

This is Marci Vial and I'm interviewing my grandpa Raymond Vial on the W.P.A. He lives in the Ishpeming township location.

Q: What does the W.P.A. exactly stand for?

A: Works progress administration; and we use to say we pay after. OK um

Q: What did this program do, what was it for?

A: Help young people get jobs and well it wasn't just young people there old guys out there too I mean that didn't have jobs it helps in them days they were hard times.

Q: OK um when did you start to get involved in this what year?

A: 1938 ya I think it was 1938.

Q: So that made you how old? How old were you then?

A: Ah, I must have been about 19.

Q: OK, well what's your age now that must make you about what age?

A: 62

Q: OK um, what did you have to do to be able become a part of this program? Was there any form you had to fill out ^{and that?}

A: Ya, there was forms ya that we had to fill. You had to be old enough, then you had to be the only one in the family to work on that job. You had to be the head of the house

Q: OK um, where about did you stay? Did you stay in the same state? I mean, where did you stay to do these jobs? Where?

A: Ya, we stayed right in this state

Q: OK um, what kinds of jobs did you do? For your money?

A: Ah! we made roads built roads and trucks ^{and gravel} and stuff. and we used to spread the gravel

And dig ditches and winter time we used to have a pick shovel made a ditch we only built a few bridges out south there.

Q: OK um, how did you feel about doing these jobs? |

A: It was OK it was better being home doing anything, ~~no~~ nothin'.

Q: OK, what was your income like? what, what did you get? Just ~~22~~ every 2 weeks I think ~~44~~ a month

Q: OK, um how did you feel about your pay?

A: Ah, it wasn't too bad It was better than nagin' around doin' nothin'

Q: OK, um ... How long did you stay doing these jobs?

A: About a year in a half I guess

Q: OK, um, what were your hours like? How many hours a day, I mean?

A: Eight hours a day it was 4 days one week and then 3 the next week and about 13 days in a month then

Q: OK, ah, did you have any breaks?

A: Oh ya, we had coffee breaks, 9:00

Q: what did you do?

A: horse around a little bit & talk to the guys & drink coffee.

Q: About what time did you go home, about what time did you go home? was it late, or?

A: About 4:00

Q: OK, um. How did you feel about getting home at this time? Did you feel bad about the time? How did you feel by this time I should say?

A: It's OK

Q: OK um, Did you have any shelter in the winter time? When you were working out there?

A: Ya we had ~~shack~~ out there go in and warmed out there. There was a fire and still goin'. Inside we used to toast our bread from the dinner bucket on the, all over the fire outside.

Q: OK um... Um, what was your shelter like, I mean what was it ugly or?

A: It was just a shack, it was no insulated nottin' in it just a bare shack and a stove in the middle. but it used to be warm anyway.

Q: Kay, what were your meals like?

A: Sandwiches, cake, cookie, apple, orange I guess. Coffee.

Q: How many of them did you have ^{daily}?

A: One

Q: OK, How did you feel about your lunches?

A: Well I was hungry.

Q: Um, what time did you get to see your parents?

A: When I got home about 5:30.

Q: How did, how did, how did you feel about being away from them?

A: Didn't bother me, well it was only eight hours.

Q: OK, when, when you had finish your job about how much money had you raked up? In the whole time?

A: Oh, about \$600-\$700

Q: so that was pretty good, I didn't save any though

Q: what did you do with it did you spend it on anything?

A: A little bit ya, Most of it went home, home to support the family. me my mother, & sister

Q: OK um, what have, what have you, OK skip that one

Q: How, how did you feel about the jobs in those days?

A: There wasn't any. Well, the mines it was harder to get jobs in them days cuz of hard times.

Q: OK um, how much, how much could you get with your money then as compared with now?

A: We never bought as much in them days as we do now either. Well we just bought what we needed that's all.

Q: Like what?

A: Well not much luxuries. We used to go down Gus Johnsons and play a little pool.

Q: um, did you meet any new guys when you were doin' these odd jobs?

A: Well ya,

Q: Make any new friendships?

A: Well... not, not really. Couple ^{younger} guys there. Most of them guys were older

Q: when, when the jobs were over what did you do did you go party or did you go look for a new one?

A: What do you mean when the jobs are over?

Q: Ah, I went on a different job, the W.P.A was still goin' but I went to a different one cuz it paid more money

Q: What was that called?

A: Macormic's Lodge out there out by Michigamnee River on that road out there

Q: What did you do there? A: something, cut wood make roads

Q: Haul wood cut wood, shovel snow in the wintertime cut ice in the winter time on the lake.

Q: Well then you were, you were pretty, pretty well put off then

A: Well it was more out there \$60 a month for room and board

Q: So that was pretty good?

A: Well it's better than \$44 a month

Q: yah!!

Q: Well this is the end, bye!!!