

Interview with -
Mrs. Lillian Rock
By - Laura Matz

- Me - This is Laura Matz doing an interview on the Great Depression with Mrs. Lillian Rock, at her house in Greenwood Loc. Where - When were you born Gram?
- Em - March 27, 1911
- Me - Where were you born?
- Em - Ishpeming, Michigan
- Me - Do you remember the stock market crash?
- Em - Yes...
- Me - Who did you blame, if you blamed anyone?
- Em - I didn't really blame anyone
- Me - What were your opinions on how President Hoover handled the situation? You don't know.
- Em - Do you remember F.D.R.'s Presidential campaign
- Em - Yes, I do, I don't remember that much about it
- Me - Okay. Did you vote for him?
- Em - Yes, I did.
- Me - What did you think about his ideas about the new Deal?
- Em - I thought it was great... great ideas
- Me - Um - And his government projects, did you think were great too?
- Em - I think they were
- Me - You didn't disagree with any of them?
- Em - Nope
- Me - So you think was a rise in crime during these times
- Em - There might have been a little bit, not much though.
- Me - You didn't have much crime around here then
- Em - No
- Me - What school did you attend?
- Em - I attended Ridge Street school and Grammar school.
- Me - Did the schools have bussing or did you walk.
- Em - We walked.
- Me - How far did you walk?
- Em - Mm... I should say a mile about a mile and a half.

- me - That's a fun walk, in school did you have dances?
- Em - No, we didn't
- me - Or other activities like it?
- Em - Not really
- me - you didn't have basketball games or anything then.
- Em - your mother had them but I didn't have them, I don't think they did.
- me - Okay, How do you think education has changed since it was when you went to school
- Em - It's changed an awful lot, with their computers, which we didn't know nothing about.
- me - Do you think that the subjects are harder now?
- Em - Ah, I think they are, all we were interested in was the three R's reading, writing and arithmetic. Ha, Ha, Ha.
- me - Yeah, Um, do you remember listening to President Rose - Roosevelt on the radio?
- Em - A lot of times.
- me - Did you like those?
- Em - Sure did.
- me - You didn't have T. V. back then did you?
- Em - No, we didn't
- me - What kind of dances did you do?
- Em - They had charleston, two step, waltzes
- me - It must seem funny to look at the way we dance nowadays, huh.
- Em - Can't even call that dancing what you guys are doing.
- me - Did you guys have, blind pigs or speak easies?
- Em - Not that I know of.
- me - Um, what did you guys do for entertainment?
- Em - Well let me see, when to the movies, went to dances, went skiing, skating
- me - What kind of movies did you see?
- Em - Double features
- me - did you like those?
- Em - Sure did, get our moneys worth.
- me - Yeah, Um, Did you find a job during the depression?
- Em - I was working during the depression.
- me - where was it?
- Em - H. W. Sizzard Co.
- me - What did you do
- Em - sewing machine in the cutting room sewing cloth cut shoulder straps, puttin' garden belts, garden hose supports and fugitins
- me - What did they pay you?
- Em - to begin with we had twenty-eight cents for eight hours, then we worked nine hours we didn't get paid overtime

Me - Yeah, doesn't sound to good, How long did you work there

Em - Oh, about seventeen years

Me - Oh, that's alot, Did your family have a garden?

Em - No, we didn't

Me - Um, What did your parents do to help others?

Em - She, Her, mother had a boarding house, she feed other people but they paid her for it

Me - Um, she didn't charge very much though

Em - Nope, because nobody had too much money she was getting ninety cents a day for those meals

Me - Um, that ain't too bad Um, how many people did help at one time, you know help, feed,

Em - Well, the most she had was about fifty, at times, but to begin with maybe twenty-five, thirty

Me - Um, that's pretty many for one time What kind of appliances did you have then?

Em - Well we had um, electric refrigerature, a wood burning and gas combination cookin range, a toaster.

Me - What did you use for heat?

Em - We had a wood burning heatrola.

Me - Heatrola?

Em - Umum.

Me - Do you think you family grew closer during these times?

Em - Oh no, we were always a close-knit family

Me - Um

Em - We couldn't have gotten any closer

Me - Yeah, that's good. Did you think youse guys were poor?

Em - Oh, I won't say we were poor, but I won't say we were rich. we always had enough to eat.

Me - That's more than some families have

Em - And then grandma was you know had that boarding house and I was trying to work in the Goyzards, I won't, I won't say we were poor, there's people worse off than we were

Me - Were there temperate secretes

Em - I think there might have been

Me - But your not really sure

Em - I'm not really sure

Me - Uh, What kind of fetermal logs were there

Em - Masins, Moose, Lions, Eagles, there was alot of them

Me - Uh, Where there local bands or chores

Em - I think there was a few

Me - Uh, What about wedding, and funerals, and reunions and other family activities were there alot of those

Em - Some, not many

Me - Uh, What was the role of the church, I mean do you think people went to church more often now did they did then

Em- I think they did

me- Um. Do you think there were people ~~that~~ that lost faith in the American way

Em- Oh, I don't know, there might have been some but not many, that I know of

me- Were you or your family helped by the Home Owners Loan

Em- No, we weren't

me- Cause you had a boarding house

Em- We didn't get no help, we didn't have no help from them

me- Oh, where were ethnic groups living in ~~one~~ certain section of town

Em- Seemed to me there was

me- What were they

Em- Well, French mostly French were living in junction, alot of finnish people were living in barn location, including you

Em- Alot of Italians were living North Lake, that I know of, but I don't know

me- Where'd you live

Em- We lived right in town

me- Who were living around you, a mixture of people

Em- she nodded her head

me- Where there any flu epidemics or measles, or

Em- there were some, but we were lucky we didn't have any

me- What were they

Em- Measels, chicken pox, small pox, mumps,

me- How'd did they treat these

Em- Well I don't know, I don't really know that they did anything, but years ago when I was a youngster they used to quarantine, then you know on the houses

me- Yeah,