

Interview with
JoAnn A.

This is JoAnn Anderson interviewing Lijla Dressner by
Mrs. Lijla Dressner on the Great Depression.
The Date is December 27, 1983

Q. Where and When were you born Mrs Dressner?

A. I was born in Ironwood, Michigan on January the 3rd,
1899

Q. Where did your father work during the depression?

A. Well now my father was the secretary of the
Finnish National Temperance and ah well that's
was his work.

Q. What did you of President Hoover?

A. Ah well ah. He was popular with a lot of people
because he made them Hooverized as they say (laugh)
The Finnish people in Finland loved him they used
to talk about him. but personally I didn't care to
much for him (ha, ha, ha)

Q. Did you ever listen to Fireside Chats?

A. Yes, I did that was President Roosevelt.

Q. What were they like?

A. Well they were ah, more like the modern talks now the
Presidents talk to the people too. But ah before that
everything had been so formal it was really
nice to have the President talking to you.

Q. Did your mother have to go get a job?

A. No, I had several brothers and they took care of
my mother

Q. How did the depression effect your family life?

A. Well I guess it was pretty hard on all of
us I was not with my family during the depression
I was in California and ah it was rather
difficult for everybody because there was no work
but food was very cheap.

Oh, grapes you could get a penny a pound for grapes and carrots a penny a bunch but if you didn't have the money it was just as bad they could have been a million.

Q. Did you and your family have a car?

A. Well oh, I'm sure they had some kind of a car. I remember my kid brother writing to me telling me of an accident he'd had with his car he rolled over with his car and he said it used to have a top now it doesn't have one. (laugh)

Q. What kind of chores did you have to do?

A. I didn't have to do any chores cause I wasn't there.

Q. What did you do for entertainment?

A. Well oh I lived with a lot of artists and it was always entertaining to be with them because we had work to discuss. We had a good social time.

Q. What did you do in your leisure time?

A. Well once in a while we went to shows and movies.

Q. What was a night on the town for you?

A. Going out to a nice restaurant, having dinner with friends.

Q. What were holidays like then?

A. Well, holidays were never like home at home our holidays were wonderful when we were kids because we always had a big Christmas tree and we had real candles I can still smell the candles.

and presents and it was a very gay affair.

Mother would bake for days before Christmas

Q Do you remember anything about the CCC camps?

A. All I remember was that my kid brother worked in one

Q Tell me about the Temperance society and prohibition?

A. Well that was very interesting because my father was the secretary of the National Temperance Society so we belonged to the Temperance Union and oh my father's work was very dangerous because he had many enemies in the liquor business you know.

Q. What were wedding and funerals like then?

A. Weddings I imagine were just about like they are now they're very gay affairs oh they'd have outdoor weddings in the summer and oh beautiful gowns oh I still remember the rustle of the taffeta dresses and oh they were lovely affairs

Q. What kinds of clubs and groups did they have then?

A. Well the only clubs we knew about were little church clubs in fact we started a club when we were little and it grew to be quite a club a club it was I think we called it hope or something like that anyway it grew to be quite a club.

Q. What railroad lines ran through National mine or Idipemung?

A. Well I remember the L S and I, and oh and the train that ran to Chicago now I don't remember what it was called but the L S and I went to Presque Isle on Sunday school parties and everything.

Q. Do you remember what mines closed?

A. Well ah my family wasn't really they weren't miners so I wouldn't know too much about the mines.

Q. Do you remember the school that you went to or the principal or superintendent?

A. I remember the school it was Clearlad school where I started and I was there in the first, second and third grades and then I went down town and there was a school next to the high school and from there I went to grammar school on the other side of town and ah I went ^{to} the Ishpeming High School graduated in 1917.

Q. Do you remember the principal?

A. Um, I think his name was Mr Davis.

Q. Did church attendance go up or down?

A. Well I wasn't here so I wouldn't know that.

Q. Were there any major epidemics then?

A. Yes ah diphtheria was a pretty bad thing in those days I remember going to see friends when they were gone.

Q. What do you think of kids today?

A. I love them. I really love them I've been away from children never had any of my own and I haven't been near children for years. and now I have nieces, grand nieces and great grand nieces and I just love them I think they're so bright every generation brighter than the last.

John! Thank You

The End