

**Memories of America during the Great Depression and
WWII:**

**An Interview with My Grandpa
(interviewed by Megan Hagquist)**

For this part I interviewed my Grandpa. He is seventy-seven years old. I asked him what he remembered and what he thought. He had a memory on all of the events asked. The following is what he said during the interview.

The Dust Bowl

People came from their homes in the southern plains to California because of the Dust Bowl. There was a big drought and the land was very dry and loose. When the winds of the Great Plains would come they would blow the dust everywhere. It would darken the sky for days and the dust could get up to a thousand feet into the air. The crops wouldn't grow because there wasn't any water, so the people did have very much food. The people had to leave the plains and many of them came to California. When the people got here they really didn't have any way to make a living.

All of the news of the Dust Bowl was at the theaters. Before the movie that was playing, there were newsreel pictures of sand clouds in the air. There wasn't any television so news came in the theaters.

The Great Depression

The Great Depression came as a result of the stock market crashing in 1929. My great grandpa was out of work and the family didn't have very much money. The Government gave food to the family and others, once a month. The food was in cans and on the label it said, "Not to be sold". PG&E turned off their electricity for about a week because they couldn't pay the bill. They didn't have any heat except for a wood stove and my Grandpa had to cut the wood for it. His family didn't have a car. After a while his dad got a job as a postmaster.

One memory he has is his shoe having holes on the bottom. His dad bought some leather and patched his shoes. My Grandpa believes his frugality came from the Great Depression.

World War II

World war II was a result of World war I. The Nazi party wanted to make up for their loss in WW1. My Grandpa was riding his new bike he bought in San Francisco when he found out about the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor. This was what caused the United States to enter the war. Most people didn't know that the Holocaust was happening and were against the U.S. entering the war.

It took about a year and a half for the U.S. to manufacture enough guns and other items for the war. My Grandpa worked in a shipyard during the war where he demagnetized ships. He didn't

fight because he had asthma and was unfit for military, or 4F. He was also going to attend college. Many boys in his high school class enrolled in the war even before they were through with high school.

My grandpa had a friend who watched for enemy airplanes. Sometimes, when they thought enemies were flying over, the government made everyone turn off their lights so the pilots wouldn't know they were flying over a city. There was a rumor going around that a plane could see the flame made by a match. He thought the blackouts were stupid.

During the war Ration cards were given out. You could only have so much sugar and coffee and hardly any meat.