

me: When and where were you born?

Tom: I was Born in National Mine on Dec 9, 1903.

me: How old were you during the depression?

Tom: During the depression was 1930 to 1934.

me: How old were you during that time?

Tom: How old was I at that time?

me: yeah

Tom: Well take away 3 that would make 31.

me: Do you think it was hoovers fault for the depression?

Tom: NO, ... Hoovers fault, yes, The Republican Party, yes

me: Do you remember the stock market crash?

Tom: yes I remember the crash, AAH, Roosevelt caused that crash to AAH, be able to put the men Back to work again.

me: What did you think of president Roosevelt?

Tom: I Think he was a very fine man.

me: What kinds of things were affected By the Depression?

Tom: Well AAH, everything our Jobs, ~~no~~ nobody had any work any more, every Job was gone.

me: What did you think about the new deal, did it affect your life in any?

Tom: It was the Best thing they could have ever done To the workin man.

me: Did it affect your life in any way?

Tom: Well yes, It took away our Jobs and we had to dig our a little Bit of Hard going living, Thats all.

TOM (cont.) We had to go to work for two dollars and a half a day for two days a week and we had to live at five dollars for that week. And if that wasn't hard enough picking for a family I don't know what is.

me - were you working during the depression?

TOM - Yeah, I worked on WPA, that's where we got our two days a week and five dollars a week. We walked from National Mine to Negaunee Rockcut to get our days work in most of the time and walk home after that, a ten hour job.

me - was the education greatly affected

TOM - This didn't have nothing to do with my education, I was in the mines when I was 16 years old. I was underground so, AHH, this, AHH, didn't have nothing to do with my education.

me - Did you have a family?

TOM - yes, I had, AHH, five children at that time, in them years

me - Did you feel that you didn't have enough food or money?

TOM - (Pauses) We, AHH, had odd jobs we could go to on the farm, I did anyhow, and AHH I could cut wood, and I could get my vegetables from the farmer by doing this odd work in between time, and cutting wood for him at the same time, so the money, AHH, went, AHH, to just buy the necessities of life

me - Did you feel that you were poor compared to others?

TOM - NO, we never had that feeling what so ever, everybody was out of work and AHH, (Pauses) No we didn't, we never felt that way about anything. We didn't judge what the other fella had because he didn't have to much anyhow in them days.

me - what was the worst part of the depression for you?

TOM - The worst part of it, the worst part of it was AHH the winter of 1933, we had to dig ditches over here in Negaunee by the Mole Moth Mine and we had to dig for 10 hours in frost and the entire month of January, February and half of March was anything from 30 to 40 below

me - To put on and, umm, the Salvation Army was good giving us coats and we made shoes and mittens out of those big heavy clothes.

me - what did some of the unemployed workers do to try and get some money?

Tom - They didn't have no money (Laughing). Eggs were 10¢ a dozen, 3 dozen for a dollar, or for a quarter I meant to say, leave that dollar out of there.

me - Were some of the people sitting on the roadsides trying to sell things?

Tom - I never seen nobody sitting on the sides of the roads

me - Did the crime rate rise?

Tom - NO, they never had nothing to steal that was worth stealing. NO, I'd say NO to that because they didn't have nothing, what are you going to steal if they didn't have nothing. They couldn't steal veneer.

me - Did many people have cars or radios?

Tom - The car was just coming in now, in good shape. The Model A and the Chevy was just coming in now, AAH, the model A was the best car they ever built for the working man, and you could buy them from four for four hundred dollars

me - how important was the car?

Tom - OOH, the car was real important, that saved us so we would be able to get our groceries home when we did go to town, when we did get our twenty dollar check for the month, we went down and brought it home and in them days twenty dollars would bring home a carload of groceries.

me - Did you have a car?

Tom - at that time, yes, we had a model A.

me - Were there any strikes?

Tom - there was no strikes in them days. There was no strikes AAH, there was no strikes until 1946.

me - Did the mines close down?

Tom - yes, all the mines were closed

me - which ones?

shaft mine, were the most important ones, well to us at that time.

me- did lots of people have gardens?

Tom- Every body had gardens, Every body had to have a garden. AAH Lets go back to that garden stuff. Every body had a garden and AAH, Those that could work on the farm done it to help the farmer and the farmer would give them a lot of help and with the teams to be able to bring in your wood for the winter and stuff like that see, and he could give you a lot of garden stuff, and AAH They were a real help to the people.

me- How much was your family affected by the depression?

Tom- well, it was hard times, (wants) There was no work. The minute you could find anything to do you would get a dollar and you would do it, and AAH, it never really affected us to much because you could go the woods, you could get fish in those days, we could get rabbits and deer in those days, so meat was pretty well covered for you, But the Salvation army would give us bread.

me- did a lot of people Hunt?

Tom- OH, yeah, the city boys was out there in the woods with us, NO doubt about that.

me- were there any organizations, CCC camps or anything around here?

Tom- They had a CCC camp <sup>near Racine</sup> for the young Fellors down at mason and AAH, them Fellors had it pretty fair and down there they had there meals and they were planting trees that today are on the side of the road and are almost ready today to be cut and made some use of

me- How about the WPA?

Tom- The Wpa was with us Fellors with wheel barrows and AAH, We dug ditches and widened the road, that what we did on Wpa