream, cigarettes and stuff, but all you got out of the \$30 was \$5.

F: Then, they sent the rest home to your parents?

K: Right, then you had to make it on five because if you blew it, you'd have to wait another month. There was no use writing home to Papa to send you money back because you would never get it. Of course, I attended Washington School. I attended Chaney High School. After getting out of high school I went to work, got a job.

F: Do you want to elaborate a little bit more on the schooling?

K: I started in the first grade and went to Chaney High School. I didn't graduate because I was trying to make some money. I got out of school and got a job in a gas station. That first job I got was working 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. for a dollar a day, seven days a week. I figured that was a little too much. I got another job at another gas station which was paying \$12.50 a week, six days a week, one day off. Of course, in those days you had to do what you were told. I had to drive a gas truck too. You had to do everything. You had to grease the car, pump gas, and if you had to make a delivery, you would jump in the truck and make it, but it was only \$12.50. Of course, \$12.50 in those days was pretty good. I stayed there for quite awhile. That was in the 1930's. I asked for a raise and he wouldn't give me a raise, so I told him I was going to quit. He said, "Oh, you're not going to quit." I said, "Yes, I am." Then they opened up the Ravenna Arsenal and it took me three months to get in there because they really checked you out. They checked on everything. You had to have affidavits. I had to have everything. They were paying, at that time, in 1939, I imagine somewhere in there, 1940, about \$35 a week. That was pretty good money.

F: Okay, let's backtrack again to the schooling, itself. Do you remember any specific things that were going on at Washington and Chaney, how the teachers acted at the time?

K: Oh, the teachers were the boss. You weren't allowed to get out of line. You'd get paddled or they would hit you on the finger every once in awhile.

F: There were never any repercussions as far as parents

coming in?

K: No way. You were afraid to come home and tell your parents that the teacher lifted you out of the seat or anything because you would get another one at home. It was best to keep your mouth shut. If you got a lickin' in school, you kept it to yourself, didn't go home and tell your mother or father because one of the two were going to give it to you again.

F: This was back in the late 1920's and early 1930's?

K: No, this was in the 1930's. I was going to Chaney, which was the one on North Haseltine, not the new one, the old one. Where the football field is in back of the old school we had three, little, wooden buildings outside. They had certain classes in there. You might be assigned to go there for your history class or English, or arithmetic. We didn't have math in those days. Like I said, the teachers were the boss. You didn't have anything to say.

F: Do you remember how many kids you had in a classroom?

K: Oh, about 20 or 28, it depended. Some classes you had more than the others.

F: Was Chaney, at that time as it is now, primarily all white?

K: No, we had a few colored people there. It was all mixed and we didn't have any problem. But, the teachers were the boss, the kids weren't the boss at all. You had to stack up to it or they would get you.

F: When you quit high school, how old were you?

K: I quit when I was seventeen, my junior year, to get a job.

F: That would have been 1937?

K: Yes, 1937.

F: Throughout that time, the 1930's, did you see the effects of the Depression in the family itself? Was it talked about around the dinner table? How did you actually feel about the Depression?

K: Well, we had a lot of potatoes. We had our own gardens. We raised parsley, carrots, turnips, and tomatoes. We even had a little patch for some strawberries. We had a few peach trees because we had a frontage of 175 to 200 feet long to the street. My father always wanted a garden so we had to work in the garden, help him weed,

and water. So we ate, but we didn't eat very good like today. Today, you have everything. We only had chicken once a week and that was on Saturdays or holidays. The rest of the time we had soup. We had a lot of potatoes and bread.

At Christmas time you got a pair of shoes. We used to buy a pair of shoes for \$1.25. In the summertime during the Depression we would go to church and come home and take our shoes off. They didn't want you playing in Sunday shoes. But if you didn't have the \$1.25, then you didn't have any shoes. That's how I got into trying to get a job. That's why I quit school. We didn't have many clothes, so I figured I have to make a break now or forget it. I went to a CCC Camp, like I said before.

F: What year was that in?

K: This was right after I got out of school.

F: So it was in the late 1930's then?

K: Yes, late 1930's because I think you had to be seventeen and your parents had to sign.

F: How did you ever decide to go into the CCC's?

K: Well, they were paying \$30 a month, you know, \$30 a month with three meals a day, and your clothes.

F: Was this in an advertisement that you saw?

K: No, President Roosevelt set that up. There were CCC camps all over. They had some in Montana, California; they had them all over. I was unfortunate, I just went to Wooster, Ohio. My other two brothers, one went to Nevada and the other one was up in Montana. You would have to sign up for it and it was pretty hard to get in. So, relief was hard to get. Instead of putting my father on relief, they told us to go to CCC camp and have us send the money home.

There were three boys, so they said we could go to CCC camp and support the family. They sent the \$25 home, and then we could keep \$5 for ourselves. So that's where we went. That was in 1936 to 1938, somewhere in there. I know my relative died when I came home on the pass and I didn't even know it.

F: When you say a pass, what does that mean?

K: You could get a weekend pass.

F: Was it the same setup as the Army, the exact setup?

- K: Yes, I don't think you could come back from Nevada without it. Well, it would cost you a bundle of dough and you did not have it. Me, I bumbled a ride home from Wooster, Ohio. Then, when I got home I found out that my cousin had died. It wasn't easy.
- F: Can you tell us of a typical day in a CCC?
- K: Well, we would get up in the morning, have breakfast, and they would tell us at roll call that we were going out to plant trees. Some fellows were assigned to putting up fences out on the farms and out in the woods. At lunch-time the chow truck would come to bring the chow. Then, after three o'clock or three thirty we would go back to camp.
- F: Where was your camp located? Was it on state property?
- K: It was, I'd imagine, army property. You had army officers there. There were lieutenants and captains there who were running it. I'd imagine it was army property because they had army barracks.
- F: So, how did they decide as to what job you would be doing?
- K: Well, they would change you around. You wouldn't always be digging post holes for fences or you wouldn't be always planting trees. If something would come up where they had to put up a fence then everybody went. We put acres and acres of fences up. I don't know how many trees, but plenty of them. I imagine they're pretty big by now. In fact, I think my brother was doing the same thing in Montana or wherever he was. Andy was up in Nevada, and he was doing the same thing. They had three meals a day. They gave you clothes and shoes.
- F: How about medical care at that time?
- K: Oh, yes, they had a dispensary. They had a doctor and dentist.
- F: So, as far as hospital bills or anything like that, they would be taken care of one hundred percent?
- K: Oh yes, that's definitely right. We had army officers that were in charge. Of course, they had squad leaders from the regular line of guys like us, but the head man was an army officer all the time.
- F: So, how long was your stay in the CCC?
- K: One year.
- F: Would you sign up for only a year at a time?

K: Yes, one year. I don't remember if you were allowed to sign up again.

F: Was it more or less one year per duty and then you would be out and give someone else a chance?

K: That was just to get you off the streets for at least a year. It wasn't bad; I liked it. Like I say, in the evening after work you could go to the movie--they had a movie on the post--or you could go to the PX and have a coke and a klondike, or shoot pool. That's where you bought your soap; you had to buy your own soap, tooth-paste and stuff. They had their own barber up there. They had everything just like the Army.

F: Was there any trouble as far as anyone picking up and leaving?

K: There were some who left. They wouldn't chase you like you had deserted the Army. It was just that some men didn't like the location they were in, or maybe they were homesick. Of course, you were pretty young then. You know, the first time away from home, why, it's pretty hard. Some of them left, but I don't think they ever chased them or anything or followed up or anything. It kept you off the streets and you ate three times a day.

F: What type of knowledge did you gain from the CCC?

K: It sure helped me when I got drafted for the Army. I was already used to it so I could run with the older guys. It didn't bother me a bit because I was away before. Of course, in the Army, when the draftees were coming in a lot of them didn't like it. They were lost; they were homesick. Some would sit there for hours and just cry. You would never believe it, but that's what they did.

Of course, when we got drafted for the Army that was \$21 a month. That's all you got; that's what you started with. Today, I don't know what they start with, pretty high I'd imagine. In the Army we had barracks, PX, movies, a barber, and it was just like we had in the CCC camp. It was a little bit tougher. You were in the Army and you couldn't mess around because they got on you there, but in the CCC camp they couldn't. If you didn't like it, you went home and that was it. It was alright. That \$21, after so many years they started raising the ante up. Then they started raising it up to \$66 and \$90. I don't know what they make now. It depends on your rating how much you get.

F: When you first put into the service did they take into consideration that you were in the CCC to promote you?

K: No. I don't even think I put that down on the paper, and if I had to put it down, I wouldn't put it down.

F: Why not?

K: Well, CCC camp, I just figured that was a poverty job. I didn't want to tell everybody I was in the CCC camp. CCC camp was just to keep you off the street instead of putting the family on relief or whatever you want to call it.

F: Was there much poverty around the Youngstown area during the Depression?

K: Yes. During the Depression they had a soup line. You could go and get soup. In the morning they had oatmeal; in the afternoon they had soup.

F: Where was this?

K: This was up on Salt Springs Road. They had soup kitchens all over town. The west side had so many places to go, the south side had so many places to go, and the north side, et cetera. Then they were selling skim milk for four cents a gallon. We would go with eight cents down to Briar Hill to get the milk on Manning Avenue. I don't think it's there now. Then they had a place where you had to go to get sacks of flour. You could get one sack of flour once a month or something like that. I know I had to carry it all the way from Glenwood Avenue.

F: Was that St. Mary's that you were talking about before?

K: That used to be a relief office up there first. I don't know; it was a school and then they closed the school and I don't know who has it now. When I signed up over there that's where I had to go get the flour and carry it all the way home, a twenty-four or twenty-five pound sack.

F: It was right from Chalmers and Glenwood Avenue.

K: They are there by that cycle shop, Glenwood Cycle Shop. It's right there, right across the street, not opposite them, but on the same side as the cycle shop.

F: That's St. Pat's new building. It's owned by the Salvation Army now.

K: That's right, they sold that. There were people during the Depression that were worse off than we were. When I was in the service I saw a lot, people that . . . American people; you would never believe that they were so hard up. Even then, in 1941, we started pulling out of the Depression.

F: Was this due to the fact of the war?

K: Probably. I was all over in the Army before I went overseas. I saw people in worse shape than I ever was even if I had to go up and get bread from the soup line and soup, and oatmeal and flour.

F: Do you remember anything about the amusement park, Idora Park, around town here?

K: Oh yes, Idora Park. Oh my goodness yes! They used to have a three cent kiddie day. Carnegie had Carnegie Day there. Different outfits had different days, but there was always a kiddie day. It was three cents a ride. You would get fifty cents and you thought you were really flushed. Our father gave us each a half dollar. Now, this is when I was younger, it's not when I was growing up. The next kiddie day that came around we would say, "Can we go to Idora Park?" He'd say, "Why?" I'd say, "Because it's kiddie day." He said, "Yes, go ahead, if you want to." We walked, we didn't ride. We walked through Mill Creek Park, down at Lake Glacier and up and around to Mill Creek Park through the back way. We'd say, "We need some money." He'd say, "What do you mean you need money, didn't I give you fifty cents?" I'd say, "Well, that was gone a long time ago, that was a month ago or so." And he would finally say, "Okay, but if there are anymore kiddie days coming up, don't ask me for anymore half dollars."

At that time we had lots of rides. We had a lot of fun out at the park. You would take your own lunch and they would give the kids milk, a bottle of milk. They didn't have paper cartons then. They had little bottles. I think they were half pints or something. You would get that and spend the whole day there. You would go up early in the morning because they would open up at nine o'clock. Well, we would be home before dark because we had to be. We had to be in by nine o'clock. There used to be a whistle that would blow at nine.

Of course, we used to go to shows. The Mahoning Show was a nickel. Sometimes the feature would start late and the nine o'clock whistle would blow and we would have to run all the way home, and come indoors. We would get whacked on the head because the whistle blew and we weren't in the house.

F: What was this whistle?

K: The nine o'clock whistle, that was a curfew. You had to be off the streets; young kids had to be off the streets.

F: Was this mandatory?

K: I don't know if it was mandatory, but when your parents say you be home . . . They had a nine o'clock whistle that always blew. Every kid that heard that whistle would run. I would be playing "Drop Thirteen" or something on the side street and I would hear that whistle and go because my father would be standing by the door as I came in. If you weren't in the house when the whistle blew, he'd say, "Where were you?" We had to be in there, otherwise we would get beat on the head a little bit.

F: So that probably kept the trouble down as far as the kids were concerned.

K: Yes, it did.

Of course, downtown shows you could have seen for a dime. We saw vaudeville shows down at the Palace.

I remember the police had 1929 Fords. That was a cruiser car. It sticks out in mind, I don't know why.

F: How about the radio?

K: The radio was something big in those days. You didn't have a television. You would listen to the "Jack Benny Show" or the "Fibber McGee and Molly Show." You had a lot of things. They used to have dances when we got older with Harry Owens, the Royal Hawaiians from Hawaii, and Cab Calloway. You'd dance for a quarter. It was two bits and one band would play and they would split the time. The dancing was from nine until one, so they would split the time. One band would play a couple of hours and the other band would play a couple of hours. There were a lot of big dances.

F: Was this out at Idora Park?

K: They had them out at Idora Park, New Elms, Yankee Lake, and then they had them out on Milton Dam, Craig Beach. They had a nice dance hall out there. It was open in the summertime. They had, at that time, pretty big name bands. They had Blue Baron up there and Jimmy Lunsford, Louie, and all kinds of bands. That was the main thing, the dance bands. They had a lot of them.

F: Did they have those crazes, like the craze where you would dance for so many hours?

K: Oh yes. That was before my time, I think. They had the dances, especially churches had a lot of dances. They would have a dance contest. You would get a trophy for a waltz or fox trot, or a tango, and Charleston; some

specialized in that.

US Steel had a big playground down here.

F: Where was it?

K: The parking lot; it used to be a playground down there. They had a nice park down there: ringers, swings, balls and bats. They had a big, high sliding board, baby swings and a swimming pool. They would have free movies every Wednesday, but of course, they weren't talkies. We would sit there and watch the movies, right on the grass. The playground would close at eight o'clock. Of course, then we used to go to Volney Rogers a lot. We would walk from our place up there.

F: What did they have down there, football?

K: No, they had horseshoe contests up there, and there were some good horseshoe players. It was a pastime, we would watch them. Then we would watch the tennis players. I still can't understand that tennis. We had a lot of places to go and to do things. Today the kids don't want to do anything. We used to play down in the playground and then go out into the field and play touch football. In the fall we would play football.

F: Did they have the playgrounds set up as today with playground directors and so?

K: Oh yes. I think the one we had down here for as long as I can remember was Miss McFarland. They even had baby contests. You would bring your baby sister down there if you had one. My wife's family won one every year. Every year they took one down, her and all her sisters.

F: Did the park actually give ribbons and everything else?

K: Yes. We used to swim. I used to swim in Lake Glacier.

F: This one house that stands right by Glacier, it's on the right-hand side as you're going. Is that where you used to dress?

K: That house has been there for ages. No, this side going to the rose garden where the log cabin is over there.

F: Oh, it's farther on down?

K: That's right. As you're coming down and you're turning around Glacier going around where the bathhouse is, that's where I used to dive. They had diving boards up there and bleachers. But that house across that little bridge sitting in the corner there, they had a big bathing house

there. They had that for swimming, and that was good swimming.

F: When did this stop?

K: They stopped that during the war. They said that it was getting polluted. That just went to pot. It got unhealthy. By the time I got back from the service and I went walking around the park or something, why, I didn't recognize it because they tore the diving boards down and they were tearing the bathing house down. We had lots of things to do when we were kids.

F: There was a television show on just recently about "War of the Worlds" with Orson Welles, a radio talk show. Do you recall that at all?

K: Yes. He really scared a lot of people. In fact, that was 1937 or 1938, and we actually were talking about it. We didn't care because we were young and it didn't bother us, but they said the people in New York really got scared. Some of them panicked and they caused a lot of trouble. The next day when it came on the radio or out in the paper, it said that they really pulled it off. These people actually thought that these Martians or whatever were coming to New York. I don't remember, but I think it almost caused a panic because some of them really got carried away. They used to have some good sound effects. I laugh about it now, but it wasn't funny then, I don't imagine.

F: What can you remember about Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

K: His fireside chat. You had to listen to it on the radio. You would stop whatever you were doing to listen to his fireside chats. He is the one that took care of the banks. In those days, during the Depression, there were a lot of people who lost a lot of homes and businesses because there was no money. In fact, they didn't owe the bank very much money. We had a case where it was \$450. Today that doesn't sound like a lot of money, but probably in those days it was a lot of money. They would come out and you would get a foreclosure notice and you would get up at seven o'clock in the morning, walk down the street, and you would see the demolition squad out there wrecking the place, tearing it down. He took care of that; they can't do that to you anymore, which is good. Then, a lot of people lost money in the banks. In fact, I had an aunt, I think a bank still owes her some money since the Depression. She says, "I put a dollar in there, I want a dollar back." She's dead now and I don't know what happened to it. But that's what I liked about him; he took care of a lot of things.

He started the banks, the CCC Camps, NRA, and NPA, so they had public work projects. That was alright because, if I remember correctly, I think the WPA built a swimming pool up here at Borts.

F: Yes, we built most of the city pools on the north side and south side.

K: It kept the guys working. They worked; they built stuff. They were working on bridges, swimming pools, and the highways. I thought President Roosevelt did pretty good from rock bottom. One thing I like is today the banks give you a lot of leeway now, but years ago they didn't. Your money is insured and your loan is insured. A lot of people in those days didn't know and they would go away and "boom" their house was torn down. They would smash it up, no lie. They would tear it right down. Today they can't do it. They have to give you a chance. As long as you talk to the bank and make some arrangements to tell them your problems they will be reasonable. In those days, no way, you could holler and scream until you were blue in the face. If you owed money and you missed, that was it.

It was the same with the finance companies. The finance companies in those days were making a fortune. You would owe them two dollars, but by the time you got through paying them you paid them \$450 or better. That was almost like loan sharking.

I know there were guys during the Depression who bought up people's bank books for fifty cents on the dollar. A lot of people were doing that. Some were stubborn like my aunt and wouldn't give it up. They said, no, I put it there I want it. It was during the Depression or the Stock Market Crash and you couldn't get anything. Everybody was . . . if they had it they were holding it and wouldn't let go. But today it is different, which is a good thing because with high prices on everything today, I don't know how people are making it. I imagine they are just getting by.

F: Was the bug legal at that time or not?

K: No, it wasn't ever legal. It was a common practice, and they had ways. You could walk downtown and write a number in front of the police station. I'm not saying it didn't bother the policemen. If they saw you, why, if it was too brazen then they'd pick you up and they would clamp you down. Of course, they started clamping down on the bug, but it was going pretty good there in the 1930's. You could make money on that. You could get five dollars for a penny. Then they would get it out of the stock market sales. You would have to play with a bookie. I

call them bookies, but then you had pickup men. You had to turn the numbers into the pickup men. There were a lot of people booking just to pick up that extra money. In a few hours you could make a couple of dollars on it. In those days you could go out with five dollars and come back with change.

F: What did it cost you for the bug at that time?

K: Well, you were playing big if you were playing a quarter and up. Most of them were playing a couple of pennies a day. They played a lot of numbers, but they would play two cents a number or if they had five numbers they would play two cents a piece and that would cost them ten cents. Some would play more.

F: So if you paid two cents, what would you approximately make on it?

K: If you hit for two cents, you would get ten dollars, but the pickup man would take his cut, which you would gladly give him because he was bringing you the money. In those days, like I said, if you went out with five dollars you could go to a dance and eat and come home and still have change in your pocket. Today you can't go out of the door for five dollars. In those days you weren't making any money, but the way it seems to me is that I had more fun with less money than I'm having with more money. You can imagine going on a date with five dollars and coming home with change. You can't go to Burger Chef with five dollars today, and that's just Burger Chef, that's not counting the movie or a dance. In those days it was a quarter, and on ladies night it was fifteen cents. They called that scotch night when it was fifteen cents. Today a dance runs you \$2.50 or \$3.50, or \$5.00 a head. It depends on who's playing. It's the same way with the other things. In the beer gardens a double shot of whiskey was fifteen cents, ten cents a beer, and they had nickel and dime beer in big glasses. Then you would get pretzels; today you don't get anything. Those days are gone. You have to pay through the nose. Everybody had a lot of fun in those days.

F: Do you think the police, more or less, let you go because they realized everybody was having a pretty tough time?

K: Yes, they weren't pushing too hard. After a while, they started chasing those pickup men. We used to see them when the police cruisers would come down and chase some guy up the street, stop him, and search him. The bookies had pencils in their ears, and bug slips in their shoes and under their arms, a bug book with a carbon paper and tissue paper in it. I forgot when they started clamping

down on it because I didn't pay too much attention to it. After a while the novelty wore off.

F: During this time, did they have gambling?

K: Oh yes, they had gambling. Do you remember Jungle Inn? They had a deal at Jungle Inn. They would pick you up at the square in a cab and it wouldn't cost you anything. They would take you out to the Jungle Inn to gamble.

F: Where was that located?

K: It was in Hubbard.

F: Is that the one with the two-way mirror?

K: Oh yes, they had guys walking up on top. They said that if you won there, they would take you home. The people that ran the club made sure that you didn't get rolled. They took you home as a good business practice.

They had a couple of big joints downtown that were used for gambling. They had big games down there, down on the lower end of Federal Street, Walnut Street, Front, and Boardman Street, down around Charles Henderson where they used to have the Cheverolet Company. The U-Drive it Company is down in there. They started clamping down after a while. I think they started clamping down on the gamblers there during the war. They really started to clean up then. They were closing everything. They would pick you up if you looked wrong.

F: Do you think there was a better relationship between people during the Depression than there is today?

K: Oh yes.

F: As far as knowing your neighbors?

K: Yes, knowing your neighbors, that's right. Families used to stick together. In the olden days that's what it was, family. If my father said we were going to Aunt Rose's, I don't care whether or not we wanted to go, we went, period. Today, everybody is on their own. It's a generation gap. The Fourth of July, Declaration Day, Labor Day, Easter, and Christmas were all big holidays. You would go eat at your aunt's house and then you would go to your other aunt's house or your uncle's. Today it's not there. I don't know why, it's just that nobody cares. In those days you didn't have much to do. You played on the street and at nine o'clock you were back in to visit with your neighbors.

F: Were there any block parties?

K: No, there were no block parties.

F: Was it because of the Depression?

K: That's right, but whoever you went to visit, they would give you something. In those days they made their own root beer in big bottles. You didn't have a choice. I don't care what it was, you drank it or your father would be on your back. Today they tell you what they want first and then you give it to them. Whatever the people had in those days, you grabbed it and they would pour it. "Here, this is it," no choice.

F: Do you think there was any one lesson that you learned through living in those days of the Depression that remains significant even in your life today?

K: Well, there should be. To me it's survival. During the Depression you had to have money and nobody had money. That made you closer to your neighbor because he was in the same boat. He would tell you his troubles, you would tell him your troubles and it kind of mixed in.

Today it's all together different. A lot of people don't want to get involved. They say, "Don't get involved." Today no involvement is ninety percent. During the Depression even some of the kids helped to carry the stuff from the stores. Today you drive them and they holler, "No way."

I can take another Depression. If I have to eat potatoes, spaghetti, or beans I can do it because I was through it. Today there are a lot of people who wouldn't be able to make it. They might make it, I'm not saying that they won't make it, but they're going to have it twice as hard. I was through it already. As long as you can just keep your head above water, I think you can make it.

F: I would like to thank you very much for the moments you have given us tonight in recalling some of your past. I'm sure we have gained from it. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW