

How did the Great Depression challenge the lives of Americans?



What happened to the person in the song "Brother Can You Spare a Dime"?

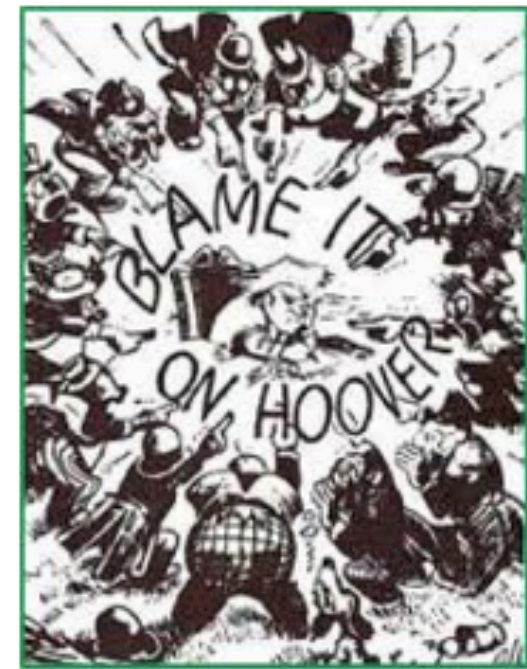
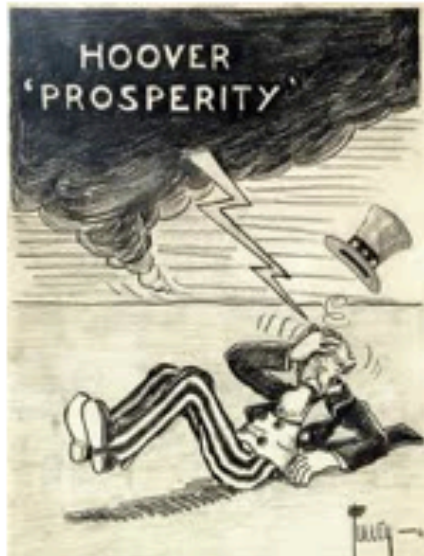
Some Effects of the Great Depression (1929-1941)

A. Jobless / Homeless

1. 1930-1932 – Jobless goes from 4 - 12 million
2. 1/3 become homeless!

B. Hatred for President Hoover

1. Says it is NOT Government's job to fix the Poor
 - a. Churches and charities should help
 - * b. *RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM*
2. "Hoovervilles, Hoovermobiles, Hoover Flags, Hoover blankets"



C. Bonus Army

a. WWI veterans--promised a \$ bonus in 1945...

* Veterans want it NOW (1932)

b. Veterans go to Washington and camp out

c. Hoover sends in Army + burns camp down!!



P. 1. Evergreen Ala.
Aug. 27. 1932.
Mr. John H. Peach.
Montgomery Ala
Dear Sir,
As I have been a
public worker for 27 yrs
was employed by The
Alger Sullivan & Co. Co.
Century Fla. for 15 yrs and
8 mo. was cut off
Feb. 10. 1932 and have
had every sense
I have had a
family heavy Dr. bills
and drug bills
also nurse bills
and to day we are
in need.

2.
I bought a small
farm on install-
ment plans, and
The heavy rain and
boll weevil have
ruined The cotton crop
and at the same
time I had let The
farm out, expecting
to hold my position
and there is forty
notes on crop to the
seed loan, and
papers on the place
to The Federal Land
Bank, of New Orleans
La., and this crop
will nothing like
pay this indebtedness.

3
we are not able to
send our children
to school, and we
havent got a dime
to buy any thing.
cant clothe our
children or buy
them books. I
If there is any
way we can get
help through any
source or employment
would surely
be appreciated
Yours truly
D. E. Gaines.
our oldest child is
a cripple 11 yr. old.
we have to carry him

Make a list of the challenges that Mr. Gaines is experiencing.
WHY DID MR. GAINES WRITE HIS LETTER TO MR. PEACH?

R. 1.

**Evergreen Ala.,
Aug. 27. 1932.**

**Mr. John H. Peach.
Montgomery Ala
Dear Sir:**

As I have been a public worker for 27 yr was employed by the Alger Sullivan Lbr. Co. Century, Fla, for 15 yr and 8 mo. Was cut off Feb. 10, 1932 and have had every sense I have had a family heavy Dr. bills and drug bills also nurse bills. and to-day we are in need.

I bought a small farm on install-ment plans. and the heavy rain and boll weevil have ruined the cotton crop and at the main time I had let the farm out. Expecting to hold my position and there is fertetizer notes on crop to the seed loan. And papers on the place to the Federal Land bank. of New Orleans La., and this crop will nothing like pay this indebttness.

We are not able to send our children to school. and we havent got a dime to buy any thing. Cant clothe our children or buy there books. If there is any way we can get help through any source or employment would surely be appreciated-

Yours truly

D. E. Gaines

our oldest child is a cripple 11 yr. old. We have to carry him to school.

Make a list of the challenges that Mr. Gaines is experiencing.

WHY DID MR. GAINES WRITE HIS LETTER TO MR. PEACH?

What kind of challenges were faced by Americans during the Great Depression?

How might these challenges have been solved then?

How might they be solved now?

Groups of images:

A) HOOVERVILLES

B) DUST BOWL VICTIMS

C) MIGRANTS

D) LINES: FOR JOBS, BREAD, AND SOUP!

E) PUSHCART PEDDLERS

TAKE NOTES FOR EACH CATEGORY!!

**~WHAT DO YOU LEARN FROM THE
PHOTOGRAPHS?**

**~WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED
BY EACH GROUP?**

A "Hooverville"



<http://arizona.typepad.com/.a/6a00d8341bf80c53ef011168d02683970c-500wi>

A



***"Hooverville,"
New York City,
December 8
1930***

***[Sign on shack
reads:
"House of
Unemployed"]***



A

Unemployed workers in front of a shack with Christmas tree, East 12th Street, New York City. December 1937. Photographer: Russell Lee. Tattered communities of the homeless coalesced in and around every major city in the country.



Central Park Hooverville



Hooverville, Portland, Oregon

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn//features/timeline/depwii/depress/hoovers.html>

- Hoovervilles = shanty towns
- Hoover Flag = out-turned empty pocket
- Hoover Blanket = made of newspaper





Dwellers in Local Hooverville, Circleville, Ohio, 1938



Hooverville of Bakersfield, California. A rapidly growing community of people living rent-free on the edge of the town dump in whatever kind of shelter available. Approximately one thousand people now living here and raising children. 1936



**Farmer and sons, dust storm,
Cimarron County, Oklahoma,
1936.**




**Photographer: Arthur
Rothstein.**

**The drought that helped cripple
agriculture in the Great
Depression was the worst in
the climatological history of the
country.**

**By 1934 it had decimated the
Great Plains,
from North Dakota to Texas,
from the Mississippi River
Valley to the Rockies.**

The Dust Bowl



-  Dust Bowl
-  Other areas with severe wind erosion
-  Migration routes

0 300 600 Miles
0 300 600 Kilometers



Abandoned farm in the Dust Bowl area. Oklahoma. 1936

The Migrant Experience

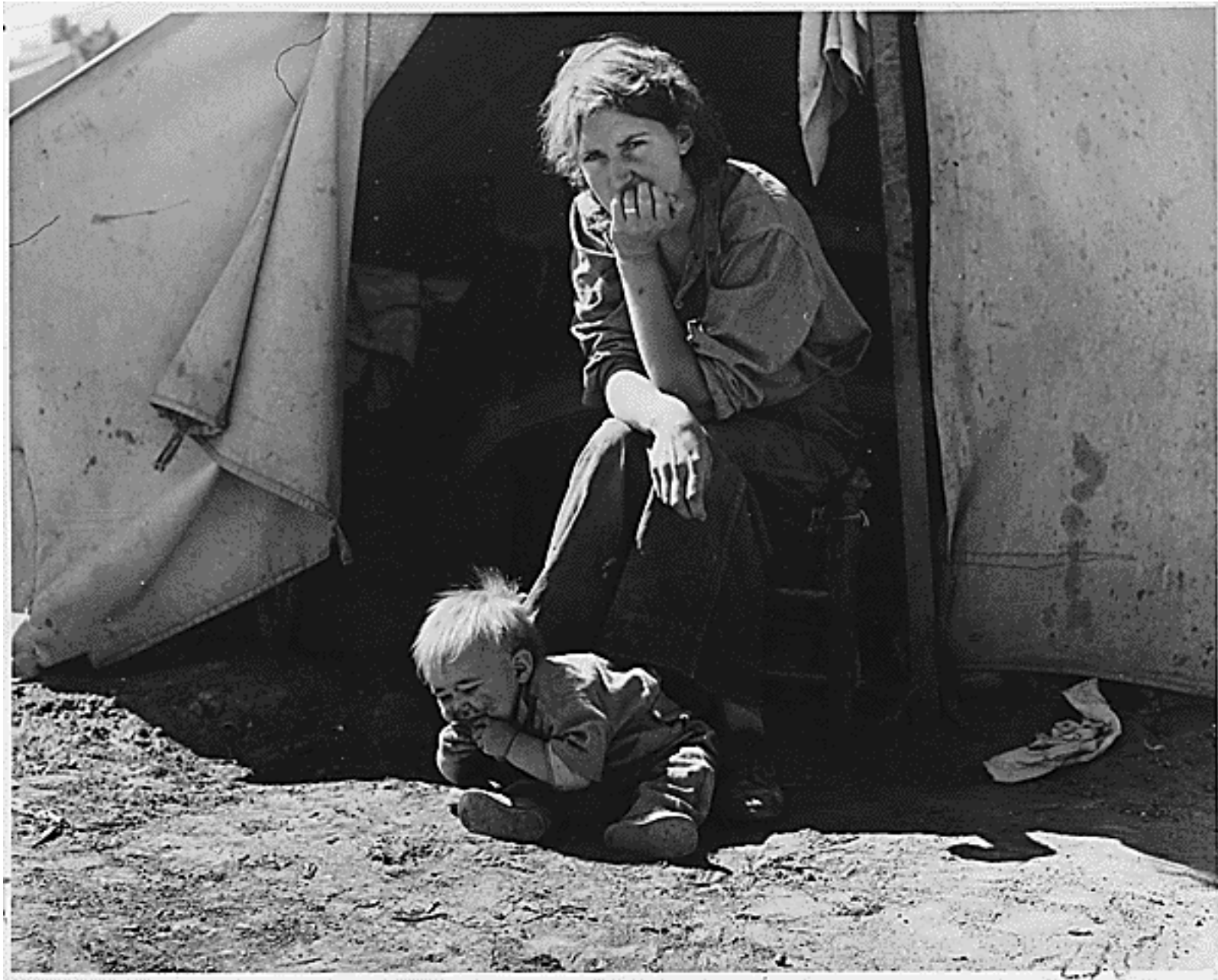
Although the Dust Bowl included many Great Plains states, the migrants were generically known as "Okies," referring to the approximately 20 percent who were from Oklahoma. The migrants came primarily from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri. Most were of Anglo-American descent with family and cultural roots in the poor rural South. In the homes they left, few had been accustomed to living with modern conveniences such as electricity and indoor plumbing.

The bulk of the people shared conservative religious and political beliefs and were ethnocentric in their attitude toward other ethnic/cultural groups, with whom they had had little contact prior to their arrival in California. Such attitudes sometimes led to the use of derogatory language and negative stereotyping of cultural outsiders. California farmers' attitudes toward both Mexican and "Okie" workers, and discriminatory attitudes toward migrant workers in general.

California was emphatically not the promised land of the migrants' dreams. Although the weather was comparatively balmy and farmers' fields were bountiful with produce, Californians also felt the effects of the Depression. Local and state infrastructures were already overburdened, and the steady stream of newly arriving migrants was more than the system could bear. After struggling to make it to California, many found themselves turned away at its borders.

Those who did cross over into California found that the available labor pool was vastly disproportionate to the number of job openings that could be filled. Migrants who found employment soon learned that this surfeit of workers caused a significant reduction in the going wage rate. Even with an entire family working, migrants could not support themselves on these low wages. Many set up camps along irrigation ditches in the farmers' fields. These "ditchbank" camps fostered poor sanitary conditions and created a public health problem.

Migrant family looking for work in the pea fields of California (1935)



18-year old mother from Oklahoma now a California migrant (March 1937)

Migrant Families Living in Tents



Tent camp of migrants north of Harlingen, Texas. 1939



Soil blown by "dust bowl" winds piled up in large drifts near Liberal, Kansas. 1936





Dust bowl farmer raising fence to keep it from being buried under drifting sand. Cimarron County, Oklahoma. 1936

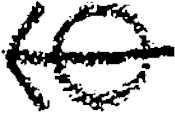
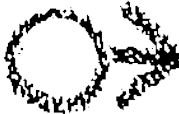




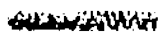

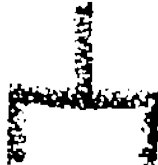








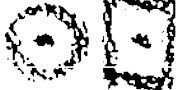
















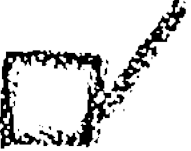



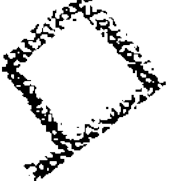

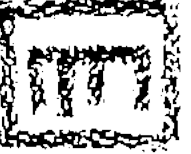
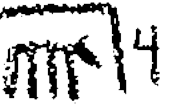

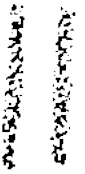






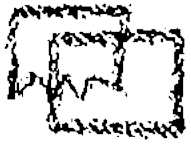




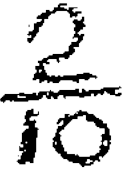
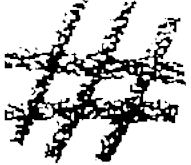




Many Oklahomans reach Calif via the cotton fields of Ariz.





Hobo Signs

 <p>NO USE GOING THIS DIRECTION</p>	 <p>THIS WAY</p>	 <p>HIT THE ROAD! QUICK!</p>	OR		 <p>GOOD ROAD to FOLLOW</p>	 <p>ROAD SPOILED, full of other hobos</p>
 <p>DOUBTFUL</p>	 <p>HALT</p>	 <p>THIS IS THE PLACE</p>	 <p>DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD</p>	 <p>THIS COMMUNITY indifferent to hobos</p>	 <p>NOTHING to be GAINED HERE</p>	
 <p>YOU CAN CAMP HERE</p>	 <p>FRESH WATER, SAFE CAMPSITE</p>	 <p>DANGEROUS DRINKING WATER</p>	 <p>O. K., ALL RIGHT</p>	 <p>GOOD PLACE for a HANDOUT</p>	 <p>ILL-TEMPERED MAN LIVES HERE</p>	
 <p>WELL-GUARDED HOUSE</p>	OR		 <p>THE OWNER IS IN</p>	 <p>THE OWNER IS OUT</p>	 <p>A GENTLEMAN LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>THESE PEOPLE ARE RICH</p>
 <p>KIND LADY LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>KIND WOMAN, tell pitiful story</p>	 <p>FOOD HERE if you WORK</p>	OR		 <p>RELIGIOUS TALK gets FREE MEAL</p>	

 <p>IF YOU ARE SICK, they'll care for you</p>	 <p>DOCTOR HERE, WON'T CHARGE</p>	 <p>FREE TELEPHONE</p>	 <p>ALCOHOL IN THIS TOWN</p>	 <p>OR</p>  <p>YOU CAN SLEEP in HAYLOFT</p>	
 <p>KEEP QUIET</p>	 <p>HOLD YOUR TONGUE</p>	 <p>BARKING DOG HERE</p>	 <p>VICIOUS DOG HERE</p>	 <p>BEWARE of FOUR DOGS</p>	 <p>EASY MARK, SUCKER</p>
 <p>THE SKY is the LIMIT</p>	 <p>TROLLEY STOP</p>	 <p>GOOD PLACE to CATCH a TRAIN</p>	 <p>THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE</p>	 <p>MAN with a GUN LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>BE PREPARED to DEFEND YOURSELF</p>
 <p>DISHONEST PERSON LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>COWARDS, will give, to get rid of you</p>	 <p>YOU'LL BE CURSED OUT</p>	 <p>A BEATING AWAITS YOU HERE</p>	 <p>POLICE HERE FROWN on HOBOS</p>	 <p>AUTHORITIES HERE ARE ALERT</p>
 <p>THERE ARE THIEVES ABOUT</p>	 <p>CRIME COMMITTED, not safe for strangers</p>	 <p>JUDGE LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>COURTHOUSE; PRECINCT STATION</p>	 <p>OFFICER of LAW LIVES HERE</p>	 <p>JAIL</p>

Breadlines

WHAT IS THE IRONY IN THIS PHOTO





Part of the daily lineup outside the State Employment Service Office. Memphis, Tennessee.

Breadlines and Soup Kitchens



Breadline in New York City (1932)

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

**They used to tell me I was building a dream.
And so I followed the mob
When there was earth to plow or guns to bear
I was always there
right on the job.
They used to tell me I was building a dream
with peace and glory ahead.
Why should I be standing in line
just waiting for bread?**

**Once I built a railroad, made it run
made it race against time.
Once I built a railroad, now it's done
brother can you spare a dime?
Once I built a tower to the sun
brick and rivet and lime.
Once I built a tower, now it's done
brother can you spare a dime?**

**Once in khaki suits
gee, we looked swell
full of that Yankee Doodle Dee Dum.
Half a million boots went slogging through hell
I was the kid with the drum.
Say don't you remember, they called me Al
it was Al all the time.
Say don't you remember, I'm your pal!
buddy can you spare a dime?**

Soup Kitchen



Volunteers of America Soup Kitchen: Washington, D.C. (1936)

A sign indicating there are no jobs available to migrant workers



Unemployed Men

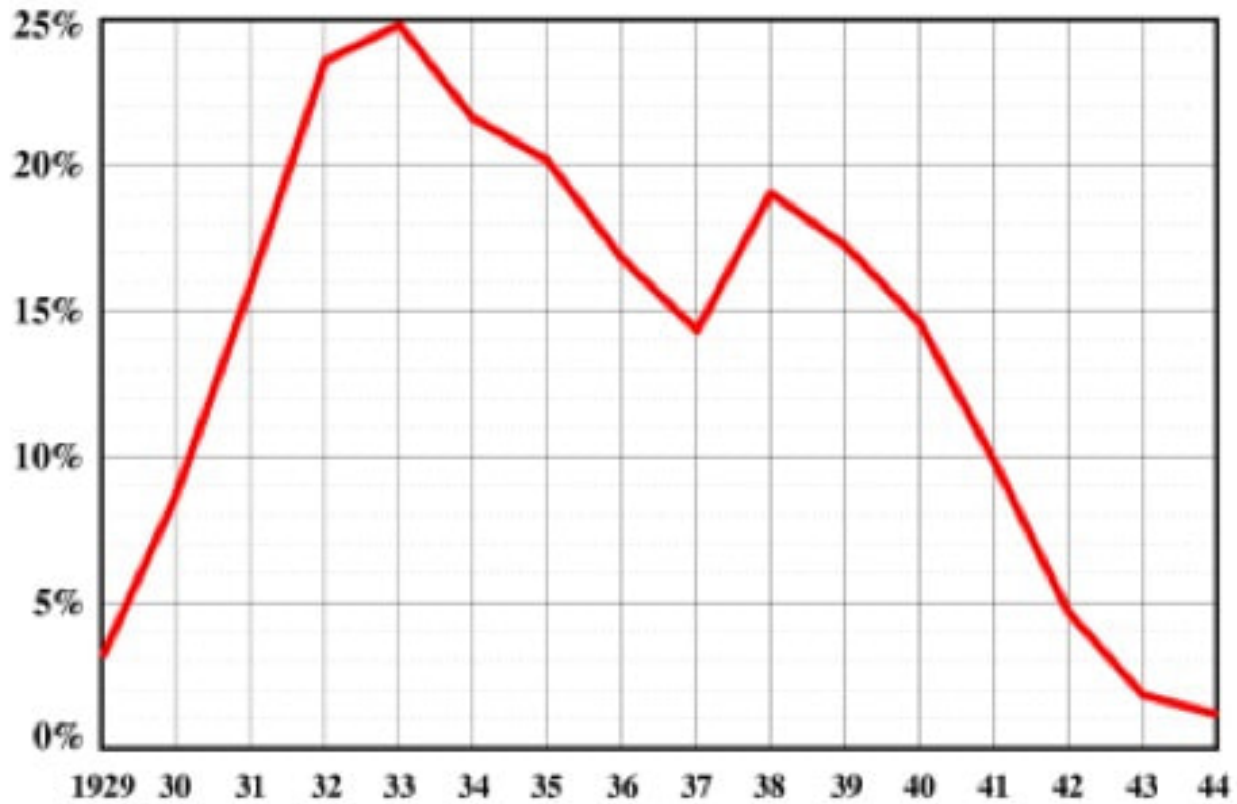




B

Unemployed men vying for jobs at the American Legion Employment Bureau in Los Angeles during the Great Depression.





Unemployment Rate (Percent) 1929 to 1944

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www.fasttrackteaching.com

source: *Historical Statistics
of the United States*

Children in Rural America



http://www.digitaljournal.com/img/9/0/1/2/2/1/i/4/6/2/o/Children_of_the_Depression.jpg



Granette, Ark.
Nov. 6, 1936

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt

I am writing to you for some of your old soiled dresses if you have any. As I am a poor girl who has to stay out of school. On account of dresses & slips and a coat. I am in the seventh grade but I have to stay out of school because I have no books or clothes to ware. I am in need of dresses & slips and a coat very bad. If you have any soiled clothes that you don't want to ware I would be very glad to get them. But please do not let the news paper reporters get hold of this in any way and I will keep it from geting out here so there will be no one else to get hold of it. But do not let my name get out in the paper. I am thirteen years old.

Yours Truly,
Miss L. H.
Gravette, Ark.

HOW WAS MISS LH CHALLENGED?





Children on a soup line

Pushcart Peddlers

It was snowing and, shortly after noontime, the snow changed to sleet and beat a tattoo against the rocks and board shacks that had been carelessly thrown together on the west bank of the Harlem. It was windy too and the cold blasts that came in from the river sent the men shivering for cover behind their shacks where some of them had built huge bonfires to ward off the icy chills that swept down from the hills above.

Some of them, unable to stand it any longer, went below into the crudely furnished cabins that were located in the holds of some old abandoned barges that lay half in, half out of the water. It was certainly better than nothing, not to mention the fact that it was their home; address, the foot of 133rd Street at Park Avenue on the west bank of the Harlem River; depression residence of a little band of part-time pushcart peddlers whose cooperative colony is one of the most unique in the history of New York City.

These men earn their living by cruising the streets long before daylight, collecting old automobile parts, pasteboard, paper, rags, rubber, magazines, brass, iron, steel, old clothes or anything they can find that is saleable as junk. They wheel their little pushcarts around exploring cellars, garbage cans and refuse heaps. When they have a load, they turn their footsteps in the direction of the American Junk Dealers, Inc., whose site of wholesale and retail operations is located directly opposite the pushcart colony at 134th Street and Park Avenue. Of the fifty odd colonists, many are ex-carpenters, painters, brick-masons, auto-mechanics, upholsterers, plumbers and even an artist or two.

Most of the things the men collect they sell, but once in awhile they run across something useful to themselves, like auto parts, pieces of wire, or any electrical equipment, especially in view of the fact that there are two or three electrical engineers in the group. . .

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn//features/timeline/depwwii/depress/peddlers.html>



Selling apples, Jacksonville,
Texas. October, 1939.

Photographer: Russell Lee. Many
tried apple-selling to avoid the
shame of panhandling. In New
York City, there were over 5,000
apple sellers on the street.



www.alamy.com - C45P5C

Unemployed university graduates as street vendor during the Great Depression, 1931



F

Unemployed men often resorted to selling apples on street corners to earn a dollar or more to feed their family or themselves during the 1930s Great Depression.

Who do you think
was most
challenged?
Why??