

Interview with Ray Sullivan by Jeff Wood

Jeff How old were you during The great Depression?

Ray I was born in 1912. So I must have been 1919
Somewhere around in there.

Jeff Do you think President Hoover was a good president?

Ray Well, he wasn't good, but the country was down
hill before he went in during cold hitched time every
thing was going down hill too.

Jeff Did you ever live in a Hooverville?

Ray no

Jeff Were they good places to live in?

Ray We never had a Hooverville in a small town.

Jeff What did you think of the Stock Market Crash?

Ray Well, there wasn't too much you could do about it
IT hurt the big shots more than it hurt the average
person. They were comiting suicide in them days.

Jeff Did you have a major loss during The stock
Market crash?

Ray No, we never had any thing. before so we never had
anything to lose.

Jeff Did you think The Bank Holiday was a good
idea?

Ray YES I Think so

Jeff What kind of job did you do?

Ray I graduated from high school. I went out to the lumber camps. You got up in the morning at 5:00 went to breakfast 5:30 went out to the woods at 6:00 worked went out in woods at dark and came back at dark.

Jeff Did you only work at the lumber camps?

Ray I worked there until WPA started and got a job working on WPA. I was driving truck and we were mostly building county roads and that was a "48 dollars a month.

Jeff What was it on the lumber camps?

Ray 1 dollar a day room and board

Jeff Where did your father work?

Ray he worked in the mine until he died in 1923 we were all young at that time.

Jeff Did people have to wait in an employment lines very long?

Ray We never had any unemployment lines then.

Jeff Was welfare available at this time?

Ray no, not like it is today well people use to get a little from the county, the county

Ray They donated different things like mattresses to the poor and maybe a little clothing and food.

Jeff What did you do for entertainment?

Ray Well, we didn't have much entertainment in them days. We had to make our own. Ski riding in the winter, toboggan riding, in the summer it was baseball, horseshoe or something like that.

Jeff Did you ever go to the movies?

Ray Not very often.

Jeff How important was the car?

Ray We didn't have no car.

Jeff Were railroads used for transportation?

Ray Yes, everything practically came by railroad. The baker, the bakery, the mail, freight and everything practically all came by mail or train.

Jeff What did you think of President Roosevelt?

Ray I thought President Roosevelt started the New Deal and that turned out to be a prospering outfit. It helped a lot of poor people.

Jeff Did you ever listen to his fire side chats?

Ray I dont think I did

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Jeff "Did you here him say the only fear you have to fear is its self?"

Ray I dont think I heard that.

Jeff Was education very important during that time?

Ray Well, education is important all the time but, there wasn't many that could afford to go. They had to look for little jobs on the side alot of them quit school early. very few graduated.

Jeff Did schools have enough money to get through?

Ray yes, in some they had enough money.

Jeff Did teachers get a big cut in wages?

Ray, I would say no

Jeff Did you get a class ring?

Ray yes, I got a class ring in 1930

Jeff What did the economic hardship do to your family?

Ray well, it kept us all together

Jeff Did you have any brothers or sisters?

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Ray I had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. 2 older and 3 younger.

Jeff How did people treat each other?

Ray Well it was like one big family everybody got along so good all got along swell. because there were hardly any cars, so everyone stayed home

Jeff Were wedding & funerals very different from know.

Ray Yes, They were real different. In them days you a person dyed a undertaker would come have the emboard and that then they would bring em back to the home. So generally the person that was dead he lay there in the home for about 3 nights. In them days they would just have horse on a sled everybody rode in those little buggies. The undertaker would generally have few on those fur robes. In the winter mostly because of the cold. IT was harder because the roads aren't plowed like they are now. There were hardly any plowed. There were no vaults or that so they had to dig the grave right away

Jeff What about the wedding?

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Ray well, wedding were practically like they are today in one way they all had there little celebrations after. In those days the wedding was always at the home it wasn't in the community building.

Jeff Did the people who were unemployed sell supplies at the corner

Ray no, the only thing we ever sold on the corner was mostly to railroad conductors breakmen in them days. To buy mayflowers or blueberries or raspberries when they were in season.

Jeff Was there any medical treatment at that time?

Ray no we had a family doctor that you would call and he would come about every three days a week he would come up to the little little hospital at home in our community he would come every 3 days to our home.

Jeff What did you think of the prohibition of the 1920s

Ray in 1920s there was a few of them boot-legal joints and they sold alcohol.

Jeff What mines closed during this time?

Ray The only one I know, but there might be more are the Republic mine closed in 1928

Jeff Did you think you were poor?

Ray No, no I don't think so. We were practically all the same. None of us had money.

Jeff Was there a big rise in crime?

Ray No, no there was a lot less crime in them days then know.

Jeff Did people lose faith in American life?

Ray No, they stuck by the country pretty damn good.

Jeff Thank you very much Ray.