

This is an interview with Ed Cullers for the Appalachian State University Oral History Project by Tanya Shook and Karen Weaver in Boone on February 12, 1973.

Q: What did you used to hear about the Welfare Program?

A: I've heard about Welfare ever since I was a kid I guess. But I'm awful happy to tell you one thing child, that the Lord's blessed my wife and I that we have never had for to be assisted by it and we're so thankful for that. But it's a good thing if it that a lot of times why a lot of people abuses it you know misrepresenting themselves, they get it when they could a got along without it. Now we didn't hear that and I don't know how true that is, I don't know nobody that's a getting that. I mean I see 'em hunt up folks that's using these food stamps but I don't know. I do know a few people that's getting 'em.

Q: Were any of your relatives hit very hard by the Depression?

A: Yes, I had a brother that, he's dead now, that lived on a farm, why he was hit hard. He couldn't sell his tobacco

And he was the only one, the only brother I had at that time, I had two but the other wasn't hit that hard. Now he never did sell very much stuff, cabbage and potatoes and stuff like that. Now he couldn't sell them either, but he wasn't hit, because he had a lot more farm and

stuff than the other'n had.

Q: Was there anything good about the Depression?

A: I really don't know. Sometimes I think probably that it may help us to have

It'd be terrible, for all the good years we've had since the Depression, if we's to have another one, why it'd be terrible because they's a lot more folks, they's a lot more people in debt now than there was then because there's been a lot of jobs and they get good pay for 'em and there's a lot of people that does that and just go in debt a whole lot. They haven't got anymore than they had to start with but they got too much of it, but they buy automobiles and they buy a lot of things, colored televisions and a lot of things that they owe for and if there'd be another Depression now, that other Depression lot of people didn't have the convenience and didn't have the things that you got now, so a Depression would hurt those people now worse than it hurt us then, 'cause it would take their homes away from them, and take their television away from them, and take their automobiles away from them, but we didn't have any like that to be taken away from us.

Now we had an old radio, but television was never heard of during the Depression, I mean not in this section of the country, 'course it were in cities, big cities and towns but of course it wasn't here.

Q: What was your job during the Depression?

A: Oh, I's working over here at the college.

Q: Did it hurt your wages that you were paid?

A: Yes, yes it did. We were getting a dollar a day at that time and they cut us down to eighty cents.

Q: What do you like best about the way things have changed today?

A: You know, for the last, since I have, call it retired, I have seen the worst time since I have retired than I seen in those days when I was a workin'. Now I've got more money, I'm drawing more than I ever made. My retirement is much more than my salary was, but still yet I enjoyed what I was doing more than I'm enjoying what I'm doing today. I guess when you've had to do it all your life there if I'd had money way back there I wouldn't have worked like I worked, but I had to work for to make a living. That is the honest truth, I enjoyed what I was doing back there when I was a workin' than I'm enjoying what I'm a doin' today.