

✓ interview with Lilian Johnson by  
Rick Goldsworthy

me: Did you ever work for the WPA?  
(in a low voice)

Gr: No I never did.

me: Do you know any body who did?

Gr: no, not off hand I don't Ah, ah, I  
had a good friend who did, but she's  
Dead  
(in a low voice)

me: What part a. or where did you live?

Gr: We lived right on pearl street  
Just two blocks from the High school  
or right behind the high school, so  
it was nice for me for going to  
school because one winter I didn't  
even have a winter coat I had  
to go school with a sweater a  
heavy sweater and that's the way  
I went I even got pictures to prove  
it

me: Um

Gr: so we were really poor

me: I suppose most people were.

Gr: There were lots of people that wer  
poor, yes

Gr: So Even though the miners and that had been out of work this time it had not been so bad because there was places where they could get help you know, they could get help for fuel and help for food and all the food baskets that people helped fill know thats why I, I give them what I can even though I am a widow know

Me: ~~that~~ ~~ya~~ ya, um, was there many cans of?

Gr: not to many uh, ah, specially in (in a low voice) the winter time they put the cans on you know up from the floor, ha! that all I remember cause we never had a car not until my brother started work then we had some kind of car

Me: Um, what kind of work did your brother do?

Gr: Well one went into the navy my oldest brother and he was in for three or four years. and my other brother worked in the mine # I think he was only about sixteen or seventeen when he

Gr<sup>o</sup> started working in the mine, so of course when the kids got a little bigger and she got a little help from them so, but at first when the depression started there just wasn't anything, so, I, I've lived through hard times

Me<sup>o</sup> ya I suppose! um!

Gr<sup>o</sup> but know know, if you have someone in the family that worked and put money into, for social security that's wonderful for old people and they don't have to go begging

Me<sup>o</sup> um, well let me see know, um, um during school when you stayed in was there, like, was, it, a were the teachers stricked.

Gr<sup>o</sup> ya they were quite stricked if they gave you a lesson for the following day they expected you to have it in your head before you came to school the next day yes especially history in seventh and ~~8th~~ 8th grade they were very stricked I always liked my teachers I guess because I didn't get under there hair I always liked school and even after I started working penn I went to night school for a wh<sup>o</sup>

Gr<sup>o</sup> but a, then I was growing up  
I got married when I was nine-  
teen so, so that schooling didn't  
do me much good but it didn't do  
me any harm either, I always was  
pretty good at figures I enjoyed  
working for pennies they were a good  
company to work for

me<sup>o</sup> um, um, Do you remember any like  
railroad companies

Gr<sup>o</sup> no I wouldn't know anything about  
them maybe someone who worked  
on the railroad would know more

me<sup>o</sup> um, um what kind of work did  
your husband do

Gr<sup>o</sup> Oh he was always a carpenter  
he was in service in world War I  
So he was in service for over two  
years and he went to France  
and when the war ended they  
sent all his division to Germany  
for six months so he seen lots of the  
world that's where he learned to  
read blue prints so when he got  
out of service he could build  
anything from the ground up that's what  
he did for most of his life, he used to  
work on hospitals and schools and  
churches we went to St. Louis to build one

GRo and he just built it front he ground up  
he could read all those blue prints  
he could order the material & everything

Meo What did you do for food During the  
Depression like Did you can it or  
store it down someplace?

GRo what

Meo like what did you do for food Did  
you can it

GRo Oh well yes and we went picking  
berries in the summer and sold the  
berries so we got money from that and  
that was usually in well part of July and  
August so I know all about berry pickin  
to because we would out there and  
then the berry wien would come out  
to get the berries and bring us what  
food we had ordered from before so it  
was nice I had lots of good memories  
there was many tents out there we used  
to go way out to camp 29 I don't know  
~~if~~ if you know where it is

(pointing towards  
Marquette)

Meo well I guess that's all