

I am Amy Harper and I am interviewing Gertrude Delongchamp on her thoughts of the Great Depression Today's date is December 30 We are at the Canda Manor Apartments

Me Where were you born?

Aunt September 9, 1910

me Where did you live?

Aunt: Calumet, Michigan

me Do you remember the stock market crash?

Aunt: Yes I do

me Well when was it?

Aunt: It was in 29.

me What happened?

Aunt Well I'm not too up on all that ^{you know} but I remember hearing men talking

me Was it very rough

Aunt Yes it was
me Was it rough more for men or women?

Aunt: It was rough on both

me Did many businesses close down

Aunt: Ya quite a few

me Do you know for how long

Aunt: No

me: were there alot of layoffs?

Aunt: mmm

me: Did they get any kind of checks?

Aunt: There wasn't any of that

me: Was there alot of striking?

Aunt: Well I really can't remember I imagine.

me: Was your father working?

Aunt: Yes he was

me: Did he get well paid?

Aunt: In a way

me: ^{He} Didn't lose his job then?

Aunt: No

me: Did alot of people lose their jobs?

Aunt: Yea there were quite a few

me: Did you have to move at all because of no money?

Aunt: No

me: Did you have to move in with other families because you couldn't afford you home?

Aunt: No

me: How big was your family? (3)

Aunt: We were seven.

me: Was it hard to feed the family?

Aunt: Well yes but we always had food on the table.

me: At any time at all did you have to stand in line for soup or something?

Aunt: I don't remember having to do that.

me: Did you have to go out and pick berries?

Aunt: (laughing) mumbled first

me: Did you loan your home?

Aunt: No we owned it

me: How did you feel about the people that had to share their home?

Aunt: I don't know too much about that some of the neighbors did

me: What was ^{the} economic life like there?

Aunt: Oh I think it was very good

me: Was education extremely important during this time?

Aunt: Yes it was

me: Did you go to school?

Aunt: Oh yes

Me: Did you graduate?

(4)

Aunt: Yes

Me: How did the schools keep open was there money in them?

Aunt: there must have been there was never any closing of school unless an epidemic was in

Me: Did some people go to school for free or did they have to have some kind of money?

Aunt: Well I don't remember ever being able to pay

Me: Tuition

Aunt: Tuition I don't ever remember that we had all our school supplies ^{were always free} we never paid

Me: Did you walk to school or did you ride the bus?

Aunt: We walked there were no buses (laughing)

Me: When you were growing up did you think you were poor?

Aunt: No I never did we had enough to eat and clothes well enough. you know we never thought the folks might have but we never did

Me: Did you think Hoover was to blame for this?

Aunt: Who was to blame

Me: Hoover President Hoover

Aunt: I heard a lot of people talking saying he was to blame

Me: Did you listen to Franklin Roosevelt on the radio?

Aunt: Oh yea I listened to him

Me: How did you feel about this?

(5)

Aunt: Well like I'm not really up on that but I liked it.

Me: Do you think he handled the Great Depression quite well?

Aunt: I think he did from what I hear my folks say

Me: What was it like during the holidays?

Aunt: Well we never had as much as the kids today that's for sure

Me: Were there lights, and everything on the tree?

Aunt: Oh yes there were lights we always had a tree. mmm

Me: What were the winters like?

Aunt: Very harsh! Really harsh there weren't the snowplows we have ^{either} today we shoveled. (laughing after)

Me: What were the summers like?

Aunt: Well I say they were nice we liked summer

Me: During the Depression do you think there was a rise in crime?

Aunt: I don't recall hearing things about crime

Me: Do you think people were very helpful during the Depression?

Aunt: I think everybody was helpful all the neighbors helped one another the neighbors were very close neighbors you know

^
it was
always that
way

me: were the railroads used for transportation or for cargo? (6)

Aunt: Yes they were used for transportation and uh

me: Cargo and some other stuff

Aunt: Yea oh yeah there were dozens of things

me: What did you do for entertainment-

Aunt: Well not much (laughing) we had the radio

me: Did you go out and play?

Aunt: Yea in the yard

me: Were you relieved when the New Deal came out or didn't understand it

Aunt: Well I didn't understand it that much I guess people were relieved

me: Did you have a ~~an~~ automobile

Aunt: No

me: Did your parents have social security

Aunt: No there wasn't any

me: Did they have any credit cards

Aunt: No

me: What was the role of the church?

Aunt: They went to whatever one they wanted to

me: Did any one turn to God for help?

Aunt: Well I imagine so.

Me: What were social occasions like?

Aunt: Well uh it was okay

me: Were the ethnic groups put together

Aunt: I don't know

Me Did anyone receive ethnic papers?

Aunt: I don't know that either

me: Did anyone sneak alcohol?

Aunt: Must have been some

Me: Were there any night clubs

Aunt: There were bars

Me: Did anyone lose faith in the American society?

Hunt: I don't think so

me: How does the depression affect your living now.

Aunt: I'll admit it rough not really

me: Were there any epidemics that came through?

Aunt: Oh yea

me A lot of people died he?

Aunt: Yeah

me: were there any doctors?

Aunt: Yeah they made housecalls

me were they well paid?

Aunt: I don't think they did

Me: Did they loose their jobs?

Aunt: No

me well this concludes my interview
thank you

Aunt your welcome