The Great Depression in Weber County, Utah: an Exercise in Oral History

Mack S. Taft

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THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN WEBER COUNTY, UTAH:
AN EXERCISE IN ORAL HISTORY

by

Mack S. Taft

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
History
PREFACE

During the summer of 1969, while completing the course work for a master's degree in history, a decision was made to write a thesis on the Great Depression in Weber County. After much encouragement and help from Dr. S. George Ellsworth, it was decided that the data should be obtained through the oral interview method.

In consultation with Professors Ellsworth, Leonard J. Arrington, and C. Blythe Ahlstrom, the following techniques and guidelines were agreed upon. (1) The dictations of the memories of depression people would be accumulated through oral interview, using a recording device. The reason for this decision was that primary sources relating to personal experience, such as letters and diaries, have not been collected. This assumption proved to be correct—no diary was located, written by a person interviewed for the depression years. One of the most significant remaining resources for the study of the recent past is the memory of those who lived through the great depression. While there is no way of insuring the perfect accuracy of such a source, living memory is likely the best available to any historian after an event has actually taken place. Since this valuable resource is rapidly being depleted through senility and death, it was considered highly expedient that this study begin at once, and that the best testimony possible be secured to document the events of the depression. (2) Persons from
different occupations and professions were to be interviewed. It was decided that at least three from each of about ten professions, would be interviewed, providing a representative cross-section. It was found during the study that this was a good guideline, although after extensive search it is the writer's belief that there are no significant elected officials of the depression era now living in Weber County. (3) It was agreed that a set of fact-type questions should be avoided in order to allow the interviewee the greatest possible latitude to express his feelings and give an uninterrupted view of the depression as he remembered it. Dr. Arrington objected strenously to a set questionnaire for the reason that the result would be short answers with little personal involvement thus defeating one of the major purposes of the study. Only those questions which would stimulate the memory of the interviewee should be asked, thus allowing him freedom to express his views and feelings uninterrupted. (4) The study should be limited to Weber County. Weber County was considered ideal for the study, since it provided a relatively large, diversified population, both urban and rural, including most of the professions found in both rural and urban areas of Utah, and one of the larger railroad centers of the West. (5) Only people who lived in Weber County during the years 1929 to 1941, should be interviewed. The reason for this stipulation was to make sure the answers and responses pertained to Weber County. (6) The data collected from the interviews would stand on its own. Dr. Arrington recommended that the writer should read three books before commencing the interviews, Caroline Bird's Invisable Scar, Stud Turkel's
Hard Times, and Schlesinger's Coming of the New Deal. This was done and was helpful in the interviews in that these books gave general direction.

(7) The study should be highly feeling-oriented—what the interviewee remembered about the events of the depression, how he felt about those events, and most important, how they affected his life, then and now. Factual data was to be considered secondary in this study. (8) The major effort of the study would be devoted to the interviews and the transcription of the interviews. Only minimum effort in analysis and writing would be expected of the writer.

(9) The oral interview method would be studied in an attempt to discover its possible use in the studies of other eras. The depression of the thirties was considered a good test of the oral interview method in that it occurred long enough ago to have the benefit of the test of time yet recent enough to still obtain competent witness of a dramatic event which was burned into the memory of almost all those who lived through it.

As the study progressed several facts became apparent. (1) The availability of competent interviewees was much less than had originally been supposed. Age and illness had taken a heavy toll. As mentioned previously, no significant elected officials of that time remained. The deafening silence of those who have died without leaving their memory may well shatter the cardrums of the concerned historian. There is much that can be learned from the people who lived during the depression years, and the information they have to share should not be lost through neglect or lack of effort. There is no possibility of replacing these primary sources once they
are gone, and certainly there is no more fundamental way of recording history than through the statement of competent witnesses. (2) The time required to find, set up appointments, tape the interview, transcribe the interview, and put it into usable condition was far beyond the estimates of the writer. This process requires a minimum of ten hours per interview, not counting typing the finished draft or any analysis or writing. (3) Since the time involvement is so great the writer recommends that future studies of this nature be pursued as a team effort. Two, three or more people might share the responsibility of interviewing, transcribing, analyzing and writing. (4) Since written material concerning the recent past is practically non-existent and the remaining time is so limited in which competent testimony may be obtained in many studies, it seems imperative to the writer that studies of this nature should be conducted in many areas as soon as possible. A few which may be considered are as follows:

(a) rationing during World War II in Utah.
(b) prohibition and bootlegging in Utah.
(c) welfare in Utah and
(d) town histories.

(5) Early in the study the writer discovered that detailed fact was difficult to come by and only those ideas which were concurred in by several people were considered really reliable. (6) It was found that few people were willing to admit that they were poor. Their reference to others who were poor came much easier. The writer often asked, "Who in the community had a bad time?"
When certain people were specifically named; the author arranged an interview. It was discovered that even though other people thought an individual was suffering, the supposed sufferer was reluctant to admit it. However, he could always think of someone else that had experienced difficult times.

The most successful equipment used for the major part of the study was a Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder with an automatic volume control. The cassette recorder was physically handy, but due to the inability of the cassette to erase clearly, the reel-to-reel recorder was best. Occasionally the interviewee will wish to change something he earlier said. This situation was handled much better with the reel-to-reel recorder. Late in the study the writer discovered a time saving method. The conference telephone was used to record telephone conversations. This method appears to have great potential. However, anyone using this should become aware of the legal problem of recording a telephone conversation and make sure he complies with all requirements.
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ABSTRACT

The Great Depression in Weber County, Utah:
An Exercise in Oral History

by

Mack S. Taft, Master of Science

Utah State University, 1973

Major Professor: Dr. S. George Ellsworth
Department: History

By use of oral history techniques, about fifty persons, in eleven occupations, who had lived in Weber County during the Great Depression, who were interviewed concerning their life experiences during the depression. Tape recordings were made and transcriptions were taken from the tapes. These transcripts were presented to each person interviewed for approval. A signed statement granting permission to place transcripts in the Library at Utah State University and The Utah Historical Society was secured from each interviewee.

From this study it became evident: 1. The memory of man is not always accurate in detail information, yet has great capacity in the general area. 2. Several persons must be interviewed before a reliable conclusion can be drawn concerning an event. 3. People enjoy talking about past events in which they participated. 4. Preservation of the tape is vital in that it conveys much more than one can hope to be preserved in the written transcript; his vocal tone and change in the intensity with which he speaks reveal
his special convictions and his biases. 5. The memory of past events, a most valuable historical resource, is being lost at a rapid rate through death and advanced age.
INTRODUCTION

Visions of a once respected business leader selling apples on the corner have captured the imagination of more than one school-age youngster, and the concern over the implications in his own life are not unreal. To have a concise and documented study concerning the lives of real people, whose experiences were more or less dramatic than the imagination dictates, could be one of the most fascinating study opportunities afforded a school-age individual. The opportunity to expose the events in the lives of real people can be one of the most helpful tools in the hands of one who wishes to make history live and make it a part of the real world. There is so much that can be learned from knowing the experiences of others—how they handled difficult or unlikely circumstances, and how they managed to avert catastrophes. Such information can change the depression to a very real and vital human experience, and can lead one who had heretofore no knowledge of it to an appreciation of the lives of those who lived before him. Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that one of the most essential tasks of history is to gain from the past so as to have a more profitable future. Certainly, any insight into the actual events in the lives of real people could have an immeasurable affect for good in helping explain the lessons learned by each of the participants in the depression.
Perhaps one of the greatest contributions which oral history has to make is that it presents facts and information in a uniquely human way. Every evidence it presents comes from a real and very human individual; and those things which he contributes must, of necessity, contain hints of emotion, attitude, and point of view.

In preparing this study on the depression, no attempt was made to delete these factors from the presentation. On the contrary, every attempt was made to preserve the uniquely human quality which only oral history can create, and to allow that quality to generate as much feeling for the individual presentation as possible.

The content of this study is intended to reveal the feelings and attitudes of people who lived through the depression, and determine how they felt about the causes, effects, depths of and recovery from the depression. No major attempt was made to glean statistical datum for the sake of statistics alone. Statistics do not live alone; and whether or not the attitude of an individual is right in any given situation, had no bearing upon the reality which that emotion creates in the life of that individual. It may even be possible that real history is the attitude of people that is created by events, and the results which stem from this attitude.

Where individuals viewed the depression in a highly emotional manner, and reacted unwisely to it, the depression was not resolved. Where hope and optimism developed, solutions to the depression also developed.

The truth of these statements becomes more apparent as the individual comments are studied. Those who maintained a high morale throughout the
experience tended to have a higher standard of living, and a much more innovative approach to solving their problems than did those who allowed themselves to become discouraged and unhappy.

The depression was a time of famine for many people of the country, yet it was also a time of a great surplus in food commodities which were not distributed to those in need. It was a time of massive unemployment, yet there was a good deal of work that needed to be done. It was a time of great sacrifice and loss of property, yet a time when some men became wealthy because they bought when everyone else wanted to sell. The depression was a time when those who were slow to sell gained ground, and the man who sold to protect his investment usually lost. Almost everyone who lived through the depression years lost some financial security, yet many came out with experiences that they would not be willing to trade for all the wealth they lost.

Origin and Nature of Problem

There are several factors which attach importance to this study. Very little has been done by way of study of the depression in Utah. Neither serious research nor writing has been done on any significant scale. Primary sources relating to personal experiences such as letters and diaries have not been collected and it is likely in this day of telephone conversation and modern communication, little of this type of information is available at all. Little or nothing has been done to preserve the first-hand knowledge of what happened
to people in Weber County during one of the greatest human dramas in American history.

**Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study will be to determine the conditions that existed in Weber County, Utah, during the depression years (1929 to 1941), both as it affected the lives of various individuals and the success of various government programs implemented in an attempt to terminate the depression. It will be the purpose of this study to discover the attitudes that developed during the depression, and which possibly contributed to the depression, and to determine whether or not it has had a lasting effect upon the point of view of the people who were involved.

**Objectives**

1. To determine the nature of the Great Depression, 1929 to 1941, as it affected the lives of the residents of Weber County Utah.

2. To determine what happened in the lives of people during a trying experience, and discover little known information which will likely bring about a greater understanding of the depression, and the lessons and opportunities which it made available to all ages of individuals.

3. To collect primary sources on life in the Great Depression in Weber County, Utah, through the techniques of oral history; that is, through taping and transcribing of interviews with representative people whose memories are keen and whose experiences were relevant to the subject of this study.
Delimitations

The following delimitations have been placed upon this study.

1. Only those people who lived in Weber County at some time between 1929 and 1941 were selected for interviews.

2. Only those people who have been referred to this writer, or are known to this writer as being knowledgeable and capable of contributing significant information concerning the depression were selected for interviews.

3. Only a limited number of occupations were selected for this study; i.e., farmer; wage earner; young person, or person needing government assistance; housewife; railroad worker; educator; businessman; doctor; banker; attorney; and community leader. Only a limited number of people from each group were selected for interviews.

4. Only the interview method was used for gathering data.

5. Only those people who, at the time of this writing, live within 100 miles of Weber County and qualify within the other delimitations were contacted for this study.

Methods of Procedure

A visit was made with various knowledgeable community leaders in the Ogden City-Weber County area to determine the various predominant occupations in Weber County. These occupations were then used to determine the approximate number of people needed to represent each vocation which would be used in this study. An attempt was made to give a fair
representation to each group through interviewing a proportional number of people. However, the original proportions have become slightly distorted through the inability of this writer to secure interviews with all those who were being considered.

Names were selected for the interviews by carefully choosing people from all areas of the county, and choosing them according to their ability to contribute worthwhile information. Telephone calls were made to those people, and appointments were made at their convenience. Interviews were then made by this writer, concerning these people's experiences during the depression, and their feelings toward those experiences and the implications of the depression.

A basic understanding of information related to the depression was used as a guideline during the interview process, but no attempt was made to ask the same questions of each individual. Rather, an attempt was made to give each individual as much freedom as possible to discuss the subjects upon which he was most knowledgeable.

The transcripts of each interview were typed and presented to the interviewee for verification and permission for publication. Any suggested changes and corrections were made and initialed before the material was incorporated in the body of the paper. No significant changes were requested.

The information was then organized according to its relevance and individuality, and presented in this study. It is presented alphabetically, according to occupation. An attempt is made in the presentation of the last
chapter to relate each group of individuals to one another, so that some comparisons can be made and conclusions determined concerning the effects of the depression upon Weber County.

No effort was made to regiment the contribution of the interviewee. He was always given the widest latitude to pursue his own feelings. The interviewer attempted to ask only those questions which would stimulate and bring to the mind of the interviewee things which happened, and how he personally felt about them. As the interviewer proceeded with the study, the questions which would do this best soon became apparent.
CHAPTER I

THE BANKER

It would be difficult to try to generalize as to the position the banker held in the eyes of those around him during the depression years. Whether or not he was trusted and appreciated for what he did are questions unresolved by this study. His private life was little ruffled as a result of the depression, but things were often difficult in his business associations. Each day he was forced to decide whether he would sacrifice his own position or the position of a patron in order to satisfy the needs of the day.

Mr. William Arthur Budge, who was employed by the Commercial Security Bank during the entire depression, was involved in the preparation of script during the Bank Holiday, and was in the bank during a run.

I was working with the Commercial Security Bank. ... when the stock market crash came, and especially here in Ogden when the Ogden State Bank closed, then of course we had a run on the banks here in Utah. And I can remember that here in our own bank (I was in the teller's cage at the time) that the people came in and wanted their money, and we stayed open. We didn't close at the regular banking hours; we stayed open just as long as the people came. And so the first day went on toward evening before we closed. And then we opened the next day, and there weren't so many came, and then the people began to bring their money back when they found out that they could get it out. ...

I can't say that I did feel any effect because I was working all the time, and personally, I can't say that it did affect me. ... I was still employed by the bank, so I didn't have a lay off and it didn't make any particular difference that way, as I remember. ...
When it was decided by the government to close the banks, then we had a holiday as I remember ... whoever had the authority to make the decision [said] that the banks, when they opened, would issue script. I can remember that for these two weeks, I was signing script for the bank myself. I was an officer of the bank; and I was signing script with the idea that when the bank opened, there would be script instead of currency. But as I remember, the president of the United States said that when the banks opened we'll pay currency, which was done, and the script was not used. ... (it was) very important, because ... then the people had confidence in the government, you see.

Now what I think the people were afraid of, it was feared that the people who had currency would keep it hid up; and this way, by paying currency, it was kept out in the open again, and the people had confidence. ...

I would think ... that the Ogden State Bank was not meeting the requirements of the State Banking Department, or even the ideas that the Federal Reserve might have concerning them. Of course the Ogden State Bank, as I remember, then, was not a member of the Federal Reserve. I'm not sure about that, but I don't hardly think that they were. So it seems, this is my opinion, of course, that the Ogden State Bank was not in compliance with what the State Banking Department was demanding or thought was right, and therefore it closed. ...

Anytime that a bank closes, people begin to lose confidence. And, of course, they like to have their money; and therefore, people don't generally study bank situations. ... So if one bank closes, it creates a condition that people think, 'Well, I'd better get my money out of where I've got it.' So the bank where I worked, the Commercial Security, the people came for their money. I would say we had quite a run on the bank. I don't know how much we paid out, but we took care of everyone that came, and we had sufficient money to do it. ...

We didn't want to shut the people off, we wanted to show them that they could have their money. So we just stayed open so all the things could be taken care of. And we not only gave them their money, but as I recall, we brought in sandwiches for those that had to wait. ...

I can recall that one man who was a big business man here in town--and had a good sizable bank account--stood up on a platform where the people could see him, that is the people in the lobby, and he said, 'Now I have a lot of money in this bank, and I'm not going to take it out. I'm confident that everything's going to be all right.' ...

I think it helped, and then there was no criticism of the people. If they wanted their money, no one said anything of a derogatory
Mr. Frank Francis, Jr., was employed in the Ogden State Bank during the time of its run and closing. He gained some truly valuable information concerning the bank during that time and explained in his interview some of the problems which the bank faced during those years.

I was working at the Ogden State Bank in Ogden, Utah. ... It was entirely a case of primarily gossip. Of course the conditions were getting bad with the banking business all over the United States at that time. A lot of banks were running into failures and, of course, what actually started our run on our bank was outside gossip. A few people would come in and take their money out, and then a few more, and tell someone else, 'You'd better go in, the bank isn't safe.' So the first thing we knew--of course the stock market problem and all that had a general economic affect on the whole area--people were losing faith in the bankers as well as Wall Street and everything. So first thing we knew, we had a line-up out there in front of our bank, and that went on for about, oh, a solid week.

We had a bank of about $8.5 million, total deposits; and when it failed--the State Banking Department closed it on account of we were running out of money, primarily--so we closed on August 31, 1931. Then we tried to reopen again through the R. F. C. and the Federal Reserve Board primarily, and we couldn't get any help. ... So we were all in the same boat, more or less, only we were running out of money. So we finally--the bank commissioner--finally decided to close the doors and we'd run out of practically all our gold reserve. We had one hundred thousand twenty dollar gold pieces that we were out of. ...

We were not a member of the Federal Reserve. We were a state non-member bank. ... It would have been to no advantage. It would have been an advantage if we had been a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which came along in 1934, and that would have been a real advantage because you wouldn't have had the run. The deposits would have been insured, so that was quite a factor--primarily the loss of faith you know. ...
I think that the public in general had the feeling that it [the Bank Holiday] was the salvation of the nation. In other words, the banks were getting desperate. The larger banks were getting into trouble then, and, of course, that would have ruined the entire banking system because little banks bank with larger banks. And I think it was, well, it was the only thing that could have been done at that time. We'd have probably had a catastrophe in this nation. Now this bank, the Ogden State Bank, that liquidated out at about 67 or 68 percent, I'm not sure which. That goes to show you that even during distress times, that things like your best agricultural products, your lambs, your best sound-mouth ewes, were selling for about two dollars a head. Hogs and cattle were very cheap, but we still liquidated out at a very acceptable figure, even during the depression. So it shouldn't have been closed in the first place. But at that time, you couldn't get any help any place. ...

We were known primarily as a country bank. We did considerable agriculture business, canning business, and we made a lot of real estate loans. We had a trust department, trust services, and a lot of retail paper, automobiles and so on. It was a highly diversified bank, or we wouldn't have liquidated at 68 percent. ...

I was quite fortunate. I was a professional musician and had work at night. I was employed in the liquidation, and then I was kept on during the liquidation of the bank. So I spent two years undoing all of what we had done for the past ten to twenty years in the liquidation process. And that's figuring up furniture, and cattle, and sheep, and cars, and everything you can think of. It was a most frightening experience to see the depression. ...

I would say that most of them tried to cooperate. We didn't want their assets. We didn't want their cattle or sheep. We didn't want to foreclose on their homes. Most of them worked out, but we had some, of course, that were obstinate, too. We'd have to get a court order and go and repossess. So there was some of the terrifying things, like I say, to see a family destitute, and have to have them lose their livestock, or their cow, or whatever their livelihood was. I don't want to go through those days again, I tell you; they were terrible. A lot of people were out of work, farm products were of no value, and the prices were cut way down. And lack of employment--it was a tough situation. ...

In those days, I'd say probably it wouldn't be unusual to have 1,000 people in there (White City Ballroom), maybe greater than that. We had it extended out to an outside dance floor too (open air), you know. It was a very popular dancing pavilion.

I believe it was along about the time of the ... National Recovery Act; at that time, I'd say, it started easing then. We gained a little confidence back in the country and people were going to work. ... The banking business was getting stronger, and the
Federal Deposit Insurance was in the picture, so I'd say it started easing about 1934 actually. ...  

It's always been the same situation. When there's fear at work, people are inclined to save their money and not touch it; and there are many cases of that now, where people are not spending their money on account of fear of being out of employment. I'd say its the fear factor more than anything. ... There's a lot of unemployment like there was then, a lot of people out of work. I think the same indications are here and, of course, the government's able to off-set these factors now with various means ... The underlying factors are still present, I think. There's still fear, and I don't think people have started spending their money yet. They're selling more cars now, but that's probably an indication of the old cars being worn out, more of a case of necessity. ...  

I had quite an experience one night with a skunk. I came home with my tuxedo on, back to the canyon home where I was living, and I thought it was a cat. So I got the kids little chair, and I was going over to crack it on the head, and it turned out to be a skunk. So they called me Skunk Francis for about two or three years, even the manager here, because I went to the bank with only my (same) shoes on, it's all I had left out of my clothes. We had to move out of the cabin that night. So I sent my tuxedo to the cleaners. They sent it back, and said, 'Don't you dare be sending an item like this into us, or we'll be suing you. And so it was quite interesting; the only thing I had left on out of my clothes ... was my shoes, and so they could smell the skunk in the bank, and then finally they found out where it was coming from. So the president of the bank gave me ten dollars and told me, 'You'd better go out and buy yourself a pair of shoes.' ... They cost about five dollars was all; he just handled me ten dollars told me to get some shoes. ... The Salvation Army was very busy, and there were bread lines, and things of that sort in different areas.  

Mr. W. Earl Garr was employed by the Commercial Security Bank during the depression years, and his wife was employed by the stock broker. They had some anxiety concerning her job, but both of them were fully employed during the depression. Mr. Garr was also involved in the preparation of script during the Bank Holiday.
I was employed at the Commercial Security Bank during those years. ... in 1929 ... the stock market really took a slide, and that was the beginning of the Great Depression as I recall. ... The Ogden State Bank at that time was one of the largest banks—probably the largest bank in the area—and they had probably over-extended on their loaning, and some of their loans just weren't properly covered, and they closed their doors. I believe that was in 1931 or 1932. ... Of course, the way things are now, the government would step in on any emergency like that and try to avoid a collapse of an institution like that, and, of course, for reasons that have been made since that time, to guarantee the deposits and guarantee to the people that the banks will remain open. ... I haven't missed one day's work throughout my working period from 1929 to the time I retired; however, during that time, I've seen many people laid off. We had some laid off at the bank during that time, and I've seen many people laid off during the depression. ... I can say that we lived very comfortably through the depression for the simple reason that prices were down during the depression. ... There were no guaranteed loans. At the present time, the government guarantees your real estate loans, and the F. H. A., the Veterans, the V. A. loans, and half a dozen other loans are guaranteed by the government. At that time, the banks were on their own; they made loans that they thought were good loans, and secured properly, and there was no government backing as far as loans were concerned. ... There were at that time, just as there are now, conservative bankers and bankers who were not so conservative. Now if you're referring to the Ogden State Bank, perhaps they were a little more liberal in some of their loans and they didn't have a proper backing for some of their loans. ... Most of the banks belonged to the Federal Reserve System, and they could put up their notes and their loans as collateral with the district federal reserve for actual cash if they needed it. Of course that wouldn't as you say, be enough to withstand a run on a bank. ... The banks of Weber County did have runs. We had runs on our bank, however this was at the time of the closing of the Ogden State Bank in 1931, and it was at that time, or shortly thereafter, that Roosevelt declared the Bank Holiday in 1933. But we did have runs on the local banks. ... I think that we impressed upon the people that they could receive their money if they wanted it, and I believe that we did state that we would have our doors open as long as people wanted to come and get their money which did restore confidence with the public. ... I think it was more or less a panic situation. The people had lost confidence in President Hoover, and, of course, this was brought out in the 1932 election when there was a landslide and Roosevelt was
elected as President. But I think that was the thing, the people had lost confidence in the nation as a whole—and President Hoover. . . .

I've given my children advice along the conservative line, and I've found out that over the years I'm too conservative. I have an older son who's in the motel business, and he's just exactly the opposite; and he's done so well financially down on the coast that had he been conservative, as I am, he just wouldn't have gotten along. . . .

I think this credit situation—speaking of credit cards—is probably a little bit out of hand. It's so easy to establish credit and also to overdo the thing. We have so many bankruptcies, which is probably partially caused by some of this easy credit. . . .

There were many layoffs during that time, and at that time, we had no employment compensation. So it was up to the head of the family, if he was laid off his job, to walk the streets and try to find employment. If he couldn't find employment, I've known men to buy these little knives and trinkets and go from door to door to make a dollar. [Of] course, we hear about the people in the east selling apples and so forth. I don't think things like that happened in this area, but it was just a matter of making a job for yourself if you couldn't find employment. We also hear about the soup lines in the larger cities, and I suppose we had that here to an extent, but there again, the depression probably wasn't felt in this area like it was on the East Coast. . . .

We've had a backyard garden which helped us out some as far as vegetables and fruit. But as I recall at that time, many of the farmers couldn't sell their fruits and vegetables; and they would advertise that if people needed potatoes or vegetables or fruit, if they would go out into their garden or farms, they could secure them without cost. . . .

My wife was working for a stock broker's office, J. A. Hogle and Co., in Ogden. She was 18 and I was 21, and I was at the bank. We were married July 3, 1929. So from October, for the next few years, we had some nervous times, wondering whether she would lose her job, or whether I would lose my job. Now, at that time also, during the dead of the depression, there was a lot of talk about laying off the ladies who were working in industry, which people thought would relieve the thing if they could get the ladies off from the roles of the employed. . . .

The [Bank] Holiday was called and all the banks in the country were closed, and we in Weber County, just like in any other town or county, we didn't know whether the banks were going to open in a week, or two weeks, or a month. We prepared here by having script printed so that we could have some currency or
money to transact business with here in the area. So I was called out of bed, probably midnight one night, and was called to go down to the Ogden Litho where this script was being printed, to go down there as they cut the script into currency size. It had to be personally signed by either a bank official or an employee, so we worked all night signing this script, putting it in bundles and verifying it, getting ready to use it if we had to. However, it was only a day or so until the banks were re-opened. The President asked that the banks be re-opened and the funds were guaranteed. That was the beginning of the F.D.I.C. And, of course, the banks since that time—that is the members which participate, which is most of the banks—have their funds guaranteed by the federal deposit guarantee, F.D.I.C. ... 

[My '29 Chevrolet Coach cost me around nine hundred dollars, and the interesting thing about that was that I kept it for about ten years. When I made a change, and this was during the time when they weren't making passenger automobiles for change, about 1940 or 1941, I got almost nine hundred dollars out of it after driving it all that time. Course that nine hundred dollars would only be worth about two or three hundred dollars comparatively.

Summary

The banker had quite a pleasant personal life during the times of the depression. He had financial security, and several bankers indicated that they even had some supplemental income which they could rely on if their job was in jeopardy.

Despite his personal security, the banker had many anxieties which he had to face each day when he arrived at work. During the early years of the depression, the possibility of a run was always very real. The bankers did not indicate whether or not they had any advance notice concerning a coming run, but the possibility was constantly in their minds. It was concurred that no bank could have withstood a major run and that the bank's
only chance for survival was to calm the people and restore their confidence in the bank.

The Ogden State Bank was unable to accomplish that. On August 31, 1931, the Ogden State Bank was closed by the State Banking Commission and has not been allowed to reopen.

Other banks in the Ogden area experienced runs, and they somehow managed to hold out against a collapse. Two of the witnesses stated that they felt a catastrophe was averted when they allowed the people to come into the bank even after it would have normally been closed. They expressed their desire to see that every individual there received his money. One bank even brought in sandwiches to pass out among the people who were waiting to be helped.

However, it is known that the Ogden State Bank had more than sufficient assets to pay all claims and adequate collateral to take care of its loans. The liquidation process which followed the bank's closing paid out to the depositors 67-68 percent of the total due. This was accomplished on the 100 percent paid on the trust funds, in spite of the 10 to 15 percent value they received for their assets on forced liquidation. Many people were allowed to make partial settlements when they could have made full settlement. In at least one instance, the bank was forced to hire employees to go into the mountains and herd the sheep on which they had foreclosed because the farmers had simply let them run loose.

Everyone in Weber County was hurt by the closing of the Ogden State Bank. The Ogden State Bank should not have closed, and it would not have
closed if it had only received a token amount of help from some of the other banks in the area.

By 1933, all the banks were in difficult circumstances and were unable to handle the tremendous anxieties which were building up throughout the nation concerning the stability of the banks. In January and February, 1933, the withdrawal of gold from the Federal Reserve had reached wholesale proportions. President Roosevelt, upon entering office, declared the Bank Holiday. During the Bank Holiday in Utah, the bankers helped in the production of script. It was feared that when the banks reopened, there would not be any money for business transactions and that script would have to be substituted. This situation did not materialize. When the banks reopened, they transacted business as usual. The Bank Holiday was the only thing that saved the banking interests of the nation. The fact that currency was still in use when the banks reopened was a major means of restoring confidence among the people. The Bank Holiday relieved the pressure for a few days and allowed everyone to gain perspective. Each bank was then checked by a federal examiner. Only those banks which were sound were given permission to do business again. If they were allowed to open, they were firmly guaranteed by the F. D. I. C. (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), an appendage of the Glass Steagall Banking Reform Act of 1933.
CHAPTER II

THE LABORER AND WAGE EARNER

The laborer was in a very precarious position during the depression. Not only did his wage take drastic reductions, but the possibility of a lay off was always very real. Those whom this writer was able to interview were fortunate enough to stay on the job most of the time, but they had various types of anxieties, nevertheless.

Curtis H. Marshall from West Ogden, Utah, worked for the American Pack and Provision Company, as a delivery man. His primary job was a route-type delivery and to take orders for his next delivery day.

I worked on the sausage wagon, which of course was delivery work. Most of the grocery stores that had the smaller meat counters and some of the larger ones got their meat from the sausage wagon. I used to deliver some quite large pieces of meat, a quarter of beef and so on while I was on the Sausage wagon to a variety of grocery stores that put out quite a bit of meat. ... About 75 percent of them (the grocers) could just sign the ticket and receive the goods, but then say, the other 25 percent of them had somehow lost their credit, and had to pay cash. I don't really know what made the difference, how some of them had lost their credit, but most of them were able to sign the ticket and receive the goods. ...

I was fully employed during all that time. Sometimes we only got four days a week during the depression years. As I remember, however, we always got four days a week work, sometimes five. But I recall the government having these projects here for the unemployed and so on, but we were fortunate. ... When I first started working for the American Pack and Provision, I made forty cents an hour. ... (and later) I got raised to twenty-eight dollars a week, and I thought that was quite a raise at that
time. ... We did cut down to probably 75 percent of our usual volume which showed that people had cut down on their meat consumption; but which proved that we were still eating meat, though not so much, some. And that kept us reasonably busy. ... I can't say that we had too much difficulty at that time. I guess all my life I've been quite conservative, and I've learned that it's easier to have a few dollars on hand than it is to be a few dollars in the hole. So it's been my policy all my life that even though I've made a little, ... I saved a little.

As I recall, we bought a small home at fifteen dollars a month. And food, some food items were rather hard to get, ... but it really didn't get us down, and we thought many times how fortunate we were to be able to get by. Though we went without a lot of things we would like to have, we did have most all of the items that were needed. We ate well, and dressed fairly good. ... We had a large chicken coop, and we raised chickens for a number of years, both for eggs and meat. ... I was bothered quite a lot with colds and pneumonia in the chickens, so I gave that up. ...

I'm concerned. We hear so much about taxes and everything being expensive. And the thing that strikes me is how, in spite of that, we enjoy ... four times the modern conveniences that we could ever enjoy in our young married life. And it seems to me that the young people have missed that period of time which was quite vital, and left a deep impression upon me and my wife and which taught us the need for being a little more conservative. ... It just seems like this debt business is a part of living to the young people, and I would venture that 80 percent of all the young people have five thousand to forty thousand dollars worth of debt on their heads. If they should slip or stub their toe, I wonder where they would be. All they can do is just hope that help comes their way, and they don't have sickness or too much trouble. ...

I think that as parents we could do a whole lot more to encourage our children to go out to the needy, especially the widows, and those who are financially up against it, and helping there. I think one of the prime obligations that the parents have ... is to see that their children have an obligation and responsibility and that they do it. Too many of them are so used to having the money doled out to them with no particular responsibility on their part. I see that as a problem more than anything else--lack of a job for these young people with many jobs available. They're apparently blind to them and don't see them. ...

I see a great change in the entertainment. When I was a young fellow, we used to go to dances. All over the valley in nearly every ward, they had regular dances; some of them even every week--North Ogden, Plain City, Hooper, ... Sometimes
a nice little home-town orchestra. ... We used to come to White City here in Ogden. They had a great group of people, old and young, used to go there. I would assume a good many of those times we'd run near five hundred, six hundred, seven hundred people through there every night.

Mrs. Marshall

... about the only thing I remember is making over old clothes. Lots of times we'd go to the Deseret Industries and get old clothes, even other people's old clothes, and ... make them into clothes for our children. And then, ... we didn't do like we do now. We'd make a big pot of soup, or a big pot of beans, and we could feed them a lot cheaper than feeding them on beef steak, that's for sure. ...

... When our boys bought a car, they had to make the money to buy the car, and put the gas in it. But not many children have to do that today. Their parents buy them the car, and put the gas in it. ...

But our boys—they worked hard enough during the day so that they were tired enough at night to go to bed. And I think that's a lot of our trouble with the children. There's nothing for them to do to get tired.

In the strictest sense of definition, Mr. George Maw was a laborer during the depression, working on his father's farm, even though his father was quite a wealthy land holder. George was eventually able to share in some of the profits of the enterprise.

I worked on a farm. ... I earned ninety dollars a month in 1931 and then, in the depression, even though it hit in the East in October, 1929, it was about 1931 before it really got out here bad, and I got knocked to fifteen cents an hour. And I worked for fifteen cents an hour for three years—hard work. I was doing any kind of farm work. My dad had a big farm. He used to cut hay with three mowers all the time. We had four mowers, and he used to spend most of his time keeping the fourth one in repair. Then we had thirteen acres of asparagus. It was the biggest producing patch in the state of Utah. We also had a couple of acres of rhubarb, so it was coming to the field at six and work in the asparagus and
rhubarb until dark, and then do the chores and back to bunching asparagus. ...

My wife started teaching school, well, she had taught five years when we got married in 1936. So her first contract was six hundred dollars for the year for teaching, but then she got up a little. But when we got married, she had six hundred dollars saved up. And with that, we bought a refrigerator and a davenport and a chair and a bed and a kitchen set. We bought enough furniture to get along with. I guess it also included a washing machine. ...

Dad, in the winter of course, did a lot of hiring. And during the depression, he had the store out there, and he had men lined up wanting to work for a dollar a day. And the thought was not how much can I get ahead, but simply wanted something to buy something to eat with. It was mighty, mighty hard times. I remember one woman who married a fellow from Plain City who later decided that he wanted to move into Ogden, and she said, 'No! There were four of us girls and my dad was on W. P. A., and I have eaten too good in Plain City on the farm to ever want to move back to Ogden.' She was scared. ...

Most people had a few chickens and a cow, and they got along. I don't know the status of some people, because I was different. My dad had a lot of land. We had a barn with twelve horses, and there were always some out in the corral. We worked awful, awful hard, but we always had plenty to eat. So I don't know how some people lived. I imagine they got their tummies full, but it wasn't the best choice at all times. ...

I suppose that those who went through the depression--it taught them one lesson: to appreciate later in life because times were just so darn hard then. Even though a lot now think that they get more money, but that it would buy just as much back in those days--that is not true. Too many people could not find any work. And no money will buy nothing at no time. Of course we had no Social Security and no welfare around where I lived, and the old folks simply lived with a son or daughter in later life, and things have just changed. ...

I was old enough that I went to see a girl occasionally on a bicycle, and we would go up to the picture show. And we'd never take a girl because we didn't have the extra dime, but I would buy her a bottle of pop, and a nickel's worth of popcorn after, and then take her home on a horse. ...

I would say that in 1936 the signs were getting better ... but ... even in 1940, why things were pretty, pretty slow around here. I remember in 1944, my neighbor got on at Hill Field for fifty cents an hour, and he was very, very thrilled.
Mr. Angus C. Richardson lived in the Ogden area during the depression years and worked for a daily wage during all that time.

I was one of the fortunate ones during the depression. The wages were very low, but everything was very cheap, and during the depression, when others were looking for jobs, I was making $110.00 a month. And then I went from $110.00 to $140.00 during the depression. And we could go to a grocery store and buy all the groceries that we wanted for a week for ten dollars without any trouble at all. And I was driving one of their cars, so I didn't have to have a car of my own, and I fared very well during the depression. I didn't have a depression. Those that weren't as fortunate as I were having a very hard time, especially if they were in debt. ... Some of them out of work half the time; and when they were working, they were taking jobs that would pay them almost nothing, anything that they could get. And our new fellows that were working for one dollar and fifty cents a day and trying to keep a family and pay off a home or a farm or something like that, it was rough, very rough. ... The church was very kind. They were very good, and there were a lot of these people that, I guess, don't know what they would have done if it hadn't been for the church. I know when Bishop Paul was Bishop, I was his counselor. Many times we'd go to the hospital, and somebody would be in the hospital without any insurance to pay. ... And although the hospital was cheap in comparison to now, it was very expensive at that time. And I've seen many a time when Bishop Paul had gone in and some of the patients, about half their problem was worry. And he'd say, 'Well, your worries are over. I'll stop by and tell them to send me the bill,' and we did. He used to just have the man send him the bill, and he'd pay it through the church. He was very good that way, and we had a lot of widows in our ward and a lot of people that were having an awful hard time to get along. ...

We didn't have many accounts with the Globe flour mill that had to pay cash. We had a lot of them that were limited. They could only buy so much and they had to pay for that before they could buy more. And then we had those that were on a thirty day [account]. ...

Personally, I did exceptionally well. I got a letter from them now that was sent to me from the manager of our plant; and when he sent the letter, he was talking about the previous year, and I had lost only $3.06 that was taken off my accounts. And the rest was all closed and collected. ...
I live within my own means, that's the big thing. That was always my ideal, to live within my means. A lot of people took credit because they couldn't afford what they were buying, and that hasn't been my attitude at all. I might have to take credit because I can't accumulate that much money all at once, but I know that I can pay it when I take it. For example, buying a home. ...

In entertainment, and I would imagine you remember this, the Alhambra Theatre, it was called the Alhambra Theatre, it's the Paramount now, ... every Thursday night, I think it was, was grocery night. They used to give away groceries, and those theatres were just filled to the top (with people) trying to win those groceries. They used to have big sacks there that you could hardly carry out, and they were full of groceries, too. And along with that, a lot of times, they would give a sack of flour, or five dollars worth of groceries. Well now five dollars worth doesn't mean much, but then four or five dollars, you had to have your wife there to help you carry them because you couldn't carry them all; there were that many groceries. ... A lot of these poor people that (went) would just hope and pray, and they depended on something like that. A lot of these people that didn't have steady work, they always found enough money to buy a ticket to the show and they killed two birds with one stone. They had a chance for a little entertainment and they had an opportunity of getting their groceries, not for a week, but for two or three weeks. We used to go to the dances all the time, and they had good crowds. They used to have a prize dance and give away candy and things of that sort to induce you to come in.

And these celebrations, these little towns used to have a lot of celebrations. Everyone of the holidays they could possibly have, they'd have a celebration and give away stuff, you know. They used to have a big crowd there and give away stuff ... and they used to have a big crowd there, and it didn't take much, maybe twenty-five cents or fifty cents would last a boy or girl all day, and sometimes they would come home with something. ...

[When the Ogden State Bank closed, I lost] just a small amount--my paycheck. But the thing that hurt was that I put my check in the bank, and then I went out and paid my bills, rent and everything out of it, and then the checks never went in before the banks closed. I got about 50 percent [of the money back] over a period of a good many months. ...

They (the people in the Ogden State Bank) were people that would do everything to help you. In fact, this was one of their troubles, they were just a little bit too good. They were honest, I think. I always felt they were, and they always felt that the people that they dealt with were honest, and I think that they were,
perhaps, absolutely right. But I think sometimes honest people get caught in these jams and it makes them dishonest even though they're still honest. But if they can't pay, they can't pay. I think that they had been a little lenient, and somebody, I don't know, someone caused a run on them, and none of the banks could take it at this time. 

Mr. Columbus Whipple travelled for the Coastal Transportation Service, known in those days as the Railway Mail Service between Ogden, and Lovelock, Nevada, during the depression years.

Well, as far as the depression is concerned, I didn't feel the depression like a lot of other people did. I had a fairly good salary, and even though we did have to take a 15 percent cut, my salary was still coming in regularly, every month, and it was larger than most men of my fitness were getting. So we got along real good during those years. ...

I remember our family doctor, Doctor Leslie S. Merrill—we could call him on the phone, and in fifteen minutes he'd be at our home. And he'd charge us $2.50 for a visit. The things are quite different from that now. It was a life-saver to us because we did have a lot of sickness, and he was at our home many, many, many times. ...

My neighbors, my two closest friends were bricklayers, and they were in bad circumstances at that time. I rented a home from Fred Burdett [building contractor]. He had an apartment in the basement. He moved into the basement, and I rented the upper part of his home. We rented that home for $35.00 a month during the depression. ... They didn't have any work at all. The neighbor next door also had an apartment in the basement, and he rented that. That's about all they had to live on for many years. Building was at a stand-still and the professions, the occupations, had very little work to do. ... we were quite a fortunate [church] group in that we had so many professional men in our group. We had dentists, doctors, and lawyers, and they volunteered their services to some of the members who needed their help.
Summary

The man who was hardest hit in the depression was the laborer or wage earner. It is difficult to determine just what happened to the man we visualize as being the average wage earner, who supposedly wandered the streets day after day wondering whether or not he would be able to secure food for his family. No such person came to light through this study. All of the laborers and wage earners interviewed were employed at least part of the time and always managed to feed and clothe their families.

It was discovered that many of them learned to go without one basic need: good wholesome food. One housewife didn't eat eggs, meat, or milk—their availability was insufficient to feed their baby. Many in this category found it necessary to turn to the city and county governments for relief doles, and later to the federal government for commodities which they could not afford to purchase.

One L. D. S. Bishop stated that he called a meeting of the unemployed people in his ward. These people were willing to go to the farms and pick up unwanted fruits and vegetables and sell the best and bottle the rest for their families. They also had to go into the mountains to secure enough firewood to keep their families warm during the entire winter. He felt, that, in spite of the difficulties they faced, many of the people became happier as a result of helping one another and developing innovative measures to take care of their needs.
Each individual felt it was difficult to determine which area of living was most difficult for the wage earner to secure. There was little money for any of the necessities. Most of them had to rent, so there was little possibility of having any kind of garden to supplement the food supply.
CHAPTER III

THE YOUNG PERSON

The young person, during the depression times, came into a situation that he did not create, could not control, and often could not cope with alone. Many were unable to continue their education because of a lack of financial stability in their homes, while others struggled from day to day in order to make some sort of personal improvement feasible. It is interesting to note, however, that there was a surprisingly small amount of bitterness or resentment toward the depression on the part of these young people, and they all tended to feel that it was, after all, a very beneficial experience in their lives.

Mr. Herbert Eldon Barnes was a very young individual at the time the depression began in 1929; but later, as he graduated from high school and the depression still had not lifted, he joined the ranks of the C.C.C. in order to fill his time and improve his life to some degree.

I got out of school in 1936, and I looked around for a job, and I couldn't find anything that would pay any kind of wages at all or anything that was work so that you could even say that you were working. So I had a chance to go into the Camp as a local man, and the place that I went first was down at Milford, Utah. I was only there for a short time, and then they transferred me back to Bountiful, from which place I could work in Salt Lake. I went to school there and learned drafting and photography and the things that they had us do. ...
At that time (we were) working in the State Land Office, and the Federal Land Office, and working platts and things like they do in the county offices. We learned how to make these platts so they could be used in courts and so that they would be of service to the Land Management Division. ... the majority of the boys that were in that camp belonged to a different division entirely. Part of them worked out at Woods Cross Bird Refuge, and a number of others did flood control work on the mountain, and there was some planting of trees and brush, but I never was out on any of their projects to see what they had done. ...

Most people didn't have money for luxuries during those days; but since your neighbor didn't have them, you didn't worry much about them either. The main mode of travel during that time had changed to the automobile, but kids didn't have the automobile to run with. The older people had the automobiles, but that was before the driver's license was in effect, so we didn't have to worry about being picked up by the local Highway Patrol. If you could sit behind the wheel and steer it down the road and stop it when you needed to, that's all that was asked. ...

During those depression years, if you could find a job for one dollar a day, it was wonderful. As a kid, I worked mostly in the summers for one dollar a week and my board. Usually most of the dollars went into twenty two shells and a few luxuries at the store like candy, and money didn't mean a whole lot because other kids didn't have any. If the other kids would have had money to spend to go to shows and go places, it would have meant more. But at that time, if we did get any money we could spare, of course it went into groceries and clothes and other places that it had to go. But everybody had a deal worked out so that they could make a living one way or another. Wages were very, very low; but at the same time, the merchandise that you needed to live on didn't cost much either. ... Saturday night ... was a big night, and usually the dances were pretty good. ...

Another thing that was big was the plays that the town put on. They would have plays two and three and four times a month, and the casts would all come from the town, and they would put on those plays and you would get into the play on the [L. D. S. Church] budget ticket, and those budget tickets would cost the family anywhere from three to five dollars ... and that would get you into everything. ...

Of course the need for money then wasn't as great as it is now because the prices were not the same. As I remember, the depression wasn't really over until the War broke. From about 1936 on, it began to get just a little brighter, a little more pick up in the economy, but it never got into swing until World War II came along, and with the War calling for help and for merchandise,
the economy picked up. But I would say that it was a good ten or eleven years that the old depression hung on pretty solid. ...

People had to learn how to economize. ... a number of people lost their homes, and lost everything that they had. Money became so tight that if anybody had any, they would think twice before they would let it go. There wasn't much money spent for quite a number of years. There were a lot of homes lost, a number of businesses lost, and the economy just tightened up to a point that if people had any money, well, they kept it. And those that didn't have--it was sometimes hard to tell them from those that did because nobody was spending much or going many places. ...

I remember when the radios first came to town ... but the radio then was only twenty five or thirty dollars, and that's quite different than it is now. And they didn't have the number of stations that they do now either. Along from about six o'clock in the morning, there was cowboy music, the Sons of the Pioneers, and a lot of the other cowboy music. It was very popular then when the radio first came out. That was one of the main kinds of music there was on there. ... 'Amos 'n' Andy' was a big one, I can't remember anything hardly about the first radio without Amos 'n' Andy; they were the big ones, and the others I don't remember quite as well now ... The 'Hit Parade' was also a big thing. As I remember that, it started along about 1934 or 1935, and by the time that got up to 1937 and 1938, that was quite a big thing. The Hit Parade usually went up to about ten songs, and later it went up to about twenty. But they had lots of things that are still played today that used to be on the Hit Parade. About everybody listened to that in the evening. ...

Most of the boys [in the C. C. C.] were from out of state. They were from Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Louisiana, and a few from Ohio and Illinois, in that area. But the majority of the boys in that camp were the hillbillies of Kentucky, and West Virginia and Tennessee. And they were downright mean, but they could play the harmonica and banjo and guitar like I've never heard since, and do all kinds of dances. ... But when I say mean, they would fight with their fists and knives and brass knuckles and clubs and they didn't mind smuggling in guns and trying them too. I've seen them get beat and battered and cut, and I've seen boys from that group go into the penitentiary, and I wouldn't be surprised if they still might be there. ...

Most of those boys were illiterate. They couldn't read, they couldn't write, but you couldn't cheat them on money. They knew everything down to the cent--no matter how much you were talking about. But they couldn't write their name. They had to put an 'X; and have someone else sign under it. They didn't know
anything; they didn't want to know anything, but they could scrap. And they didn't mind a practical joke, and if it got to be past a joke, that was just that much more fun; and if they could get your goat, why they'd take that and your hide too. At night they might come in at midnight and give your bed a flip, and you'd land on your face on the floor, and the bed on top of you, and to them that was a joke. ...

Even though I was with these boys from out of state, I didn't let that bother me. I had lots of evenings to spend, and so I decided that since I had some time to waste, I might as well profit by it if I could, ... and I wanted to go [on a mission] so I tried to figure out a way to get enough money to go, and I couldn't make enough money to save, and my mother wasn't working at a job that would bring enough money that she could keep me there, and ... there was just no way that I could go on a mission. So I started to work with the boys in the camp down there and I converted three of the boys from the camp to the church. ...

They had to have these camps to keep the young people off the streets, to keep them out of trouble. There was too many young people on the road. They were hitchhiking. They were travelling all over, and there was no work at home; whether it was in California or Utah or Minnesota or New York, or anywhere, there just wasn't any work anywhere. ...

President Roosevelt decided that something had to be done, that crime was on the increase, that all the people out of work, and no money to pay them, and they decided that they didn't want just the W. P. A. projects out of it, they wanted to teach the boys, give them some military training. ... They had to get up a five thirty or six o'clock in the morning, and shave and take a shower and clean up. And they had to get out to roll call, and go to breakfast. They had to make their bed and be out in the truck to go to work at seven thirty or eight o'clock. ... then they came back at four thirty, they would have about an hour to do what they wanted to do or needed to do before supper. Then after supper, if they could get leave to go off the post, they could go wherever they wanted to go. Or if they stayed on the post, there were libraries and all kinds of training sessions, and, of course, there were a lot of them that had to take turns on K. P., and they learned to peel potatoes by the sack. ...

Some of them learned to be auto mechanics, and truck drivers and tractor drivers, and they learned to survey and just all kinds of things. And a good many of those boys were not only off the streets for a period of one to three years, but they did have a chance to earn thirty to forty-five dollars a month, gain the training, and they had a chance to be moved around the country sometimes two and three times while they were in these camps.
I worked little short jobs here and there, but you couldn't get a steady job and stay with it. The institutions were not in a position at that time to hire very many people. All they wanted was to get them over a short rush-period. I worked for the California Pack, and just seasonal short periods and then the job was done, and you'd get out and hustle for another job. ... If you could get a steady job, you were one of the lucky people for quite a few years.

Mr. Jay Richard Beus also spent his youth during the depression in Weber County. His parents lived on a farm, and most of his basic necessities were taken care of, and he seemed to have only a limited number of problems connected with the trials of the depression.

Of course in those days, '29 would have made me fifteen years old; and living in a small farming community, ... we more or less provided our own entertainment. And of course ... a Mormon community ... provided a lot of recreation and diversion for its members. And in those days we were involved in baseball a lot more than we are at the present time, and that provided a lot of recreation in the summer time through Farm Bureau Baseball activity—competition between the towns of the county, and later on, of course, with the state upon reaching the finals. ... We had a dance hall, a pavillion, and each Friday night the recreation committee of the community provided the young people with a dance which was well-attended. People liked to dance in those days. And a lot of entertainment was provided through means of this recreation committee, not only on a dancing basis, but three act dramas and plays during the winter time especially. ... Down through the ages we've had a 4th of July Celebration which begins with the raising of the flag in the morning, and in those days we actually had a few sticks of dynamite that they would set off to begin the day's activities and the celebration of the 4th of July. This would be followed by a band parade through the town, down the streets, usually stopping at the homes possibly of the leaders of the community and other places and playing the band as they went along the street as well as when they stopped. ... Later on, about eleven o'clock [A. M.], there would be a program, ... which was real well attended. And a lot of enthusiasm was in these programs as well as the rest of the day, which included a baseball game, activities
for the young people such as races and pillow fights, sitting on a pole, and usually ending with a small rodeo in the middle of the baseball diamond ... and it was a day to look forward to, especially for the youth. It was one of the highlights of the year, and then, of course, we would end the day's activities with a dance in the evening in the pavillion. ...

Perhaps this depression period didn't affect some of us out in these farming communities as much as it would other people in the city life. We didn't miss money because we didn't have money before. And as a result, we more or less went through the years of the depression without too much change from the years previous. Farming in those days was a matter of a lot of hard work and not having too much money, but providing our own entertainment, even on the farm, ... we went through those years without too much change. ...

I remember a group of young people about my age were on a special project mainly out in the state of Nevada, and they went out there for a few months at a time, especially in the summertime when there was no school, and worked on different projects out there, and then, of course, in those years the C. C. C. were set up and took some of our youth, and even brought some youth in from other parts of the state and neighboring states to perform projects there in our neighboring communities as well as the mountains. ... Of course there were mixed feelings about this sort of thing. We had a lot of good youth come in and, of course, some of them weren't so good. But as a whole, I think we realized the circumstance of it and the necessity of such a project to provide something for the youth to do. And while there was possibly some objection to it, I don't think the feeling was so great that we objected too much to them coming in. Actually, some of the fellows married some of the local girls, and are still living in our community. ... I think that it provided something real worthwhile and something possible to keep in mind for our conditions of the present if we arrive at some condition where we don't have work for the youth to do. I think it provides something for them to do, and if well supervised, it could be a good thing. ...

The White City Ballroom was a large place that the youth, as a whole, looked forward to, especially on a Saturday night, and holiday nights. ... There were a lot of name bands that came in as orchestras to play and give entertainment to the youth, and was real well attended. There were a lot of good times up in the White City Ballroom. We had maybe a few elements that weren't ... the best, but you can find bad elements almost anywhere ... it provided a lot of good dancing for the youth, and I
remember going up there quite regularly on Saturday night to a dance. ...

In those days we enjoyed each other's company. We relied on each other as neighbors and friends for recreation to enjoy different things together while the depression years were real rough. It seemed like joining together and associating together, working out problems together, we could solve the problems easier by working together and in the spirit of a community like this, it wasn't so bad.

Mr. Wilford G. Fowers was also a young man trying to improve his life during the depression years. He graduated from Weber College (with a two year degree) in 1936, and discovered that in spite of his additional education work was not easy to find.

In 1936, I graduated from Weber College with a scholarship to Utah State University, but because of the depression times, I was unable to use that scholarship. I never got back to finish my education; things were pretty rough. I remember all during my high school days and during the times when I was at Weber College, there just wasn't much money floating around. I worked in the summertime, mostly for my board, and a little extra that I used to buy what few clothes I had. When I see how the young fellows dress these days, ... it amazes me because in those days, we felt lucky if we had one or two pairs of overalls or trousers. ... and maybe a little sweater to wear and maybe a shirt or two and that was it. ...

I remember that recreation was something that you didn't have too much of. An automobile, we had one in the family, and as far as clothing went. ... you just didn't have many clothes in those days. It was rough; I remember, after my father moved to Ogden here and was working for wages, that the pay check just barely paid the rent and bought some food and that was about it. Clothes had to come as you got them; maybe you had a little extra and bought some clothes, and maybe you went without. ... I think those of us who really went through the depression learned to appreciate the dollar more, and we probably are a little more conservative on spending money than maybe some of the people who haven't been, and [we] appreciate some of the things we do have now in the way of finer automobiles and nicer homes and being able to buy what food you'd like to have and the clothes and so
on. When jobs are real scarce, you don't take advantage of your employer as much; you appreciate your job, and are more anxious to hold it. You're more anxious to put in a good day's work and do the things you're asked to do.

When I was going to Weber College, my father couldn't afford to dig up the money for the tuition, really, so I worked my way through Weber College washing windows and scrubbing floors. One quarter I remember I was able to do some extra work over to the Forestry Building, ... but I worked my way through, and I remember one quarter that the treasurer had asked for my tuition and I didn't have it all, and Dad didn't have it all to give me. And I remember I was lacking about $10.00 of having all my tuition. I was really worried because I didn't know where I was going to get that. I had tried in every way possible to get that, ... and the treasurer had told me that I had to have it the next day and I remember I was walking up the sidewalk there by the old Weber Gym at the top of twenty-fifth street, and as I walked, I glanced down, and there was a ten dollar bill laying there on the sidewalk. That seemed almost like more than a coincidence because that was just the amount that I needed.

I remember another thing that really kind of hit me when I was in high school. I was a sophomore, and with things as right as they were, we didn't have any extra money to spend, and no money to buy clothes or anything like that, and I remember sitting behind a fellow in one of my classes, and without thinking. I just kind of took my pen and scribbled a little design on the back of his shirt, and when he found out what I had done, he told me I had to pay for his shirt, and boy, that was serious in those days. I didn't know where I was going to get the money to pay for a shirt.

I remember when I started working here at Tanners, the wages were so low and the jobs were so scarce, the boss said, 'Well, we need somebody, but we can't afford to pay you very much,' and I remember that when I started here, I worked for forty-five dollars a month. And when I got married, I was only making sixty five dollars a month. We got married in 1938, so things were pretty tight even up until then. I remember we didn't have a car after we were married for about three years.

I remember when I was a boy we used to thoroughly enjoy going up to the old recreation hall and seeing plays that they put on; that was one of the big events. And your ward reunions, and so on, you just felt that those were very important in your life in those days. I think it kind of kept families a little closer together
maybe, a little more family unity in a sense, and community spirit. ...

If I had it to do over again, I don't believe I'd want to trade it too much, I kind of value those experiences I had during my boyhood and the depression days and so on, I think they were good for me.

Mr. Willis Hipwell was a bit older and more established than the other gentlemen interviewed in this portion of the paper, but he was still attempting to establish himself and his young family and had to turn to the C. C. C. and W. P. A. for some of his income during the depression years.

I went [to the C. C. C.] in the fall because there was just nothing else to do and we needed the money. We had a family. And the wife moved to town, to Ogden, and I went to the camp and stayed there, and I'd come in on weekends. But there was, it was a married man's camp, is what it was. Of course we took first aid and forestry; we had a little schooling. ... We got a little help besides that through the welfare. Well, it wouldn't be welfare, W. P. A. probably. ... It was a real good place to take up slack for the men trying to make a little money, you know, to get by; but it was all right. I didn't mind it too much. ... I went and picked turkeys for Christmas one year. Trapped muskrats in the winter. ... They don't know what depression is now. And if they ever had one, I don't know what would happen to these young guys. ...

We had four children, and we lived on the farm, and I don't know what we would do if we hadn't had a little to fall back on--a pig and a chicken and milk and stuff like that. For those young guys that had to buy everything on thirty dollars it was tough. We bought a little home for four hundred dollars, and it was on her dad's property. Course I'd get the property after I bought it from the estate, and, of course, then I'd put four hundred dollars into it and that was the place to live. ...

She used to put up four or five hundred quarts [of fruit]. Why people don't think of that now. Even the people that's got money, they won't do it. And we used to haul spuds to town and maybe put ten hundred pounds down in the basement for a family. You can't do that anymore, people don't look out for themselves. ...

[At one time] I owed the hospital for three operations. Appendicitis, and a pregnancy case. I did pay the doctor for
delivering our last child, and I didn't have the money, and they took it out. Old Wheeler, the administrator up there, I went to him and told him about it, and that I didn't have the money, and I told him that I had probably a car load of spuds out there, and he asked me how much I wanted for them, and I said 'What will you give me?' And they were only eighty cents then, and he said, 'I'll give you $1.80 for them, if you'll deliver them up here.' And I said, 'They're your potatoes.' And that's how I paid my bill, a carload of spuds ... When it was all figured up, and I'd paid my bill and everything, I had ninety dollars coming. That was my summer work right there, that ninety dollars.

And at that time, we'd never think of getting out and hiring a guy. We'd always exchange work see. Our neighbors would come over and help us, and we'd go over and help them. Then if there was a difference in ours, they'd pay us, or else my dad would pay them. ... Threshing time, we'd go out, and you know, we'd get two bits an hour, and rations, that was pretty good money. And it was work, bucking hundred pound wheat sacks, and dumping it in the bin. Getting out and stacking straw or shovelling it in the threshing machine, that C.C. stuff was just play after that. ...

We ripped up the Ogden river up there, and put in the thirty sixth street sewer from the river up thirty sixth street on the county side. ...

And North Ogden Canyon, we're the ones that put in that road over North Ogden Canyon with a wheel barrow and shovel and pick. ... I took a team up there, and did a little scraping up there, but that's how it was done. ... I think I got five dollars a day. And I had to travel from West Weber up there. It took me a day coming and a day going besides. I think I got a week's work at a time up there. I put many a wheel barrow full of dirt over that bank with a pick and shovel, that's how it was mostly built. ...

It was these New Yorkers and them dummies from back there that they sent in. They weren't too smart, but then, you didn't have to be smart. Your smartness never got you any place. I don't care how smart you were, you weren't going to get by because there weren't things there to get by on. There was no work. ...

We could go at night to each other's places and have parties, and we'd have dances in the ward, and now you can't get a night like that. ... They'd have their own home theatres in the ward, and have shows and things like that. They'd get a show and exchange it with each little settlement. Maybe if we'd seen a show already, we'd take it over to Taylor or Plain City, or somewhere like that. ...
Once in a while we'd go to town and spend fifty cents, go to the Berthana to a dance. White City, you could go up there and dance for ten cents. ...

[When the Ogden State Bank closed] I owed them sixty dollars and that was hard to pay. So in 1936 when Dad died, I went down to live with Mother and run the farm. They mailed my beet check see. We were only getting six dollars a ton for sugar beets. And I went to one of the gentlemen at the bank, and I wanted to make a settlement with him like the other guys did that owed him a thousand. Several guys owed them a thousand, and they'd settle for so much. ... But the little guy was stuck. I owed them sixty dollars, and you know, that cost me a hundred and something before I got out of it. And then see, they wouldn't make no settlement at all, and they took my beet check. That's how you get stuck. But the big guys, somebody would come and buy their property up there, and turn around and give it right back to them. ...

Oh, that '32, on in there, that was tough. ... All you figured on was a tough life, that's all you had to look forward to, and if you lived one year, look again for the next year. Ya, that's right in that time. That's when I bought this place off my dad down there. I put a pump in the river. I guess I was about the second one to run a pump in the river outside the big Warren Pump and the Plain City Pump. And they stopped me from pumping it, and I only had a four inch pump. ... Now, they wouldn't even say a word because they've all got all this excess water: There's always water. But they did, they stopped me from pumping a little four inch pump once a week. There were a lot of little deals we had like that, and you couldn't do anything about it. I paid eight hundred dollars for a brand new six cylinder '34 or '35 Chev right off the floor at old Frank Brownings.

Mr. Calvin J. Mason came to Utah with the C. C. C. from southern Arkansas; and although he felt that there was little difference between the conditions in Arkansas and those he found in Weber County, he felt that his opportunities for personal development were severely limited and that the C. C. C. offered him one of the best solutions to his problem.

I was an enrollee in the C. C. C.'s and was transferred here from Southern Utah to the regional grazing office in Salt
Lake City for about eight months. When our campus transferred, I came to Weber County with the Bureau of Reclamation camp at Hooper, Utah, and the Ogden Bay Refuge. ... I didn't work on birding the refuge; I was in charge of the office, maintaining a record of the work projects the money that was expended on each work project. I also did the buying, using federal monies that were given to the state of Utah, and we used part of it. ... There were some thirty different projects, or work projects I should say because each specific job had a project number; one of them was the building of the dike and the road around two of the units, I believe, out there.

... I was familiar with what the C. C. camp in Huntsville was doing. It was another Forest Service camp. They were actually building a lot of road and improving and maintaining parks—small parks and camping areas—throughout the Huntsville valley and on into the Monte Cristo area. I've seen much of their work in there, and it was still evident during World War II and after World War II. Even yet some of it is very evident, and it was very beneficial. It was beneficial in more ways than just sustaining a natural habitat and resources; it also benefitted a lot of young men. ...

Anyone who remembers ... the late 20's and early 30's would easily recognize that a young man—many young men—didn't have an opportunity. Of course, I was able to continue my education. And jobs were rather scarce; in fact, much of the time it was a virtual impossibility to get a job. You would see a man with a master's degree in engineering selling papers on the street at that time. I had been a farm boy all my life, and it had reached rock-bottom and so I did it [joined the C. C. C.] for two reasons: one, I had no job, and secondary, I wanted to see some of the world, and some other part of the country. This resulted in my coming in. ...

There wasn't an appreciable amount of difference. It could be that a few things were different. There was probably a little more industry here in Utah at that time than there was in southern Arkansas. But there was not an appreciable difference in the economic conditions. It was rough in both places. ...

There was an allowance of thirty-eight or forty cents a day to feed each man which would hardly buy your bread today, but it was a very good diet—well prepared. The cooks were well trained, and it was similar to army life. The camp was commanded by an army officer. The personnel was turned over to work service with the exception of the people that ran the camp, and they stayed in camp all the time. The others of us went out on the job. This was basically the nuclei for an army and quickly assembled army at
the beginning of World War II. ... I feel it probably taught many young men 17 to 22 years old how to work. ... 

There was no means whereby young men of ability and capability had a way to get a higher education which was so sadly needed. It was recognized immediately after World War II that we had a nation of men who were not educated to the degree that would have been desirable at the time. But I feel that overall, it was one of the best programs that the government has ever established. There were many things done; it was equally evident in the benefit to the nation in the Bureau of Reclamation camps, your Fish and Wildlife Service, in the conservation of fish and wildlife and other areas where they did, particularly the Forest Service.

Mr. Max Allan Reeves came to Utah from Cass County, Missouri, with the Civilian Conservation Corps. camps. His father at one time was one of the more prosperous people in the area; but due to the dramatic financial reverses of the depression, he lost everything he had to the point that his son qualified as a candidate for the C. C. C.

We landed in Hooper, and we were the first to occupy the Hooper camp. They had a small detachment in there before we came, building the camp; but we worked on the bird refuge down there. ... There was a group up near Pine View that were doing some work up there, and I don't know of any others that were right around here; I didn't get acquainted with a lot of them. I was just in the Hooper Bird Refuge area, and soon after we came to Hooper, I got a rating and started cooking in the cook house, and I didn't work out on the projects too much after that. ...

While we were in Hooper, the entire payroll for the camp was stolen. Now, when you're in the C. C. Camp, if you're the equivalent of a private in the Army, first step, your parents got twenty two dollars a month, and I believe you got eight dollars. Now, the payroll [that] was taken from the C. C. Camp at Hooper was the payroll that was sent to the boys. The part that went to your family went directly to the family; the boy in the camp never saw the money. Now as you became rated and got experience, you sometimes made more money. Your part of the pay could go up as high as fifteen or eighteen dollars, and this was the money that was robbed. It was taken while the people were eating, and they were still in the dining
area. The others that weren't in the dining area were naturally the ones suspected for the robbery. And at the time I was cooking, and it was my day off. I worked every other day, and so I had a hard time explaining my whereabouts. They brought in some people from the F. B. I. who had, I'm sure, handled things like this many times. They questioned us until a couple of us discussed it later, and we wasn't sure whether we'd taken the money or not. We didn't know after they had got through; they had us completely confused. ... If they ever found who took the money, I never did hear about it. ...

Before I came to Utah, the area I lived in had had several years of a real small amount of rainfall. The farmers hadn't got anything, and, boy, they were all in trouble. They were just kinda starting to get over this, just a wee bit; but the ones that were depending entirely upon their farms for their income were definitely having problems. They even had their automobiles jackepped up on stove wood and tires hanging on the sides of the barns. They went to town in the wagons for groceries and didn't license their automobiles. When I came to Utah, I found people generally working and the irrigated crops were growing; and I think a lot [were] better off.

Now we'd had several years there--from 1930 to about 1940--about ten years there when we grew very little on our farm. I can remember wheat growing thirteen bushel to the acre, and the test was so bad on it that we had trouble finding anyone to buy what you did grow. And corn crops, I recall raising one hundred acres of corn, our main crop, and just putting some cattle on it to try to graze it off. There wasn't enough there to even try to pick it. The only crop that we did raise was if we planted early, we would get a little bit of oats. This wasn't really a bumper crop; it was just really a half-crop at most. That was the only crops that we were getting at the time. ...

The C. C. boys had a law that pretty well took care of their problems. If a boy went out and got himself into trouble, when he got back to camp, he was in just about the worst place he could go because there were a couple of hundred other boys there that didn't want everyone looking down on them because of someone else's foolishness. If this happened, the guy that did it certainly suffered among his own fellows in camp. I think at first that the people were a little leery of the C. C. boys; but I believe as time went on, I believe we got along pretty well with the people here in Hooper and Roy, and around. ...

My father, when I was born in Missouri, was quite active in the livestock industry. He had a small stock yard in the town of Butler, Missouri. He bought and sold cattle, lambs and hogs; and he, of course, prospered in this business. I believe that the time I
was born, or shortly thereafter, he bought him a 2,200 acre ranch in Bates County, which in that time, they figured six-tenths of an acre would pasture a cow. It was pretty good farming country, and a lot of this was agricultural as well as livestock. I recall him going to Kansas City, which was the market he sold his stuff from that he purchased, on a whole trainload of stock. He owned everything that was in front of him on the train. ...

The depression came along, and the drought. The customers he had had for a long time had trouble feeding their stock, and he decided he'd try to see what he could salvage in the pork industry. So he went around and paid people to contract hogs, as they were weiner pigs, so that they could go out and buy feed and feed them out. At that time the price of hogs just kept getting lower and lower and lower. And finally when things were over with, he had a lot of hogs, but they weren't worth anything. And he got very little of his money back, and at the same time, he bought futures on the board of trade, and this went real bad right along with the other reverses, and by the time I was in the sixth grade, my father had been reduced down to where he only had a small down payment on the four hundred forty acre farm. So he had pretty well lost everything that he had had, which was a considerable amount.

I can recall he used to carry a letter from the bank which said his check was good for any amount he wanted to write it for. I can recall when we finally started on this farm to farm it, his check wasn't good for a very large amount. And this farm was kind of a worn out piece of land, and it was fenced and cross-fenced with hedge, which we used for post like we use cedar post here. So we cut these hedge fences off there and sold wood, and sold the posts. Then we had to, of course, buy wire and use part of the post to replace part of the hedge we were tearing out, and it shaded the ground for, probably, forty feet on the east side of it and kept crops from growing. By cutting this down, we gained some ground, but this was one of the things we did to earn a living at this particular time.

Summary

There were many young people who did not even fit in the category of unemployed wage earner. These young men had not as yet determined what they would be able to do, considering the hardships which their parents already faced. One young man interviewed was able to go to medical school,
but this was due to the help of some friends. Another young man was able to graduate from Weber College; but in order to do so, he was forced to hold down several jobs. Several of the young men were forced to go into the C. C. Camps (Civilian Conservation Corps), either as a means of helping their families or as a means of finding something to keep them occupied. One young man stated that his father had been quite wealthy at the time the depression began; but by the time the C. C. Camps were fully organized, he had lost so much wealth that his son qualified to be a member.

It was noted by one attorney interviewed that during that period of time, very few young men were able to become educated, and as a result the welfare roles today are full of people who are unemployable. Many of these young men had to forego their own aspirations for the sake of their families.

In Weber County, there was, however, a good deal of activity made available to the young people who were left with little to do. Most of the communities sponsored dances and plays and other activities to keep the youth out of trouble, and allow them to socialize.

None of the young men interviewed felt that they had wasted their time or that the experiences they had were not valuable. One stated that if he had it to do over again, he would not trade the experiences that he had during the depression. All of the men who were in the C. C. C. felt that they had learned from that experience, and one stated that many of the members of that organization found their life's work in the training which they received through that agency.
However, in regard to the C. C. C. Camps, one man stated that he did not care for the environment which the camps created, and another stated that the men in his camps were a "tough bunch," but for the most part, the C. C. C. seemed to be a well-accepted organization in Weber County. The young men who came in from out of state felt that they were reasonably well-accepted, and most of the projects which they completed while enrolled in the camp seemed to be considered worthwhile.
CHAPTER IV

THE RAILROAD WORKER

The full time railroad worker, during the times of the depression, was in a very favorable condition. Business welcomed them as credit customers, and they were given medical care as one of their employment benefits. A man who could hold a steady job on the railroad had few financial difficulties during the depression years. Of course, the railroad also had many part-time employees whose financial problems were similar to others who had a limited income.

Mr. Burt E. Child worked on the railroad during the entire depression was able, through his steady employment, to take care of his family, and assisted others who were less fortunate than he. Moreover, he was able to secure part-time employment elsewhere which took up some of his time and interest.

[For my work on the railroad], about $4.50 a day was somewhat an average of the depression years. When I started there, they made $3.92 [a day]. Then it raised, and we kept getting a few raises... It seems that they took ten cents off, or ten percent, there for a year or two, and then we got it back. It wasn't very long, about a year or two years; it wasn't very long. They said the railroad needed a little money, so they cut us. I believe it was 10 percent. It wasn't very much I know.

... The Hobo work there was through the freight yard, not through the passenger yard. There was a few Hobos that came through there, but that was pretty slim. There were a lot in the freight yard...
My dad had an apartment house in town that I went into and took care of in about 1932 or '33. Then he lost that, and I had to move out. ... We bought a place then. We bought my folks' old home that is, and I bought part of it. Then I built me a place about 1935. ...

[Of] course, I had a little edge on most people at that time. I hung paper along with that. Of course, I didn't make a big living out of the paper, but then I made a little, and it helped me to go along with what I already had. ...

When my dad lost the apartment, we lost $2,000. And we'd just got married not too long. ... I think shelter was [the biggest problem in the city]. Because at the time we had people over there in the apartments [that] were rented that had their kids move in on them. They couldn't afford any place to get into, so they had to come back to Pa and Ma, and then they weren't renting. They had this W. P. A. circulating. ...

[The big problem] was eats in the city. Everyone seemed to have clothes, but a lot of them didn't have anything to eat.

Mrs. Child: We had lot of tenants that we couldn't get the money out of. They'd give us hard luck stories, and some are just that kind. They, the rent problems, don't worry them; that comes last. And that put a hardship on us in the apartment. We always said that that's what killed his father was losing those apartments after working as hard as they had. Then he got hurt and couldn't work, which was a hardship with him. Then he had Burt move over there in the apartment to kind of look after things for them.

Mr. Child: The money question at that time was tough. There were more people that lost their homes then there is now by far although there weren't as many people here. But there was more people that lost their homes. ... They'd get out of a job, you know, or get down, and they couldn't pay for it, so they'd just move out; and a lot of companies weren't as lenient with you at that time as they are now. The difference is the mortgage company. The mortgage company now is the government. Then it was all individual's money, or money from the banks. Through individual people was how you got your money then. ...

I had the apartment money in there [Ogden State Bank]. A fellow came down the street one day and said, 'Did you know that Ogden State Bank is going to close?' He said, 'If you've got any money in there, you'd better go down and get it just as soon as they open it.' So we got all our money out of it, every dollar of it. They closed it all right; they closed it about twelve o'clock [noon], and I went down just as soon as the bank opened. I think it was about ten o'clock [in the morning], and I got all
mine out. Of course, I didn't have much in it; I'd paid up all my bills over there, and I had about one hundred dollars or some such amount. But I got it all out. ... When they did close, the people were lined up outside to get their money and couldn't get it. I remember that part of it. ... [Let's see] that was in 1931, I believe, in there somewhere. ...

That's when we found out my grandmother--they came from Holland--and my grandfather was a major something in the Army there. But when they came here, he was supposed to have a pension. But you know, they couldn't talk the language. They lost that pension and my grandmother had to struggle for existence. And that's when we found out that she saved a dollar every month, and she put it in the Ogden State Bank. Then after it closed, years after that, they told us that she had some money saved in there. But she hadn't said anything to any one of us. ... We've saved more now. But like I said, we helped the others out. We could have saved quite a little bit more, but we helped the family out. ...

Of course, I was a great hand all my life to try to keep my bills paid up pretty close, cause I figured if I died today, the wife would be out where she could handle it. I was always a good hand to 'keep up pretty close to the bridge,' as the fellow says. But I think it taught us a lot in that respect along with saving and keeping out for a rainy day--more so than they do now, I think.

I think one thing--why the country is in the condition it is that they are getting things for nothing. They think they can pay it on installment plans. They just get in deeper and deeper, and they just cannot pay all their bills. These cards and everything, you know, that you can get now, you don't need any money; they think as long as they can get those, they can get anything they want. ...

To start with, you had to find some renters. That was the first deal because they were few and far between. And then you had to be a little picky for the first part. The last part we didn't. We just got them who had the money to pay their rent with. And then there were lots of fights in those places that you had. They didn't get down to really fighting, but then you had a lot of trouble, a lot of trouble with them to quiet them down and get them going, and the rents weren't too good. ...

One time we had twelve apartments and there were eight vacant during the depression--eight vacant apartments--and that was real rough. ... Then in 1931, we lost them. The mortgage company took them. They wanted their interest and everything all paid up and Dad just couldn't do it. So out he
went; although he turned everything over to us, we had all
the management, paying the bills and the whole thing. ...

We had one or two [renters] that were drunkards,
alcoholics. The husband and the wife; and, of course, that
came first. And if they didn't have the money for the rent,
well, we had to wait. Then, during the depression, that
was real rough. What we lost them over was that we
couldn't rent them. See, we couldn't keep them full. Peo­
ple just couldn't pay any rent. They didn't have any. Rent
was forty dollars a month. They had two bedrooms, five
big rooms in them; they were real nice, big enough to put
most any size family in them. There were two bedrooms,
living room, dining room, and bath. That was furnished
ones. The unfurnished ones were about thirty five dollars
a month. So when we lost it, we lost the furniture and the
whole works. When Dad lost it, we owed eleven thousand
dollars on it. And we ran that for them for about three years
after they lost it.

And then the mortgage company sold it to Combe, I
believe it was, and he bought it for just the mortgage that
was due on it, just eleven thousand dollars. Then Combe
sold it, not too many years ago, and got out of it just what
my Dad paid for it when he first bought it. Combe sold it
for the same amount which was about thirty-six thousand--
that's what Combe got out of it. ...

Mr. Edward Joseph Hancock was still a relatively young man living
at home during the time of the depression, but he was employed by the rail-
road on a part-time basis and, therefore, was chosen as a witness for the
railroad activities of the time.

I was working part-time on the railroad in '29 three days a
week. And the rest of the time, I was working up in North Ogden
Canyon driving a team, building the highway up there. I worked
for Ogden City taking water pressures; that was a few days a week.
That was the way that we tried to make a living. ... I worked on
the railroad. It cost me $1.50 a month; that's what they took out
of my check for medical. We tried to make a little more money.
After '33, I started a truck line out to the reservation up in Vernal,
hauling their fuel in and corn for their sheep, and hauling turkeys
back out from Duchesne and that area back to Utah Poultry. But
that got rougher and rougher and the depression got tighter and tighter for the farmers out there in the Vernal Valley, and we just couldn't make it any more. . . . When they sheared the sheep, we were supposed to get the money. We didn't, so that left us out again. But I picked up a job here and there in between the three days down at the railroad. . . .

At that time, I lived at my folks place until I got married [in 1935] . . . . My Dad was a contractor. He used to dig basements with teams. Then the depression came, and the contracting business quit. So my kid brother would work three days a week, and I'd work three days a week up there on the road. And between us and Dad, we'd go up where Snow Basin is now and haul out quaking Aspen boughs and bring them down here for firewood because you couldn't have any coal. You couldn't afford to buy coal. Once in a while the old Red Devil Coal Company would give us a job delivering coal with a team, and that's how we made our money to buy us enough coal to kind of keep going. . . .

Where the Pine View Dam is now, we had 325 acres that we used to cut the hay off of and that would feed the horses in the winter time. . . .

Our major problem was clothing. We generally had a couple of cows and raised a pig or something. As far as the food and that was concerned, we were pretty well organized. In fact, Jim Martin used to say the Hancocks were the only ones who had butter on the table during the depression because we were the ones with the cow. . . . The food wasn't too much as far as that was concerned. But the potato prices were less. We used to go out to Farr West, and we had to buy the little tiny potatoes. . . . We had own own chickens and eggs. . . .

My dad had an old shoe last. He used to go down to the old Green Harness Shop and buy big slabs of leather and cut it out to half-sole shoes. . . . One fellow['s kids] that lived less than a block from us . . . used to take these old Model 'T' Ford tires and cut them off and nail them on [their shoes]. I've seen that done, but I've never worn them. . . .

Your real cash need at that time was getting your light bill paid. . . .

My Dad was in the contracting business, and he generally picked up just a little to help pay the taxes and that. . . .

Most of them [on the Railroad worked half a week] some of them had real seniority, and they got to work the six days. But when I first started down there, I was working for ten cents an hour, and worked ten hours. I was an apprentice. And then it finally got up to thirty five cents an hour. And then the depression hit us. . . . During the depression years I averaged about six hours a week, and then the railroads were all going broke.
They took fifty cents out of all our pay-checks to try to keep them running. They were supposed to pay us that back, but we never did get that back either.

He [my Dad] kind of oversaw some of the W. P. A. projects. In fact, he built the El Monte Golf Course. He supervised that for the W. P. A. when they built that golf course up at the mouth of Ogden Canyon.

The C. C. Camp was a wonderful thing. It was supervised right, and the boys went out and done eight hours work, and they had a good recreation program at night. I think they gave them three dollars a week. And we had to furnish their clothes [for his brothers]; they never furnished their clothes. And it was a good thing.

I think it [W. P. A.] made some guys lazy. Now you take a lot of guys; they just wouldn't even try to do anything. They'd just loaf going back and forth and that kind of thing. You just had to kind of ride them a little bit to get anything out of them. My Dad did; I wasn't the supervisor. One man who was the time-keeper—and I always said that the lazy guys got the best jobs—was one. But the W. P. A., it was something to keep the family going with. You never got any cash for it. You got all those stamps to go to the store and get beans and salt bacon and that kind of stuff.

During the depression days, you didn't develop many habits. You didn't have the money to buy cigarettes; you didn't have the money to buy beer; you didn't have money to buy any of that stuff. You just had to learn to get along without it. If you had fifteen cents to go some Saturday night to get yourself a soda, and take your girl [you would have been very fortunate].

We used to go down to Lagoon for $1.00--$.35 on the old bamberger. When we got the old Model 'T' Ford, six of us—three couples—would go down there and put a couple gallons of gas in it. We'd go home, and we'd stop at Ross and Jack's and get us a hamburger and a drink for $.15.

If you walked into a store and said that you worked for the railroad, they'd practically give you the store because they figured that you would get your money. If you told them that you were out of a job and worked for the W. P. A., that was a lot of difference. The railroad, if you had a railroad job in those days, you had it made. All you had to do was tell people that you worked for the railroad and that was it. There was a lot of difference in what the railroad was then, and what it is today.

A lot of these farmers who came in during the depression and that—two-thirds of them—lost their farms all on account of that deal. The banks took them over.
The biggest part of it [entertainment] was pinochle, cribbage, and stuff like that. I've seen the time in my home when there'd be three pinochle games going in the winter time. And we'd cut the old quaking aspen wood up to keep the old big belly stove up to keep the house warm. We used to go out and pick up some apples and that was your dessert and that, and she'd make some cookies and something like that. We had the cows, and some nights she'd make a big kettle of hot chocolate, and every kid in the neighborhood would come to our house. It was practically the hangout for the neighborhood. Once in a while we'd go to the dance down in the Berthana with the old Reeves Orchestra. ... Reeves was the one that played at the Berthana. I can't remember the name of the man that had the Orchestra at the White City. Sometimes the big hands would come in like Dorsey and Harry James; and when they would come in, we would all try to get to go because it was only thirty-five cents. ...

We had a great opportunity at the time of the depression at the old 4th Ward. We built that during the time of the depression, and we worked our teams in the daytime and took them home and gave them a drink of water and a little grain and let them rest for about an hour and a half. Then we'd go over there and dig the basement for that 4th Ward. We hauled all the gravel. We took in all the gravel from the old gravel pit up east of the cemetery, ... and loaded the gravel at night, and all that over there to pour that cement. And then when we got done, we had quite a record there. We had a rough time to get the money to keep the thing going, but we kept it going.

We started out in 1929, ... We tore the old meeting-house down and cleaned those old bricks up [and] hauled them down there. We built the gymnasium first so we'd have a place to play basketball. The Harlem Globetrotters played their first basketball game in our gymnasium ... when they came to town. But we had quite a goal doing that, and we appreciated everything that was there. We put in lots of time. My Dad, he had five hundred dollars, and that's all he had, and he gave that to them besides the $2500 in labor. ...

Us guys would go up there at night and pack the bricks up and mix the mortar so that the bricklayers could lay the brick the next day. ... We used to try to go out and get us a deer or something like that in the winter time. We had our own beef too, but we just like to go deer hunting and things like that. We'd buy one box of 30-30 shells and split them between the three of us.
Mr. Roy C. Phipps was employed by the railroad on a part-time basis during the depression. He had to rely, to a certain extent, upon government relief to help his family as his compensation from the railroad was not sufficient to take care of his needs.

I didn't actually get a steady job until about 1936, and the depression was more or less over by then. Prior to that, I worked a few months on the Rio Grande that was out in Roy for two different parts of two years. And of course there were W. P. A. projects and that sort of thing prior to that. There was one place out in North Ogden where we [W. P. A.] dug up an orchard and cut up the wood by hand into fireplace logs. And another project I was on was helping to fill the Pine View Dam when they started that. And before that, we were building a road up at North Fork. [Of] course this wasn't all steady. This was just when our turn came during the month. Maybe we'd work two or three days and that would be it. 

There wasn't much pay involved. It was all script. That's the way they paid us then--script and foodstuffs. And we had to kind of scratch and one thing and another to pay our rent. It was pretty tough going, especially for a man with a family, and I had a couple of kids. Sometimes we'd have to let the landlord go without his rent, but he was in as bad of shape as we were, and so it didn't matter too much. I don't think any place I ever lived was over $12.00 a month. The rent was cheap in those days, but it was hard to get a hold of that.

After 1931, I got a job [with the railroad] where I worked about three or four hours a day. It was a contract job at the baggage room, the same place that I am now. And they paid us $45.00 a month. But then the railroad, they evidently got into pretty bad straights, so they asked everybody to take a 5 percent cut. So the employees agreed to that and after that, we were only getting $40.00 a month.

Sometimes two or three of us got together and went out to the farms and picked up the potatoes that they had left, and that helped us out that way. And different foods that would be given to us, we'd go out and get it in a box. Then at that time, they had--I forget what they called it--a Community Service where you'd go down there, and they'd allow each person or family so much food weekly or monthly. They had a program that supplied us with the staples, nothing fancy--but we got by. Whatever was in season, they doled out to us.
I never had to go after any clothing as I recall. We seemed to get enough clothing, but I don't know if they had a clothing dole or not. I guess they did. I guess they had clothing donated, and we picked up enough to get by with. I'm not sure, but it seemed that Utah pretty well took care of their own. I never heard of anyone starving to death, but it was pretty tough for a lot of us. Of course, in '32 we got some federal help, but there were two or three years in there when I lived at Wall at about 30th Street, and we used to walk from there up here to 23rd and Monroe to catch a truck to work. We didn't have bus fare or streetcar fare. In fact, we had no cash anywhere. ... I know that if it hadn't been for the government then, we might have starved to death. ...

I remember one hospital bill for one of the births—and then they kept them [the new mothers] a lot longer, I think one only cost us $30.00 or $25.00. So they weren't making too much money either. The doctors were very cheap. They used to come for almost nothing. Especially one old doctor we had—a family doctor—he used to take chickens, eggs, livestock, or anything for payment. ... Of course, if a man had a job, he was well off. If he was making $4.00 a day, it was good money—if he could make it every day. ... At that time there was very little civil service. There was the police force, and the firemen, and things like that. The store clerks were about the only ones on a salary basis. Construction work was seasonal. Maybe a guy would work three or four months in the summer if he was lucky, and if he didn't he had to last. ...

I ran back and forth from home to the library. I could get free literature there. I didn't do anything worthwhile; I guess I was too young them. And there was $.10 or $.15 movie; if you could get a hold of a dime, you could go there or to a dance every Wednesday night. The dance was free [Wednesday] up until 9:00 P.M., and then you had to pay. I don't know, people let down a little bit and had a little fun. ... And then there was the roller skating rink. There were a couple of those around, and there was the Berthana Ballroom and Rainbow Gardens. ... my Dad, during the depression days, worked for $2.72 a day in the railroad shops.

Mr. Raymond S. Wright was a railroad engineer during the depression and had very few financial problems. He worked full time, had a good
salary, and was a (L. D. S.) bishop during those years. Some of his comments will also be related in the section on Government and Church leaders.

I was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Engineering department. ... I could say that they [Railroad employees] got along a little better. There was a good deal of unemployment. Construction work was cut off completely. Railroad transportation was reduced tremendously because people had no money to buy goods, and there was no merchandise being transported. There weren't very many people travelling, either, because they didn't have the means.

And the railroad, of course, like everyone, retrenched. I think that some of the other industries possibly did more so than the railroad. They made some drastic reduction. ... They laid off mostly. I would estimate that the lay-off was quite close to 50 percent. Some departments possibly not quite that much. Possibly all crafts not quite that much, but I would think 40 percent would be a fair estimate of the crafts. ...

I don't recall any pay reduction, it was force reduction mostly. ... I would say that an average [salary] would be $300.00 to $350.00 a month during that period. And it was worth $300.00 then. ... I did voluntarily take a day off a week. The group in my department decided when they had instructions to cut the force a certain percent, we all got together and said, 'Why don't we work five days a week instead of six, and this way we can keep the man on? We won't have to lay the man off.' When the men in charge found out what we were doing, they told us to work the full six days, and they didn't make any force reduction either.

Summary

The railroad workers concurred on the following points: He was proud of his work, he felt that he was better off than the average man during that time, and he had financial and social recognition in the community which gave him an adequate amount of security.
A man who could maintain a full-time position with the railroad earned a considerable wage for that particular time. One reported that his average salary during the depression years was $3.93 a day. Another stated that he earned $300.00 to $350.00 per month. The full-time railroad worker considered himself to be relatively uninvolved in the depression. He ate and dressed fairly well. Two railroad workers who were both fully employed indicated they were constantly being called upon to give assistance to relatives and others who came to their door in need of food and shelter.

It was necessary for the railroad companies to make some serious cutbacks in employment. Many workers were able to work only two, three, or four days a week, and perhaps only three or four hours on those days. As a result security was cut and they were not in quite as favorable circumstances as they had previously enjoyed.

One man stated that while he was an apprentice for the railroad, he received only $.10 an hour as an apprentice, but was raised to $.35 an hour when his apprenticeship was completed. The railroad was one of the better places for the laborer to find employment, but he had problems concerning job security.

The railroad people faced the problem of the increased number of hoboes and non-paying customers who flocked to the rails and highways looking for an escape from their problems or a new place to work. None knew too much about the hobo problems; they were aware only that the problem existed.
The position of the attorney during the depression was not as precarious as that of some. Still it depended upon the degree to which he had already established himself in the community and the degree to which he was able to retain revenue-producing business. Most of the attorneys interviewed for this study made quite a significant contribution during the depression times, so that none of them felt much financial anxiety in their personal life; but they were in an excellent position to observe the situation from different points of view and give an over-all picture of the lives of the people in Weber County.

Mr. Ira. A. Huggins began his law practice in Weber County and surrounding areas in April 1925, and he recalls that there were some problems even in the legal profession at that time.

... of course during the depression years, the public generally had very little money. ... There was plenty of legal business, but there was no money to pay fees with. So every lawyer got by on a very slim income, necessarily, as most other business and professional men did. There was just no money available. ...

As I recall, the depression started in about 1929, so I had about four years. But, of course, the first four years of a lawyer's practice is not very lucrative. ...

The principle reason, of course, for it [State Banking Commission] closing the Ogden State Bank was that A. P. Bigelow, who was President at that time, was very friendly
with the agricultural and livestock interests. He had made, through his bank, very many rather liberal loans wherein he had taken real estates and livestock as security. As a matter of fact, they had not always been too careful in checking titles. In some of the farm lands, he had as many as three or four mortgages on them at the State Bank. Well, livestock raisers and growers couldn't get enough money out of their products to pay their mortgages off, so the bank started running short of money. Other banks at that time were also hard-put. As a matter of fact, there were thirteen or fourteen banks everyday going broke because of the lack of funds to keep up with the demands of their customers. ... As I recall, they paid back about 66 percent or 67 percent of their general deposits. Of course, they had a rather large trust, and, of course, the trust paid out in full. The trust monies went to pay the trust. ... 

I think it was in liquidation six or seven years. Of course, that necessitates, in the liquidation of a big institution such as that, a good deal of expense, overhead expense, legal expense, administrative expense, and that sort of thing. And then in the liquidation of a banking institution, they are required to sell the property. And the depression being on, the sale prices of course were down so they lost money on their sales and liquidation. If the bank could have sold and liquidated their securities at face value, they could have paid out 100 percent on the dollar. But they couldn't do that because they were on force sale. 

... Of course, the attorney's main problem was getting paid for his services. Bankruptcies would occur. There would be one or two attorneys and doctors and dentists and grocerymen who would lose. And so they had the problem of collecting fees. It wasn't so much a matter of starting a business [as] it was collecting the fees after they had performed the services. ... 

The bulk of the business at that particular time would be bankruptcies and collections. And, of course, always in times of depression, there were a lot of divorces because dissatisfaction develops in the home, and quarrels develop and the husband and wife just simply part their ways and divorce themselves. Collections were difficult to make. You could get judgments, but you can't eat judgments. They just weren't paid. If a man got loaded up with judgments, he just took out bankruptcy; he had to because if he didn't take out bankruptcy and he got a job, his wages would be garnished and he couldn't feed his family. ... 

Bankruptcy fees were small, collection fees were small, [and] divorce fees were small, even if you could collect them.
Some attorneys—one in particular here was quite resourceful—went into the used furniture business. He would take mortgages on the household furniture for his services. When the mortgages weren't paid, he took the furniture and sold it as used furniture. And he made a substantial amount of money doing that. ...

I think one of the practices which would avoid the very trouble which was developed then would be to keep out of debt. You go into debt when money's easy, and you can't pay the debt back when money's tough. And so they lose their property, and that's the thing that worries me today. With easy credit, credit cards, and that sort of thing, I have a fear that our total economy will be bankrupt. It's easy to buy these things when you only pay $5.00 a month, or $1.00 a month. Then you accumulate all those $5.00 a month, and I've seen instances in my office where a man's total income for the next ten, fifteen, twenty years has already been mortgaged. He had no money to play with, and the first time he misses a payment, his wages are tied up, and he loses all that he had paid in. So keep out of debt. Work hard. Work is becoming one of those dirty words. It's one of those four letter words we read about, I think. It's a dirty word: Work and Save. ...

There hasn't been a month since we were married that we haven't put something away. And that's becoming passé nowadays because too many of us assume the attitude that the government will take care of us. Well, I think that's a poor attitude. And the time will come, I think, when the government can't take care of all of us. We're going to have to be taking care of ourselves. And I would have the hope that sooner or later we would go back to the practice of being adults sufficient within ourselves to not have the government take care of us.

Generally speaking during those years, we had a lot of young people, who, because of the lack of money in their homes dropped out of school and went out and got jobs, much to their detriment in the future because a man without an education nowadays has very little chance of getting a job that will pay him very much money. And there are many people today who find themselves on relief ... because they dropped out of school and didn't get an education so that now they cannot qualify for a decent job that will pay them a living wage.

Another prominent attorney during the depression years was Mr. Samuel C. Powell, who was somewhat more established in his legal practice when the crash came.
Money was tight and people couldn't afford to pay what they might have otherwise if you didn't have the depression. And many young attorneys who started at that time were having very difficult times. It happened that I had built up a clientele that was representative of people that had connections with wealth, and I went through the depression very easily with the exception of my investments when they went down. As an example, you buy Utah Power and Light stock for $110.00. ... I rode it down to $10.00 a share and back up again; all stocks were the same way. ... No one knows today what it meant to go through that depression.

The Ogden State Bank failed in 1931, I believe. And, of course, it was an old, well-established bank here for years. And the bank closed. My own connection with it was that on Friday before it closed up, I had a rumor that it might be closing, and I went over there to the bank to see whether I'd take my money out of the bank. And I had $4,000, I think it was, in a savings account there. ... So I decided that I wouldn't take it out. On Monday morning, I was going by the bank and there was a great big sign: Closed by the Bank Commission. It had a very serious affect on Ogden [City] and Weber County. In fact, I think the whole state. ... Businesses were failing, bankruptcy courts were filled with petitions for relief, and the government had enacted the law in relation to the R. F. C., and other financing laws, something along the line of what they're doing now to help Lockheed. ...

Of course, it was a world-wide depression. Poor old Hoover got the blame for it. I went down to the depot, and I remember I never saw a sadder man in my life. He was going through, and everyone was blaming Hoover. You had Roosevelt who was elected. He wanted Roosevelt to step in and do something before he got out of office and agree upon the thing, and Roosevelt would not do it until after he got in office. And then he closed all the banks.

... [The] W. P. A. had the people who were unemployed doing a lot of foolish things. One thing up around Lester Park, they were taking the dirt from under the grass and lowering it in places, just creating jobs that didn't mean anything at all. So a group of us got together and decided that we were going to try to use it for some kind of benefit to the community and state. So we got permission from the Works Progress Administration to start the reconstruction of the magazines and rehabilitate the Ogden Arsenal. ...

In the early days here in Utah, a great deal of the legal work was done in the bishop's court. As a matter of fact, I've heard it said that the Church did not encourage their young people to become
lawyers in the early 90's and around there. ... There were many times afterward where people came to me with little things who I know were members of the Church, and I would refer them back and say 'Why don't you go back to your bishop's court and get this thing settled?' There were a lot of foreclosures, and then there was, of course, congressional action taken forbidding them, and there were a lot of bonds. ...

This may be kind of harsh, but sometimes I think we need a good depression in order to jerk the people up and find out where we're going. I'm not in sympathy with all this give-away. We're running into the ground; nobody wants to work. We're having our problems on the account of that, and everybody wants a high salary. I don't want to say this in a prejudicial way, but I think that the unions are destroying our country right at the present time. You're getting your salaries up so high and the production isn't going along the same. We've got the Japanese taking over the camera business, they've taken over the television, they've taken over the building of ships, [and] the manufacturing of steel. Their salaries are nowhere near what ours are. And we can't compete in the world market. So those who are doing those things are cutting their own throats eventually.

And I see a softening in our people. I don't think we have the patriotism in this country anymore. I think if we had an invasion, we wouldn't stand up and fight like we would have done during the first World War. ... We had the panic of 1907, and we had a panic back in the 90's; I heard my mother and father talk about it. And it just kind of worked itself out. But the depression of 1930 was really world-wide. Hoover wasn't to blame for it, and yet he got all the blame. And I criticize Roosevelt severely in my own thinking. We became great because we were willing to work, and we had certain principles that we lived by. He went over to Europe and borrowed all the stuff that we did not adopt and brought it back into the so-called New Deal to take care of you from the cradle to the grave. Well, what's resulted? A weak people in my opinion. ... Sometimes some of these young attorneys come to me and say, 'How can I be successful?' And I say, 'How much are you saving?' And they say, 'Oh, I'm not saving anything.' And I say, 'If you can't save money, I don't care whether it's $5.00 a month or $10.00 a month, and create a habit of saving, the spirit of success is not in you.' Which is true.
Mr. David J. Wilson was also reasonably well-established during the depression years and worked in the settlement of the claims involving the Ogden State Bank.

... There were many unemployed people working in various federal projects, and prices were extremely low. I could buy all the groceries I could carry then for $2.00 or $3.00. ... The legal profession perhaps didn't suffer as much as some other people did. There were many foreclosures, and I represented a financial institution and made some money, unfortunately, that way. ... Yet, I think, on the whole, I went through poverty just as bad as my people did on the old homestead during the early days of my life. I've often said that I thought this so-called depression was getting along without things that my father and mother never heard of. If they didn't have clothes, they got along without clothes. Of course, we had the period of high living during the '20's, and it was difficult to change our practices. Once you have enjoyed a high standard of living and many of the luxuries of life, and if you lose even the luxuries, you think that you're in poverty. So many people who claimed they were hard-up still lived. They could eat; they had shelter. The man who depended upon a day's work, who had to rent his home, who had no income except that derived from his daily labor, in some instances, was hard-up. It was a god-send to him to get any kind of relief. ... Then it was an employer's market. A man was glad to get any kind of work he could find. It wasn't a question of strikes; it was a question of finding something to do. ...

Of course, the farmers were in bad circumstances. And yet a farmer could always feed his family. He had his crops growing and his cows and his hogs and chickens and his sheep, and he could live. He had his shelter and his food, and he got along somehow. So you can't always take the gripes that people make as indicative of what the true condition is. But the man who was really bad off was the man who was wholly dependent upon a day's labor, who had no savings and he, of course, had to work some sources to supplement his income, or to get some income. In many instances they had no income; and that, of course, prevailed for many, many years. I didn't notice much substantial improvement until the start of the World War, and then we started our preparedness program and all the slack was taken up, and the relief roles disappeared.

... The unemployment situation really became noticeable and substantial in the early 30's. Of course, that's what led to
the ousting of Herbert Hoover in 1932—the depression was rather deep. ... I think everybody ran into the question of collections. Of course if the people didn't have the money, they couldn't pay you. So many of us carried a great many unpaid fees on our books. These never were paid. In fact, I learned early that if you don't get your fee by the time your work is done, you have a hard time ever collecting it thereafter. ... But in the question of foreclosures, we were paid by the institution that employed us, and there was no difficulty in that score.

... Certainly it [The Ogden State Bank] should never have been closed. The assets were adequate so that the bank should have been kept open if they would have the proper cooperation from sources that they had the right to expect help from. But they were closed, and it was a very severe blow to many people. I was not banking there at the time, however, I did have clients who were banking there. Of course, for some time everything in the bank was tied up. ...

Many people suffered. I remember one man who was a grocer who had everything there. [He] was so completely shocked by it [that] he committed suicide. Of course, that was unusual. There were many people there who were in very straightened circumstances, and it was a very great shock to them because they had great faith in that bank. There was no dishonesty there of any kind; it was a question of over-extended credit, and many people couldn't meet their obligations. But that was a very severe blow to Weber County and northern Utah. It not only hit Weber County but also Box Elder County, North Davis County, and Morgan County; it served a wide area there. ... Some settlements were made that never should have been made. They reduced payments for some people that could have given them full. That's why I say the bank never should have been closed. If it had had a half chance, they could have worked the situation out. But I think that that was a catastrophe for the County. ...

I think the other banks could have assisted the Ogden State Bank in such a way to have saved it without sacrificing themselves. ... They [The Commercial Security Bank] had a severe run on them. When they had the run on, I can remember seeing Hemmingway standing up there shouting at the people, sweating white foam under his arms and perspiring. And Jim Divine, their attorney, standing there trying to calm the people. They were bringing money in from the Federal Reserve Bank through the back door. They satisfied the people and withstood the run. I was banking there at that time. I stood in the lobby and watched that. I didn't have any fear. I felt that the worst thing to do was start a run on them. It was really idiotic of them, because only
a few of them could get their money out before they were forced to stop paying out.

... Those times had their virtues and taught their lessons. People really learned to be frugal [and] learned to get along on what they had, to get along on. It's amazing what you can do if you have to—even making money stretch.

**Summary**

The attorney had several advantages over some of his professional counterparts and the population in general. He was sought out by the people who had the most financial security and the means to help them handle their property in a prudent manner. He was sought by the man who was about to lose his home and all the means of livelihood which he had, due to debt and a lack of capital to meet his obligations. He was sought out by people whose homes had become unhappy because of depression conditions and who wanted a divorce as a means of solving their problems. He was in an excellent position to gain a good deal of perspective concerning the nature and problems of the depression, and to see both sides of a collection situation so that he could evaluate the problem in its true context. Each attorney indicated having a substantial source of retainers from one client or another. Either he had been practicing in Weber County for a long enough period of time to have gained the respect of others, or he was fortunate in finding someone who had faith in him and gave him good opportunity.

Because of the attorney's association with people who were still financially independent, he was able to continue investing and making money through opportunities which came through tips and help from his clients.
The attorneys had the greatest awareness of the actualities of the banking problems which arose during that time. Aside from the bankers themselves, the attorneys seemed to be the most informed, and to have developed the most accurate opinions concerning the closing of the Ogden State Bank and the calamities which resulted from that event. They seemed to be aware of the problems of the businessman and banker. They appeared to feel that a lot of the problems which existed continued for such unreasonable time because of the unwillingness of the average individual to take his share of the responsibility.

Each was very candid in his advice to future generations and indicated an unswerving belief that each person is responsible for his own financial security. Without saving some money, success is impossible. Each indicated that remaining debt free and living within one's means is the primary source of security.

The consensus among the attorneys was that the basic causes of the depression lay in the inability of the people to handle their fears and anxieties in a reasonable way. Most of the problems lay in the fact that panic, rather than reason, prevailed, and that the situation was compounded because there was no attempt made by the people to sacrifice in the necessary ways to start the economy on the move again.

The attorney had less personal financial problems than the average individual; at the same time he remained a member of the depressed society, and suffered to some extent. His desk was always overloaded with work for which he knew he would not receive pay. Although he was not under the same
obligation as the physician, he felt the need to help as many people as he possibly could. He was under pressure to work many extra hours per day to take care of the tremendous work load. However, he was definitely in a better position than the physician or dentist who felt a moral obligation to relieve the physical suffering of individuals who were often completely destitute. It should be further pointed out that by the very nature of his work, he usually attracted those clients who at one time or another in their life had some sort of financial means, or they were not likely to be involved in legal proceedings at all.

The attorney was in a better position than most other individuals at that time. But he was still a part of the society and suffered in subtle ways from the problems involved in the depression. In general, however, the attorney was able to take care of his family's needs without much difficulty, in spite of the fact that he was forced to work long and often unproductive hours to accomplish everything he wished to do.
CHAPTER VI

THE FARMER

Life for the farmer in Weber County was really very little altered by the Depression. His experiences during the 1920's had brought him fewer luxuries and less expectations than was the case with many who were living in the city at the same period of time. Certainly, farmers throughout the county struggled along with those around them to take care of even the most basic needs of their family, but their experiences create a less startling contrast than the experiences of those in other occupations.

J. Levi Beus, farmer, from Hooper, Utah, related his problems in the following context:

Well, our trouble was to get cash, to market our crops. Our potatoes just stayed in the pit, and one year we had a crop of potatoes and those that we sold, we sold for $.18 a 100 lb. sack, and many others weren't sold, and the prices of sheep and cows—we purchased at the beginning of the depression, about 1929 or 1930, one hundred head of ewes, and everyone thought that they would be a good investment—sheep would, on the farm. And the price of sheep went down and down, and they were very cheap. In fact, the by-products wouldn't come and get them hardly. An over-production of about everything that was produced on the farm, and a great scarcity of cash was the trouble. We had an abundance of food, and we were pretty well fixed-up for clothing—patched and worked over, and got by, but it was clothing. It was to pay taxes, and mortgage payments, interest payments—that was the difficulty. Various groups of farmers cooperated, I remember, in helping one another in harvesting and other things—anything to save cash.
We got along very well with much less than they do—than they think they have to have today. We—[of] course we still do—can and preserve, and did all we could do to get along with what we had without buying any more.

They [community activities] were more plain and simple in those days. A lot of people with creativity produced shows and activities and amusement with very little to do [it] with. More so than they do today. The horse and wagon and bobsled provided most of the means of travel. We were seven years without a car during that period, and we have everything to pay our debts.

I think some people became more thrifty and were benefited by it. Others became bitter and felt that they should be assisted in the recovery. And perhaps the recovery did them more damage than the depression. There were interesting times and challenging times. And those who lived through them with honor were true to their obligations and responsibilities [and] have come through very well. I don't think they have any regrets. I think there were others that became bitter. Perhaps their own attitude wasn't good during that time, and it may be reflected in their children and their grandchildren today. My feeling is that they've done something to cure the depressions, but it's done more damage than the depression. If people just knew that there isn't anything free in this world. Everything's got its price tag; somebody pays for it along the line. If a certain group gets along without paying, why then another group has to pay for it.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Cottle Jensen, a farmer and his wife from Hooper, Utah, were married just prior to the beginning of the depression and felt a few more serious repercussions than those experienced by Mr. and Mrs. Beus.

Mr. Jensen: Those were wonderful years, you know. They were hard ones. We went months sometimes without having a penny—not a penny, but we learned a big lesson. We charged a grocery bill at Isabelle's old store over here, and we couldn't pay it. And that was one of the hardest jobs I ever had in my life was to go tell that woman that we couldn't pay that grocery bill. The wife and I sat down together and decided that if we just waited a few months and gathered up slack—and you know, we've never run a grocery bill since. With the Lord's help we
got that grocery bill—that sixty dollars paid off—and we’ve never run one since. . .

I tell you, you had to do anything. I remember the school up here. Not too many years after we were married we put a sewer down to the old open slough down north there. There were so many men that went up there that they had to divide them up and put them in shifts. And I remember I was working up there, and I’d been used to really hitting it up down here on my own place. When I got up there, I felt like I ought to do the same. And a fellow says, ’Hey Virg,’ he says, ’don’t you want anybody else to have any of this work?’ And I said, ’Well, I don’t know,’ but I said, ’I’m just working like I work for myself.’ But do you know, that night he got laid off, and they kept me on until they finished doing the whole thing. We borrowed two hundred dollars for our furniture and two hundred twenty five dollars to get a house. We moved one down from the old sugar mill. And we were years and years paying for it—just four hundred twenty five dollars.

Mrs. Jensen: What I remember the most about it was that we didn’t have any money for groceries, and I hated to use my last cup of sugar for fear that I wouldn’t be able to get any more. I made soup without meat; I made egg-less cakes, and we had to burn wood all one winter the year Charlene was born. We had that house down there with just the timbers under it, and that’s when the mop rag froze to the floor. We had to burn that wood, and we had a hard time keeping it warm enough. Charlene got pneumonia, and we had to take care of that. I made my own catsup, and I put up all my fruit—hundreds of bottles of fruit to take us over. I was telling the kids, ’If you had gone through the depression that we had, you’d be a little more careful. You wouldn’t buy all these expensive things.’ They just feel ’Easy come, easy go,’ I guess.

Another Hooper farmer, Vern C. Parker, relates his personal experiences of the depression years.

During the depression years, my neighbor over here had a few chickens, and I had two or three hundred. And we were so poor that I’d take his eggs to town one week to Ogden Egg Company, cash his check and buy his groceries; and the next week, he took mine over. We tried to keep them a week. We could sometimes go every four or five days; but if we didn’t go sooner, we’d go
We couldn't keep them any longer than a week and keep them in a cool enough place to keep the eggs good. And there was just no money; we couldn't afford to go to town; there was no money available.

That was my downfall, finally, that darn Model 'T' Ford. I borrowed some money from the bank to pay for it, and then let it drag on for a few years. Then the bank folded up, and I couldn't get a job, couldn't get a dollar to pay. There was just no work to be had. I would have worked for fifty cents a day if I could have, a lot of the time--just to have a few cents around here.

One particular time we [Mr. Parker and a friend] talked it over and decided it would be nice to take a ride [to Salt Lake City]. We didn't either one have a full set of good tires or the money to buy gas with. So we got a few eggs together, bought some gas, took two tires off one car and put them on the other one, and loaded our wives in and went down there. ... We were kidding each other saying that if we had a little money, we'd take our wives and buy them an ice cream soda or something of this kind. But we had no money to go buy that. So we pooled our few pennies together and had enough to go buy a package of rolls, and we ate them. We got back home without any car trouble, but that was the kind of times we had.

John Nesbitt told me that he had some nice sheep, and they had lambs, and a fellow came around ... and John said he's take twenty dollars a pair for them. And the fellow got up to sixteen dollars and that's as high as he would come. And John kind of held his and just debated about selling them. Then John found out that the price was going down, so he got in touch with the man and told him that he would take the sixteen dollars for them, and he said, 'Well, I wouldn't give you six dollars for them today.' Things went down just that fast, and it was the same thing with cattle, went down the same way. They went down to a lot less than half price. You know, when a person goes out and buys a thousand dollars worth of animals and feeds them for a few months and then has to settle for five hundred, he's not going to stay in business for very long. That's the kind of time it was.

We just couldn't pay our taxes with no money available. You couldn't borrow it; you couldn't sell an animal for anything. You'd have a nice cow that was worth between $50.00 and $60.00 and $75.00 and sell it for $10.00 or $15.00 or $20.00. ... I had been in the habit of paying tithing all the time, and I talked to Bishop Hooper and told him, 'I guess I'll have to give you a couple of cows.' Well, of course, you can't say whether that's a full tithing; all you can do is take that in as two cows, you see.

[A neighbor] had to send a kid over here one day to see if he could borrow two bits, and we let them take it. And then the
two bits would come back. And then maybe would come the time when we'd need twenty-five cents or fifty cents, and we'd go over there. If they had it, they'd let us take it, and we just exchanged chicken feed like that because we had nothing more. That was common with a lot of people. Some people maybe didn't have as good of neighbors as we did, but we traded fifty cents and a dollar and twenty-five cents a time or two. Maybe it got down to a dime; I wouldn't know about that.

There were thousands of tons of salt hauled out of the lake right at that time. And they figured it was a God-send. You know, in the early days, my mother and them gathered salt and all a hundred years ago; all of them were gathering salt there a little bit. But the wind would come and blow the salt up into some of the low places, and go back, and it would evaporate the [water], and they'd go down with sticks in their hands and gather salt at that time. And there was an area down there where the salt got about two inches thick, maybe three inches thick, ... and it was hard on horses, but they went down. They'd go down there and work all day and come out with maybe a ton of salt or a couple of tons of salt, depending upon how good of outfits they had to bring it out with. There was a salt company at that time that owned all of the lake front except for a little bit that we had. My brothers and me owned a little lake front and they'd brought suit against all these fellows, and they didn't fine them; but they had them to a meeting, and they said that if they were caught back on their ground again, they would fine them. So they had to build a special road and a bridge so they could go right down through the pasture and onto the lake front. And they still kept hauling salt. And then some of them went at it in a big way out there below Norman Reed's place ... [They would] sell it for, oh, fifty cents a hundred pounds, or a dollar a hundred; they got different prices different places. ...

That was hard work down there, and hot and hard on the horses. And then they'd have to go to a ditch of water, or canal and they'd have to take buckets of water and rub it over their legs and stomachs or they would get raw, you know. A lot of those things were common around here, and to see people without money wasn't a disgrace, I'll tell you. If someone came around and said 'I haven't got any money,' they were telling the truth; they didn't have any, and they couldn't get it. ... When the bank folded up and I still owed them two to three hundred dollars, ... I gave them my water stock. It looked like I was going to have to give them all my cattle, but I was able to get out of that with the help of Weber Central Dairy. They came to my rescue. It's a wonder I didn't lose my home and everything I had for a few hundred dollars. You know, you'd go to the
One of the more prosperous farmers in Weber County during the depression years was George Stratford of Wilson Lane, Utah. Mr. Stratford, however, felt the squeeze of the depression in various aspects of his farm operation.

We shipped ... east, west, and locally. Nobody had any money to buy anything. Prices were cheap; business was lousy. A lot of the cars we shipped in those days cost us twenty cents a hundred for potatoes. Some of those cars wouldn't pay the freight. We had to give them the potatoes besides paying the freight on them. And the country was in such a condition that people had no money to operate. Of course, in those days, wages were cheap. ... Now I met a man at a wedding about a month ago, and he said to me, ... 'You're the cause of me quitting smoking.' And I said, 'I don't know how in the world I caused you to quit smoking.' And he said, 'I used to pack potatoes for you for 20 cents an hour.' And he said, 'A package of cigarettes cost twenty cents, and I decided that I wasn't going to work an hour for a package of cigarettes, so I quit.' I told him I didn't quite remember that we got down to twenty cents an hour, but the best men that the country had worked for me for thirty-five cents an hour. Today a lot of those are highly educated men, men in business who have made a good success. ...

We were in debt. We had no money. We got along and made a living, but it was tough picking. Of course we bought a pair of overalls in those days for fifty cents, so it didn't cost much to buy stuff, not like it is today. ... I often times told my children of the conditions that we went through during those times, and it's hard to make them believe it because they didn't remember many things about it. But we lived and got by. I accumulated a lot of property in those days, bought it for nothing, practically. But that was the condition of the times. Nobody had any money. I saved. Through my influence, ... two of my neighbors' farms for them during the depression days. I've always had a good credit, all my life, and I have never known of a time, including the depression, when I couldn't go to the bank and borrow enough to get by on. ... And that's when I accumulated all my property. It was through my association with the bank, and they'd say, 'We can't loan you any money, it doesn't matter how much collateral you have. We just can't loan it to you; we haven't got it.'
bankers and the confidence that they had in me that I was able to buy all this property during the depression days. I bought a farm that had a $24,000 mortgage on it for $3,500 cash. I didn't have the money, but I went to the bank and they loaned me $3,500 to buy the farm. ..

In those days, our mode of transportation was the horse and buggy--or the horse and surry--and I have seen the time, on the twenty-fourth of July, when I didn't have ten cents to buy an ice cream cone. So those were pretty trying times, and I was in no way alone; I had lots of company.

Summary

The farmer was possibly the least affected by the depression of any group. He was accustomed to a low standard of living through the semi-depression he experienced in the 1920's when farming was a less than profitable business. He never attained the high standard of living enjoyed by his city counterparts, and he had learned to get along on much less income than he would have liked to enjoy.

He had some difficulty in paying taxes, mortgages, and interest payments; but as a general rule, his family was fed, clothed and cared for. He suffered many acute disappointments when a summer's work lay unharvested or unpurchased or when he was forced to take only a token payment for his goods.

He was further impaired by the adversities of nature. More than one year he salvaged few harvestable crops. It is unlikely that many of the farmers left their homes to seek employment in the city. In fact, the opposite was the case. Several reported that people returned to the farm to live when their work in the city was terminated.
One farmer reported that he ceased using his automobile during the depression years in an attempt to cut his expenses. Most others reported using theirs for only the most important occasions.

Most felt that if they were debt-free and reasonably secure before the beginning of the depression, they were able to weather it without too much hardship. Those farmers who were indebted even a few hundred dollars were in a rather precarious position; the possibility of losing everything they had was very real.

To cut down on the amount of cash farmers had to have at their disposal, they combined funds to purchase machinery, market crops, and harvest their fields. Few had sufficient resources to make individual purchases or hire help for the work on their farms. One stated that he and his neighbor had to take turns marketing their eggs because they couldn't afford the gas required to drive into the city to sell them. Several others indicated that it was a common practice to help the neighbors and relatives with harvesting and planting so that it was unnecessary to hire labor during peak working seasons.

Most farmers felt that although they had to make personal sacrifices they had been benefited by the depression. They felt that they had learned several beneficial lessons regarding family finances.
CHAPTER VII
THE EDUCATOR

The educators of Weber County fill approximately the same social niche today as they did during the depression. They are not wealthy; their salary is nominal; but they have a steady income and seem to be a stable and dependable segment of the society. During the depression, the teachers had some opportunity to supplement their income, and a few of them did so. They also had many opportunities to view first-hand the situations of many people around them.

Mr. Maurice Allan Barrett was a college student during the first few years of the depression and had to wait a few months before obtaining any kind of employment in the education field in spite of his recent preparation.

My first full year began in the fall of 1935 in Eden. I was principal and teacher at Eden. There were eight grades [and] three teachers. I was principal and had the seventh and eighth grades as my responsibility. ... The first year that I came out of college before the first full year that I spoke of, there were, as I recall, two teaching positions that were open in Weber County as the late summer came. I recall so well being one of many, many, many who were interviewed by Superintendent Wahlquist and some of the members of the staff on a particular evening set for interviews. There were, as I say, many, many who applied. It happened that during the course of that year, although I had not been given a full-time position, I was called in by the board and assigned to relieve one of the members of the high school staff who had run for and been elected to the state legislature. ... By the time that
year had ended, I had been identified as one to take a full time job, and that was principal-teacher in Eden. ... As a substitute teacher at Weber, I taught for a flat salary of $3.50 per day. My first contract for principal-teacher was for $900 per year. We were paid $50 each two weeks over the nine month period of time. My second year of teaching was $990--a $90 increase. My salary was still below $1200 at the time I was married during my third year of teaching. ... [Later] with a master’s degree, [I was] going to be the principal of a ten-grade school [at Hooper]. I recall there were thirteen teachers, no secretary, no assistants, and my salary was $1440. ...

I don’t have any vivid memories of any clothing extremes. I do recall that the students were very well-dressed, considering the situation. We were not plagued with the kinds of extreme styles that characterize today, and though there were some extreme cases of hardship due to a lack of sufficient earning in the family, students were remarkably well-cared for. And I have no remembrance of any unfortunate circumstances related to the inability of families of any youngsters to come reasonably well dressed to school. ...

Women were not permitted to teach when they were married. My wife, for instance, was teaching at Weber High School at the time that we were engaged, and we were married during the summer, and because our plans were set for marriage during the summer, she was not offered a contract for the following year. ... She didn’t plan to teach because it was understood that married women did not teach. The board didn’t recognize it as a general custom that there should be two teaching salaries in one family. ...

There has been a marked change in the quantity and type of equipment available in the schools for educational purposes. Obviously, though we had libraries, they were of a very limited nature. We had very few audio-visual materials or the hardware equipment. ... In Eden Dr. William P. Miller ... was the audio-visual director at that time. But I remember that one of the roles that he played was to bring a film around to the schools periodically. Now we had no projectors of any kind in our school at Eden. There were no tape recorders, maps and charts in limited number, but no electronic equipment of any kind. And oh, what a great experience it was for the students, as well as the teachers, when Bill Miller came into the school on his schedule to show an educational film. And he would spend sometimes a half an hour, sometimes forty-five minutes. On occasions, the film may have been an hour, but most often, it was less than that. ... And on rare occasions, just for kicks, he would entertain the students by running a part of the film backwards.
But what a contrast in the area of audio-visual equipment and its use today as compared to then. I suppose that projector he brought was the only projector that was in the district at that time. And it was not sound, that is, some of the films shown were not sound films.

Mr. A. Parley Bates was also an educator in Weber County throughout the depression years. He had been established as an educator prior to the beginning of the depression, but his experiences were most enlightening and relevant to the educational situations during that time.

I went up as principal of Roy School, I think, for $1050. And then I went into Weber County High School and I got $1100 a year. And then the next year, I forget just when it was, but during that time, they cut us back $100 a year, so we made--I made less than $1100. And then we held steady there. ... And I said to my wife, 'If I could ever get $1500, I think that would be a big salary.' ... It was my impression that we were pretty well staffed with the same people. I don't remember many people moving particularly out of the high school. So as a whole, they were holding pretty tight to their assignments. ... I think most of the teachers, if they were not married, they lived at home with their parents, and many of them were, if they were on farms, would go out after teaching and ... help their dads on the farm so that they could survive. So I suppose there were some difficulties in their homes. With the girls, they hesitated, any of them hesitated to go to summer school because they felt that they couldn't afford to. But from the time we came to Hooper in 1925 until 1935 when I received my Master's degree, ... we were in school all the time. ...

When we came back from California one year, ... I was going to go up to the ... Ogden State Bank to get a little money so that I could go on and get a few groceries and things. Instead of that, when I was going up the street, [I discovered] that the Ogden State Bank had broke. So the bank commission had closed it because of difficulties in the bank. And so I went up to Coalville where I had a cousin who was in the bank up there ... and he loaned me $20.00. My folks loaned me $20.00 so we had $40.00. But when I came back from Berkeley, I had $1.65 in my pocket. That $1.65 was every penny that we had in the world. But we did go to school. ...
I had one suit of clothes, and they were getting pretty thin. But when we were going to school up at Utah State, when we finished up there in 1930, we lived in a tent on the Quadrangle. And there were a lot of people who lived in tents up there. And we cooked outside. We cooked in what they called the grove, up behind the present library building. There were a goodly number of people who—I would judge there were at least ten or twelve families—were living in tents. ... But we did make these sacrifices in order to go on to school. ...

Teachers' salaries did not pay very well, there's no question about that. ... Even in Berkeley, we'd drive to Oakland and go to the farmer's market and buy a case of oranges for fifty cents. And we bought fresh vegetables there for reasonable prices, and we got by. ... While we were living on 16th Street, we paid $25.00 a month rent for a big home that was not furnished. It was modern except for heat, so we didn't do so bad. ... We had two children and they were both in school. We saw to it that they had plenty to eat and plenty to wear, but we had nothing left when we got through. ... When we came to Hooper, I bought another Model 'T.' And I paid $645.00 for it, a 1920 model. And finally, we thought that we ought to do a little better chasing back and forth to California, so I bought a used Pontiac, and it was a good car. ... Transportation was not so bad as far as we were concerned. ...

If I were to go on the street in Ogden, we'd see a few people who were coming up and begging for something to eat. And I've always said to them if they'd come up, well, I'll go buy you something to eat, but I won't give you any money to go buy. And so they didn't want that. They wanted the money, of course. But I didn't see a lot of real depression. They didn't have the things that they would like to have. But looking back on it, over years, as a whole, I don't think the people in the inter-mountain area suffered like they did some place else. ...

There were quite a number of vacant places to rent, but I can't remember of anyone around here or down there [in California] that were actually suffering. They were getting by. ... We bought this land for $400.00 in 1938 and early 1939, an acre of land. And so I had this fellow come out and bid on it to build this home and he says, 'Well, ... I'll build it, and I'll let you work for me, and then you can cut the price of your house for the amount of time you worked.' Of course, I worked some, but not too much. But this home, which is 960 square feet, at that time cost us less than $400.00. It was $380.00. I came out here and asked a man not too long ago ... how much it would cost to remodel, and ... he said, 'If I were building you a home like you've got here today,
I'd have to charge you between $15,000 and $17,000.' And we got it for $4,000. ... And they were glad to get building. Because of what we did here, we happened to know the man, and he built ours. Then he built the neighbor's, and then he built the next neighbor's. So putting it all together, it was something for him to do. ...

They had to curtail a lot of school activities, particularly in high school. The high school activities were conducted all during the day time except basketball. And they just had to curtail any expense—transportation of school buses or anything else—because of the fact that it was expensive to operate. I think it was as difficult to administer the needs of the school then as it would be at the present time. Of course, there's added responsibilities and new innovations that come in all the time to the school system, but I think, generally speaking though, that the instruction, at least at the county high school was excellent. ... Those people who were in debt then had a hard time to make a go of it.

Another outstanding Weber County educator is Mr. Roy C. Metcalf, who began his teaching career in Weber County in 1919.

During the depression years ... students who otherwise might have found employment were out of work and everything, and lacked funds. Parents couldn't afford to furnish the funds they needed, and consequently, a program to help the youths in school was established, and it was known as the N. Y. A. Now, whatever work we had around the school—it might be helping to police the grounds, police the halls, or work of any sort where they could be used to enhance the work of the school—they would be employed and receive pay for it. And of course we had the program going full-fledged at Weber High School. ... And I'd say one thing, for high school students who don't have the opportunity to do summer work or work even in other times, it makes quite a problem on parents. ... So the N. Y. A. program had to be established. It was a federal program where they could get that aid. ... I would say $1000, $1100 a year would be the [salary] for top people. I know at Weber High, a person who was capable and had been in a service a few years [would be] receiving about $1100. ...

During the depression, when funds became tight, actually there was a cutback. ... Of all the facilities that were needed, there was a lack of equipment to do a first-class job, and that was tough. Now I noticed one thing, too. Teachers expected to
spend all their extra time that was needed to carry on the job without extra compensation. Doesn't matter what it was; it might have been hours every day; never did the teachers need time to think about it. ... Salaries in those early periods went for nine months. So sufficient had to be saved through the nine months to tie you through the three months of the summer. ... I think one thing was occurring that doesn't occur as much today, and that is the extra job. And it was almost necessary for an extra job to be held by teachers. That would of course interfere with work. ... A married woman could not stay on; and in that way, we lost many of the most capable teachers at that time. In other words, because of the need of jobs, it was necessary for the Board of Education and everyone who was employed to employ people who were the heads of families, and so men could get the job and women not. And, of course, they've gotten away from that end for the good of education; and this has been beneficial for married women to continue on. ...

We've had to make things go on much less, and I'm certain that among people who have influence, that they're handling their money carefully and so forth. There wouldn't be a lot of gambling in what they're doing, ... So I think that would be one of the main things. ... I learned ... that what I took on my plate I was to eat; and in our school lunch program, too often I have been sick at heart when I have seen people 'Oh, I don't want that,' throwing it aside. I don't remember having set up to a school lunch that palatable and good, and eating all that I had on my plate [anyway]. So I think we had a tendency in those years to make things stretch, and there would be that lesson. ...

The depression had a great effect on many people in the education field. Many people who, under normal conditions, would have gone on and pursued higher degrees, were prevented or at least discouraged from doing so because they just couldn't afford it. I have no doubt that I would have gone for a doctorate if it had not been for my financial responsibilities at that time.

Mr. Anthony Russell is also one of the fine educators of Weber County and has been intimately associated with the school system since he graduated from two years of college and was able to teach.
Some of the students [at Weber High School] came from homes here in the county that were hard-hit by the depression. And the teachers at Weber— I don't really recall the exact year—but it was during those times when money was hard to come by, because a good pick-up load of potatoes would buy one World History Book, or a United States History Book. Each teacher at Weber High sponsored a student and bought their books for them, free gratis, and the students oft-times spoke about produce that they had at home. For instance, some of the homes had eggs, and we set up a little exchange room out there, and the students would bring several dozen eggs and the teachers needing to have eggs in their homes would go and buy the eggs, and also butter. ... I remember that 'A' Grade butter was sold for nineteen cents a pound, and eggs were between twelve cents and fifteen cents a dozen for large ranch eggs. So that's how the students and teachers cooperated there, for a year or two at any rate, before things got better. ...

It wasn't too popular at that time, I recall, for the board to hire married teachers. The feeling was in those days that a married woman shouldn't take a job that a man could fill. So as a result of that, there weren't too many married women on the faculty. ...

I left Ogden in September, 1929, to go to school at Logan ... and that was the year that the depression broke. I had mortgaged my home that I had over on Grant Avenue between sixteenth and seventeenth Streets. And that was all the money that I would receive for that home for the entire year was that ten dollars. They just couldn't pay it. I had figured on taking the money from the home that I had there in Ogden and paying my rent in Logan. But that didn't work out when the depression hit, so I had to take a $500.00 loan from a man here in Ogden who had some money to loan, and he was willing to loan it to me. ... But before spring came, I was crawling along on my hands and knees on the agricultural experimental farm in Logan to earn a few dollars to be able to remain in school and finish the year's work. Then I came down to Ogden and got employment at California Pack, and I remember going out there to work and how tough it really was. I dare say some mornings there would be close to 300, 400, 500 people coming there wanting to get jobs, but the wage was hardly a subsistence wage when you were working for thirty-two and a half cents an hour. It was adverse conditions; it wasn't very much of a wage. ...

I well remember leaving the plant one day and coming over to town and a man wanted to know if he could ride across to Ogden City from West Ogden ... I didn't know him, and he didn't know
me. He'd been out there, he said, for two or three weeks after a job and just couldn't get on. There was just he and his wife at home. But they had gone out of provisions, and one morning his wife told him that she was hungry and there wasn't a thing in the house that she could prepare for a meal. She said, 'Why don't you go down to the welfare and see if they won't give us a few commodities?' And he said, 'Partner,' [to Mr. Russell] I have always paid my way in life, and I didn't want to go down and ask for welfare, so I went down town, but ... I didn't go up to the window and ask ... I was too proud, and I went back and told my wife that they wouldn't give me any commodities. And the next day, she said, 'you'd better go back and try again because we've just got to have something, or the both of us will starve to death.'"

So he came down again, and put his pride in his pocket, and went up to the window and got a few groceries, and went back home. And then he got rather militant in his talking, and he said, 'Partner,' I'm not going to see my good wife starve to death.' He said, 'If worse come to worse, I'll break a glass window to get some commodities for her before I'll let her starve.' And then ... he took his index finger and poked me on the shoulder and said, 'Partner,' I've got a damn good rod up home; and if I have to use it, I'll use it because we're not going to starve.' And he got out of my car and shut the door and he said, 'So long.'

It would be my candid opinion, through observation, that a minimum amount of contracting work was done because there wasn't any money to support contract work. ... Top wages for carpenters and skilled laborers [at California Packing] [was] seventy-five cents to one dollar an hour. I remember that very definitely. ...

Our football field out at Weber High was put in position to play football on [by the W. P. A.]. It was a wood patch before the W. P. A. workmen came on the job and they, with rather antiquated tools such as shovels, rakes, and hoes, hoed the field and then raked it and tried to level it. Then I remember, too, that they redecorated the auditorium. This was done on a W. P. A. basis in order to give people a little employment that just couldn't get a job anywhere else. ... Those boys [C.C.C.] were quite a menace though, I would almost be inclined to say, because some of them were from out of state, and some of them began to be rather unmanageable. They were natural human beings of course, and when they came to town, ... infatuations began to develop between the C. C. boys and the girls of the community, and to my way of thinking, it is quite risky for the teenage girls to be very close to
the C. C. Camps. I used to not like the environmental conditions that were there. ...

I was going to get my bachelor's degree in Logan and this gentleman that loaned me the five hundred dollars that I mentioned here a little earlier said that he would sponsor me while I went on to school and get my Master's degree and Ph.D. So we had all this planned out. I had figured that if I took my Master's at Berkeley, which I had in mind, I would go east and take out my Ph.D. But with the family and the depression, that was a dream that we had to forget about. After I got my Bachelor's degree and the depression hit, we weathered through ... with many others.

Summary

The educator had approximately the same personal problems that his counterpart has today. He was expected to return to further his own education, and he was expected to maintain himself and his family on a moderate income. Almost all of the educators felt that their opportunity for gaining a higher degree was hampered by the conditions of the depression.

There was only a limited opportunity for student activities. It was only for an occasional basketball game that the students were allowed to return to the school after the classes were dismissed because it was too expensive to have the buses transport them more than was absolutely necessary.

The students were also in financial difficulty in many instances. The teachers and students worked together to make education possible. Some of the teachers even went so far as to buy books for one needy student each year to help him meet the expenses of an education.

Women who were married were not allowed to teach, except in rare instances. The objective of this rule was to make available more jobs for
men. One educator felt that this was a definite stumbling block for quality education.

The curtailment of extra curricular activities was not the only result of the small educational budget. The equipment available to the educator was extremely limited. One educator said he believed there was only one movie projector in the Weber County School District. Other supplies were limited to an absolute necessity, and it was difficult to procure funds for new buildings and other facilities. However, one educator stated that there was little need for new buildings because there was little increase in the population during that time.

As a further result of the lack of funds, teachers had to take a cut in pay by as much as $200.00 a year. This is a considerable reduction when one considers that the top teachers in the district received only $1100 per year prior to the cut. Many of the new teachers were receiving only $800 prior to the cut.

Most teachers stated they felt the necessity to acquire some type of outside employment to supplement the family income. One educator who managed to get an advanced degree during several summers of school reported working on Saturdays and after school selling shoes during the winter months. And another who did not attend summer school every year acquired work at the California Packing Company during the summer months.

Most educators seemed to feel that they fared reasonably well during the depression in spite of their low wages and managed to save enough
out of their winter salary to carry them through the summer months when they could possibly have no income at all.
CHAPTER VIII
THE BUSINESSMAN

During the years of the depression, the businessman was a very different type of individual than we think of a businessman today. Very often he was not at all wealthy and was struggling along with his neighbors to take care of his family. He did not have to invest great quantities of money to set up some type of establishment, and perhaps this was one of the reasons that there were so many businesses and so few really money-making organizations.

Mr. George T. Frost came to Weber County in 1928 as a college student and stayed in the county from that time, cooperating in the operation of several small businesses during the depression times.

I became associated with the automobile business way back in 1934 with a friend of mine, L. H. Strong, whose name I'm sure rings a bell with a lot of people. He and I were both looking for work. We decided to try the automobile business, or rather, he did. I was working for him at the time in a little spot down here at about 3230 Washington Blvd., where the Lincoln-Mercury Dealer is now—selling Studebakers. And that was my beginning in the automobile business. Even prior to that, he and I were overhauling cars in the place where the present Ogden Bowling Alley is here on twenty-sixth and Washington Blvd. ... I went back to South Bend, Indiana, ... to pick up a couple of Studebakers. We were caravanning at that time ... to save a few nickles. Rather than ship them, we would go drive one behind another. This was in November of 1934. I got in somewhere into Iowa and got into a bad snow storm, and I fought snow all the way through Iowa and
into Nebraska. I couldn't find any chains and I couldn't even find any mud hooks to give me a little traction. But anyhow, to make a long story short, I somewhere in Nebraska, run short of funds. In fact, I didn't have any to start with. ... So I wired Strong here in Ogden to send me some money because I was going to be out of funds pretty quick, and I told him to send it to North Platt, Nebraska, and I would pick it up. When I got to North Platt, I went to Western Union, and there were no funds there. So I left word with them that if the money did come, to forward it on to Cheyenne. So I took off, and I arrived at Cheyenne and pulled into a service station to fill up the tank, which I was in the process of doing when a highway patrolman pulled up beside me and very nicely informed me that I had to have a permit to caravan cars across Wyoming. As I recall, it was $1.50 per car at that time. But anyway, it was very interesting and, coincidentally when I paid him and paid for the gas, it took every cent that I had in my pocket. So here I was, completely broke. So I went down to the telegraph office and here were the funds. ... Here was $17, if you can imagine, and that $17 had to get me into Ogden.

... I got married in 1932 which was right square in the middle of the worst of the depression. I was working for the Power Company at the time, and just a week before my marriage date, I lost my job. ... They were trying to find places for the older men, and I was one of the younger ones and had to leave. And I was making $90 a month. ... But my wife and I decided to go ahead anyway, and it was that year that I got kind of mixed up in selling automobiles, repairing automobiles as I mentioned. ... We had pretty well gotten out of the worst of the depression by the time I decided to go into business for myself, and that was in the fall of 1940. Times had not at all really returned to normal. But we were climbing out of it, and people were more optimistic, had more opportunity, and had no idea that we were going to be involved in a war. But I remember when I got involved in the automobile business at that time, a young friend of mine and I decided that we would take a chance, and we took on the Hudson dealership. This is laughable as compared with today. We borrowed a little bit of money to get started on. We borrowed $250 to get started if you can imagine such a thing. But we did it, and we leased a place down here on the corner of twenty-seventh and Washington and started selling Hudson automobiles. ...

I've told my own family that I wouldn't wish them to go through the depression like that necessarily, but I can assure you that that was one of the finest experiences that those of us who
went through it will ever have had because if anything has taught me—that taught me the value of a dollar. And better than that, to have a job, and to appreciate the fact that you had a job and had a little respect for your employer. I would say that the greatest lesson that we learned out of it was respect for one another, appreciation for the country in which we lived, appreciation for an opportunity, appreciation for just being able to make an honest dollar, and [appreciation] that we had to work. I can assure you that there was no place then for the so-called drone because, I'll tell you, only the men who were willing to work and put forth an honest effort were working in those days, and I think that those who had those jobs appreciate the fact. I wish somehow ... that every young person ... could have this experience without having to go through it, if you know what I mean, so that they would appreciate ... value. ... A sense of value, I would say, would be one of the greatest lessons that we ever learned out of that. . .

I remember quite well the W. P. A. It did a lot of good. For example, the North Ogden Fork Road was built during the W. P. A. days. . . I just mentioned that because we ... have decided to keep it open the year around. We have been pressured by many of the old-timers to change its location. After going over it with many of our engineers, we find that the present location is the best, and so I commend them. . . But that was built during the W. P. A. days, and they did a world of good. Of course this was merely a stop-gap measure, which we all recognize. . . I think that [C. C. C.] is one of the finest—if you need a stop gap measure—that's one of the finest programs that this government has ever engaged in. . . It was more oriented to actual physical work in doing things that needed to be done—particularly I'm thinking of public lands. And a lot of those boys who came out of there had learned how to work, and they appreciated what they were getting because, I can tell you, it was something that they hadn't had before. I'm sure those boys learned appreciation. . .

We were controlled by the N. R. A., and it was a good thing. If we hadn't had that, I hate to think what would have taken place in our economy. It would have been utter chaos. . . I think that those acts that were enacted by the Congress during those Roosevelt days. A lot of criticism has been heaped upon the President and Congress for that; but as I look back, I can see that every one of them is necessary. They did a lot of good. They kept things under control, and certainly this much we know that those controls that were placed upon us at that time were instrumental in keeping our economy on the move again upward, and it was kept under control. . . . I wouldn't want to go back to those days in spite of all our problems today, but I'm glad that I had that experience. . .
Of course, many of us had a little garden in our back yard. We tore up our lawns and planted vegetables, and in order to conserve our water, we dug little wells in the basement of our home, and put a little electric pump on them to water our lawns. ... It more or less re-kindled the old pioneer spirit and initiative that our forebearers had to use in coming into this country. ...

Of course, you can well imagine that we had to make a lot of our clothes. Bread lines were extremely common everywhere. People were lining up everywhere just to get a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk, and there wasn't much of it to be had. ... when the fall harvests were in and the fruit was picked, many people would wait and kind of pick up the leavings, and it was very much appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Brad II. Paul were operating a small grocery store during the depression years and found that in order to maintain the family Mr. Paul had to seek additional employment while Mrs. Paul took care of the store.

Mr. Paul: During the depression, we stayed with the store. ... but we were never very prosperous with the store, [we] just made a living.

Mrs. Paul: He'd go down there [Wheelwright Lumber Company] for four hours while I was minding the store. We didn't have too much business though because we didn't have enough on our shelves.

Mr. Paul: We still had to stay open; people owed us money.

Mrs. Paul: He used to open at seven o'clock in the morning and stay open until eleven o'clock at night, then he shortened the hours a little bit. ... I don't think the depression ever bothered Brad as much as it did me because he'd been poor. He knew what it was to be poor. And mother takes care of the children and hears all their wants and everything.

Mr. Paul: My parents had ten children and homesteaded up in Teton Basin. We didn't know what money was; we raised everything we ate, [we] had cows and chickens, grew our vegetables, [and] killed our meat for winter. We'd take eggs over to the store and trade them for sugar and spice and things that we needed. ... Outside of that, we didn't know what money was.
Mother knitted our stockings and mittens and caps. ... My advice ... would be to live within your means. A lot of people just go out and go in debt for everything expecting a rainbow at the end of their road to pay for things. ...

This was amusing: my father had a farm and some Japanese running it. They had the liberty of going down there and getting their vegetables whenever they wanted and, of course, all the family would go down except for us because we had the store. They'd scatter the vegetables around, and my wife said to my mother one time, 'How come we don't get any vegetables? You take them to all the other kids and you don't bring us any?' And mother said, 'Well, you've got a store!' And my wife said, 'But who pays for the vegetables that come into the store?' And mother said, 'Well, I never thought of that!'

Mr. Stanley Robbins was an outstanding businessman in Ogden during the depression years. During the beginning stages of the depression, he managed the D. H. Perry Estate, being sure that each of his enterprises brought in a profit. During the latter part of the depression, he managed the Fred Keisel Estate.

The Perry Estate owned large holdings. They owned the Egyptian Theatre, the Ogden Theatre, the White City Ballroom, many business houses, which we rented to tenants in the operation of business, as well as farm lands in Utah and Canada. ... We started to build a new ballroom 150 feet wide by 250 feet long in an oval position. This was conceived in early spring of 1922. We had a very beautiful ballroom with the pathway leading from twenty-fifth street back to the center of the block. ... We built a large open-air cement dance floor 100 feet by 150 feet on the north side of the White City Ballroom, which we utilized during the summer months, opening the doors to the outside ballroom, and using both places. During the years 1923 to 1938, we utilized various methods to establish our business firm and make it a very profitable business. In connection with the Ogden Theatre and the Egyptian Theatre ... we worked out a proposition to give away two-door Chevrolet automobiles to the lucky number drawn at the dance hall on a certain date, usually allowing three months between periods in which we gave the car away. On the fourth Saturday night, we gave the Chevrolet away.
Usually the attendance at the ballroom, outside and in, was somewhere around 4800 to 5000. This was one of our methods during the depression times to increase the business, and keep the profits coming to the Perry Estate. The theatres and the ballroom did good business while this method was being used, of giving a new car to the winning number. ... We had people come from as far south as Salt Lake City, as far east as Evanston, Wyoming, as far north as Idaho Falls, and as far west as the Lake in Weber County. [The admission was] fifty cents for the dance ticket on the night of the drawing, thirty-five cents each on the nights when the attendance was accumulating toward the giving away of this car. ...

At this depression time, Mr. Glassman, the owner and manager of the Paramount Theatre, the Orpheum Theatre, the Rex Theatre and the Utah Theatre had decided that to meet competition, they would try to obtain the largest productions from the main makers in the film industry. He obtained United Artists, Paramount Pictures, Metro Golden Pictures, and RKO, that would give him a sufficient number of first-run pictures to make it so that the Perry Estate holdings would not be able to utilize all first-run pictures. In order that we might be able to meet this competition, we decided that we would buy the major film producing company's films as second runs. By that we mean a thirty-day showing after the first run. And then I placed a lesser film company's productions, such as Warner Brothers [or] Columbia Pictures, and such, as the smaller produces, utilizing their pictures as first run, and then placing the products of Mr. Glassman as second runs. And ... by so doing, we made a reduction in the prices at the Ogden and Egyptian Theatres. This did prove to be a definite step toward increasing the business. And as a result, we had very good business in both theatres. ...

These times were very difficult. There were many of the people who were unemployed, and the conditions were such that there just wasn't enough work in this territory to supply the numbers who wanted to work. And as a result, many were without funds. However, the period that I remember the most was from 1936 to 1938. The conditions didn't seem to get very much better. ... [In] 1938 I asked Mr. Perry if I could be released from my management responsibilities because I had a better offer with more money if I would go to the Keisel Estate and become the manager of their estate. ... Their property was expensive, and I found that during the depression, many of these properties had closed their doors. After I had been employed for a year, my job was to make the properties of the Keisel Estate become paying properties in order that they might
be able to solve their problems. I immediately set to work, and I sold all of the properties in all of the states which were secondary properties and had been lying idle for a number of years, taxes being paid on them. These properties were obtained many times from Mr. Keisel, who had in his warehouse at Corrine, a ... liquor store and a business institution whereby he supplied all the needs of the community right from this great warehouse. He would use his horses and wagons in what he termed a freight train, taking the merchandise to the various outlets. When they couldn't pay for the merchandise, they usually had property which they deeded to Mr. Keisel, and as a result of this particular condition, Mr. Keisel, had in nearly every state, an abundance of property.

As an example of this, in Ontario, Oregon, ... he owned nearly all of this city. He ... donated enough ground for a schoolhouse on the West side of the highway for the students at Nessa, Oregon. In deeding the property to the school board, a unique system was formulated. He made the condition that if the property were ever vacated, it would be returned to him, or to his estate if he were dead, and not sold. This condition is with the Old Ogden High School on twenty-fifth and Monroe. ...

People learned a great lesson of being prepared for any eventual condition that might come, either for good or for bad. We, as the generation of that time, then started to build for the future because of this condition. Men and their families became more careful with saving and developing the habit of thrift. Also, in utilizing the amount of money which was available at that time, ... Better cooperation between the people for the building and the efficient operation of city government took place. The county officials and the city officials had these conditions which were in force at that time. As conditions improved and our depression began to leave, of course more work and more building and more improvement in streets and lights and such as that took place. But not by getting into debt, but by using the tax money to the best advantage. ... Many of our poor people didn't have sufficient food, or clothing, or fuel to meet their conditions of existing, ... and the city commission had established a relief fund. And that relief fund extends over into the Mayor Bundy's regime. They asked me to come over and set up a condition where those who would come over and need it, could receive proper amounts for their sustinance. ... The welfare program, in its initiatory state took place during that particular time, not only in the city, but in our [the L. D. S.] Church. ... in connection with the city, this took quite a load off the city in supplying the needs and wants within the church realm. ...
We were in the depression longer than I feel was necessary because of the lack of foresight and cooperation between the city and county governments and the officers of the U. S. Government who were trying to assist and bring the depression to a halt. However, much good resulted from the depression as to our seeing what might happen to the people if another depression came and preparation in all phase of life in the education of people. ...  

Mr. Hyrum B. Wheelwright was a successful businessman during the 1920's. During the depression, he was hampered quite severely because his business relied upon continued building, which did not remain constant.  

I was in the lumber business. ... I kept the records for a long while. The total sales in Ogden in February, 1932, were $7,400. That's the low point in lumber sales for the year, anyway, February is the low point for the year. I don't recall what our share of that was, I believe it was about $2,800. ... The reason that our sales were that high was that at that time, Williamson Auto Body was establishing here in Ogden. We were selling to them, and they were manufacturing bodies for automobiles. ... there wasn't much building going in Ogden at that particular time. In fact, I figure that we were losing about $500.00 a month in our little business. We had taken our surplus—we started building up a surplus in 1919; from 1929 to 1934 we had lost half the money that we had built up in surplus—to operate the company. ... About 1934, or 1935 (things started to seem easier) and by 1936, or 1937, we got out into the profit line. ... Well, the government at that particular time went into this homeowner's loan deal where the mortgage was payable by the month, and they released the money on these default mortgages. They would rehabilitate the homes on this homeowner's loan, and that bought in a lot of business. ...  

We saw an opportunity in 1931 in reroofing houses. And at one time, we had five shinglers going and that saved us one time. We would go out and just finish houses that looked to us like they needed re-roofing, and then we would send them an advertisement. We picked up a lot of work at that time. We were one of the first yards in Ogden to take advantage of this Title I Repaired Renewal that the government put out. And I think that helped business quite a bit. But I don't think that became a factor until 1935 or 1936. ...
I think that where they [C. C. C. and W. P. A.] put the boys into the canyons and cleaned up the canyons and cleaned the woods, I think that was of great value. And of course the make-work projects that they had, they followed Mariner Eccles' idea. His idea was a different one from Hoover, but Mariner's idea was to get the money out to the public so that they could buy the products. If they bought the products, then the factories would start. If the factories started, then the business would start. ...

I remember one man who was a very successful builder and had about five houses for sale in 1929 and held his price too long, and then by 1932, when he finally had to sell, he lost his home, and he lost everything that he had.

Summary

The businessman was in an unpleasant position at the time of the depression. Most people felt that he would always be prosperous and that he had few personal financial worries. Yet at the same time, he is perhaps one of the most likely candidates for failure.

Those interviewed for this study represented three major portions of the business community; a small grocer, a lumber company owner, and a representative of two large and diversified estates. Both the grocer and the lumberman had a difficult time just meeting their daily obligations. The lumberman stated that if he had not had a surplus of funds set aside prior to the impact of the depression, he would have gone bankrupt. For several months at a time he went as much as $500.00 in debt each month. The grocer said that he had little business due to the fact that he couldn't afford to stock his shelves. He had several customers to whom he extended credit and from whom he never collected. The manager of the two estates indicated that it was necessary for him to continually invest funds in different
projects in order to continue realizing a profit. There was an indication from all three that there was little possibility of continuing in the regular course of business without the adoption of some type of innovation to carry out the needs of the business. The small grocery store owner said that he had to find employment outside his own business during the depression years and leave the care of the store to his wife. The lumberman stated that he went around the city looking for houses that needed to be re-roofed and sent a brochure to the homes stating that they could do a re-roofing job for them at a reasonable price. He stated that at one time this procedure saved his business. The manager of the estates said that in order to show a profit, he had to develop different types of incentives to get the people to participate in the businesses. At one time, they gave away automobiles to patrons of the theatres and dance halls in Ogden. Later in the management of a different estate, he had to pump thousands of dollars into a new piece of farm land in order to make it a profitable investment.

These types of endeavors were impossible for the small businessman who was operating on a limited supply of capital.
CHAPTER IX
THE COMMUNITY AND CHURCH LEADER

So far as this study has determined, there are no individuals still living in Weber County who were in an elected office during the years of the depression. There were several individuals who administered aid through the L. D. S. Church with whom this writer was able to secure an interview, and they had considerable information to give concerning the programs devised during the depression to help the poor. There were also several people who, although they were not in any political office at the time, had considerable valuable information to give concerning the problems and programs of that time.

Mr. Arch L. Christiansen was the farming County Agent during the depression years and had some experiences with the members of the farming community during those times.

[During the depression years] they cut my salary some. I don't remember [exactly what my salary was] but they cut me about 25 percent. ... I remember when I would go out to make my farm visits, I would find somebody home at practically every place that I went. The first thing we see when the depression hit was that the farm people went back home. They would come back on the farm, build them a little shack in the corner somewhere, and settle down and raise a family. ... Your farm people had some place to go. They'd go home today and double up, and they got along. And you city people didn't have that combination. ...
It [The Weber Central Dairy Association] was all thoroughly legalized and everything, and each town was organized into a dairy group and had a local. They were going ahead in pretty good condition during the depression. James R. Beus managed it during the depression years. He also helped to organize the beet growers. At that time, each commodity was organized separately. We had the dairy people, and the canning trucks, and the sugar beets, but that's about all. . . . It was the low prices you see, that forced them into the organizations. At least that was one of the factors. We had 4H Celebrations. We organized a dairy show, had a Jersey Organization that carried the jersey cattle. The Valley people had guernsey cattle up there you see. I organized a show at Huntsville, and we had the black and white show held at Plain City. We had shows going at that time. . . .

Mr. Earl Stanley Paul was a Bishop of the L. D. S. Church during the early years of the depression, and many of the people who lived in his ward were unemployed. Some were widows who had no means of support. He innovated several different types of programs to help take care of those individuals who needed help. For his personal vocation, he was a general contractor and discussed his work in that area.

I was a general contractor. I contracted homes, schools, churches, business houses, anything that I could get to do. . . . We didn't have very many problems [acquiring materials] during that particular time; materials were quite readily available. It was difficult to find any work to do. The building trade was down a great deal. I had to work long hours to get enough work to take care of my family. . . . I built some meetinghouses, and in addition to that, I built the nurses home up by the Dee Hospital during that time, and I did a lot of work otherwise. I had a lot of fire jobs. I believe that during that time, I must have had about 80 percent of the fire work in Ogden. . . . The fire insurance agencies would have me come and give them an estimate on it, and then tell me to go ahead and do it. They had confidence in me. So I did a great deal of that kind of work during that particular time. . . .

When I was put in Bishop of the Seventeenth Ward, there were about 1,500 members of the ward. We held a meeting of
the unemployed, and they filled the meetinghouse. And we organized under the elder's quorum at that time. And there was a man named Lester Patterson, and we put him on as work director. And we went out in the timber and cut timber. On the west side of the Seventeenth Ward, there's a lot 65 feet wide by 265 feet long, and we had that piled high with wood. We rigged up a cross-cut saw with an old Ford car and cut that all up in stove lengths. So we had plenty of fuel to keep our families warm during that winter. We went into the fields and contracted harvesting fruit, and that on shares, so they had all the fruit they needed.

We were pretty well fixed up with fast offerings. At that time you didn't have to turn the fast offerings in to the Presiding Bishopric's office, and we had a nice sum of money from fast offerings which we used to take care of rents and lights when it was necessary for these families. We contracted the harvesting of beets--of course, that was a cash contract. That helped them with the money proposition.

You'd be surprised how people change when they get down and out, when they've been used to having something nice. They get out of work--not of their own fault of anything like that. They don't have the means to take care of themselves. They become very careless in their habits, in the way they look, and in the way they take care of their homes. Well, through this work that we had through the summer and fall, it just seemed to transform these people, and made them feel like they were somebody...

The city was very kind to us. They loaned us the trucks for us to haul the wood down with, and they helped us out that way. ... and we had them [the unemployed] taken care of very well until the W. P. A. took over and furnished work for these people, and of course that helped them a great deal. ... We carried on this work until the church organized the Welfare Program, and then they chose me as chairman of the Bishop's Council to the Northern Utah region at that time. ...

[While in that position] we heard that the Utah and Idaho Railroad was going to auction off their property down on seventeenth street. We went to Salt Lake and received authorization to offer as high as $50,000 to purchase this property. We went to the auction, and the auctioneer said in the beginning, 'I will not accept any offers of less than $75,000 for the property.' And nobody offered any bid on it. So he said, 'Well, we'll reopen this at four o'clock this afternoon.'

So I got in my car and went down to Salt Lake to find Brother Ryberg, ... and he couldn't be found. ... So I went over to the church office building and inquired of President Clark, and his secretary told me that President Clark was resting and did not
want to be disturbed until four o'clock. I told him that I had to see him before four o'clock and that I would sit there and wait for him. And that he would see me before four o'clock. And about a quarter to four, she [the secretary] came out and said, 'President Clark will see you now.'

I told him what we were up against and what we wanted. These buildings were worth $285,000 if they were worth anything, because that was the engineer's estimate of them. So we called Brother Lee, and tried to get Brother Ryberg and couldn't get him, and got Brother Moyle, and talked to them. And at five minutes to four, Brother Maw called and wanted to know what the decision was, and so I turned to President Clark and said, 'this is President Maw, and he has to know right now. He suggests that we put a bid in for $75,000 and $2,500 for the railroad track that runs into the building from twenty second street.' And so he [President Clark] turned to Brother Lee and he said, 'Brethren, if we can get this $285,000 worth of property for $75,000, isn't it a pretty good deal?' And they said, 'Yes.' So he authorized us to give the $75,000 and the $2,500 for the railroad trace, and we did, and they accepted our price. ...

... I used to go out in the evenings ... and sell insulation and weather stripping and stuff like that and install it in the daytime to keep the wolf from our door for quite some time. And in 1939, of course, we were starting to get on top. We had some nice jobs, and things were going pretty nicely. So we were able to be solvent all the way through. But the people did have a lot of problems during that time. A lot of them went without the necessities of life--if the church hadn't taken it over before the W. P. A. started, they would have a lot of trouble. ...

Well, I think it [the government programs] saved the day as far as the people who were out of work were concerned. ...

... During the depression times, they had to get out and do something. As I said, this work that we had, we didn't get all this stuff that we provided for them without them doing something about it themselves. It took a lot of work to cut up all that wood that we had for them. ... But I know families in the ward that never came to church at all. When the call was made for them to come to the meeting of the unemployed, they came. After the experience they had, they became active in the church. ...

A lot of them had a difficult time. I suppose that a lot of property was sold for taxes during that time. I'm sure there was. There was one man who left his son rich on the tax property that he bought, and some people had the money to pay the tax property. They paid the taxes for a few years and got a quit-claim deed to it, and so it was difficult for the people, it was like pioneer days.
I think that sometimes these things are of benefit to people. But if they are just left to themselves, they get very disgruntled and are not satisfied.

Mr. Mac Lynn Wade was not an elected official at the time of the depression, but he had some interesting information concerning the illegal activities that went on during that period of time in Weber County.

I was going to school, and then I went on a mission, and when I came back, everything—well, they were selling eggs for ten cents a dozen, butter for fifteen cents a pound, hay for five dollars a ton, and if you were lucky, you could get a dollar a day for pitching hay or working on a farm. We sold our alfalfa seed for six cents a pound. ... I lived right beside two of the prominent bootleggers in the country ... there was a 500 gallon still that had never been used that was under the old house. ... I don't know how many barrels there were left here. Nick Brown, ... Frank Beck, and some Greeks that I don't know their names had several different stills here on this property. The reason that they did was there was lots of brush and lots of water. One of the reasons that they got caught was that they got a bunch of hogs to eat the mash after the alcohol had been extracted from it, and the hogs led the prohibition agent right to the still out in the brush. They had a hay rack in sections out there by the old coop. Underneath the coop, they had a place where they could store about 5,000 gallons of whiskey. ... I don't know how long it took them to dig it, but it took me about three weeks to fill it in.

They were very good miners because that whole country was ... timbered up just like a mine and covered over and under the chicken coop. And they always had chickens and hogs and like that. They had dairy cattle, and they'd keep the dairy cattle—when they had the still out in the brush—out in the open—by in the open I mean they went out just west of here and dug a hole and covered it over. The only visible thing was just one little pipe. They had weeds around that, and of course, that was the vent that would let the fumes and that out. And they kept cattle in there all the time so that people wouldn't go hunt or go through there, and the hunters wouldn't be so apt to find it. ...

Prohibition is what stimulated bootleggers, naturally, but success, and what you might call prosperity, which we had (prior to the depression) is what stimulated twenty-fifth street. I
remember that we'd go in a place down on twenty fifth-street, and especially right there on Keisel Ave., and they had sandwiches, potato chips, potato salads, and stuffed eggs. You'd go in and buy a couple of beers and you could have all you wanted to eat. But that was very well run, and you didn't see a bunch of drunks hanging around. In fact, during prohibition days, where these people were bootlegging, you didn't see people hanging around. The drunk had to get away from where they were bootlegging. ...

Prohibition was something that was almost impossible to enforce. ... Chicago being what it was there, on the Great Lakes, they could run it in by boat or by truck or by train from Canada. Around here in Ogden, there was a lot of whiskey being sold that was made up around Hans Fork and in Kemmerer [Wyoming]. There are some places out on North Washington Blvd., which are a result of bootlegging.

I came back from my mission in 1931, and when I [left] everyone was working, and you couldn't believe it. When I came back, you couldn't believe it. ... I think that the Church did more of that [helping the unemployed] than anybody. And the Salvation Army. In fact, if it hadn't been for the Salvation Army, there are lots of people that just couldn't have made it. And then, likely, the Church came to their rescue. And then they came up with the P. W. A., the Public Works Administration, and they gave us three days a week. They were improving the roads, and that is when the road was started up over the North Ogden Canyon. There was a lot of abuse in that; but by the same token, it was a necessary evil because people had to eat. But by and large, the Church was the main contributor of goods—that is to the needy. They expected you to earn it, and it was a good thing.

There were thousands of men traveling the railroad, hoboing—even people with [educational] degrees at that time—I know several people from right here in my home town who went to California, went to Oregon. In fact, my brother, Red who was a very prominent athlete, got on a freight with some friends, and they went up through Oregon and Idaho and around just to find work in the summer. But the railroads allowed them to ride as a Hobo. Now there was a hobo who never did work; he'd just travel and live off the land. He bummed where he could.
Mr. George Alvey Weatherston was a police officer in Ogden during the depression years.

Well, it [law enforcement] was a lot different. It was when everything was wide open. There was gambling and whores, and everything when we first went in. Mac [Wade] and the county attorneys closed most of them up. [I began my service in] 1935 or 1936. ... I don't think there was a good deal more [drunkenness during that time]. I think it was about all the same. ... There was a lot of that [prostitution and bootlegging] on both sides going on. ... I think prohibition was a bad thing, I think things are a lot better now than it was during that time. ... Everyone was breaking the law.

Mr. Raymond S. Wright was a Bishop in the L. D. S. Church at the time of the depression. Although his experiences are different from those of Bishop Paul, he had several kinds of hardships with which to deal.

... Quite often when I would come home from work, there would be people sitting on my doorstep, people from out of town who claimed membership in the church and who were seeking assistance. Some of them a night's lodging, some of them food. On one occasion, we had an entire family that had left their home in Pennsylvania and had gone to the northwest for employment and they hitchhiked on the way back. They had driven their car to the northwest. On their way back, their car gave out, and they didn't have means to buy another one. They didn't have means to pay for transportation, and they hitchhiked from the northwest to Ogden, and I suppose all the way back to Pennsylvania. And when they got to Ogden, they were in need of lodging [and] they were in need of food. ... Well, they weren't members of the church; but we did, at our own expense, we fed them that night and the next morning. And then we sent them on their way. ... Many of the people, man particularly, that were riding the freight trains, and some of them were hitchhiking--and when they got into the city ... if they were members of the church, [they] would inquire where the Bishop lived. And so they were sent to me, and of course we took care of them. ...

We did have a project in the ward that was very productive and that was what we called gleaning. You know, the farmers,
Many of them [the farmers] couldn't sell their produce because people didn't have the money to buy it. So we had people [who] ... and they went out to these farms at the invitation of the farmer and gleaned the field, and that way, we obtained produce—onions, and potatoes, and carrots, and other produce that we could distribute to our needy families of the ward.

We also established at our ward, a wood yard. And some of our unemployed people rigged up a large saw. They went up into the mountains, obtained wood, and hauled it down. And some of our unemployed came over and spent the day sawing wood into stove lengths. Many people in our area burned coal and wood, they cut down on the cost of their fuel bill. ... The gleaning of the produce and the wood yard were a big help to us. ...

In our ward there weren't too many people entirely unemployed, and yet we were a ward of working people mostly. There were no well-to-do people in our ward. ... Some of the wards had projects and remade clothing and some items of new clothing, shirts, pajamas, and dresses were made in the sewing rooms of the Relief Society and turned into the church welfare program. ...

We saw the necessity of providing employment for some of our people and so we undertook to refurbish the interior of our chapel as well as the woodwork on the outside. We had people in our ward who were unemployed. Some were painters, and some were helpers, but we undertook to repaint the interiors of our chapel and all of our classrooms, as well as the woodwork on the exterior. The Church supplied us the paint, and the unemployed people, many of them putting in a full day’s work for receiving food, clothing, and fuel for their families. It proved to be a big help to the ward and to the people because they were able to work for what they received, and most of them were glad to do it, if they were able to work. Of course some of them were widows with little children and of course we didn't expect them to work. ... I always had the habit of saving a little bit of what I earn. ... And I think that during the depression, it helped a great deal. It helped us to help other people because we were fortunate. I was fortunate enough to stay in work during the depression. I don't know how that came about, but I did. ... There were men younger than me that were laid off, ... I think that it's basic for people to put aside supplies and money, clothing in a reasonable amount so that if a depression comes, or unemployment, they'll be able to get along for a time at least, without any difficulty. ...
Summary

The community and church leader was able to relate firsthand information concerning activities pertaining to the local governments. One man stated that the city had a dole of clothing and food during the early years of the depression. He further stated that at a later time, the city and county government officials combined efforts and attempted to get some support from the Federal Government. He did not, however, give information as to whether or not that help ever materialized.

One man stated that he believed that most of the help rendered to destitute individuals in this area came through the L. D. S. Church. All the aid had to come directly from the individual wards. Two bishops conceived very elaborate plans for helping the unemployed people in their wards. They had several different types of projects which not only gave them the supplies they needed to take care of their families but also gave them some kind of meaningful employment when none could be found elsewhere.

It was also stated that a good deal of the relief work in the area was done by the Salvation Army. If it had not been for its help, many of the people in the area may not have survived.

It was discovered through interviews with law enforcement officers that bootlegging and prostitution were legal problems in Ogden. The law enforcement officers felt that this was more of a hold-over from the 20's and the prosperity of those years, than as a result of the problems of the 30's.
The county commission and the mayor received some feedback concerning the needs of the people. That feedback was sufficient to cause them to re-channel funds which had been appropriated for other uses into the care of the unemployed in the Ogden area.
CHAPTER X

THE HOUSEWIFE

Many of the housewives interviewed for this study had little "to do with" and found methods of improvising and saving to make life more comfortable for their families. It was for this reason that they were chosen for this study.

Mrs. Alida Alberts was a young mother during the depression years. Her husband, although he was employed, was in poor health and was unable to work at any regular schedule.

We were married the twenty seventh of August 1929. He was getting $25.50 a week. Sometimes they were only working three, four or five hours, but they were getting the straight $25.50 a week. He worked for American Pack at that time. Swift took over right after that, and that's when they started paying by the hours that you worked. Then he earned only $10.00 or $12.00, but not more. Once in a while he got a check for $15.00 which was considered a good check for us.

Mr. Alberts was sick a lot. He had a rheumatic heart, and he was off five weeks at a time real often at that time. My parents were farmers, and so Father used to bring us vegetables, in that line, but in the meat line, we could either spend fifty cents on Sundays for a piece of meat, or we could keep that and go out and visit with the folks. We had an old Essex, and half the time we couldn't afford to keep gas in it. So Mr. Alberts walked to work from thirty second and Wall to Swift's many, many, many times. And I walked to town many times when I had to shop. And when Jack came along, I'd put him in the buggy and push him all the way up.

Our biggest problem was that we were buying a home, paying on an old car, and trying to get our doctor bill paid,
and then he [Mr. Alberts] was off work, and I remember the Relief Society President came down one time and she said, 'Sister Alberts, you've got to have help.' And I said, 'Oh no, as long as we can keep our baby fed, I'd never take help from anybody.' And we made out. But it was really a struggle. I can't accept help from anybody. ...

For recreation, we could go down to a show. And I think my little baby was six months old, and I had never been anywhere. If we went to a show, we paid a babysitter. And then we'd walk all the way up and all the way back, and that's all we could afford. The show cost about twenty-five cents or fifty cents I guess. We had the bus that run right in front of our house but we just didn't have the money. ... I think our boy was about a year old. We were going to a dance and I got me a new dress and new shoes. Then Mr. Alberts got sick so we couldn't go. But my sister and her husband used to come over quite often, and we played pollyanna a lot. That was about the only recreation we had.

Mrs. A. Parley Bates was a housewife during the depression years, and although her husband had a steady job, she was still very frugal in the management of her affairs.

We lived on sixteenth street and the car fare was five cents. If we wanted to go to a show, we were close enough to walk, although it was quite a long way. We used to walk because we felt that we couldn't afford the five cents. I know that what little we could save during the winter, we spent all of it during the summer, and we would have just enough to carry us the first month because we were paid on a nine-month basis then, and not a twelve-month basis. We always had plenty to eat; we always had a car; we didn't have any debt except possibly a payment on a car sometimes.

I was not teaching during the depression. I did not teach until the 40's. I taught before I was married, but then in the early 30's, they would not let women work if their husbands were working. Only one could work. ...

I did most of my own sewing and canning. They didn't have prepared products like they do now, or I might have bought more. Well, I know for one thing that you didn't get along without debts unless you were very careful how you spent. We didn't have any surplus, and most of our friends were the same I think. ...

He [Mr. Bates] worked on Saturdays while he was going to school
in Logan. He worked at Skaggs on Saturday for $5.00 a day, and he worked seventeen hours. And you weren't allowed to sit down even if there weren't any customers. ...

I don't know, maybe school teachers fared better than most of them ... because they usually had jobs. I think that generally, we fared as good as the average, and better than many because you did go back to your school every year if you were satisfactory. And people went back, even though you did have a low salary; you did have a job. ... We never had debts, and a lot of people went under. ... It seems to me that I remember where there were quite a few vacant houses. I think maybe people were moving around, or had lost their homes. They were vacant for quite a few years. It started in '29 through pretty much until the war work gave employment. So there was a good ten years. ...

Mrs. J. Levi Deus was a housewife during the depression years, and the mother of small children.

We always had a few dairy cattle and we grew hay and grain, and then we had a few row crops, tomatoes and beets. During that time, with the tomato crop, we had a blight which was discouraging too, and caused quite a bit of trouble for us because during that time there was a white lice, something, came in and the people in this area had trouble with that. You know, it wilted, the crop, and we couldn't harvest the crop and that added some to the difficulty that we had during the time of the depression. ... We were here on the farm and prices went very low. ... The things that we had to sell were very cheap. But we just kind of took it in our stride as we felt there was nothing we could do about it, so we just didn't let it bother us too much as far as that goes. Like maybe some people that were really involved with the stocks and in the stock market probably were, but we were just starting out, and we weren't. We were caught quite poor anyway, so we had just started out on this farm. Of course, it made it difficult to raise the money to pay the interest and mortgage payments with the low prices we got for the produce we had to sell. ... I didn't go to the hospital with the first one [baby]. ... When I did go, it wasn't much more than [$30.00]. ...

The [the towns people] were really quite willing to celebrate and willing to do their part to make it [the fourth of July] an occasion. It was sort of a tradition for them to do these things,
and they were pretty loyal to this tradition and their county. They would have a little Hooper band, and they would talk about raising the flag pole, which was quite an event. But anyway, they had a band; and they'd go around early in the morning and they had a cannon, and they'd set off the cannon early, at sunrise, and raise the flag. Then this bank would get on a truck, and they'd go around the town and play to wake people up. And then they would have a patriotic program, and they'd have an orator. And they'd have music and different things on the program, and then they would have a ball game and foot races and sack races and competitions for young people and older people too. ... Of course, they would have a concession area, and they'd sell pop corn, ice cream, and soda pop, and this sort of thing. Then they'd have horse pulling contests. As the tractors came on, they would have them come out on display. And pulling the horses was quite a feat because the people took great pride in their horses, and they were really well matched and harnessed and clipped. It was usually quite a sight to see these people in these contests perform. And then they had many local talents. I remember the old [male] quartet that used to sing. ...

Of course we lived on the farm, ... we had cows and hay and grain. We used to grow our own grain and take it to the mill and exchange it for flour. We had milk and butter and cheese and could grow vegetables and things like that ourselves. Of course, there were things we had to buy. We planted fruit trees quite early and had that ourselves during a lot of that time. But I got along very well; I could sew, and I could pick out [material]. And at that time, material was very reasonable, and I could make over old things, but then the hardest thing to do was to get the money to pay taxes and interest and things like that. Clothing and things like that were difficult to obtain too much of, but we didn't demand too much because in those times we just couldn't do a lot of that. ...

When children are small, they're hard on shoes. And we'd get them a pair of shoes each, and then they'd have to wear them for everyday and for best, too. ... On Saturday night, we'd have to wash shoes out and stuff them and dry them and polish them and get them ready for Sunday. And it was a problem because we couldn't go buy shoes so they could have maybe two pair each. ...

Our second child, Ona, was born on the sixth of January. It was a winter that was so cold, and the snow had been plowed up so that you couldn't see over the top of it in the roads. ... The night that she was born, it went down to about fifteen degrees below zero. Dr. Morrell made the trip out here. He didn't get here in time for the baby. She was born before he could get here,
but he came, I'll tell you that was quite a drive. ... It got so cold that night. Even though we closed up the bedroom and made my bedroom in here in the living room, the windows froze right up to the top, and they didn't thaw out for two weeks. Then of course the houses weren't insulated like they are today. It was quite a cold night, and here he [Dr. Morrell] came.

Mrs. Zina Cottle was a housewife during the depression years, and the mother of teenage children.

... it was hard. You just had to count every penny that you could get a hold of, and the kids couldn't have clothes like they have now. But everybody was alike, so we got by. But it was a happy time in a way, but it was hard. ... our children and all the children were close to home. They didn't have this to go to and that to go to and all kinds of money to get them into trouble. ... They just made their own fun. They danced every week and things of that kind, and they all seemed to be happy about it. ... Every Saturday night in the old hall down there they had dances, and they came from far and near to the dances. They had huge crowds. And they danced at Christmas time—they danced every night but Sunday night. ...

I made all the clothes for the children and myself. You couldn't buy things like you do now. We had to start right from the bottom, and they wore so many more clothes then than they do now that you make every stitch they wore.

Our transportation was limited. There was a bus that came down; a Hooper man, Mr. Fowers, used to take a bus about once or twice a week over to town. And we'd go over and back, and that's the way we had to get around. ... I think it was fifty cents a trip. ...

He [Mr. Cottle] always raised potatoes. We always had potatoes. We always kept a pig—not too much beef—but we had milk cows. So we had plenty of milk, and fruit was quite plentiful. We bottled a lot of fruit and jelly and jam. ...

We had a girl that was in an accident. She was hurt quite bad [she] had her leg broken and her wrist, and nose, and [she] had eleven stitches across her eyes, and it took a lot of money. She spent two months and two weeks [in the hospital], and we couldn't pay it all off at one time. But the hospital was very nice to us and we paid it off. We made twenty separate payments and that's what we did to pay the bill off. ...
I have made the remark ... that things come too easy for children. All they've got to do is just ask for money. ... I don't think that's good for them. And I think when you get things the hard way, you appreciate them more.

Mrs. Brad II. Paul was a housewife during the depression years, and had to help her husband with their store while he found outside employment.

He used to open at seven in the morning and stay open until eleven at night, then he shortened the hours a little bit. ... I don't think the depression ever bothered Brad as much as it did me. Because he'd been poor, he knew what it was to be poor. And mother takes care of the children and hears all their wants and everything. ... During the summer, it got as hot as 106 degrees up in that apartment, and we didn't have any grass around it. I used to sit out on the side step at night when he'd work 'till all hours of the night, and I'd bawl because it was just too hot, and I didn't know what to do. Dad used to say, 'You've got a good man; you've got a good man; don't complain.' ... He really didn't do anything but work in that store and go to church. ... I think when I read Gone With The Wind, I was like Scarlet O'Hara; I just made up my mind I'd never be without; I'd never be broke again. It was me that started up the bank account when we started to do better; it was me that bought the lot to build this house. ... I was so angry over the depression, I just made up my mind that we would never be broke again. ...

"I'd have brothers that, while I'd sit out on that side step, they'd take their families up in the evenings to picnic in the canyon, while we just had to stay home. We had a car, but the darn thing, we'd start out with my brother, Wilford, but we couldn't get anywhere away from home because the car would boil, and we'd just have trouble. He could have gone anywhere in his car, but he'd stick around with us. ...

I don't think my girls ever had a new dress. Everything they had was something I had made over from something I had had, until I didn't have anything. ...
Mrs. Amanda Widdison was a housewife during the depression years and during that time, her husband died.

We were in bad circumstances; we, of course could pay for part of our house, but we had to have a home owner loan for the rest of it. Thank goodness for that; that was a lifesaver. Of course, it took us years to make it up, but we had a big family, and the mail carriers in those days didn't have the big wages that they do now. ...

Of course, we could raise some of our food. But our clothing, we had to buy all of it. So I guess maybe the clothing would have been the biggest problem. But they didn't have a lot of clothes like the kids do these days; they had not any more clothes—they weren't naked, but they didn't follow styles. ...

We didn't have any farm; by the time we came here, this was all the property we had. We raised a garden. ... We went into the chicken business a little but not a lot. We had a couple of cows, so we had our own milk and eggs and a pig or two when we could. But when the boys had to go in the service, then we had to do away with the chickens. ... It got to where the prices of eggs and the price of chickens would go down, and the price of feed was really high. Of course, we had to buy almost all of our feed, so we just had to get rid of the chickens. ...

They [her sons] weren't like the boys of today. They'd go do anything that anybody had to have done. They would thin beets, they would hoe beets, they would pick tomatoes, they would go haul hay, and they would help with the threshing. ...

Outside of the entertainment that we had down here in the ward, the entertainment was very little. ... Once or twice a year, if there was a right good show on, we might break down and go to a show. But our entertainment was very scarce. After Willard saved to get a car, a Model T, we had a relative in Cache Valley, in Paradise, we used to go to see once a year, and that was quite a celebration to get to go that far. And sometimes maybe a little short ride somewhere on Sunday afternoon, or some other day of the week, we might go for a little ride in the evening, but as far as entertainment, it was very scarce. ...

We'd go over to the twenty fourth of July parade, and that was about the biggest celebration. Of course, when the parade was over, we'd come home. There wasn't anything else to do because we didn't have enough money to take the kids to the rodeo or any-thing of that kind. Of course, in that day, a lot of people didn't have very much entertainment outside of their home or ward, and we used to have better entertainment in the wards then we do now. ...
Summary

The housewife seemed to have a very keen appreciation of what her husband went through during the depression in trying to provide for his family. Most housewives praised the efforts of their husbands in spite of the sacrifices which they had to make to meet the demands of the depression.

The wife viewed the depression from a slightly different prospective than did the husband. For the most part, the chief concern of these women seemed to be the ability of their husbands to take care of themselves and procure sufficient means to take care of the family's needs.

Most of the housewives who had the opportunity available to them canned and bottled unbelievable quantities of fruits and vegetables, the farmer's wife worked in the fields with her husband when necessary. Almost all the housewives stated that they made over old clothes for their children. One stated that any type of material was cheap and that she could sew for a very small sum of money and make clothing for her family.

The housewives learned to be a bit innovative with the needs of their families. One stated that she made eggless cakes and meatless stews and learned to do with less expensive ingredients in all that she prepared.
CHAPTER XI

THE PHYSICIAN

Most every story has its hero. The saga of the depression is no exception. The man who received the greatest applause from his fellow sufferers was the physician. He was characterised as an unselfish person who worked a regular ten hour day, then remained on call the other fourteen hours. Frequently, with very little hope of any financial reward, his service was not withheld nor diminished because of the dim prospect of financial gain. His dedication to his profession and the people who looked to him for help was almost unbelievable in light of today's business practices.

Dr. Wesley H. Anderson completed his internship in Ogden in 1936 and worked for one year before going back to specialize. He had so much work during that one year that even though his percentage of collection was low, he still made $9,000 in one year.

I interned at the Dee Hospital in 1935 and 1936 and started to practice. I practiced here in Ogden for one year. I practiced with the railroad. [I] was the physician for both the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroad systems, was head Physician for Weber College, carried on a private practice in town, and took most everybody's practice while they were on vacation. This was in the depression years, so a lot of the doctors went on vacation. And then in 1937, after practicing for one year, I left for the University of Chicago for a residency in pediatrics. ...
The problem I suppose then, as now, [was] we had actually too much to do, especially in my case. I started out—we started out; [we] got married shortly after I finished my internship—and started out on our honeymoon and got as far as a ranch up in Kamas Valley. We were going up through the northwest, and I was called there by a doctor in Magna who was head of the smelter operations for Kennecott for the Magna smelters. So we didn't go on our honeymoon. I went to the smelters and worked there six weeks while he was on vacation and left my wife home to live with her folks. So we didn't take a honeymoon. After practicing there for six weeks, I came to Ogden and went into practice with Dr. Morrell and worked there for a year. So I really didn't have any problems starting off. I was so busy.

It almost killed me off that first year, I worked day and night, I worked for everyone that went on vacation. I was quite well known here because of our group of interns. I was the only one who stayed in Ogden, and I had a lot of friends. Dr. Bartlett and some of the leading doctors took vacations. It was the depression, and they wanted to get away. I delivered more babies in Ogden that year than any other doctor and got paid for practically nothing because I left on a residency and it was a depression time. And in those days, a delivery fee was $35.00, and I didn't average $5.00 or $10.00. I'd deliver both in the home and the hospital. Very often we'd deliver four babies per night.

I remember we joined a couple of clubs here. We tried to go to a movie. ... I didn't get to see one movie all through that year. We didn't get to one party where I could stay completely through. So I was very happy to get out of town after one year. However, ... I left Mrs. Anderson to clean up the debts. I think we landed in Chicago with about $9,000, which was pretty good for depression times, for one year and just starting out. ... I didn't collect for a third of the work I did. ...

House calls in those days—I used to make a number of house calls—would be $3.00-$5.00, office calls were $3.00. ... We've always lived quite conservatively. I'm sure all the doctors who went through the depression are very conservative—no big boats, etcetera. We built a little swimming pool [after World War II] the first one in Ogden. It was supposed to cost us $1,500. It ended up costing us $3,500. But other than that, we drive our cars longer and try to buy better cars than most of these young fellows. ... I imagine most of the doctors knew how to manage their affairs. I don't think any of them had any financial problems that I remember around that time. ...
Dr. Frank K. Bartlett was a well-established physician in Ogden when the depression began.

... along in the early '20's, people began to invest in the stock market. I remember that distinctly. I would put some money in Continental Oil of New Jersey, ... and the oils were just coming into their own, and they were doing well. Westinghouse, I remember, was selling around $100. It went down to $17.00. Gosh, we were just about broke; everybody's investments in the stock market went down to just about nothing. You know, it hit us in two big waves ... . They said, 'Well, it won't go any further.' Then it was down again as far. And so people were very very skeptical about stocks. There were some good buys if you had the money, but you couldn't get the money. ...

There wasn't a house being built in Ogden at that time, not one house. The architects were starving. ... And I bought this lot up here from Kelly Goddard for $2,500. It was paved; it had the sewer and water into it, and built this nice home here for practically nothing. ... You couldn't build it for $75,000 today, or much under $100,000. It cost me $17,000 to build this home. Everybody wanted to dig the basement; everybody wanted to plaster. I carpeted the whole house. Here's the same carpet that I put in over forty years ago for $1,000. ... And that shows you how things had depreciated in value.

Nobody was selling anything; nobody was doing any business at all, because all the value of your equities in business and industry just simply dropped to nothing. ... No more honest President than he [Hoover] was that ever lived. It wasn't that the opposite party, the Democrats, blamed it on Hoover. But it was a world-wide depression. ... And I think I have the stock book that I had at that time, just to show you how things dropped down. ...

And the railroads at that time carried passengers. ... And passengers were a big part of their revenue. The trains were elaborate. People who were traveling wore great big diamonds, and the service on the trains was immaculate and luxurious, just as it is today in Africa on the train that goes from Kimberly to Cape Town. But now you go into a local depot, and it's flea-bitten, dirty, unoccupied. All the business is freight. ...

Now as far as the medical business was concerned, people were sick then just like they are now, and we had to take care of them. And I did. I was a young man, anxious to build up my business. And if anyone called me at three o'clock in the morning, if he lived across the tracks, I went whether I got my money or not. A lot of people didn't get anything to me because they
didn't have it. But that didn't make any difference. But you won't get a doctor now to go out at three o'clock in the morning. He'd say, 'Get him to the hospital, and I'll see him in the morning.' It's a different attitude entirely. Since the government has interfered so much in the practice of medicine, we have had a great change in the attitude of the doctors toward their practice. It was a doctor-patient relationship all up until the last ten years. Since then, it's gradually become a function of the government to take care of everybody's illness almost. ...

I wouldn't buy anything on the margin. If I had the money, I bought it. That's why I built this house. I had $12,000 in the bank, cash, and with it, along with what I could earn for the next year or two, I paid for the whole thing. ...

Dr. Clyde Winslow Fields came to Ogden to begin his dental practice in 1929. He was heavily in debt as a result of his schooling and didn't have time to get any financial security before the depression took hold. He had some difficult years as a result of his initial situation.

I opened my office on the fifteenth of August [1929], and the crash hit in October. I was here in Ogden in the First Security Bank Building. I hadn't got started and I had a wife and twin babies. We'd come from Portland where I had been going to school, and when we got here, we knew that she was going to have twins, and we were completely financially broke. We had no money; we borrowed money from my sister to open an office and take the State Board. ... Even though in that summer it was a boom time, I started in the middle of August, and [I] had all expenses and no income. I think that I collected $550 gross between August and January [1930], but my expenses were much more. It looked pretty good starting in Ogden, and then the crash came. They kept saying, 'It won't last; it won't last; but it went on and on and on. But I didn't get any start before the crash came. ... I was in debt, heavily in debt, and it was really a struggle because money was very hard to get after the crash came. ...

... Some things were very sad situations because of the lack of care, and it was the days of prohibition. ... This added another facet that most people don't stop to realize. We had a number of people who were doing bootleg work who were out to get money, and
it later had a reflection that was very bad. ... If we found [a man] was a bootlegger, we would charge him a more excessive price. We had two or three reasons for that, in the first place, we figured he made his money illegally, the second reason was that we never knew if we were going to have him the next day or not because he might be in jail, and the third reason was that they had the money when nobody else did. ... And they [the people] did neglect their work, so that bridge work, anything that way, just the bare essentials, and sometimes not even that. ... I had a man come into my office who was on what was known as the W. P. A. at that time, and he brought his wife in with a terrific toothache. ... He said, 'I can't afford to pay you,' ... 'You can take the tooth out; you don't have to deaden it.' ... I couldn't take that woman's tooth out without deadening it, so I deadened it. ... I said, 'Well, if you get to where you can pay me, let me know,' because I was having a hard time. I was even having a hard time buying milk for my twin babies. And I could hardly tell which tooth it was because they were all so bad, and I didn't know which tooth was aching, and I couldn't afford to go very far myself. So I took the tooth out that she said was aching, and looking at the rest of them I thought that she would soon be back for more. I didn't know, and within another month, she was back again with another toothache, and the same story--'Oh, I can't afford to pay you.' And I couldn't see the woman suffer that way, so I went ahead and took it out. The next month he came in and he had a toothache. And she was in the hospital, and he couldn't stand a toothache, so he had gone down and bought him a fifth of whiskey from the bootleggers. Well, that made me furious. He could buy the whiskey, but he couldn't pay for his wife's tooth to be pulled. So I made him pay then; I made him pay it all, and I told him I wouldn't do his teeth unless he did. ...

We used to do all kinds of things; we used to trade dental work for services, for groceries, and things like that, and this was often very unsatisfactory because one felt the other was taking advantage of them, and in some cases it may have been the dentist taking advantage of the patient. ... It was far more satisfactory where the cash was handled. Even though we may trade with the individual, grocers would come to us and want work done. We would do it in trade for groceries. Well sometimes I found that in some cases, ... when the groceries were delivered, they were mediocre, poor fresh vegetables, fresh groceries, and they'd come that way to the home. And I'd ask my wife to call them up and trade the bill off, and they'd bring stuff that was really unsatisfactory, not fit to use sometimes. This was a common thing. And of course it made the dentist want to stuff his work, and yet we were held by the law. If we did stuff it, that would come to us in a lawsuit, and this was a touchy thing. However, there were those who were perfectly straight
and honest in all their dealings, but we were still always suspicious, and they were too. ...

We were having a struggle making our payments and paying our rent. ... So we had a meeting with the owners of the building and told them that we just couldn't afford to keep on going this way. They couldn't afford to lower the rent; they were running the building in debt. They had a heavy debt to pay off, and they couldn't afford to cut the rent. So then the owners said they would try to divide their medical and dental work up amongst the tenants of the buildings. ... Patients were needed, wanted, and where there was any possibility of getting money, naturally you struggled to get it. ...

I remember quite a bit about the Ogden State Bank because they had certain involvements with me in an indirect way. It was a bank which everyone likes, and the friendship and the friendliness in there was good. But when it suddenly crashed. It was a severe blow because many people had what little they had in there. This was true of both farmers and professional men, and it really hit them hard. The laws were not strict like they are now, and the legal profession went in there and helped straighten it out. ... It was really a hard blow because sheep were running wild up here [on the mountainside]. The bank had money on them, and the law was trying to foreclose on them. The sheep owners couldn't pay it, so they [the bankers] had to send men out to try and take care of them. And some of them were just running rampant because there was nobody to take care of the sheep. It finally began to resolve itself, but people lost heavily, and it caused a lot of feelings. ...

At that time, there was no minimum wage paid girls. I had girls come in my office and work for me. The first one came in and offered to work just for the experience so that she could get a job. They didn't ask for any pay. Finally because of the stress, and I think the moral condition was such, that they took advantage of it. We found out that problems occurred more in the business than in the medical and dental profession. They took advantage of some of these girls because they needed help and they needed work, and they had to almost sell themselves in order to get a job. It was not so prevalent here as it was in some other areas. We got the reports all right, but there was some here. But there were too many here with a higher moral standard. But we still had plenty that were not. Now I had some here that I would get the money from. I said to one of them, 'How come you can afford to buy gas stations for your boys and give them jobs?' I had an idea that he was connected with the bootlegging. But when I started asking him questions, he told me frankly where he got it, and I realized that bootlegging was just a side issue. There was more money in the prostitution. ...
Hoover was a straight-laced Quaker, and my feeling was that he was handicapped because he didn't have the freedom to operate that was later given to Roosevelt. When the crash came, you could see that he tried hard to get the Federal Reserve Bank to give more credits to get business back on its feet. When he lost the election because of it, they blamed him for it, and I don't think he was anymore to blame than anyone else. He tried to get Roosevelt to send someone else to the White House—they didn't want to close the banks. He didn't want to, and he could see what was going to happen. He asked Roosevelt to send a representative to help him and see if they couldn't get the Federal Reserve to cooperate, and Roosevelt refused to cooperate. So by the time Roosevelt got in, things had deteriorated so bad that he had to close the banks. I personally think that it would never have had to be done if he had sent someone there in the first place to carry it on. But Hoover was a strict disciplinarian, and he wanted to carry on and live the law, and he wanted to do what was right. Roosevelt got in, and immediately, they gave him a blank check. The whole phase of it changed and the Republicans were swept out, and the Democrats went in. They'd been out for quite a while, and they were glad to promise the people anything. The people were so desperate that they grabbed onto any promises that came up. He was a shrewd and clever politician, and he tried to soothe the people with the fireside chats. But basically, I think if he had gone in there as he had been asked by Hoover, he could have stopped the closing of the banks and forestalled a lot of the problems that came later. ... The Federal Reserve Bank tried later. But it had gone so far by that time that it really caused further deterioration until the war started in Europe, which started the upturn in business on a war basis, not on an internal reconstruction. They were having too many problems with pouring money in too many directions, and people were taking advantage of it. ...

When the war came, we started selling. When it began in Europe, we sold to those countries on a cash basis. That started a trend because they were buying. We got more and more onto a war basis, and we became more involved in the war ourselves. It became a war of prosperity, it was not prosperity within itself. This was very evident to me, and many others. We had expected because the government had been priming the pump, but it didn't prime. Then the war came along, and from then on, things started picking up. ... Then they started putting boys into the service. And heretofore fellows trying to get into the dental profession were trying to get into the service because they were guaranteed an income according to their commission. ... More industry was picking up because of it, and they started these installations out here, and then of course it started to rush. ...
I know a number of people [who were associated with twenty-fifth street activities], and some of them lived up in this area, that worked down there, and they were among the prosperous people. And bootlegging was doing a lot, and some of the people who owned buildings down there were getting good rental off the building. They claimed they didn't know what was going on down there. This was brought out in investigations later on when they finally tried to close up a lot of this stuff on twenty-fifth street. ...

I had a man come in and he had gotten in a fight there [on twenty-fifth street] and had broken his front tooth. The more I talked to him, I assumed he was a bootlegger. ... I didn't want to soak him if he wasn't, if he was an honest man. I knew they were having their problems. But if he was a bootlegger, I wanted my money. So I kind of fished around, but I couldn't get out of him what he really did. He was manager of one of the clubs down on twenty-fifth street. Well, that gave me a clue, and I told him what a new bridge would cost him, and it was about three times what I would have normally charged. And he said, 'Well, you just get started on it.' I told him it was a cash job because we had learned that if we didn't get the cash from them at the time you did the job, they would be in jail, and you couldn't get it. So I went on to work on him, and I got my money all right, and I finished the job, and two days later, he was picked up for owning a house of prostitution and was banished from the state. ...

... A lot of people did [their own shoe repair]. They would do anything, and try to fix anything up that they could. ... You could go into Woolworth's and ... buy a rubber patch that you could glue on your shoes. It was hard for them to do it, and they didn't do as good a job, but they did a service. ... People wore cheaper clothing. ... Sometimes they would look quite nice and try hard to keep it nice. It wouldn't last long because they were buying everything cheaper. Anybody that came out with anything cheaper, people tried it. ... Lots of times they got bit on it because they got things that were too cheap for the money they put into it. ...

... I would say at that time that people learned a little more self-reliance. They learned to work, they learned to be more dependable in the things that they did, and they tried to do more for themselves. I think also they learned to be more cooperative and helpful toward one another. ... We were all in this boat together. People were more willing to cooperate because they couldn't do it otherwise. There was more of a spirit of friendliness. Of course as I say, there were exceptions. ... The Wards [in the L. D. S. Church] tried every way they could to bring the people together because otherwise it was very depressing. It was a depression both in spirit and in financial because people were hurt. People did more and got together and tried to help them out. It was a period
of trying to organize. I think that the Wards in the church soon found out what they had to do because heretofore they had been depending upon commercialism--business--to do these things. But now the people couldn't afford the commercial, and they had to cooperate or they'd die. ... 

Dr. Joseph V. Morrell began his practice in 1907 and was the Physician to the Railroads. During the depression he had his salary reduced by 50 percent.

I was a surgeon for all the railroads here in Ogden at that time. ... My particular problem of course was the scarcity of doctors in Ogden at that time. ... I was employed mostly at that time by the railroad companies--there were three of them--and while I did do a little general practice, I was employed most of the time with my railroad work. That occupied my time pretty generally. And the noticeable thing for me was that their business, as well as the general business in the community, had been very limited. They reduced their wages by 50 percent which made difficult going for me because it still consumed all of my time. ...

Salaries at that time were low anyhow, and my income from my medical practice at that time was never enough to satisfy all of our needs. We had a growing family and it became pretty tough. ... Incomes for everybody was very definitely limited. It made tough going for all classes in the community. Prices of goods were very low, but you didn't have anything to buy with. But it did mean that while we were still trying to get started, we would buy what we needed at a low price even though it became very difficult. I had a considerable amount of life insurance, and I sacrificed a considerable amount of that to buy some oriental rugs, like we have on the floor here. We covered the floors with them which in the meantime [was] a great convenience for us. ... We tried to buy although we had to sacrifice. But in the end, it was a very good investment for us. ...

The collection of money during the depression period was just zero. The only money that I collected was what I got in the way of salary. But salaries were limited to amounts of I believe $125.00 a month from two of the railroads and the third one $50.00 a month. So the total was only about $300.00 a month. And I had to furnish everything out of that. So everybody suffered. ...
got vegetables and fruit, particularly fruit. Prices were low however, so it was not difficult to live if you had some income. But during that time, I sacrificed about $15,000 in life insurance and made it possible to get food.

Dr. J. Edward Rich was one of the most popular doctors during the depression times. He had some difficult times financially because collections were so poor.

It was a trying time for the doctors. They all had certain costs of operation, and the income of the doctors dropped off so radically. I know in my own experience that where I was probably collecting maybe 90 percent of the fees that were outstanding, ..., it dropped off to where I was probably only collecting 10 percent of them. In fact, some months I had difficulty paying my nurse and paying my overhead. ... People were just unable to pay for the service that was rendered. We were working harder than ever because it seemed like there was more work at that time, and a person couldn't do anything other than render the service and put the charge on the books and hope that some time the person might be able to pay. But the question was getting enough income to take care of the fixed commitments and expenditures that one had to meet. Some months, it was actually operating in the red. You were not only working for nothing, you were digging into what little reserve you had to meet the expenses and keep going. ...

Some of the professional men were having their nurses deliver statements within a near radius rather than put out money to pay the postage ... because ... the amount of postage that was expected became prohibitive considering the income that was coming in. Many of the things that we resorted to with just the idea of keeping going because at that time, rents were a kind of fixed expenditure, and other things, they didn't vary much, and it was a problem. A lot of charitable work was being done. A lot of home work being done.

More operating in the offices, that could be done because the people just didn't have the means of paying the hospital. I imagine that the hospitals also were creating a good deal of credit and putting accounts on the books that previously were paid for by cash so that everything was in a very precarious position.

A lot of professional men had opened trading accounts. Not only professional men, but others were operating on a margin
account, which at that time was about 10 percent. A person had to put about 10 percent money for the total cost of purchase and carry the account on margin. And then when the stock market began to drop of course, why every few points, the broker would call for more money to maintain the 10 percent spread. And as a result, it finally got to the point where a person couldn't put up the money. They had to let the stock go, and they'd lose everything that they had in it. A corrective thing came along later whereby they had to put up a greater amount, 50 percent or even 100 percent margin. ... Naturally, they were protected against their own vice, so to speak. ...

Professional men, many of them, would buy into the exchange market rather than buy land ... because it's an easy way of doing it. It doesn't require a good deal of outside management and distraction from their practice. ... People who owed money for stocks were just hopelessly wiped out. But the person that owned the stocks out-right, ..., and those who could hold them through the whole thing were not particularly hurt because it turned out to be a paper loss. But the one great lesson of the depression years in borrowing, whether it was stocks or property or anything else, was the fact that if you owned it out-right, you couldn't be hurt, but if you owned it on a margin and owed the banks for it, then of course is where you could be wiped out and be hurt because you had a two-way spread. For instance, if a person had a loan at the bank and had gone ahead and borrowed money to buy some commodity or some stock, or some property or so on, and he put what he thought at that time was just absolutely gold, maybe Triple A Bonds and then one would never figure that the bonds would ever--maybe at the worst go below 90--why some of these bonds that were put up as collateral went down maybe as low as $25.00 on the hundred. And it was a matter of a two-way spread. Not only was the value of the thing you bought going down, but the value of the collateral that you put up was going down so that you had a two-way spread.

And it was more difficult at that time to raise money. The banks at that time during the hayday of '29 were encouraging people to take loans. When things got tough though, ... they began to tighten down, ..., when the loan was made--oh no, this is fine--they required you to put up a little collateral. Then during the depression years, as it got tougher, the banks got tougher. ... They called for more and more collateral until finally a fellow only had the gold left in his teeth to put up, and all he could do was say well, there it is, and the banks of course went ahead and threw the collateral on the market and it just forced prices down, down, down. And that was the thing, the panic of all this that caused it. But it was very difficult on the profession. ...
One doctor here in Ogden had a very large investment in some Nevada Ranches. In 1928, he could have sold those out for about $300,000. ... He wound up letting it all go because he couldn't pay the $2.00 assessment on the stock. He lost the whole thing. So ... many doctors were hurt, and some doctors in the profession were having such a hard time of it that the society had to kind of come to their aid, by the doctors that were getting along fairly well putting up a little fund each month to kind of carry them over and keep them in business and let them keep their self-respect, and tide them through this difficult time. ... You took shortcuts that you'd never dream of before to conserve your capital and your outlay. ... At that time, it was so difficult to know the exact status of the individual that you were treating. ... We hired an individual who was tickled to get the work because there were so many out of work. ... We hired him to personally visit the people who were not making any payment whatsoever to ascertain their circumstances and whether or not they could make some small payment in the way of money or even in the way of goods. ... It worked out very satisfactorily for us. ... I say "us" because at that time, I was associated with my father, Dr. Edward I. Rich in a partnership. And that helped because we got an exact and intimate knowledge of the family's condition and if they couldn't, well they couldn't, and you went along rendering the same aid. And as I say, with the hope that eventually, they might be able to make some payment on the account. ...

Of course, the closing of the Ogden State Bank had a distinctive shocking affect upon our local community here. It was really the first thing I think that brought home the seriousness of the depression at that time. There was a good deal of information in the papers about the situation through the East. ... The people became so apprehensive that this run started on the Ogden State Bank. People just all of a sudden decided that they ought to get their money and put it in a sock instead of leaving it in the bank. When the run started on the Ogden State Bank, it was probably one of the older and more stable banks. ... It had ... done a lot of service for the community. It had probably been a little more liberal than many of the other banks in granting loans to ranchers and stockmen and the long-range loan plan, where the loan can't be readily liquidated. As a result of having a disproportionate amount of their loanable funds out in this type of loan, ... then this run started. ... They found it difficult to convert these loans into cash adequate to meet the demands of the depositors. ... They appealed to the First Security Bank. The First Security Bank was the Federal Bank and was having difficulty
of its own. In fact, just after the closing of the Ogden State Bank, it had a run. The fact that the First Security Bank was able to tell them to line up for your money, and we'll pay all of you, why it kind of quelled it down. There was a big meeting in the lobby of the bank in which the President of the bank reassured them and said that the money was there, and all they had to do was line up and get it and they kind of put the quietness on the run and established some form of sense in the public. But the Ogden State Bank went ahead and tried to meet these demands and ran out of cash and couldn't raise any more. ... As a result, they closed up and went into a forced liquidation of their assets. In spite of that, they paid off practically 100 percent. I know that I was a depositor in the bank, and as I recall, I received all of my money which was in a checking account at the end of about a year and a half of liquidation. But they sold out assets at probably 10 percent or 15 percent of their real value under a forced liquidation program. And it was too bad because the bank need never have closed. They had assets of two or three times to one, but they just couldn't convert them. ... It was not just the banks that were having the problem in assets and in getting liquid, the same thing pertained to individuals. I know that at the time prior to the 1929 crash, when everything was favorable and everyone was skyrocketing prices and outbidding each other for anything, especially in the way of securities, that a person didn't hesitate at all to go into debt to buy securities because they were sold on the idea that they were 100 percent gilt edged. And so many people were encouraged and now I feel that the bankers were somewhat at fault for this because they encouraged people to come in and take loans on collateral that probably wasn't nearly adequate after things got worse. ... 

... The one thing that I learned was never to buy anything on borrowed money. ... Even nationally, the people became more conservative from the standpoint of venturing into the unknown, and to go through this experience. I think that it has paid off, personally, many times over. Because it has changed my whole thinking about investments, about what is [and] isn't worthwhile, and the true values in life. [It] made our economics of life more clear, ... Our depression was just the aftermath of all these things that happened overseas and so on.

... I've always said that Hoover was just such an unfortunate man to have gone in [as President] when he did. This was the backwash of the whole world-wide affair for which he got blamed. He was probably our most able, intelligent, and best educated man that we've ever had in the Presidency. ... After he was defeated in the election, he called upon Roosevelt to come
in and jointly work with him on this, and Roosevelt sent back there and wouldn't help in any way and wouldn't consent do any-
thing, even though Hoover said ... that any credit would go to Roosevelt. All he wanted was to stop all this sort of thing. But Roosevelt wouldn't even give a recommendation or even meet with President Hoover. He wouldn't even accept an invita-
tion to meet with him until after he went into office. And when he [Roosevelt] was officially in office, then ... he took his first steps to start correction of the things which should have been done several months before. ...

Everybody of course economized. ... During the early days of the depression, it made such an impact on people's minds that even after things got going along fairly well, there was this extreme reversal, instead of the tendency to spending as prior to the depression, which partly accounted for the big boom and everything. People retracted and there was a tendency not to spend normally, ..., since many people had that debt still hang-
ing over their heads from things they lost, rather than go into bankruptcy, many of them were working to pay off, and as a result, a lot of money that people were finally making when they had jobs and were doing very well was going toward repaying things that had been carried on credit during those lean years. ... As a result, the economy was rather slow coming back even though the government was pumping money into all these public works. ... But it always reminded me of how a group of cattle can be panicked. But after the big flare is over and solved, then you begin to repair the damage that never would need to have been done in the first place. ...

Along about 1934, and 1935, things began to go pretty good. ... Then we had a depression which in many ways was probably even more severe than the depression of the early 30's. ... That was in 1937 that things got bad again. ... Because of the fact that the people had been conditioned to this sort of thing. They didn't panic, they didn't stampede. ... As a result, some phases of the economy didn't realize that we were in the severe depression of 1937. But actually, we never recovered from the depression until World War II came along. ... Then the spending on arma-
ments and the preparation for war and the furnishing of other countries ... [with commodities] to such an extend that we finally pulled out of it. ...

But I think that it was a long drawn out affair in recovery because of the readjustment of the people. People had lost their homes and lost their ranches ... because of being in debt. ... [They] moved to other parts of the country, ... took up ... other businesses, ... vocations, or professions. ... And as a result, it was a great period in the country of readjustment at that time.
Maybe as a result of all of it, it was for the better, like going through the fire and coming out a bit purified. ... But it was an experience, ... not so much one of fear and panic as it was one of slow tough rebuilding...

I feel that the group that was probably least affected were those that were rural and [were] living off the land. Their pattern of living was not affected as much as the person who was depending upon a salary check--the ability to buy things which became unavailable. Even though they might have been fortunate enough to continue in a job. ... The people who were living on the farm or ranch, while they maintained more of their own standard of living and were less affected unless their ranch or farm was taken away from the because of being in debt. ... But generally speaking I'd say the person living in the city was strapped more because of the basic elements of living that were harder and more difficult for them to get than the person who was on the ranch or the farm. In fact, some of them on the ranches and farms got along very well and were very little affected by the depression if they had escaped this debt, this 'death trap.' A lot of people economized.

There was very little travelling, very little unnecessary expenditure. In fact, people that previously liked to take a trip to the coast ... , if they took the trip at all ... --that ordinarily would take a bedroom suit--went chair car. ... This forced retrenchment was so profound. ... As a result, all it did was aggravate the overall spiral. And it was this sort of fear and panic that got us into the trouble. It wasn't that we didn't have everything that we had before, it was just that there was no circulation of profit. ...

I always answered a home call, especially as a younger man. ... These younger men did a lot of night calls; that made it possible for them to exist. They were glad to get them. ... In the hospitals at that time ... interns ... weren't paid anything except just board and room. That was all that a young doctor ever expected in the way of remuneration during the hospital years. ... Two dollars for an office visit and $4.00 for a home visit [was the fee]. ... That included any medicines ... that you left with the patient and any that were necessary to administer at the time. Night calls usually went up to $5.00 and $6.00. ...

While I was county physician back in the late '20's and early '30's ... is when we first started taking maternity cases into the hospital. I made arrangements with the hospital for a woman to go in for $30.00. That covered her entire hospital arrangement. Not only the delivery room charges were covered, but the drugs that were necessary, the antesthetic, her board and room for a ten-day period, which was the amount of time that we used to keep a maternity case, and also took care of the baby, and the operation
of the circumcision if that was indicated. ... It was sort of an overall, catch-all price that covered that. ... At that time, the doctor's fee was $30.00 for the care of the maternity case. ... That included the prenatal visit throughout the nine months of pregnancy, the delivery and care at the hospital, the care of the baby including circumcision, and the six weeks care afterward for both the mother and the baby. ... The depression didn't alter our charges; the only thing the depression altered was the fact that we didn't collect what we charged. But most deliveries at that time were done in the home. If you delivered them at home, the charge was no different than if they were done in the hospital. If you delivered them in the home, you furnished all the materials that they paid for at the hospital. But that was just part of the overall charge. ... I used to do a lot of tonsil work in the office, which a lot of doctors didn't do, but I did, just because father got me into the habit of doing it, and I continued on, even after it was kind of the acceptable procedure to do them in the hospital. Course a lot of these things are done there because the public has demanded it, not because it's better, but because they force certain things on the medical profession, and that is one reason for the higher prices is that a doctor doesn't dare do some of these things even though it's better and safer because if anything happened to them, why the public is suit conscious, and as a result, the public has made it so that they aren't getting the same care because a doctor won't venture for them, even where they haven't got a chance any other way, the doctor isn't going to do it.

Dr. Vernon L. Ward worked exclusively with obstetrics during the depression and charged a slightly higher than average fee for his services. Ironically, he had the least problem with collection and financial solvency of any of the doctors interviewed for this study.

... it [the depression] didn't have any effect on me because I had recently specialized and limited my work to obstetrics. My practice, as a result of that, was gaining every year. It was increasing. Since my fees were slightly higher than the general practitioner, I got the ones who could pay. And the people who came to the office who we thought would be under hardship to pay the fee, we'd refer to a general practitioner whose fees were less. There was a great deal of charity that had to be done in those days.
As I became busier and busier, my charity part of it consisted of free consultations. The other doctors who had difficult labors and most patients couldn't pay, had I been inclined to charge them. Very often the doctor would say, 'Well, this patient doesn't have much money,' and my reply to that was invariably, 'Well, I'm not charging them anything, that's up to you.

There was very little prenatal attention given to the pregnant woman. Very often she would find herself pregnant. He [the doctor] would say, 'Well, call me when you're in labor.' So that was the end of it. So it could well be that we were overpaid at that.

Along about the time of the crash, the fee for obstetrics I think had been raised to $35.00. And after I had limited my work to obstetrics, I think my fee was $50.00. But an interesting part of this was the hospital part of it. We used to keep our maternity patients in the hospital for two weeks at first. ... I happened to be head of the department at the Dee Hospital ... I think it was Mr. Roseness that was supervisor then, before Dr. Evans came. And he said, 'I can't collect anything since this depression thing. I can't collect anything from my maternity patients.' Well, I asked him how much would you have to collect in order to meet the expenses? And he said if these patients would pay $25.00, he could get by. That was for two weeks. So I suggested to him, 'O.K., you make it $25.00 in advance. ... When they go into the hospital, if they don't pay the $25.00 on admission and pay later, it's $35.00. So as a result, most of them paid the $25.00 and he began to collect. And he was about even until a few months later. He said, 'I'm not quite breaking even; we've got to do something, raise the fee, or something. ... I said, 'You can't raise the fee; you've committed yourself. Better cut down on the stay in the hospital. You know about what it costs a patient per day to stay in the hospital.' He said he had an idea. He said 'Cut it to 12 days,' and this process was repeated and we got it to ten days. And that goes to show you the difficulty that the people were in during the depression days in paying their hospital bills.

This may sound ... out in left field, but I think that a depression is good for the people. I think we need one right now. I think that a good depression would be the best thing for the whole culture right now. We've been so affluent. We've been getting paid more for less work, and that leaves the individual with time on his hands. Now if he could use this time on his hands to produce something, that would be something. But as it is now, he's chasing rainbows, trying to amuse himself, and he's less happy. I think that he is
much less happy. There is no substitute for work. There is no such thing as a substitute for work. ... The individual who works hard enough to be tired enough to sleep well and enjoy his meals is the happiest man in the world. And it doesn't matter what he does, it doesn't matter what kind of work he does, that's the important thing. And now, you see, now they'd made money and leisure their goals in life, there's not going to be any comfort or any happiness, or anything else in that. ... I remember that it [the closing of the Ogden State Bank] was really a shock. No one ever expected that bank to close because it had the reputation of being a very sound bank. I think the difficulty was that they had given loans to the sheep men when the prices were high. They were lending $18.00 to $20.00 per head to sheep men, and the price of the sheep went down to $3.00 and $4.00. ... They couldn't pay anything, and that was a big factor. ... I wasn't affected personally. I had a loan on the little first home that we bought, but I also had a checking account. I had enough in my checking account to make up the difference on what we owed them, and we got out of it. ... It was a real shock to the community to have that bank go out. ...

There were a lot of people who lost what they had; it was a tough deal. But I think out of the depression, some good has come. You can't go through something like that without something good coming out of it. Some people only learn by experience. ...

I didn't have anything to do with the stock market in those days. I was busy paying all my debts. I was in pretty heavy debt when I got out of school, and I was doing all I could to pay off the debts, so I didn't have any. But the other doctors in town ... were in the stock market. My friend, Dr. Bartlett ... got in the stock market fairly early. He came here in 1914, as I remember. ... He just didn't panic. He just went along and let it set there and bought additional stocks as he could afford to buy them. ... They were so depressed that it didn't matter what you bought, you could take your finger and put it down on a stock and buy it. And it later went up many times. So that people in the stock market, the friends that I knew, got through the stock market all right. ... They were individuals, like my doctor friends, who were having an income and ... could afford to do this. People who were buying on a margin of course ... lost everything.
Summary

The physician seemed to have contact with every type of individual, and every type of situation which would shed light upon the conditions of the depression and the activities of those in the Ogden area.

During the depression times, his work was almost overburdening. Many doctors worked harder than ever before or since. One doctor reported delivering four babies in one night on several occasions. Most of the doctors indicated they felt there was a greater than usual amount of illness during the depression times. To accompany this extra work, there was a smaller proportion of fees collected.

One doctor said that he believed he collected only about 30 percent of his fees. Another felt that at one time it got as bad as 10 percent. One stated that it was "zero." To combat this problem, the doctors had to adapt just as the others in the area. One stated that he had his nurse hand-deliver the bills close to the office to save the postage. This same doctor hired a man to visit the homes of the individuals who had not paid anything on their bill for some time to ascertain their ability to pay. If they were unable to pay, he would stop sending them statements; if they were able to pay, he would try to work some kind of arrangement to secure payment. Many of the doctors worked out an agreement with the farmers whereby the farmer would pay for his care by trading vegetables and other commodities.

One dentist stated that he was aware of the extreme hardship and found it difficult to charge most of his patients full price. But when he knew that a
patient was a bootlegger or operator of some other illegal business, he charged him an inflated fee.

The hospital was also in rather difficult circumstances. The administrator had a difficult time collecting his fees, so he charged extra for a maternity patient who did not pay in advance the amount needed to take care of her during her hospital stay.

Even though the percentage of collection dropped considerably during the depression, many of the doctors still had sufficient capital to do a little investing and take an occasional vacation when the going became too hectic. One doctor said that he had just completed his internship during the depression and was immeasurably busy taking patients while other doctors went on vacation trips.

But while the doctor was available, he was one of the best friends that the people had. He was willing to work during any hour of the day or night; many times he never received payment for the work he did. He was willing to go in the winter time to remote areas of the county to take care of the sick and deliver babies. The doctor's attitude was uplifting to those who were ill, and he was able to have a close relationship with his patients. One doctor said that he missed this close relationship and many implied that this was the case by stating they feel the government has intruded upon the privacy of their dealings in the area of payment and compensation.

This study indicates that the doctors had good insight into the character of the times, the problems of the people and the best methods of solving their problems. Like the best attorneys, they felt it was a good experience,
and that many people of this day could use the experiences of the depression to good advantage. Each doctor felt that keeping out of debt and keeping financial matters current had a good deal to do with a family's ability to cope with adverse conditions created by the depression. They felt that they personally benefited, at least to some extent, by the experiences they had during the depression.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The opinions and views of the people involved in the depression in Weber County are as diverse and individual as the random sample of any population. The depression had many disguises and played different roles for each individual confronted by it. To some it had negative connotations: long strenuous hours of labor with little monetary reward, or unemployment and going without food, clothing, and suitable shelter. To others the depression meant positive conditions: opportunity to buy land for very little, to become established in a profession more easily than might have been done under more normal circumstances, or live more comfortably on a fixed income.

There are, however, several points upon which most of those interviewed seemed to concur: (1) they learned to be more thrifty, (2) they learned to prepare for events both good and bad, (3) they learned to develop courage and optimism in preparation for a life of productive work, and (4) they learned to develop a feeling of good will and a desire to help each other.

The opinions of those who needed the relief and those who did not showed a marked difference. Those who needed relief felt that it was indispensable; those who did not need relief felt the relief contributed to the problem.

A great difference of opinion emerged concerning the methods employed by Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt to stimulate
industry, provide employment, and bring about recovery from the depression. Those people who needed help preferred Roosevelt. Those who did not require help preferred Hoover.

The question of when the depression actually ended is a sharply contested point. Some of those interviewed maintained that the depression did not end until the beginning of World War II. Other interviewees felt that a significant improvement in the economy had taken place by 1936. The difference of opinion in this area seemed to be due to political party preference.

Entertainment was a means of obtaining relief from emotional tension for many during the depression times. It seems that the greatest source of enjoyment was dancing. The White City Ballroom, Berthana Ballroom, and several other smaller establishments did capacity business most of the time. Movies were also a source of entertainment, and many people attended a movie with the hope of winning a new car or some groceries. Another popular source of entertainment was listening to the radio. Listening to the radio ranked as one of the most popular forms of entertainment. Among popular programs were "Amos 'n' Andy," "The Hit Parade," and the Joe Lewis fights.

Few families could afford to travel. Several interviewees reported going for a trip of two or three days. Most trips of any consequence were usually taken on the train. While bus service was available in Weber County, many people were unable to afford the fare, except on rare occasions. Still, many families used the horse and buggy for their main means of transportation in an attempt to curtail their living expenses.
Some farmers were very generous with their surplus produce. Those people who were having difficulty securing food were invited to come to the fields and glean after the crops were harvested. The L. D. S. Church was an agency which organized the unemployed into groups to cooperate with farmers to harvest potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, and fruit for a share of the crop.

The L. D. S. Church promoted a project wherein the unemployed went to the mountains and brought out wood which was cut into stove lengths at the church yard. This wood was shared by those who participated in the project and the excess was distributed to those who were unable to work.

The Salvation Army was given credit for doing an outstanding job in feeding and clothing the poor. Evidence indicates that most of the government relief before 1933 came from Ogden City and Weber County. However, by 1933 the local funds were depleted and from that time on the federal government took over the major responsibility of providing relief for the poor.

Although the official beginning of the depression in the history books is set in October 1929, the Great Depression did not really begin to affect the residents of Weber County until about a year later. Some felt that the full impact of the depression did not really strike Weber County until the failure of the Ogden State Bank in August 1931.

Many of the people felt at the time that the depression was only a temporary thing. Later, as the depression got worse, many people became discouraged. But in retrospect, most of those who went through the depression are glad they did and feel that a depression wouldn't be a bad thing for the present generation to experience. They felt that a good depression of
only a short duration would benefit those who are careless in their financial habits.

There was a general consensus that those people who were out of debt and reasonably secure at the beginning of the depression were able to weather the times without too many serious results. Those people who were in debt could expect difficulties in providing food, clothing, and shelter for their families.

Few sources of fiction can tell such a story as the events the depression created, and there is little that can be said to add to the words of those interviewed. Many of these persons devised means by which they took care of their personal needs with almost no capital to assist them. He who doubts the tenacity or ability of the human being to survive should consider some of the situations herein described and reconsider his opinion.

The oral interview method of collecting historical data is one of the best remaining sources of reliable information pertaining to the recent past. There are so few diaries, journals, and other written accounts concerning these events that the oral interview method becomes vital if an account of these events is to be preserved for the future.

People are anxious to record events in which they personally participated. The statement that all the world is a stage is particularly appropriate in the case of the oral interview with the tape recorder. Busy men will spend hours with the interviewer talking about events in which they participated. The limit of time in most cases has to be set by the interviewer.
the interviewee is the star on the stage of life having his experience recorded, he will go on indefinitely. This, of course, adds to the productivity of the oral interview method.

The oral interview method is highly rewarding to both the interviewer and the interviewee. The fact that an account of events of the past is being recorded for future generations becomes an exciting idea. This had a motivating effect on all who were involved with the project.

When this writer became involved in this study, he was caught up and pushed forward with a feeling of urgency. Early in the study when the initial contacts were made with community leaders to determine who should be interviewed, it became apparent that many of the people who would have been the best witnesses had either passed on or were too advanced in age to make a worthwhile contribution. As the study progressed, this writer became emotionally involved and was driven to search for additional facts and feelings.

The oral interview method has changed the image of the depression for this writer. Most books concerning the depression fail to bring out the personal involvement of people—their feelings, fears, frustrations, and happy moments.

Prior to starting this study, this writer had seldom read any literature which indicated that there may have been some good things that came about as a result of the depression. The negative was emphasized so heavily that the positive was seldom noticed.

Many who lived through the depression have expressed the idea that many experiences of those years were very desirable. Families were closer
and cooperated with each other much better than they have since that time.

Community cooperation, particularly in the social area, reached its high point during the depression years. Young and old participated in dances, plays, and other people-oriented entertainment.

Decisions made and projects started during the depression years set the stage and opened the way to a new era. Changes took place during those years which pioneered a new set of values and ideals. During this time, the federal government took over responsibilities which had previously been considered to be the domain of the state, local government, and the individual. Direct help to the individual by the federal government was unprecedented prior to the depression.

The rural resident was able to survive well compared to the city dweller. The rural resident had his food and was not compelled by custom to dress quite as well as the city dweller. Also, the rural resident had become accustomed to less prosperous times during the 1920's than the city dweller had enjoyed. The change was not so abrupt, nor was the shock so great. Agriculture and mining had suffered a depressed condition through the 1920's while other businesses boomed. Through this long period, the rural resident had learned to get along with few luxuries and had learned to make do with what he had. One of the most troublesome financial problems was accumulating enough money to pay taxes.

The memory of man is not always accurate in detail information, yet has great capacity in the general area. This is particularly so in the
area of human relations and how people felt about different events and issues. When feelings and facts concerning an event are considered along with the witness given by others concerning the same event, a reliable account usually emerges. Some older people who had difficulty remembering what they did a few hours before were able to recall with amazing accuracy events which they participated in during the depression and other events of the more distant past.

None of those interviewed who received food and clothing remember where the help came from: city, county, state, or federal government. Others recalled that the early help came from the city and the county, and later from the federal government. No evidence was found to indicate any assistance from the state in any of the relief programs.

Those interviewed remember that many people were cold and hungry. Jobs were difficult to find; money was almost non-existent. People worked long hours and received very little for their labor. Through the interviews, evidence was gained to support the view that while memory is efficient, it refuses to dwell on unpleasantries. Those persons interviewed recall the trying times but with profitable connotations. Although most of those interviewed remember the depression as being a profitable experience, the recollection of the Great Depression is probably much sweeter than was the reality.
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