

Life during the Depression

The Depression

I was born 1925 in Portsmouth Ohio Nov-5-1925 my memories are this Mom & Dad had 5 children 4 girls 1 Boy We lived well in a two Bedroom House with a floored Attic my Brother slept in. Dad worked at Leet Lumber Co. as Assistant Foreman. Mom worked at Selby Shoe Co. Dads wages were cut & Mom then made about the same as him.

When we were little we had a hired girl. Mom paid her \$3.00 a week & she went home on the weekends. We loved them all dearly although Mom had to let one go. She was stealing some of our clothes & making them over for kids in her family. I remember it broke my heart I loved her. As we got older my Sister Rosemary got old enough to look after us. She was always good to us.

We didn't have a bad time like some. As kids we had fun & didn't realize how bad times were till men came

to our front door wanting
 to work for money or food.
 Mom would tell them she didn't
 have any money but she would
 make them some sandwiches.
 Sometimes it was Baloney &
 " " " peanut Butter & Jelly.
 " " " They would eat one
 right there on the porch & she
 would get them a drink. They were
 so hungry. We had a bill at
 the Grocery Store Mr. Scott. His
 Boy worked there & he used to
 tease me when I came in. Mom
 would give me a list & when
 it had toilet paper on it he
 would ask me again what I
 wanted. I was so embarrassed.

We ~~the~~ most always couldn't
 pay all the bill & had to balance
 part of it. But when you
 did pay it all they gave you
 a bag of Treats 5 Cent Candy
 Bars & it was a bag full.
 People helped each other in
 those days.

I just remember good
 times. Dad would come
 home Friday nights &

He would stop at the ice
Co. + buy a Bushie Basket
of Snow for 10. or 15¢

Mom would make a thick
Syrup of sugar water + Koolaid.
We took a Table or Box + some
spoons + glasses out front
+ would sell Snow cones,
to make Spending money to
go downtown to the Spaw.

Sometimes Mom would get up
on Sat. morning + bake Home
made cup cakes + ice them,
put them in a Box. We took
them out on The Blvd. + went
door to door selling them. I
cant remember how much we asked
for them. Of course we ate one
of them too. We got all the
money to spend.

We went having hard
times. We were having fun.
We always had plenty to eat.
Thanks to Mr. Scott the Grocer.
Mom could always make up
a meal. She was a wonderful
cook. We would come home
from school before she went
to work + there would be pans.

of Cinnamon rolls, Parker House rolls or Home made Bread on the mantles, stove or top of the refrigerator. Sometimes Home made noodles drying on the kitchen table.

Something else comes to mind. She let us have our friends in to make fudge or (she would make home made Taffy & we would have a Taffy pull. You greased a ball of it & pulled it till ~~the~~ the yellow turned lightest color & then spread it on wax paper after you pulled it out like a snake. When it cooled it got hard & you hit it with the handle of a table knife. Boy was it ever good.

Of course we didn't have sugar all the time we had well balanced meals. We sometimes had veg. soup or Chili & Potatoe soup. Bean soup & cornbread. We had a few meatless

meals. Usually had Chicken
or Beef roast on Sunday.
no food was ever wasted.

Mom never sat down till she
seen everyone else had Plenty.
Dad would say take what
you want but eat what
you take. But if we could eat
eat it especially meat. They
would eat it ~~at~~ on our little
dog got it.

We had other good
times too. We had a piano.
Dad played. Sap Uncle
Dick played Piano. One of
Wade's friend played Tambone.
Mom & Dad had friends in
& they would roll the ruglath
& dances. They brought their
kids & we all played while
they partied. They had a
few Co-tails. But no one
got Drunk. I washed the
glasses up the next morning
& emptied the ash trays.

Some weekends dad came
home & we packed up &
went to Turkey Creek &
The men fished & us kids

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swamp. There was a beach there that was shallow.

The Women cooked over a fire. I remember they used to take the bottom seat out of the Back of the car & some of us kids would sleep on it. Later on Dad got a big tent, we were at Turkey Creek one day a big storm came up. Mom was frying potatoes & water got in them. She let us eat potato sandwiches & Dad took the tent down & ~~that~~ we had to tie it on top of the car & get out of there because the creek was rising so fast. The tent came off & we lost it somewhere but Dad wouldn't go back. The creek rose so fast. I can still taste that potato sandwich with rain water in it.

Dad also took us on trips to see relatives we would keep asking if we were brought there yet. We once went to

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Some of his kindfolk & the lady there made us some sugar cookies as big as squicers & they were delicious.

Dad's father came to see us & he had a Black Buick when cars weren't so plentiful. It had Blinds in it in the back you could pull down & keep the sun out. I think he lived in New York some & when he went home he would leave some money under his Plate for Mom.

We had a coal furnace & the coal went down a chute thru the window. Dad used to go to the basement & make root-beer. He had a capper that capped it. He also had a thing to put our shoes on to half sole them. Sometimes we would come home with our soles flapping & he would glue them back on & then put them under a heavy chair & leg over nite and we had a good pair of shoes again.

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Like I said we didn't think
we had hard times. We
had a lot of fun + a lot of
love in our family.

My mother, Mother + Dad
lived on the way to downtown.
I loved them both. My Grandma
thought Pres. Roosevelt was the
best thing ever happened to us.
He came in office March 4-1933
to lead the country out of the
Great Depression + through the
Second World War. He developed
work programs for the
unemployed. I was 8 yrs old
when he came in office.
I remember the WPA + the
CCC Corps. He put people to
work cleaning up roads. He
developed Social Security
+ taxes on the rich. The
people loved him.

Grandpa had been hurt in
the Steel Plant. He didn't work
But Grandma went to work at
an old factory that had
shut down. I don't remember
what they made. It had some
thing to do with materials.

Grandpa at times had a grocery store. He lived among Black people & I never knew what prejudice was. He was another good Grocer. He went out of Business time & time again. He had people on the books that had never paid him. He just wrote it off. I remember one time Mom & Dad started him ~~in~~ in business.

I would get sick every time I stayed with them. I could have anything I wanted out of the store to eat.

As he got older, he ~~stopped~~ didn't work. When Grandma went to work she would fix him a jar of ice water. He would tell her to leave him a quarter under the pillow by his bed. He would get up & get dressed then he would ask me Want to go Trespassing. Then we would take a walk up an alley to a back door to a Bootlegger. Prohibition days.

Theres many a morning
I went Treaspassing.

We didnt have TV.
We listened to Little Orphan
Annie & Sky King etc.
We roller skated on the side
walk & in the evening in front
of a car dealers that put there
cars up at night.

We went to Church some
on Sundays. Mom & Dad
didn't go but they sent us.
The churches were fuller
then people needed God more
Anytime there is a catastrophe
the churches are full.

We made paper dolls &
clothes for them. Our games
were Checkers, Card Games
Go fish, Steal Pile, Solitaire
I taught my grandson how
to play these games & he loved
them.

I Tapped Dance when I
was little. They had a
Jubilee once a yr. I used to dance
on stage to Dark Town
Shuttlers Ball but I never
did anything
on