

**Mrs. Charles E. Weeks, Jr.**  
**Interview 026a**  
**September 2, 1982**  
**Interviewer, Becky Bailey**  
**Dorothy Farley, Transcriber**  
**Retyped by Elaine Lawrence**

**Abstract:** In an interview with Becky Bailey, Mrs. Charles E. Weeks, Jr. reminisces about growing up in Tennessee and Lufkin and living through the Great Depression. She particularly remembers the hobos who lived in Chambers Park and begged for food at local homes, the difficulty of getting credit, and the local CCC workers.

**Becky Bailey (hereafter BB)**....the address is Route 2, Box 144. I'm interviewing her at her home and today's date is September 2, 1982. My name is Becky Bailey. Mrs. Weeks, can you tell me where you were born?

**Mrs. Charles E. Weeks, Jr (hereafter CEW):** In Oakwood, Texas. That's in Leon County.

**BB:** Is that above Palestine?

**CEW:** Above Palestine, uh-huh, Buffalo, close to Buffalo.

**BB:** O.K., when were you born? What year?

**CEW:** 1918.

**BB:** 1918, what were your parent's names?

**CEW:** John and Mary Henry.

**BB:** Do you remember your grandparents' names?

**CEW:** Uh, Yes, Uh my grandfather Henry was Samuel Houston Henry and his wife was Miranda Dunn. And my grandmother and grandfather, on my mother's side, was William Alton Kristler and her name was Attie Cox before she married him. And, she was a New York Dutch and always took a lot of pride in it. And, my grandfather was back in the time of the Indians. And there were four little boys and they eat green apples and three of them died, in 24 hours.

**BB:** Oh, my word.

**CEW:** So the, his parents were very proud of little Will. And so, they let him do just nearly anything. And, they didn't have a dog but they had guineas to warn them of the Indians and little Will didn't like the noise that the guineas made. They made so much

racket. And so he got him a nail, a board with a nail in it and he hit one of the guineas in the head and it killed it. And they had a hired man and the hired man said, "Mr. Kristler, little Will has killed a guinea". So, his daddy got off the, I guess, he was plowing, with a horse. Anyway his daddy quit what he was doing, got off the wagon or whatever, and took little Will by the hand, and went in the house and said "Momma look what little...Little Will has done". And, they shamed Little Will and they were sorry but they wouldn't punish him because he was the only one of the four boys left. So, later in the day, they were still working out and the hired man saw little Will kill the second guinea. He didn't get spanked till he'd killed all four of the guineas. And this was their way of, of protection from the Indians. And uh, his mother died, his father died, and his mother remarried a man named Biggs and when he was 13 years old his mother died and he...He left home and was out on his own. You know, this was the beginning of his life as a person to make his own living.

**BB:** My word, at 13. Where'd you hear these stories?

**CEW:** My mother, my grandmother. I can remember my grandmother, she lived 'til I was about 24 or 25, and uh, they would tell us the stories about...This, this was the one, I guess, that I remember the most, about the guineas.

**BB:** Killing the guineas.

**CEW:** Yes, killin' the guineas.

**BB:** Oh, my word.

**CEW:** And that they were in, you know, I was impressed that they were their watch dogs, too.

**BB:** Yes.

**CEW:** To protect 'em from the Indians.

**BB:** They make a lot of racket, that's for sure. Where did, did they come from? Before they came to Texas? Where were they, where was your family from?

**CEW:** Uh, uh, my grandmother and grandfather lived in Indiana. My mother was born in Indiana and moved to Texas, I mean moved to Tennessee when she was a small child. And my, my father was born in McKeon, Tennessee, in the country. And they met in Tennessee. And back in those days they didn't have schools, like we have now. They had a country school where everybody went to the same class. And when my father, they, my, my grandmother Henry, they raised the cotton and they combed the cotton, they spun the cotton, and made the thread and she made all the children night shirts and that's what they wore 'til they went to school. The boys and girls both wore long white shirts and then they'd have to take them out of school to help work the crops. And, when my father was 11, he couldn't write his name and a boy called him a "Big Ignorant Country

Clodhopper.” And he said, “I beat the hell out of him and then I went to school to learn.” And they had, they didn’t have colleges and universities then. They had Teachers Institute and they went to Teachers Institute and my father started teaching school when he was 18 years old. And he was, he knew more about history and math than any person I’ve ever met. And, he could tell you every president of the United States, what party they were in, what history things happened, events happened at the time that President was in office. And, if you ever needed help in history or math you went to him but, if you needed help in English, you went to Momma. They both taught. She started teaching when she was 16.

**BB:** Oh my word.

**CEW:** And when she went back to school, about 1947, in Texas, they gave her two years credit ‘cause she still had all of her grades and things from Teachers Institute and they gave her two years of education at S.F.A. and she got her degree in 1949 there, and started teaching school.

**BB:** Did you have any brothers and sisters?

**CEW:** One brother.

**BB:** You had a brother?

**CEW:** John Alfred.

**BB:** When did you end up in Lufkin?

**CEW:** About, I imagine it must have been 1924, about 1924. I can remember the “T” model cars and the, us, the streets not being paved and they didn’t have, gas in Lufkin. They didn’t have sewage in Lufkin, everybody had outdoor toilets. And, my mother and father bought a home down on South Raguet, right below Jr. High West, where it is now, and the people just begged ‘em to say they’d stay a year because they were so far out of town and so few people had a car and they had trouble renting that house out there in the edge of town like that. So they said they were pretty sure they would because they had two children in school and it was close to school. So, uh, it was, they lived there 55 years. It became their home.

**BB:** That’s the house where we went picking up pecans?

**CEW:** Yes, where we picked up pecans.

**BB:** That was a nice place and it doesn’t seem like it was on the edge of town, it seems like it was right in the middle of town.

**CEW:** It’s right up town now. It’s right at the edge of town. It’s downtown.

**BB:** Downtown, right.

**(Break in tape)**

**CEW:** Uh, where Chambers Park is today, uh, is where we went and hunted rabbits, and picked flowers, and during the Depression the hobos lived in this area and they built all their lean-to's facing south and they didn't have any heat. There wasn't any water or anything down there and the only food they had was what they'd get from people. They'd go to the back door and knock at the back door. So, one time, one knocked at the back door on a Sunday and it was my birthday dinner and I just couldn't stand to think that anybody could be hungry on my birthday, and so I insisted that my Mother and Daddy fix him everything down to the ice cream and cake. And so they did, and we had about twenty hobos that week. Everybody came because they knew they'd get something good to eat there, but you had to turn 'em away and it really hurt for you to turn people away. But, I also had a friend that, at the time I didn't realize, that her father wasn't working. But everyday, she would come to my house, in the afternoon, and play and then she'd stay for supper. And my Mother and Father had a large garden, and cows, and chickens. And they had a little store, too. But we raised a lot of stuff and every night we had bacon and eggs. I mean, we had scrambled eggs and hot biscuits and butter and fresh milk. And we never thought of getting' tired or anything or burning out on it, it was always good. And this girl would come every afternoon and you know, my mother kinda tired of having her every night for supper and besides that she'd stay and play games 'till about midnight. You'd nearly have to run her home. She didn't live too far. So one day, my Mother said "I want you to run over and play at Doris's house." So I did, I went over to Doris's they had four children in their family and their father wasn't working and they had a mother and two girls and they had three dresses and they wore 'em and they washed 'em every night and ironed 'em and that way they had three different dresses to go to school. They could all wear the same clothes. The father had been in a car wreck and had been hurt bad. And he also...he was from a very fine family. But, we never know really what we'll do in life until we get into a position. He couldn't find work, so he finally got on as a salesman with an insurance company and he and this other man would think up, uh, make up names and sell policies to people and collect a few premiums and send 'em in and then they'd have an accident and they would collect a lot of money for the accidents at the mills around. And, uh, they got caught up with and this man decided to turn. Course now you got to remember he's got a wife and four children and no money and they were trying to keep their family. His brothers and sisters were all teachers and uh, lawyers and doctors. I mean fine family people from some place, other state. And so, he turned states evidence against this other man that way he didn't have to go to jail. But, he couldn't get a job then. I mean, he knew this was against his record. So he would make...floor sweep. And he got a colored man to help him deliver it. Then he was in this bad car wreck and couldn't work. So, they didn't have any money and I didn't realize, nor did my Mother, that every day the mother sent her four children some place so they'd have at least one meal and this was where she could eat. There was no, ever fussin' about it, never sending her home or anything. But, after we got over there, as soon as they finished what they were doing, we played ironing dresses. We played just a little while and her mother said "Doris, why don't you and Edith run over to her house to play?" So, we were back to my house in plenty of time for supper. But, you don't ever know what

circumstances those people were in and you should be more tolerant of what happened because you don't know.

**BB:** Your Dad worked? You said they had the store?

**CEW:** They had a little store, had it down on the corner of Chestnut and Groesbeck and it had a side room on it and, uh, a lot of the Negroes they worked for Mr. Warner and they had slips and slides, they called 'em. And, they did all the road work with a mule. And Mr. Warner would buy all the food for his employees and then he couldn't afford to pay for the food. And he got in debt to 'em and they had a piano, his daughter didn't really like to play, and so, he asked Mother and Daddy if they would take the piano off the debt and they did. But, there were a lot of the colored people, I can remember, that had T.B. and they said that if you would put a bottle of carbolic acid open in the room that this would kill the germ and that you were not as apt to get it. But, T.B. was quite common in the quarters and in that particular neighborhood. And, we had lived there for a while. And, they had typhoid next to us and we had to take '3-sixes' all summer to try to keep from getting' typhoid fever. That, uh, the health conditions were not so good, and so, Mother had some medicine that she called 'touch it'. It was glycerin and, and something, I don't remember what it had in it, but, we would touch all our sores with it and they called it 'touch it' because it just made everything get well. So, one day I hurt my foot, I got the carbolic acid off the shelf and put it on my foot. And I couldn't wear shoes. It blistered, it blistered and took the skin off my foot.

**BB:** Oh, my word.

**CEW:** But, uh, I can remember the store real vividly and all the colored people. And, they used to call all the older ones "Uncle and Aunt." And, when my kinfolks would come down from Tennessee, they would have a fit because we called 'em "Uncle and Aunt." And, Mother said, "Well, they only had one colored family in Logansport, Indiana. And, they went to school and to church and everything with everybody and they called them "Mr. and Mrs." and my Mother thought it was terrible to call 'em "Mr. and Mrs." And they said, "Well, they'd rather call 'em "Mr. and Mrs' than claim Aunt's and Uncle's, you know." And, we didn't have electric refrigerators then. We had ice and we went to the ice house to get the ice. And, I can remember Uncle Ben worked at the ice house. I can remember, that's the only one I remember calling by name. And the ice man would come around and you had a sign that had 10, 25, 50, and 100 pounds on it. And, you set it up there that you wanted the ice and the ice man would bring the ice in and put it in the front door, so he'd know how much you'd want.

**BB:** Would he put it in the box for you?

**CEW:** Yes, he brought it. They had, they had ice tongs. They delivered the ice and we put the cantaloupes underneath. The water would drain out the pan underneath it or even, Mrs. Weeks has still got a hole in the floor up there where her icebox set. But it drained out under the house. But, you put your cantaloupes under there and they'd be cooler, because you...

**BB:** That would be nice.

**CEW:** Yes, to keep 'em fresher, because you put 'em under the icebox.

**BB:** What kind of store was it? Like a grocery store, or a...

**CEW:** Grocery store and a meat market.

**BB:** And meat market, you didn't sell just general things?

**CEW:** No, uh-uh, just a grocery store was all.

**BB:** So ya'll ate well during the Depression anyway?

**CEW:** Yes, we always, Daddy always had a big garden, cows, chickens, and then they had the store, too.

**BB:** Where would they get the produce for the store?

**CEW:** They bought it just from the salesmen, like Brookshire Brothers.

**BB:** From Brookshires?

**CEW:** Yes, they had Brookshire Brother's. Brookshire Brothers only had one store in Lufkin when I was a little girl and it was over on Cotton Square across from the Post Office, I mean, across from the courthouse. Where the courthouse is now. And, uh, Mr. Houston Brookshire lived there on Groesbeck. I walked to kindergarten. Kindergarten was over close to where the Lufkin News office is now. And I'd walk to kindergarten. And, Mr. Houston would always be out on the sidewalk. I can remember him whistling all the time. That, uh, he was a real interesting person. And, uh, Perry Brothers had only one store and it was over on Lufkin Avenue right about where Abney and Medford is now. And, the Perry Brothers and the Brookshire Brothers all were local people, that were successful in their home. And when I went to school, at high school, while you're...

**BB:** While I'm lookin'

**CEW:** Yes, uh, the high school was over there where the foundry parking lot is now and the Catholic Church was right across the street on, uh, I've forgotten the name of the street. But, uh, the kids were bad then just like they are now. There was no air conditioning and we didn't start to school 'till about September the 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a good bit after Labor Day when we'd start to school. And, one year, at Halloween, the kids put the cows up in the principal's office. And he'd found out who it was and he was gonna punish 'em. And, their daddy and their brothers were all pretty rough. Well, they, they live in Lufkin now, the boys still do. They're getting' to be the older people of Lufkin. But, they went down with a tarred pole. They were going to ride Mr. Grissom out of town

on a... Gonna tar and feather and ride him outta town for punishing the kids for puttin' a cow in the principal's office.

**BB:** And they say, how bad kids are getting' today.

**CEW:** I can't tell...kid's are no worse...just more of 'em...they got cars, they get there faster.

**BB:** Is that it?

**CEW:** See when we were growing up, even after I was a teenager there weren't too many cars. And, my brother was 22 months older than I was, and so that made it...we ran around with about the same age kids. And we used to, they'd be as many as 13 of us go to the Blue Hole down at the [unintelligible] to go swimming. They'd hang on the fenders and everywhere, you know. And now, why, we'd think that was terrible. We wouldn't think of lettin' the kids ride...

**BB:** Ride even in the back of the truck.

**CEW:** Not much less on the fenders. But, Blue Hole was the place to go. And there wasn't a swimming pool in Lufkin, when I was a little girl. The first swimming pool was built over on the foundry property. It was called the natatorium.

**BB:** The what?

**CEW:** The natatorium.

**BB:** The natatorium?

**CEW:** Yes, and the Harrelds built it. They lived at the corner there. Uh, where the watch house is at the foundry now. And, we used to walk, we had to walk from the high school over to the gymnasium, where it is now, for gym classes. The gymnasium was on Junior High West Property and we walked from the high school over there. And, uh, that was down on Kurth Ward School property then. And the old football field was there, up on the north end. One time, we used to play Garrison. A long time ago we was about the same size as Garrison, so you can see that Lufkin was the growing town that it is now. But, one time it rained so hard that the water was up half way to our knees, but we stayed to see the game. But it was up on the north end there, right exactly where the Junior High West is now.

**BB:** And that was the high school?

**CEW:** It was the football field then.

**BB:** Oh, it was the football field.

**CEW:** Yes, the high school. Was down by the, uh, you know where Dr. Clements office is there on...

**BB:** Yes.

**CEW:** Well, the high school was there on that corner.

**BB:** It was there on that corner.

**CEW:** Um-huh.

**BB:** Oh, on down three or four more blocks.

**CEW:** Kurth Ward School, you see, was down there where Junior High West is. It's the only school building down there. And, they built the gym when I was in school. That one that is still on Junior High West, yes.

**BB:** Do you remember much of what, uh, listening to your parents talk about Hoover or Roosevelt?

**CEW:** I can remember, uh, Hoover's picture in the paper when I was little. And, the soup lines that would form. And, I knew that people didn't have, you know, everybody, didn't have something. And, of course, knowing the hobos that lived in the woods, too. I can remember pictures of him but I don't remember a whole bunch about him. I knew he was blamed for everything in the Depression and as I grew older I, I began to realize that he just happened to be the President that was in office at the time that it had come to a halt.

**BB:** Just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

**CEW:** Right.

**BB:** But you said that you voted for Roosevelt once, no you voted against him.

**CEW:** I voted against Roosevelt when he ran against, uh, Wendell Wilkie. It was my free vote and I voted against Roosevelt.

**BB:** But that was in forty?

**CEW:** In forty.

**BB:** How would the hobos...they weren't local people, then they came in on the train is that?

**CEW:** Rode the train.



**BB:** Rode the trains?

**CEW:** The train, see the track goes right there by the Chambers Park. They'd just get off and that would be, there was a road there so they'd...and there was a creek, I don't know whether, if they bathed in the creek or not, but the creek goes through there.

**BB:** Later, whenever you went to work, you worked for the Post Office. Can you remember something about the records? I think you were telling me that, you looking at some of the pay scales back then.

**CEW:** I went to work, I went to work in 1942. Doctor Thames' father was a rural carrier and I was...I copied, recopied the records. And, when he went to work the Depression came and the salaries dropped. And, it was twenty years from the time that he went to work 'til he got back to the salary that he had started at. And, uh, during the Depression, they worked in the Post Office, really worked, seven days a week. I mean they didn't open the doors but the trains and all came in. They cut all the men to three days and this way they didn't have to lay anybody off. Everybody had some pay coming in. That, uh, they, they, were cut in half but they still had more than most people had and were glad to have a job.

**BB:** Did the prices come down at the same time that everyone started...?

**CEW:** I really don't, uh, I was so young that we had, we had something to eat. And, I can remember clothes-wise, my, my cousins in Indiana were older than I was and they would send their clothes down here and my grandmother would make them over to fit me. I've even stood blindfolded and had the clothes made over and hemmed for my Christmas present. So that I'd, you know, that.

**BB:** So that it'd look different.

**CEW:** And, we didn't have clothes like people have now. I had a pair of Sunday shoes and a pair of everyday shoes. And, when the everyday shoes wore out, if the Sunday shoes were big enough they became our everyday shoes. We had two pairs of shoes. And, uh, dresses were let down. You didn't discard a dress because it got too short. And if you tore it, it got mended and you wore it just the same. People didn't have the clothes and things that they have now. And I can remember when we got a Victrola, I was about nine, it was the winding Victrola, you know. The songs that were popular was the "Wreck of the Old Ninety-seven" and "My Blue Heaven" and "Side by Side"...things like this that are really old now. Then we got.

**BB:** I know some of those songs.

**CEW:** Then we got a radio, my uncle was an engineer on the train, during the Depression and he didn't get to work. So, he was roofing a house and a splinter went through his eye, and so, they wouldn't let him work on the railroad any more. So, he and

his wife bought a dairy farm and they didn't have electricity. So, we traded them our cow and chickens for their, uh, radio. So, we got the radio. And, we still have it. It still plays.

**BB:** Oh my word.

**CEW:** It's got tubes in it, instead of this new type, see. And, uh, Rudy Valley was the singing star of the day and Jean Raymond, and, uh, my brother wouldn't turn it off when we went to church. He said he couldn't believe anybody would box all that beautiful music up. And, we'd go off and leave Rudy Valley singing.

**BB:** Well, you married in 1936 and I want you to tell about – isn't that right, '36 or '35?

**CEW:** Yes, that's right.

**BB:** Tell me about your first bill of groceries, I want to know all the things you bought.

**CEW:** In 1935, we made \$105 a month which was a very good salary in those days and we went to the grocery store. It was just around the corner from us and we didn't have a car, so we could walk to town. And we went to the grocery store and we bought flour, sugar, bacon, salt, pepper, all the staples, meal, everything, cereal, bacon, eggs, everything it takes to start keeping house that we could think of, and there were so many groceries they had to take us home in the pickup. They delivered the groceries for us and the whole bill was only \$5 and something for all the staples it takes to start keeping house.

**BB:** Oh, I just can't believe that.

**CEW:** It's hard to believe, even now.

**BB:** It sure is. So you think things started getting a little easier about that time then as far as people having...?

**CEW:** Of course, I don't know the position other people were in. It happened to everybody that we knew, were about the same circumstances we were. So we didn't feel we were above or below anybody, we were just getting by and they were too.

**BB:** Right.

**CEW:** But we didn't have a car and now everybody thinks they have to have a car. You walked where you went.

**BB:** Well now, it would take me two hours to get into town.

**CEW:** And really, all my dates, I walked.

**BB:** Oh really?

**CEW:** We walked to town, to the picture show and we walked to parties. We walked nearly everywhere we went.

**BB:** Well, everybody knew it.

**CEW:** If we went in a car, the boy would borrow my Mother and Daddy's car, or my brother would be going and we'd all go together. But most of the boys didn't have cars.

**BB:** Yeah. That's true. Do you think the Depression, such as '29, can happen again?

**CEW:** I've thought so for a long time that it would. I hope not, but I believe it will.

**BB:** Do you think people will react the same way that they did back then?

**CEW:** I don't know, I asked Mother about the Depression. I began to worry about it, oh, before the Korean Conflict, they laid off people at the Foundry. And my brother worked in Houston, they laid off huge numbers of people. And then the Korean Conflict started and everybody was called back to work. It was about 7 or 8 months that things were very bad. My husband and my brother worked together on people's houses and then we'd try and go by on Saturdays and collect \$5 from them. You know, and we'd never get all the money, really. You know, what happened, my salary was buying materials and we never got paid for the labor or the materials and really it was a bad deal. But it was on its way then when the Korean War started. But I asked Mother, I worried about it, you know what happened. And she said, well, she would give me an illustration of a family that she knew. The mother and father had two children at home and two married children that had one child each and both of the son-in-laws, everybody lost their jobs, but the father. So they had a four room house and they had two children in their home and the two young couples with their children came home. So that made twelve people living in a four room house and the mother said she would sit down and the tears would just stream down her face, it was so nerve-racking. And then the father was cut to 3 days a week that they only had a half of what they had, but they had food in their mouths. But, this was the way that it transpired. And I asked her about construction, because Charles was in construction, and I was interested. And she said the large buildings and things that were started, they stopped, that day and that was it. It was...the bottom fell out of Wall Street and the next morning the construction jobs were not going. There was no money to do anything. And so, I don't know, I feel like that this will happen again.

**BB:** Yes, it's a scary thought.

**CEW:** I do, I...you asked me if I thought it would, people, would react the same. I'm real worried because people were passive then and they would stand in line and wait for soup. With as much rebellion of the youth as we have in the United States and as much rioting and violence as has transpired through the years, the people of the United States are not quietly accepting anything. And I, I really feel that, that the people will have, are gonna have to defend themselves and that people will be like the carpetbaggers

after...after the Civil War. They'll come in and take what they want. I think you'll have to fight to keep what you have and they'll burn it down, you know, just like they did then. That they won't respect anything. They don't now. You know, people do not respect the property that belongs to other people and I think it will be worse when they don't have anything at all. But I, I dread it.

**BB:** I do, too.

**CEW:** I feel like it's coming, you know, I feel like it will come. I hope not.

**BB:** Kinda pessimistic but...

**CEW:** Yes, it is but I, I feel like everybody that's my age and older believe that it will. It will have to happen. That, things are gonna get so high that you can't buy 'em and with as many people as there are in the world there's gonna even be more stuff on the shelves, and then there'll be more people out of work because

**BB:** Yes...they're not moving.

**CEW:** Especially the luxuries and, of course, the people are still buying stuff like it's going out of style, and they hadn't, I don't know where it all comes from. And they've extended unemployment money now for a number of weeks yet. And I guess as long as you have it. Paul Durham had an article in the paper one time, said, as long as people in the United States have enough money for a down payment and make the monthly payments, that if the interest is 50% they're gonna buy it.

**BB:** They're gonna buy it.

**CEW:** If they can make the monthly payments. So I guess that's, and this was not true when I was a girl growing up, you didn't have an account with Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck or all the ...Penney's. Uh, Western Auto...Well.

**BB:** You couldn't get it.

**CEW:** You couldn't get credit. You bought groceries on credit, you could get them on credit and you had to pay for 'em at the end of the month. And a lot of people would have two grocery stores that they could get credit from and they, this way they could extend their paying time one month as things got worse. And they'd pay one grocery this month and trade at the other grocery store. And then the next month they'd pay that one and this way they could extend it one, one time longer. But most of the grocery stores lost a lot of money, my mother and father lost a lot of money. And one man got religion, and twelve years after the store burned, he sent the money that he owed 'em, because, it was on his conscience that he had owed this debt that he never paid. That, people didn't have credit. You couldn't get credit. You couldn't buy gasoline on credit. You had to pay cash. There wasn't such a thing as a credit card.

**BB:** Right. If you didn't have gas, you just didn't go.

**CEW:** If you needed money at the bank, you had to get somebody that had money to go on a note. They didn't take anything. I mean, you had to have somebody that could pay it if you didn't pay it. You couldn't go down to the banker and borrow money for anything. That things were not like they are now...really it was more stable...it was really more stable during the Depression than they are now.

**BB:** Oh me, could you contrast the C.C.C. jobs and the W.P.A. jobs with like unemployment that they have now? Do you think it...?

**CEW:** Well, the people that I happened to know that were in the C.C.C. were in uh, headquarters in Lufkin. Uh, The First Christian Church had built an educational annex and it was immediately behind where the Angelina Hotel is. And their church was a wooden building. And they had this nice brick building at the back for Sunday School rooms. And during the Depression they couldn't pay the notes on it. And so, they rented it to the government for C.C.C. Headquarters. And the people I happened to know were in C.C.C. headquarters in bookkeeping and things like this. But, uh, they had the best jobs that there were, just about, in Lufkin. Then the C.C.C. itself built roads through the woods and, uh, outdoor par...the W.P.A. built all the outdoor septic, septic tanks, uh, they weren't septic tanks, they're outdoor pit toilets. There're two here on the Weeks' place. There's one right up here at the back of the house and one up behind the Weeks' house. So they built the, uh, it's got a concrete base under it and it's still in the ground there were they, they built these. And then on this place they dug a ditch. It, it's made a big creek now. They dug a ditch, the W.P.A., to drain the water so that the road wouldn't get under water and it takes up about an acre of land now. We would like to fill it up if we could.

**BB:** Too late now...do you think it makes a difference with the guys being given jobs where now it's just, you know, you draw your unemployment and then you're...?

**CEW:** Well, I don't really feel like they felt that they were given anything 'cause they were working with what they had. Although there were a lot of jokes about 'em leaning on the shovel handles drawing their pay. The cartoons in the paper were along this line that they really weren't working but they were on payroll....they were not....

**END OF TAPE**