



## **Citation for this collection:**

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# Mr. Howard Lovett

[00:00:00]

Interviewer: Okay you were saying at the beginning of the depression...?

Mr. Lovett: At the beginning of the depression I was the assistant personal manager of the Worth Steel Company in Claymont. And I had been there for about I'd say eight years. And we had, because of the fact that it was a company that was owned by a family, they endeavored to take care of the people that they laid off and that fell to our department to do that. So we saw the depression as a few other people did.

Interviewer: What was your department?

Mr. Lovett: Personnel, and the personnel in those days took in the fire, the hospitalization, hospital itself. There wasn't any hospitalization as we use the term today and safety and management representation, so our management representation. And we were the outside contacts of the company. The people themselves that were laid off, there wasn't anything like employment compensation or anything at all. There were a lot of rented houses from the company, and the company rather than turn them out they just lost their rent, that's all. It was not possible to get a job hardly anywhere. That kept up until 1932.

Interviewer: Do you remember *[inaudible]* [0:01:54] big crisis?

Mr. Lovett: Yes in 1929, yes I do. The banks closed, what little savings we had, we didn't know that it wasn't lost but it wasn't lost as we later found out but you couldn't use anything. And the people who had jobs were forced to take decreases in salaries right along. And as it was in my case we all got decreases yes but at the same time because of my position, I had to work all the time and most of them went down maybe two days, 1 day a week for a very skeleton force where you'd have, well any you could hire a man for a dollar in a quarter a day. You could hire a bricklayer for 25\$ a week and if you had any money at all, well you could buy almost anything. Land went, houses went, everything went. It was not a very pretty picture.

Interviewer: Did it have much effect... you working steadily did it have much effect on you and your family?

Mr. Lovett: The effect it had on us was that we had been living for instance on a salary that in those days I guess everybody did they spent most of the

salaries. And while it didn't chase us down into a point of want, it did place us in a position where we were well aware of what we had to spend and what we didn't have to spend. And I know we used to give trees away to some of the fellows that were *[inaudible]* **[0:04:15]** enough to get it, work on it and that was part of my job to allocate that out. And I know I gave myself a tree went out in the woods and sawed it down and in fact I built a home like in that part of the depression.

Interviewer: Where were you living at the time?

Mr. Lovett: I was living in a company house in Claymont, a village called Worthlin.

Interviewer: I was reading a book and the book entitled One Chapter the Gloomy Depression of Herbert Hoover and the next chapter was the Exhilarating Depression of Franklin Roosevelt.

**[00:05:07]**

Mr. Lovett: I don't know. I don't care too much about speaking about politics, but I know that the latter part of who runs administration it seemed very strange to me that at the moment, rather at end of the Hoover administration when everything was so dark and dismal and you couldn't do anything, the banks were closed, the homeowners.... the building loans wouldn't loan any money. Then almost overnight four, five things came in like the WPA and the banks opened. And it was very surprising to me to learn that one day say for instance in the turn of a week after so many depressing weeks before, in one week the nation was affluent and also had problems that no one could have ever made in such a short time. So I was well aware of the thought that somebody had something to do with that. In other words, what happened in one week certainly had to be planned a good good many days to be able to put it into action. And it seemed very strange to me. And it did really make a big difference of what I thought of politicians from that day on.

Interviewer: Did...?

Mr. Lovett: I don't believe Mr. Hoover was the cause of it, I really don't.

Interviewer: Well do you believe Mr. Roosevelt did?

Mr. Lovett: Well I believe that it was planned that way. It had to be planned that way to be able to implement. How could they do it where a nation would be broke one minute and the banks open the next minute? One day difference.

Interviewer: I'm not quite sure of how you mean plan.

Mr. Lovett: In other words I'm quite sure that the in my opinion, experiencing it, the depression, the latter part of the depression they could have certainly done the same as they did when Mr. Roosevelt went in a year before he did it. It doesn't seem feasible that any man could take over office and still have all such beautiful plans all ready to go, governments don't do that. They were all ready there and it seemed strange that one day all the banks would be closed, wouldn't give you a nickel and the next day they would be open and give you your money. Why couldn't they have done that before? So I don't know the answer to it although experiencing it, it certainly did give me the impression that the thing could have been done a whole lot sooner than when it. It could have occurred months before it did, yes it could.

Interviewer: I've been told that people during the depression were very helpful towards each other. Do you believe that?

Mr. Lovett: Well they were in the points of need. The difference between the 20s and the 40s could only be described by those who lived in them. In 1920, 1925 along in there up until 19 well from 1926 on up to 1929, it seemed to be a wonderful time. It was a garland time everybody had a wonderful time, no question about it. We danced and we went around to parties and we helped each other and had a wonderful, wonderful time.

And I think that had something to do with the fact that when we did go down we had more of a chance to communicate with each other than we had before. But in 19... say for instance from 1915 to 1925 there wasn't anything that you could do outside of your own family because there were no modes of electronic cars, that's all. Wherever you went you walked and there were very very few people who owned automobiles, and there were very very few paved roads.

**[00:10:34]**

The country was as viewed and I describe country today, the country was about two and a half miles from your home. And if you... during my boyhood days I knew lots of people who had lived all their lives and never been three or four miles from where they lived. The only time you could go anywhere would be well I think it's significant to say that in Cape May, New Jersey where I was born and was quite an active young lad all the way through in schools and community affairs, churches and even as far as that goes in the entertainment world. My grandfather for a time he rented a Jackson Speed Opera House. So I had some theatrical experience too.

But I think what I'm trying to say is that the distance or the communication at that time was more or less confined to a small area so therefore everybody knew everyone else. And they knew them very closely and lots of times very intimately. And I remember one time my brother in-law we went to Sally Marshall's crossing which was I would say about six miles away for a Christmas treat and we got up about 12:30 at night and went up, walked a mile and a half to get the horse and hitched him up *[inaudible]* **[0:12:42]** hitched him up and went to Sally Marshall's Crossing very very cold, almost froze to death. We had to get off the wagon and walk lots of times on dirt roads that were bumpy.

We got there about dawn and we cut our trees and we paid 10 cents a tree. We cut them and we loaded them on the wagon, we brought them back which was about six miles and by that time it was about 3 o'clock. We sold the trees for 25cents a piece and then it was dark I remember and I was so tired that I couldn't eat and I just could bath and go to bed, it was about 9:30 or 10 o'clock which was the middle of the night for those concerned.

Now the reason why I tell you that is that later on as I grew, or rather in the 20s when I had an automobile, 1925, 1926, I went back to that place. And from my home to the stable to Sally Marshall's Crossing and back took me about 25 minutes. So I don't know how to explain the difference but the difference in the economy, in the people, in the environment has just been that much of a change. It's exactly so.

Interviewer: Were you still in contact with the... working with the steel company after 1932 after the WPA had began?

Mr. Lovett: Yes, I worked for the steel company for 40 years.

Interviewer: Did you have contact with the same people who had been unemployed but then were given the prospect of working with WPA or getting...?

Mr. Lovett: Yes I did.

Interviewer: But I've been told that a lot of people rather than take relief, well they had too much pride to take relief.

**[00:15:09]**

Mr. Lovett: There were people... yes there was, I knew some. But I don't think there was a great many as far as they didn't want to take relief, the ones that I

knew in that category, the ones that I knew wouldn't take relief unless they were able to reciprocate in some way. They wanted to work. There were the greater majority of people who were glad to take the relief and let it go at that. In other words, while I was working in the trees at the time that I was telling you about, myself in order to help my reduced income, those same people that I speak of that were on relief, if there was any relief... there wasn't any relief, when you speak of relief.

Interviewer: ***[inaudible] [0:16:12].***

Mr. Lovett: No. No, when you say relief, I meant that the steel company would give them a tree if they cut it down and there were a number of people that were glad to do that. There equally the same number and possibly more that felt that the steel company would give them the wood anyway and they did, they did. Instead of giving them wood they gave them coal. But those people were, I wouldn't say there were too many of them come to think of it, no but I guess because of the injustice of it, it seemed to be more like bad news gets around a whole lot faster than good news. You remember that more than you... you remember the bad things rather than remember the good things. But there was plenty of good in the depression, there was plenty of good people that helped each other.

I know that when I was building this house, I built it in that time I couldn't borrow any money on it. I had to get my own sand, my own stone. And because I couldn't pay for it I acquired an old building because I could dynamite it down. I didn't know anything about dynamites but I had books and took care of it and learned how to dynamite. Dynamited the stone, brought the stone over to the site. Hauled sand in trucks, bought lumber at reduced prices and hauled it on top of my car and all that sort of thing.

And there were people then that saw what I was doing and they would come and help me, merely for the principle of it that they wish they could do it but somehow they never got ***[inaudible] [0:18:26]*** a couple of them did. So I don't know, people were closer together than they were. And they were closer together because of the fact that there were no large communities. You had to go to Philadelphia, you had to go to Chester, you had to go to Wilmington before you'd find any stores of anything.

We had a little corner store and most of the time his was on credit and people were more closely associated because of the fact that they didn't have any way to get out of where they were except walk. So maybe that was a reason.

Interviewer: Did you ever come across..., I know there were *[inaudible]* [0:19:24]?

Mr. Lovett: Well there wasn't such a place as where you would say unemployment as we say it now. A man to get a job he had to... he was on his own, he couldn't go to any placement. The only very few people, the only place that would have places of employment where they would have like they do today you're snarling and snarling and those kinds of people where they'd have employment offices.

The only employment offices that they had at that time were people that took care of domestic servants and chauffeurs and things of that kind. And that was in Boston and Connecticut or you know, Massachusetts and Connecticut, upper New York. But there wasn't such a thing as an employment agency or any place that you could go and get a job. You had to hunt your own job. Find it yourself. And unless you had friends that knew of a job being open, there wasn't anywhere in the world that you could do it except go from place to place and ask. And you had to walk because you didn't have any...

I remember that on the fore part of the depression before I went to the steel company I worked with a nice *[inaudible]* [0:21:02] company and from 1920 there was a real good depression right in there. 1920, '21 and '22. It was bad, very bad. Started to pick up in '22 and it picked up right on then on up until 1929. But as far as the depression as people think the depression was in 1929 to '32, it was just as difficult in 1919 to 1922 after the first world war. You couldn't get a job then, it was very difficult because that was real rough and lots of times then, one period of time there that I was out of work for about six months, that was in 1920 this chemical plant shut down for a little while and we were all out of work for about six months or so and the trolley fair was a nickel. And when we were looking for work in Chester, there were two zones of it and we pay a nickel for one zone and walk the other, we did that.

I found a job up there in a Marching Ship in Chester, but I used to almost sleep at the employment or the gate. You couldn't get in there at all. The only way I did, I got dressed real good and had a big soft scarf around me and bought a nickel's worth of cigar and pushed my way all the way up front and just bluffed my way in. I took a job there for \$100 a month, taking care of a file room there. I only stayed there until this chemical company called me back and oh they had a fit when I left because I revised the whole file room and fixed it all up and they offered me more money but I didn't want that job. So there were really two depressions and one was tested bad as the other too.

Interviewer: Were you working for the steel company when the CIO began organizing?

Mr. Lovett: Yes, yes I was.

Interviewer: Were there any difficulties?

Mr. Lovett: We didn't, there were difficulty in steel yes and we didn't because of the fact that the management itself was there on the lot you might say, they own the company the president and the vice president and the directors themselves were worse or long term associates or worse. There was a more of a opening for negotiations. They did strike yes, and they did organize yes, but the people who lived in the houses there they knew the management personally, almost every man in plant knew who Mr. Worth was and he would talk to all of them. And while there was a certain amount of difficulty in the changeover to the union, it wasn't anything like you would read in the papers or anything like that. There was no violence of any kind.

**[00:25:12]**

Interviewer: But from what you were saying about your own job and personnel it would seem that the company was more or less well oriented towards helping the workers.

Mr. Lovett: They were, they were. The company was oriented towards helping the workers. Mr. Worth was, during the depression, just as he himself had his friends and his family go round to different places and get. He contacted the Red Cross and we had flour for them, we had clothes. I had not told you that too, that is what our department did, I was assistant in the department. And we had in fact one part of my hospital there was walled off and we had shoes and clothes and flowers tacked up there where the needy would come. And we knew the needy. We knew who the needy were. That's something that today is lost, but we knew who needed relief and we didn't wait for them to ask.

Interviewer: Did they accept the...?

Mr. Lovett: Clothes and...? Yes they accepted them because they needed them, they really needed them. You see the labor rate in 1923 was 30 cents an hour and the hours of work in the steel company in 1923 was 12 hour shifts, 6:00 in the morning to 6:00 at night.

Interviewer: Was this the same in '32?



Mr. Lovett: Well, I can't... now they shifted. In other words they changed to the eight hour shifts, as the economy changed they changed. I can't just recall when that change was, but at that time the... I guess it was in late 20s or perhaps it would have been real close, but that's what the shit was. And then most of the men for instance we used to work all day Saturday and report in for Sunday just to see that everything was all right. We were on practically beck and call of your company 24hours a day which I was because of the emergency feature, accident, fire, police work and we were always available.

Interviewer: Did you listen to the radio much during the 30s?

Mr. Lovett: In the 30s radio itself we had never... I remember the crystal set and it was in 1921 that living in the *Nash Valley* village which now, up on Ridge Road there and they were originally only built for the staff of the chemical company. And scratchy knocks crystal sat there, a little piece of quarts scratch in there then I heard a voice and it was a chap up in Philadelphia describing the aquarium. I know I had a set of earphones on and I know so *[inaudible]* **[0:29:27]** my life it was about 10:30 at night and we raced out and got the next door neighbor and next door neighbor got him or his next door neighbor and the whole block was in there and we listened to that fellow as long as he talked. I guess he must have talked the whole night because it was a good three or four hours that everybody would listen to this voice. And he was talking about the different fish and we thought that was the most miraculous thing you ever saw in all your life.

And then a fellow, a friend of mine, a very good friend of mine, he sat away and got a kit and he made the first radio that you could amplify with tubes in it yet and the whole *Degum* village was there with him when he got that thing and we couldn't... it was just marvelous.

And then another thing that was a point of my life was to see even we smashed the doors down almost to get in to see Al Johnson and after all the theatrical experience that I had to look at a screen and hear a voice I just couldn't believe it. I just couldn't believe it. And television it was the same thing with television too.

**[00:30:59]**

Interviewer: Did you get to see many movies?

Mr. Lovett: Yes we did. We used to have a movie night and we used to take the kids as well as we could. But when we got the second baby we couldn't do that so well so we laid off till they got big enough to take them because we just couldn't bare leaving the kids to somebody else that's all there is to it. So we stayed away from the movies for about three or four years and then we used to go about once a week to the movies, quite a lot.

Interviewer: *[inaudible]* [0:31:40] pictures during the 30s?

Mr. Lovett: The pictures in the 30s, well we used to go for Westerns most of the time and the one I liked so well I can't even remember his name, he always dressed in black and he had all spangles all over him, his famous name too.

Interviewer: Tom Marks.

Mr. Lovett: It was before Tom Marks, although we liked Tom Marks too. But we liked the westerns quite a bit, we used to go there.

Interviewer: Did you by any chance listen on the radio to the *[inaudible]* [0:32:26] the invasion of Mars?

Mr. Lovett: That was a memorable occasion, I member that well except I didn't listen I didn't get it. I was called out, there was somebody I can't just remember the occasion but it was somebody that was sick and they wanted me over there and I did go and I finally got him fixed up and I came back and there was such a awful mess going on and the fellow told me that Mars was evading us and invading us and I told him well you are out of your mind, what are you talking about? And they called me up and told me he was taking his family and I told him I just don't believe it, that's all there's to it. I can't possibly conceive how anything could happen like that. He said well it came over the radio and many described it to me but I didn't hear it and so I wouldn't believe it. So discounted them all and the neighbors on both sides of me they finally decided to believe me so we all sat down and passed the evening playing pinnacle.

Interviewer: What do you think people were so gullible as to believe this?

Mr. Lovett: I couldn't understand why people wouldn't really think a little bit, where would they go? What would they do? Just like I tried to tell them when we were playing cards, if you did have such a thing as that where would you go and what would you do? And now that we have automobiles you don't have any place to go, well what would you do? Where would you go?

So if something like that has happened which I don't believe it I can't possibly conceive how anything like that could occur. Then I'm going to wait till they get here and I'm going to do what I can to save what I've got, I'm not going to go out on the road somewhere where I don't know what I'm doing and I wouldn't risk the kids in the traffic and the rest of it because it must be a terrible lot of people if that's what you say.

It didn't make very much of an impression on me at all, maybe it was because I didn't hear it, because I heard it second hand. And I just positively refused to believe it and I refused to budge out of home which somehow proved to be the right thing because two or three people told me the next day that they got up and started towards Philadelphia and the roads were absolutely jammed and they had wished that they had stayed home too.

**[00:35:50]**

Interviewer: ***[inaudible 0:35:51]?***

Mr. Lovett: That's where they were going and that's where they he started this ***[inaudible] [0:36:00]*** he didn't get very far he got just a little above Chester he said finally he decided he better go home. So he did he turned around and got back. But I remember the occasion.

Interviewer: To go back to something you said just before about one day everything was so bad and then suddenly a week later the country was in prosperity.

Mr. Lovett: Apparent prosperity yes because it seems to me that during ... I just couldn't understand and later on I became more and more convinced of the fact that the country itself had learned a very difficult lesson. And while I very much approved of the fact they would put controls on never having to have that same thing occur again I was amazed to find out that they did let it occur. I'm quite sure that they knew how to fix it a long, long time before they did.

Interviewer: What was this lesson?

Mr. Lovett: The lesson that I learned there was the point of preparedness and the point of relying on fact rather than fantasy or fiction, the fact that somebody would tell you that your bank for instance was secure and you would believe it just because he said so, from now on I ask questions. I want to know what was insured and who and why and by.

And from then also I also felt that you couldn't just dream something away you had to put your money where your mouth was as the saying goes.

Interviewer: One of the features of depression to many people and a lot of people think of a bad thing now is that government became more active in controlling the economy and.

Mr. Lovett: Well I think if you would take that into consideration they assumed then an obligation because right off the bat you had an income tax, for the first time in our world as world is government started to exact money from people. And therefore they had to do something about it, and there had to be some accounting to it. So therefore something was done, but there wasn't any income tax before that would amount into anything.

Interviewer: In the 30s more specifically something like the WPA where the government would try and make work for people *[inaudible]* [0:39:22] private industry couldn't supply.

Mr. Lovett: That's right. Well I went through that too I had charge of a WPA project and there was a lot of good work done by the WPA and I think that the idea of it was good because it did supply a point where people themselves and government could accomplish something rather than two different factions. One was people one was government, so it tied them together and as the economy did prove it to be even though it did go up to 400 and somewhat billions of dollars I think it's 450 is your top now. I don't think there's that much money in the world but I think that it showed people that you could go out and borrow and live on the hope of having the money next year to pay for it.

**[00:40:42]**

Interviewer: What was the WPA project you were in charge of?

Mr. Lovett: The beginning of these roads and I clearance problem here, we started with a small portion here in building the roads and then we collected money from ourselves and augmented the completion of it although it was only about I'd say maybe 20% of the roads that were eventually built by ourselves.

Interviewer: What were the conditions of the people who were employed on these projects?

Mr. Lovett: They were people who would apply for relief, it established a place where a man could go for relief, it established a place where a man could tell somebody of his need rather than just a neighbor or something like that, with the hope that somebody would do something about it. So therefore your WPA people were people who went the same as they did later on. There was a certain amount of food and that was available and a few were qualified in the sense that you didn't work or you wanted to go there, answer their questions while they give you the food.

And a lot of people weren't in a position where they could work or in a position where they could buy food. So it did help, it helped quite a bit there's no question about that. And I think also it established, for the first time in my life although I had nothing to do with it. It established a government, a government that was close to the people, whereas before it was a far reaching thing and no one knew anything about the government, had no contact with it at all. So that was in the 33 and 34, around there.

Interviewer: Did things change for the better during the 30s or did it actually take the wad off to get us out of it?

Mr. Lovett: I think that things changed, of course the economy changed oh yes quite a bit. The difference between the economy today and the economy of the depression is well there's no way to compare it. If you were to put it on a scale like you could say from zero to a thousand yes. The only thing that I noticed was that where people were willing in a way to help one another in those days and that were actually communicating with each other, they got to a point where they didn't any longer. Where they were harassed with mortgages and automobiles and different things that they never thought they could ever have they did have. And they in a way changed. Changed to the fact that they had too many obligations and they worried and they were more conscious of possessions than they ever were before.

And they no longer grouped together, of course they could go [0:45:01] [inaudible] if you own an automobile your transportation like I explained about Cape May, there was apparent no need to communicate with each other. You could go wherever you wanted to go, you could buy whatever you wanted to buy if you could feel that you could obligate yourself to pay the payments. And it gradually got to a point where in these last few years I was very much surprised to learn, I asked a man why in the world would he ever obligate himself to a 30 year mortgage at such a terrific rate and his answer was because there wasn't any 40s. That stumped me right there I quit asking questions.

[00:45:48]

Interviewer: Well you could just say that people during the 30s wanted, they needed things and with the change of the economy they were more security *[inaudible]* [0:46:04].

Mr. Lovett: I would say for instance there wasn't such a thing as a supermarket, there wasn't. The only supermarkets that you had that I knew was in Boston when we went up there one time and we marveled at the markets that they had. You wished for different things and better things you wished for more affluent circumstances that what you had but they weren't within your sight or grasp. So therefore you didn't crave them so much.

But as you brought the new auto mobiles within reach of man buying it and as different kitchen appliances came out and larger stores, better advertising on your radio, your communication got to a point where just like a baby you saw it, you want it. But before you never saw those things, you didn't come in contact with them except through your friends and you liked to do as well as they did of course, or rather your women folk did. And another thing that I think should be mentioned is the fact that the quality and the quantity was so upgraded that it was different, your clothes were better, there were more selection. The improvement in food was just miraculous and the selection in it was miraculous too. So therefore it was a pleasure to do it.

Interviewer: Do you think we could have another depression like the one in the 30s?

Mr. Lovett: I don't think we could ever have it and the reason why I don't think we could ever have it is because of the leniency of your credit, the point that well if a government and if all the cities and if all the states and if all your political aspirants can gather \$100 billion in debt and somehow it doesn't matter all you have to do is raise taxes if you're going to get to a point where the payment for what you get is even though it's a small amount of what the dollar would be probably worth before at least you are handling money.

I think what I'm trying to say is there is a vast vast difference between the depression day as I saw them and today and certainly the money that you handled at that time was totally and absolutely inadequate to what you wanted to do and you didn't ever hope of doing anything, whereas today you do get enough money in any fairly affluent profession. Two if you want to sacrifice you can get those things. So I don't know how to say it

but the other way it didn't make any difference it was denied you sacrificed or any other way, it was denied you.

[00:50:16]

Today if you use efficiency, rationality and integrity and a little bit of honest goodness perspiration you can achieve a great deal. And you don't have to do as I see the people do. If you are going to buy something today the people look at how much they have to pay a month, rather than how much it would take to buy it totally. And that is completely off my business ticket at all. I don't even see where my daily routine can take that up.

You could take in today's salary any of it, from labor up and if you wanted to be really industrious in your own point of view, you could live very decently and nicely and save quite a lot of money to be able to do what you wanted to do, rather than doing it in the next 10 minutes. You could save a couple of hundred dollars and go buy a washing machine rather than paying \$5a week. But before you couldn't, it was not possible to save a couple of hundred dollars. Unless if you made \$250 a month in the 1920s and 1930s you were a very well paid man. Today they make 250 bucks a week and they are broke next Wednesday. That I can't understand.

Interviewer: Looking back on the depression on the 1930s how would you describe it just as a period in your life?

Mr. Lovett: I would describe it as a very very profitable period because I had the opportunity to see a great many thing by handling a great many people. I had the opportunity to avail myself of a very very good and practical education of the off told thing is off told the phrase if you get what you put in it. And if you are willing to put something in it, you will certainly get something out of it. And that's what made me build this house.

Now a lot of other people could have done the same thing. Now the reason why I make that statement should be explained too because that was the first time in my life that I ever had time to do anything. because you went to work seven days a week most of the times and you had no opportunity to do anything except eat and work and go to bed and eat and work and go to bed and maybe you had Saturday afternoon two hours or something like that, there wasn't such a thing as a six or eight or ten week vacation. You got to a week's vacation you had to work with the company four or five years before you got that. And lots of times I could only take my vacation in periods of inactivity. So you never had any time so he depression gave me some time.

Interviewer: Were you laid off from the Steel Company?

Mr. Lovett: No I wasn't laid off from the steel company because I was assistant superintendent we did lay off quite a number of men but Mr. Worth kept the plant going during the depression by working it whenever he could, two or three days or one day or four days or two days or something like that. But your staff and I had to be on the staff they were there all the time. That was the fortunate part of it.

Interviewer: How did you get involved with the WPA?

Mr. Lovett: Well the WPA was when I was involved down here in this town.

Interviewer: And it wasn't a full time?

**[00:55:03]**

Mr. Lovett: Oh, me on the WPA? No. I had *[inaudible]* **[0:55:07]** I was the town representative of the WPA. The government was one side of it and I was on the other side as a representative of the town acceptance in the WPA. No, that had nothing to do with the steel company nor my job, that had to do with the person or my living here in this vicinity.

Interviewer: I thought it was...

Mr. Lovett: No it was completely apart from my work.

Interviewer: One quick thing before the tape runs out, let's just say, if there ever was another depression like the one in the 30s, how would you feel that the young people of today would compare to the young people of the 30s in surviving?

Mr. Lovett: I have a great deal of faith in young people, always have had. And while I deplore the way they are doing right now as far as that goes, I feel that because of the educational advances that they've had, that once they're faced with something like that they would understand it far quicker than any other generation would. And they would certainly listen to somebody that they thought knew what they were talking about. Whereas before you didn't have that kind of people. They weren't such a beautiful environment as the young people have had in the last 15, 20 years was certainly not available but a very very small portion of the people.



So I feel that regardless of what the young people do today that its contrary to maybe *[inaudible]* **[0:57:12]** they are equipped, whether they use it or not, they are equipped certainly to good understanding and good common sense. And when the chips were down I believe by gully they'd listen.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you.

**[00:57:40]**                      **End of Audio**