

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The Depression

Memories and Recollections of Life
During the Depression Years

O.H. 86

MR. and MRS. BRUNO DEGLI

Interviewed

by

Mrs. Mary Belloto

on

July 20, 1974

MR. AND MRS. BRUNO DEGLI

Mrs. Jennie Irene Degli was born Jennie Irene Ronci on May 22, 1910, in the state of Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Alex and Theresa Ronci. Mrs. Degli completed her tenth grade education at New Castle, Pennsylvania. She is now retired and attends St. Luke's Catholic Church. She is a member of the Alter Rosary and the Knights of Columbus. Her hobby is bowling.

Mr. Bruno Degli was born the son of Vito and Theresa Degli-Unomini. He did not attend high school, but was a former member and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and was also on the Father Gallagher Council. Mr. Degli has been deceased as of February 21, 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. Degli are the parents of three children: Donald, age 33; Raymond, age 26; and Richard, age 38.

ELIZABETH A. REITZEL
August 16, 1978

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The Depression

INTERVIEWEE: MR. AND MRS. BRUNO DEGLI

INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Mary Belloto

SUBJECT: Memories and Recollections of life
During the Depression Years

DATE: July 20, 1974

B: This is an interview with Jennie and Bruno Degli for the Oral History Program at Youngstown State University. It is being conducted at the Degli home, on 469 Orlo Lane, Youngstown, Ohio. It is Saturday, July 20, 1974, at 2:15 p.m.

B: Mr. Degli, did you lose a job because of the Depression? If so, when did you become unemployed?

BD: I lost my job in April of 1931, and I was unemployed until June of 1934.

B: Did you know many people who were out of work for a long period of time?

BD: Definitely.

B: Do you think that this made most of the people feel bitter, or do you feel that only bitter people were those affected in a way that, for example, some of them lost homes? Is this the condition under which some people felt bitter?

JD: I don't think so.

BD: People were bitter certainly because, number one, they lost all faith in the government and the president at the time. The President's slogan when he ran for office was that there would be "two cars in every garage, and a chicken in every pot." This became sort of embedded in people's minds, and when the Depression came there

was nobody to blame it on except the President of the United States at that time. When they lost their jobs, people didn't become bitter because there were so many people in the same boat at the time. The people's attitude at the time was not, "it could only happen to me." Their attitude was, "it is happening to all of us"; and there was a closer relationship among the people that were unemployed at the time than there was when people were working. It seemed as though the families and neighbors were closer at that time. It was a case where hand-me-downs (where people outgrew clothes and gave them to a neighbor who was in need) were gladly accepted.

B: How do you think people that were out of work felt about accepting welfare?

BD: Again, it was just another thing that they accepted.

JD: I think they were glad to accept it; they had to.

BD: People had to forget their pride at that time.

JD: They needed it and they accepted it.

BD: It was no disgrace to go down to the relief line where they were giving away free flour, butter, picnic hams, or clothing. You would see people who were in the money at one time, and had lost everything overnight. They felt the same as I did, and I had nothing at the time. They felt that their pride wasn't hurt by coming down to our level.

B: Were there certain guidelines that had to be followed before you could be eligible for Welfare?

BD: Oh definitely. You had to have no income, period. If you had a radio, you had to sell it. If you had a telephone, regardless of how badly you needed it, you had to get rid of it. And if you had an automobile, you had to take your automobile license to the Welfare Agency. If you told them that you had gotten a job some place, they would give you back your automobile license.

B: How did people feel about the federal government's unemployment measures, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps?

BD: It was a shot in the arm at the time because my brother was one of these who were selected for the Army Conservation Corps. It just seemed as though it was a shot in the arm for the people. It was a shot in the arm to the government, too, that the government was doing something for the people. My brother joined the Conservation

Corps and was sent to California. He received thirty dollars a month in addition to his living expenses, which he was permitted to send home at the time. We also received Welfare in addition to the fact that he volunteered for the Conservation Corps.

- B: Do you know anyone who worked on local PCC projects, such as the ones in Mill Creek Park?
- BD: I knew one man who planted trees out at Meander Dam. He planted the pine trees around Meander Lake at that time.
- B: What did people feel was the main cause for them being out of work during the Depression?
- BD: The crash of the stock market.
- B: Business interests then at home? Do you think that this helped cause the Depression?
- BD: No, it wasn't the business interests at home. It was the general trend throughout the whole United States, what was happening here was happening in California, and what was happening in California happened up in Washington. The Depression took the whole United States by just one sweep. It didn't affect communities, then counties, then cities, and then states. It was just one big sweep; everything went down overnight.
- B: What view did people take of the state government's efforts to relieve the Depression?
- BD: Well, they couldn't pinpoint the trouble with the state, but the state did everything it could. The state had no finances to help. Everything had to come from the federal government. There were no state or city projects.
- B: And the federal government had things like the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- BD: And the WPA, CWA, and some other agencies, but I can't remember their names.
- B: Did the city make efforts to help individuals?
- BD: The city didn't, at that time, offer any help to individuals. What they did was offer help to everybody that was out of work. They had formed a soup line up on Wood Street. It was mostly the people that were in those soup lines who were individuals and were single. Some of them were men that came over from Europe, were forced out of work, and had no place to live. They lived

at the place they called the "House by the Side of the Road." They were also involved in this soup line. Yet families were also in this soup line to receive a bowl of soup. They would take it home or go there with a container. They would be given a big container of soup, which was good, plus a loaf of bread to supply them for the day. This was in addition to the relief they had gotten. This was done by the city.

- B: Do you feel that during that time the people felt that any specific individuals were to blame for causing the Depression?
- BD: Well, at that time they blamed it on Hoover because of the promises he made. This was also the way I felt. I was just a teenager at the time, and I can still remember when Hoover was campaigning for President. He made those statements and offers, and overnight the country just went the reverse. So everybody felt that Hoover was to blame. Yet, it wasn't totally his fault.
- B: How long after Hoover was in office did the Depression occur?
- BD: Let's see; he ran in 1928. It happened three years, well in March and April of 1931. Three years after he was in office.
- B: Would you say that 1931 was worse than when the stock market crashed in 1929?
- BD: I think 1931 was the worst. That was as low as I think it ever got.
- B: What did people think of Franklin Roosevelt at that time?
- BD: At that time he was a shot in the arm. His inauguration speech just seemed to pick the people right off of the ground, and took them right off of their backs with the statements that he made.
- JD: Well, he was very encouraging at the time he made his speech.
- BD: When he made the statement, "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself," that just gave everybody an uplift. He wasn't in office a month, when he made all of these readjustments; closing the banks for audits, and recommending many different projects of how we could go forward. A couple of these projects were the CC camps and CWA, putting people back to work. This gave the people a little money, and a little pride.

JD: The PWA too.

B: Do you think that people worried much about what was happening around the world at this time? The rise of Hitler in Germany, or if people felt any specific worry about Russia or communism at the time?

BD: No, I used to read a lot, editorials especially. And at that time the people never gave any thought to foreign affairs or communism. We were bothered with men that didn't declare themselves as communists. To the right hand of socialists, that would promise different things if we voted for certain individuals who were neither democrats nor republicans. That was one of the crowd gatherers at the time, but it soon fell away. One of them I can still recall. He was a leading socialist at the time. He developed into one of the communists. He was a fellow by the name of Hall; I don't remember his first name.

B: Gus Hall?

BD: Gus Hall, that is the man. He did a lot of soapbox preaching. As people got back to work, his popularity fell away. The people found that socialism wasn't the thing because everybody was getting back to work. It took a period of about a year before the smoke stacks started to pour out a lot of smoke. When there was a lot of smoke, you knew that everybody was back to work.

B: What did people think about the Democratic Party during this period?

BD: Well, the ordinary people thought there was nothing like it. They figured and they said, "Well, the Democratic Party is here to stay." And they said at the time, "There will never be another Republican elected."

B: That is how they felt about the Republican Party at the time the, that there will never be another one elected?

BD: Right.

JD: But there was, though.

B: Was there any point, or do you remember at what point, it seemed as though the Depression or its results were going to be lifted a little? When did people begin to sense that things might get better?

BD: Number one: when the government started projects such as CC camps, PWA, and CWA, they had to have material

for these projects. It was backing up and you could see the daylight coming when orders started coming into the government. The government was putting out these orders for materials to different companies. They had to manufacture such things as steel for the roads, and steel for the bridges that the government was building at the time. Cement and bricks were also needed for the roads that they were building, and pipe for the sewers that they were laying. It was just things like that, that began to pick up.

JD: Things were starting to pick up.

B: You mean that was about 1934 or 1935?

BD: That was in late 1934.

B: The stock market crashed in 1929. It crashed again in 1937. Were people aware of any worsening of their lives as a result of that second crash in 1937?

BD: No, the people weren't jolted as badly as they were in 1929, because in 1937 I think we had some form of unemployment insurance. If I am not mistaken, the people thought that this was just a small thing when it happened in 1937, as compared to what happened in 1929.

B: Would you say that only people who had stocks at that time were affected by the second crash?

BD: I would say yes, because the small people were back to work in the mills and other places. It wasn't one-third as bad as it was in 1929.

B: How did people feel about industrial strikes during this time? Were people reluctant to go out on strike?

BD: Not at the time, I know because I was involved in it myself in 1937.

JD: The steel mills went on strike in 1937.

BD: Yes, that was the strike that I was involved in. I think that if I was to tell you why I wanted to go on strike, you would say, "Well, by golly, he was right." Now I lived here on the South Side, and I used to have to drive all of the way up to Girard. I am only speaking for myself. I used to have to ride the busses all of the way up to Girard. The work was seasonal, and I would have to go up there and wait. The boss would pick out his friends and put them to work. Even though some men had seniority, the boss would come back and say, "Well that is all there is, you will have to take a chance again tomorrow." I would go back up tomorrow,

and the same thing would happen. Maybe the next day I would look out the window and it would be raining or snowing, and I would say, "Well, I'm not going to go because there will be no work." The next day I would go up to work and the boss would say, "Well, where were you yesterday? I had a job for you and you weren't around." They would use that as an excuse.

- B: Did you feel that there was discrimination against nationality groups at the time?
- BD: Yes, at the time. I would say yes, because I worked. I am not going to mention the company's name. I worked for a long time at one of the fabricating companies. I didn't know of any member of the ethnic groups who was a general foreman or a foreman on up. Of course, I wasn't bitter about that. But going back to what made me bitter made me think that the strike would be the thing.
- B: Did you work for a steel company at the time of the 1937 strike?
- BD: Yes, it was a fabricating company.
- B: Were conditions in the plant as deplorable as some say they were?
- BD: Yes, definitely.
- B: Conditions were very bad then?
- BD: Very bad.
- B: Were there people who discovered surprising ways of making a living during the Depression? Did you know of anyone who perhaps was able to start a small business?
- BD: No, I don't remember anybody starting a small business during the Depression.
- B: Do you know of anyone who became a hobo?
- BD: No, but I can cite you a good example of hobos. The New York Central train ran from Pittsburgh up to Buffalo, which was a coal train. If you would stand down on the East Federal Street Bridge and watch that train go up, the train would be forty and fifty cars long. You would see fifty hobos, one on each car. My mother, may her soul rest, would make a bowl of soup that night, and she would say, "Well, I am going to make enough for two

extra people, because tomorrow morning there is going to be a hobo on my back porch, knocking on my door." Just about every other morning there would be a different face at our door. Sometimes the same man would come back. But, we never treated them as hobos. The hobo would be dirty, unshaven; he had a beard of maybe three or four days, and maybe hadn't washed for three or four days. But yet she could see the goodness in him. My mother would say just one thing, "I want you to go down to the cellar and wash yourself, then you can come and eat at my kitchen table."

JD: You wouldn't be afraid to trust them either.

B: Do you remember if grocery stores were well supplied during that time?

BD: The larger stores were. Even the neighborhood stores, the larger neighborhood stores; the ones that had been in business for a long time and sold a full line of groceries, from meat on up. They were pretty well stocked.

B: Were prices high or low?

JD: They were low.

BD: Comparable to the time prices were low. I can give you an example of prices. I can still remember buying a pound of weiners for a dime and you got a pound of saurkraut free. Or, if you bought a pound of spareribs at thirteen cents a pound, you got two pounds of saurkraut free.

JD That is really going back, isn't it?

B: Did the fact that some people raised a part of their food affect grocery prices?

BD: No, I wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say that it affected the grocery prices.

B: Did many people raise gardens?

BD: Quite a few did at the time. We had a garden. My mother did a lot of canning from her own garden.

JD: We did too, we had a big garden.

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

BD: It is pretty hard for me to answer that.

JD: They wouldn't do anything, I don't think.

- B: What were the hours that you would work at the time?
- BD: Well, the first job I got during the Depression was with the PWA. I helped build Rigby Street. I had no extra money, wages were so low, that there was nothing you could do extra but feed your family.
- JD: Well, you worked from eight to four, right?
- BD: Eight to four and I got twelve dollars a week. I worked three eight-hour days. I worked every other day because they had to put so many people to work. We worked six days but I was working three days a week. I got twelve dollars for the three days that I worked. I made fifty cents an hour.
- JD: This was before you were married.
- BD: Yes, we are talking about PWA.
- JD: Yes, we weren't married yet then.
- B: Did people who succeeded in earning and saving money put their money in banks, or did they distrust banks?
- BD: Well, there for a short while after the Depression, the people distrusted banks, and they went into postal savings.
- B: Do you know if anybody put their money in the stock market?
- BD: Not for a while after that. After that I don't remember, because I didn't follow the stock market that closely.
- B: Do you know of any other investments that people might have put money into?
- BD: No, I would say.
- B: Do you know of any way that families might have gotten extra money?
- JD: Outside help? Oh, if the kids got a job or something.
- BD: No, if the kids got a job, they cut you right off of relief. If they found out that anybody in your family was working, they'd right away, immediately, cut you off. They had caseworkers that would investigate everyday.
- JD: How else would they make money anyhow?
- B: Were girls and women urged to find work Mrs. Degli? Do you remember that?

JD: Well, there wasn't any work.

BD: Well, we can use Katie as an example. She worked for a Jewish family. They paid her three dollars a week.

JD: Three dollars a week for housework.

BD: But, she lived with the people. She lived with them, and they only paid her three dollars a week. That was one case where the relief agency didn't bother these people. They are my in-laws now. It was not for the three dollars a week that she was living by herself.

B: Do you think that people, young people, tended to leave home during this time? Or, do you think they tended to remain at home longer than otherwise would have been expected of them?

BD: Well, where were they going to go if they did leave home? I have two cousins that came to live with us because they couldn't get along with what they had and my mother had room for them. The situation was the same here as it was there. But, there was more here even though the situation was the same all over. My two cousins came and lived with us and they felt that there was more here than there was there. We couldn't understand it.

B: How about boarders? I understand many families took in boarders.

BD: During the Depression, no. They wouldn't take boarders for anything, unless it was a relative. That is why I say the soup line came in.

B: Some people mentioned that people came to live with other families in order to ease the expenses of living.

BD: That happened; a lot of that happened. A lot of families had to double up because they couldn't pay the rent.

B: Or if they lost homes.

BD: Lost their homes. I know my mother and dad owned a twelve-room house, and there was a very good friend of his that lost his home. They put his furniture right out on the street. They had the sheriff come up and move the furniture right out of the house, and set it out on the street. This man had no place to go, and we had three rooms available next door. He, his wife, and his five children came to live in those three rooms until he got back to work.

B: How many were there in your family?

BD: Eleven.

B: You were one of eleven children?

BD: I was one of eleven children, and we had my two nieces with us, too. So that would be thirteen all together.

B: And where were you situated in this family? Were you in the middle, the end, or the beginning of the family?

BD: I was fifth from the top.

B: Fifth from the oldest. So you would have five younger than you.

BD: Five behind me, yes.

B: Do you think that family life improved or suffered during this time?

BD: Well it improved, because it brought families closer together. They were more considerate of one another. There was more closeness.

JD: Yes, but I think that they suffered a little bit, too.

BD: They suffered, but it brought the kids closer together. We all suffered together.

JD: There wasn't anything they could do to enjoy themselves. They couldn't entertain, or go to theaters or shows. So I stayed at home.

B: Do you know if they had entertainment?

JD: They would play cards. We couldn't watch TV; we didn't have TV. We listened to the radio.

BD: You didn't have a radio. If you had a radio, they took it away from you.

JD: But I mean whatever they did, they entertained themselves at home.

B: How about church attendance at the time? Was it up or down?

BD: Oh I would say it was up. If they all felt like I did, people took to praying and hoping. They thought their faith would bring them back a little bit. But as far as donations in church were concerned, that fell down to zero.

JD: That was poor.

- B: Do you know whether people felt that their children should complete school at this time? Or, do you think that they felt that as soon as their children could get a job they should go out and work?
- JD: At that time they did; the children got a job and went to work.
- B: Do you know of many people who didn't finish their schooling?
- BD: Oh definitely. In my family I had a kid sister who didn't finish school. I also had a sister who graduated from high school, but couldn't attend the baccalaureate or the graduation exercises because we couldn't afford the clothes.
- B: What would you say was the average length of time that kids stayed in school?
- JD: Until the tenth or eleventh grade.
- BD: No, I would say that they went through school. I had a brother who was 27 years old at the time during the heart of the Depression. He had nothing to do so he went back to high school.
- JD: Yes, but the older kids didn't go through school; they got a job. Like me, I never went through school. I got a job and to work when I was sixteen. I think the younger children later on were trying to finish school.
- B: Do you feel that there was a decline of law and order during the Depression?
- JD: No, I don't think so.
- BD: There wasn't much robbing. I would say that there was very little robbing. The crime rate was low at the time.
- JD: That is right. It is worse now.
- B: Do you know how people felt about the personal income tax that was begun in the 1930's?
- BD: The only tax that I can remember was when the state of Ohio put a cigarette tax on. That was the first tax that I can remember. They put a two cent tax on cigarettes and they said that it was supposed to last only for two or three years. They never did take it off.
- B: We are still paying it.

- BD: We are still paying it.
- JD: It is even more now.
- BD: That is the first tax. There was no personal income tax.
- B: It was supposed to have been started in the 1930's.
- BD: That I can't answer because I don't remember that too well.
- B: Did you know of any men's organizations, either the veteran's or other organizations that were active during that time?
- BD: I don't remember any.
- B: Do you remember any talk about conservation and ecology?
- BD: At that time no, because people were glad to see the smoke come out of the chimneys at the mills.
- B: Now how about the Civilian Conservation Corps. That had to do primarily with conservation.
- BD: That was the beginning of ecology. My brother was telling me that he was transferred from California up to Yellowstone National Park. They went up there to clean the streams and the roads. Cleaning the park was one of the main projects at the time. They were going to make Yellowstone National Park a recreation area for the United States.
- B: Were there any other parks that the Civilian Conservation Corps worked on at the time that you worked?
- JD: Did they work at Mill Creek Park?
- BD: No, that wasn't the Civilian Conservation Corps. I don't remember any others. I can only remember my brother telling me about what he did down in California.
- B: Did many people have radios at the time? Or, would you say that most people didn't have them?
- BD: Most people didn't have them. Those who had them had to get rid of them.
- JD: If they were to accept welfare.
- BD: Right, they had to get rid of their radios.
- B: Do you remember what the favorite programs were for people who did have radios?

BD: Amos and Andy, Fred Allen.

JD: The Goldberg's.

BD: There was the Major Bowes Show, Amateur Hour.

JB: Fibber McGee and Molly.

BD: Jack Benny.

B: How about movies; do you remember what they were like during the Depression?

JD: They were silent movies, weren't they?

BD: No, that was the beginning of color. I will never forget the one show that stands out in my mind, Keep Your Sunny Side Up. That was with Jeanette Gaynor, Keep Your Sunny Side Up.

JD: How about what's-his-name in Sunny Boy?

BD: Al Jolson. The other one during the Depression was the one in which a colored woman was the mother of a white girl. What was her name? I can't think of the name of the picture, but it was so touching.

B: Were the movies cheap at the time?

BD: For ten cents we used to go to the Strand Theater and see first run movie pictures.

JD: Ten or fifteen cents.

B: Were they the same price all of the time? Or were they higher in the evenings, or higher on Sundays?

JD: I think it was a quarter on Sunday.

BD: At the Palace Theater they used to have vaudeville shows. In the afternoon they were fifteen cents and at night they were a quarter. You saw a moving picture and you saw a real good vaudeville show which consisted of five acts. There would be five different acts. Live stage shows. Olson and Johnson was one of the favorite acts that stood out in my mind. Two great comedians.

B: Did many people attend these movies at the time?

BD: No, because the lack of money.

JD: Some of the men used to go in the afternoon; they did not have anything to do. They would go in the afternoon.

- B: To pass the time away?
- BD: Pass the time away, right.
- B: Who had automobiles then? Do you remember?
- JD: The rich people.
- BD: Doctors, lawyers, business people.
- JD: Just the ones that could afford them.
- B: Do you remember shops that repaired automobiles, did they do a pretty fair business?
- BD: I would say yes.
- JD: The one on Himrod Avenue, what was that garage there? The man that owned that garage was famous.
- BD: I can tell you a story about the man that owned that Himrod Auto and Body Shop. During the Depression you got a haircut for twenty-five cents. The man that owned this body shop came in, and I was the only one sitting there waiting to get a haircut. He said to me, "If you let me take your turn, I'll pay for your haircut." I brought that quarter home and told my mother and dad. And what a big thing it was; what you couldn't do with a quarter in those days! It still stands out in my mind. The greatest thing that ever happened to me during the Depression was that man saying, "Give me your place and I will pay for your haircut." He was in a hurry.
- B: Do you remember when or what year the first automobile appeared on your block, on the street where you lived?
- BD: A new car?
- JD: Fruit Street?
- BD: My neighbor who owned a grocery store had one.
- B: Do you remember what year that was?
- BD: 1935.
- B: Do you remember what they sold for at the time?
- BD: You could have bought a Ford for \$385.00⁰⁰, a brand new Ford, which was the best Ford. We called it the sedan then, it had the spare tire on the back, \$385.00
- B: Now what year was that?

BD: 1935.

B: That wasn't the Model T was it?

BD: No, it was the Model A.

B: Did families take vacations then?

BD: No.

JD: No vacations.

B: Do you know if people camped out?

BD: Yes. We would go to such places as Milton Dam. I went to it myself. There was a young fellow that had a car who lived up the street from us. We would scrounge a few potatoes and maybe a few hotdogs--where they came from, I don't remember. We would get enough gas to go out to Milton Dam, and we would camp under the stars for the weekend.

B: Do you remember how much gasoline cost at the time?

BD: Thirteen cents a gallon, thirteen to fifteen cents a gallon.

B: Would you stay many days when you did that?

BD: We stayed two days. If it didn't rain we would stay three.

B: By then your luck was running out. Did you know anyone who was in college at the time?

BD: No, I don't remember anybody.

JD: I don't either.

B: You wouldn't remember what it would cost at the time to go to college?

BD: No, I wouldn't remember that either.

B: Did you belong to a union at the time?

BD: Not in 1935. Not during the Depression.

B: At what point did you belong to a union?

BD: I got a job over at the Truscon Steel, at that time it was 1935. They had a closed shop; you had to join the union. When there was a closed shop, you had to

belong to the union before you got hired. I worked about six months there before the Depression came. I worked about six months and got layed off. Before that I had gotten a job over at General Fireproofing. I would work a month or two there and got layed off; then they would call me back after a month. So my department was picking up again and I knew that they were calling some men back. So, I went back to the employment office and asked them why I wasn't called back to work? They called me in and said that I was not coming back to work there anymore because I belonged to a union over at the Truscon Steel. Men were blackballed throughout the whole valley just because they belonged to the union.

- B: Were the unions largely interested in economics or politics at the time?
- BD: I think they were more for the welfare of the working class. There were no politics involved at the time, or at least politics weren't mentioned. They just wanted better working conditions. That was the main thing, better working conditions at the time.
- B: Do you know if union members saw themselves as Democrats or Socialists at the time?
- BD: I wouldn't say that either. I wouldn't say that because political parties weren't mentioned at the time.
- B: It was just being a member?
- BD: It was just a case of being a member and the bitterness about the way working people were treated during the Depression. I wouldn't say that politics were involved at all.
- B: Are there any other things that you can remember about the Depression, perhaps any little stories?
- BD: I can remember going hunting one time. A farmer was nice enough to let us park near his barn and let us hunt on his property. We came back up to our car at noon to have our lunch. We had a car that had a spare tire on the back; it was a Model A Ford. The tire was completely bald, and it was worth a lot of money then because you couldn't afford to buy any tires. But the tire was bald. This farmer had about eight or ten nice big hogs weighing about 350 or 400 pounds each. He said, "I'll tell you what I will do. I'll give you any one of those hogs for that spare tire." The fellow that owned the car said, "No sir, not on your life will

I give you that spare tire for a hog." So, you can see how cheap meat was at the time, and what a spare tire meant to him.

JD: That was a nice story.

END OF INTERVIEW