**Making Do**

**By Itha Mortensen**

The Depression started when I was 16 years old and went on for many years.

I lived here in Parowan with my parents and perhaps I didn't realize how serious the situation was because I didn't go hungry as many people did.

My father had many ways to earn a living. He owned a farm, had a herd of sheep, and owned a sawmill in the mountains so there was work for his six sons and my husband when we married in 1931.

Girls mainly wore dresses and maybe striped overalls. No slacks. And levis for men.

There was very little cash money. My husband was paid for his labor in produce, as my husband worked for my father, when we needed things from the so. Utah Drug store, Papa would give us a paper saying it was good for $5:00 which would buy so very many things. He had credit and he sold flour (traded flour) for food items. He wrote no checks because there was no bank. I gave piano lessons and received eggs, etc. and even a piece of furniture.

Cost of things were very low, for instance a Hershey bar cost five cents.

I made butter, when we had a cow, and traded it for groceries at the So. Utah Drug store.

We had a large garden every summer. We also had a cow and raised pigs for our meat for the year ahead. We had many fruit trees.

I don't recall family members losing jobs.

My husband did irrigating for farmers and herded sheep from time to time. A part of work was hauling wood from the mountains to keep us warm all winter and have heat to cook on.

My husband worked on CCC living in Cedar in Barricks. That gave him board and room and $30.00 a month. He worked building bridges and fences on WPA and other projects, but the Parowan Cemetery fence was the main thing, as he worked with local men for $45.00 a month.

We didn't help people money wise, but we helped neighbors and friends and shared garden vegetables. We made visits to friends and relatives and had many in our home. We made our own entertainment which did a lot for our morale.

Everyone was mainly poor, but we really didn't know we were because everyone seemed to be the same.

The Bank of Iron County closed. That was a very big blow for all of our family. My father didn't get his money back, but we didn't lose our property.

Life in the Depression was simple but maybe hard but we hadn't been used to many luxuries. We were lucky to own a home. The only convenience in this little three room pioneer home was a cold water tap in the kitchen. We didn't have a car or any money for investments. We didn't have thermal clothing but we keep warm.

http://www.uen.org/utahlink/tours/loadimg.cgi?p=/tour/6043/6043.jpgMany lessons were learned in taking care of what we had. Our needs were simple and our wants we could do without. After being so conservative it is hard know to even give clothing we aren't using to the D.I. in case we might need it in the future.

This was the house I lived in.

**Growing up!**

You asked me how it was growing up during the Depression years. I'll tell you some of the things I remember about how tough some of those times were for families.

First of all in October, 1929, the Stock Market crashed. That meant that people that had their money invested in stocks and bonds and other securities to try to earn money on their investments just lost all of their money. Businesses went broke; banks went broke. No one could get money out of the bank and they couldn't sell their investments because there was no market for them.

Can you imagine what it would be like to work hard for money and then put it into the bank for safekeeping, or invest it with other businesses only to have it collapse, and lose everything that you had worked for? Even if you had a little money put away at home, you couldn't use it because so many businesses went broke that there was no place to even spend your money or buy something.

The government took over and practically every family was on welfare, which means the government took care of your family and personal needs (such as food, clothes, and medical care).

In our family, my dad was very sick during the 1930's and, in 1938, he died. I was just nine years old at the time. My mother was left alone with six children: my sister Frances was 18, sister Madeline was 16, brother Alfred was 14, I was nine, brother Harold was five, and brother Micheal was three years old.

My older sister Frances was just out of high school and got a job at the bank. As I remember, she got paid $80.00 a month. The rent on our home was $18.00 a month. Bread was about .10c a loaf, milk was about .15c a quart. A lot of our food came from the county welfare. Most of our clothes came from the county welfare system. Clothes were handed down from boy to boy and girl to girl. My mother used to patch the clothing if it was worn because we couldn't go out and buy new replacements. We weren't embarrassed to wear "patched clothes" because every family was in the same situation. We just had to do what had to be done. I remember at Christmas time getting just one little toy, or maybe one article of clothing.

My mother was a wonderful mother, cook, and housekeeper. She worked so hard to make life comfortable for six children. There was a lot of love and caring for each other and there always seemed to be plenty to eat. Everyone in the country knew that they were poor and made the best of a very bad economic situation. I look back at those days and still remember my mother's wonderful meals, a warm home, and the fun we had playing games, singing at the old piano, or just listening to the radio together. It was the best of bad times. One lesson I learned is to be grateful for what I had.

**One Dollar a Day**

We traded grain for flour, and we traded work for food or hay and cows and horses. We had cows, chickens, and horses.

One Dollar a Day

I was seven years old during the depression, and I lived here in Parowan. For a living, my parents farmed. We wore just plain old shirts and jeans. We had very little money, food cost 10 cents to 25 cents. We traded grain for flour, and we traded work for food or hay and cows and horses. We had cows, chickens, and horses.

None of the people in my family lost jobs. Most of the jobs my family did during the Depression were farming. My family made one dollar a day with the jobs we had.

My dad was the only one in my family who worked on a CCC or WPA project. He worked on the WPA. My father helped neighbors build barns and homes.

We were not really affected by the stock market crashing because, before it crashed, we had no money. The Bank of Iron County closed during the Depression. It did not affect my family very much when the bank closed because we had no money in the bank. We did not lose or gain any property during the Depression times.

When you are young, you don't really understand what is going on. Your family takes care of you , so the best thing to do is to love your parents. I have a better appreciation for the things we have today.

**The Market**

We wore bib overalls, and had only one or two pairs of clothes.

In 1932, he was about age four. When it ended, he was about ten. His dad worked on the railroad and worked in the store. He lived in Minersville all this time with his mother. His mom had ten kids. She died in 1937.

He wore bib overalls, and had only one or two pairs of clothes. His family had chickens, and they would trade eggs for food, candy, all different kinds of stuff. They had cows for milk and butter. His mom made bread for them. Bread cost 10 cents, eggs cost 25 cents a dozen, potatoes cost 50 cents for 100 pounds of potatoes. He would trade eggs for a sack of wheat, potatoes for hay. They grew gardens, killed a chicken for Sunday dinner. His dad worked on the WPA and got $30 a month. He worked on it ‘til the World War started 1941. His dad had a store. He worked on the farm, yes, building dams and roads and a reservoir, and fencing. The family worked together on the farm and gardens.

His family wasn't affected by the stock market crash. They didn't have stock. Things didn’t change much because they were already poor. They played games for entertainment, didn't lose any money.

Some banks broke down because they had no money, and people couldn’t make payments to the bank.

His family had a lot which had a house on. it. Most people were poor, but they shared food. The experience made him respect what he had, and know he needed to save money. He was 13 years old when World War II started. It lasted five years. When it ended, he was 18. One of his brothers was in the Army and one was in the Navy. He was scared and didn't know what was going to happen. He was 13 to 14 when they were drafted.

He was in the air force for four years. 5 years from world war 2 ended. He was in the coren had to buy so much of something farmers got quite a bit of gas every thing was rashend. They were given so many coupons for food and gas like 1 gallon coupon.

They hoped and prayed the other countrys would'nt fight and some countrys would want more power and they were dicktators thats why we have freedom.

# Richfield

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We wore overalls every day, and had pants , a shirt, and a tie for best. I also had a nice warm coat.

My dad had some cash from the sale of some cows and other farm products. He didn't put this cash in the bank before the stock market crash, so we didn't lose it. We used it for quite a while during the Depression. We were better off than a lot of people.

Canned vegetables were about eight cents a can, and meat was about 15 cents for products except for maybe some eggs or milk. We did grow a garden, and we had a milk cow.

My dad was a farmer, and we went to school. No one lost their jobs in my family during the Depression.

My mother would give food to the people in our community who needed help. The stock market crash didn't affect us very much.

The bank in Richfield did close during the Depression.

I remember seeing hoboes and homeless people living by the railroad yard.

Living through the Depression made me less wasteful, and more thrifty.

**Grandfather lost his job**

Grandfather lost his job at the sawmill, and she remembers they didn't have money for school clothes.

Depression

When Grandma Dalton was a small child, the age of ten, almost my age, she remembers some hard times for her family. She can't remember being very hungry because they always had a cow, chickens, and pigs.

Grandfather lost his job at the sawmill, and she remembers they didn't have money for school clothes. They had shoes with them, and Grandpa had to put them on a last and tack on a new sole. When the leather was all used up, he put cardboard inside the shoe to walk on.

The radio at the neighbor's house told of the people in the big cities who had to line up on the streets for a bowl of soup and bread.

Grandmother said they made their own soap out of rendered grease, lye and water cooked outside on a bonfire, stirring and stirring with a long wooden paddle, until it was thick and curly. Then you poured it out in a large pan until it cooled and got set up. It had to be cut into bars before it hardened. That made good soap for washing clothes on the board.

The government had to start work programs for the men to get money to live on. The younger men

were put into a work group called C.C.C. The older men were in groups called W.P.A. They were only paid 50 dollars a month. Her dad herded sheep.He lost his job at the lumber mill.All of the boys who were worked in the coal mine. Her family had a garden, a cow, pigs, horses, and chickens. Their family made 25.00 a month. Her dad worked at WPA projects.Her familly helped people who were out of work by bringing food that they raised. They were not affected by the stock market crash. They did not lose property during the depression. The banks closed.