

Karen Goldsworthy  
Interviewing  
Jack Goldsworthy

Me - We'll start off the interview by asking when and where were you born.

Jack - I was born in National Mine, on October 12, 1920.

me - Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Jack - yes, I had a brother, Bill, and a sister called Shirley.

me - What was your father's occupation?

Jack - My father worked for the Hercules powder company.

me - Did your mother work?

Jack - Yes, she worked in the Yossard.

me - Where were your parents from?

Jack - (Pause) Both parents were from National Mine.

me - Did your family have an automobile?

Jack - Yes, we always had an automobile, such as it was.

me - Must of been important to your family

Jack - Very

me - How did you get to school?

Jack - We walked.

me - How important was education then?

Jack - (short pause) Well, (short pause) it was very important I'd say. Most of the kids wanted to learn so that they could probably have a better job than their parents or make some money anyway.

me - What school did you go to?

Jack - National Mine High School

me - Were there any teachers who impressed you? or that you favored?

Jack - Yes, there was one that his name was George Annala, and he was the Principal, <sup>of the school</sup> he was very strict but he was fair and he, he taught the kids a lot. I learned more from him than I did from any of the other teachers there at that time.

me - What did you think about school?

Jack - I loved it.

me - You loved it.

Jack - Yes.

me- what about others?

jack- well, at that time we had quite a few dropouts, like, I was graduated in the class of "38", and we had two boys and fourteen girls in the class ~~and~~ <sup>so</sup> the boys had a bigger dropout rate.

me- Were parents and teachers stricter than they are now?

jack- <sup>(Pause)</sup> Yes, the teachers were. The parents were, well, they were strict too, mine were anyway.

me- (laughs)

What were "fun times"?

jack- Fun times, <sup>(shorts)</sup> when we were just young kids - we used to play games like "Kick the ~~Can~~", "Run Sheep Run", games at that time were, (Pause)

me- just something fun to do?

jack- Yeh. <sup>They were</sup> fun to do, and swimming in the summer, skating in the winter, ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> those old ~~stop~~ <sup>clamp</sup> on skates that you had to have a key to tighten them on your shoe. (laughs)

me. (laughs)

What important jobs did you have to do around the house?

jack. well mainly I cut wood. <sup>(laughs)</sup> we had a large house and it's kind of hard to heat so we cut wood a lot during the summer and the fall.

me. did you have a garden?

jack. yes I had a garden.

me. What kinds of things did you grow?

jack. Well just your average things like carrots, peas, beans, radishes and a few potatoes.

me. How did you celebrate holidays?

jack. Celebrate holidays

me. Like we do now or was there anything different?

jack. ah, well the difference was actually, in the, well like Christmas time, we got the gifts, the gifts <sup>that we got</sup> were a lot fewer than you get now.

me. <sup>(laughs)</sup> What kinds of things did you get for Christmas?

jack. well, if you were lucky you would get a new sleigh or a <sup>new</sup> pair of skates

Jack (continued) - or maybe a fishing pole, stuff like that or stuff you would use or to entertain you or maybe some new clothing or a new pair of boots or something like that.

Karen - Were there any diseases like there are now that many people feared?

Jack - No, not at that time. It seems that the disease most people feared at that time was tuberculosis because they hadn't discovered a cure for that. They used to check the schools once a year. They give you some kind of a vaccination and see how you would react to it if you were a carrier of T.B. or if you had T.B.

Karen - When you were sick did you usually go to the doctor or did he come to your house?

Jack - Well the doctor usually came to the house when we were young?

Karen - Now getting towards the Great Depression.

Jack - What were your thoughts on Hoover? Did you like him?

You mean at that time or now?

Karen - at that time.

Jack - Well, after he had been in a couple of years I don't think anybody really liked him.

Jack (continued) because the Depression kept getting worse instead of better.

Like he, one of his campaign promises was "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage" and that just didn't happen.

Karen (m) - many people thought that he was the cause of the Great Depression. Do you think he was?

Jack - I believe he contributed to it a great deal.

Karen (m) - can you tell me anything about the ~~Stockmarket~~ <sup>stock</sup> crash?

Jack (Paul) well, as I remember the stockmarket crash, a lot of people took it really seriously, of course they lost all of their money. In fact on Wall Street there were people jumping out of upstairs windows, committing suicide when their fortune was wiped out.

Karen - were there any rich people in National Mine?

Jack - no, not really. Not what you'd call rich. Some were fairly wealthy, but (Paul)

Karen - not what you'd call rich

Jack - not rich, no.

Karen - Were there any people that you knew who got kicked out of their homes?

Jack - (Pause) No, not that I remember

Karen - So most people were doing fine so that they didn't have to get kicked out of their homes?

Jack - They didn't have to get kicked out. The ones that left home or the ones that left on the road just decided to move on, you know.

Karen - Did you have to get a job to help the family or weren't you old enough?

Jack - Oh yes, but I wasn't old enough then, at that time. In the 1938, that was towards the end of the Depression, then I had to get a job to help out at home.

Karen - What were your thoughts about Franklin Roosevelt?

Jack - Well I thought that he was a great president. He did a world of good for the country.

Karen - Did your family have a radio?

Jack - Yes

Karen - Did you usually listen to the President on the radio?

Jack - Yes, we had one of the first radios in National Mine

Karen - Oh yah? What were some of your favorite programs?

Radio programs

Jack - Well, when we first got the radio all we had were earphones and we had two sets of earphones so that only two members of the family could listen to the radio at the same time. So we'd be kind of skipping around on programs.

Karen - Wouldn't get to listen to much of it.

Jack - No, that's true. Some of the comedians that were on in that day were good and they did have some nice band music, orchestras and stuff like that on the radio.

Karen - Did your family seem closer during the Great Depression?

Jack - Yah, the family was very close

Karen - And neighbors, they were all close?

Jack - Yes, everybody helped everybody.

Karen - Well is there anything else that wanted to talk about during the Great Depression or add at all?

Jack - Well if you had a dime during the Great Depression you could go page 8



Jack (continued) - to town and have a good  
time or go to the show

Karen. <sup>(laughs)</sup> Not like now

Jack - (laughs) Not like now, that's for sure and  
dill, see now even you takes coke and pop  
for granted but in those days we  
used to make our own homemade  
root beer.

Karen. Really?

Jack - yes, it was good root beer, somewhat  
like the A&W root beer

Karen - That's good

Jack - something like that anyway.

Karen - well I think that's about it so  
thank you.

Jack - you're very welcome.