The Great Depression Scrapbook
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Photos from the time:

1. The area known as the Dust Bowl swept through parts of Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado as a result of poor farming and drought.
   1<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/images/dustbowlmap.gif>

2. During the Dust Bowl many farmers and families had to relocate and live in temporary houses.
   2<http://www.csub.edu/library/images/dustbowl.jpg>

3. The aftermath of one of the dust storms of the Dust Bowl that devastated a small farm.

4. One of many dust storms in the area of the Dust Bowl. Dust storms, or black blizzards could be 30 miles per hour or more, and a visibility of ½ mile or less.
   4<http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/media/water0201.jpg>

Sites: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/duststrm.htm
5. Dust from the dust storms not only filled peoples houses, but got up their noses, and even in their lungs, causing dust pneumonia.  
5<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-pU9YPaTF5Do/UKpYXrU5ZVI/AAAAAAAAPac/lkly2zp0gw/s320/boy-in-dust-bowl.jpg>  

8. Another result of unemployment was that people had to leave their homes because they could not pay off their debt.  
8<http://0.tqn.com/d/history1900s/1/0/k/gd10.gif>  

9. Hundreds of homeless encampments, or Hoovervilles, were spread across the country. The name Hooverville came up because people thought that President Hoover was responsible for the Great Depression.  
9<https://depts.washington.edu/depress/frontpagespecials/hooverville3cap.jpg>  
Sites: http://depts.washington.edu/depress/hooverville.shtml
6. During the Great Depression many people became unemployed. In 1933, 12,830,000 people were unemployed. 

7. Along with unemployment, starvation also became a threat. In 1931, there were 20 known cases of starvation in New York City. 

Sites:
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/learning_history/children_depression/depression_children_menu.cfm
http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1528.html

10. Many homeless people did not have a shack to sleep in, so they slept without a roof over their head. 
10<http://blsciblogs.baruch.cuny.edu/his1005spring2011/files/2011/03/1930s_great_depression.jpg>
I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States about banking -- with the comparatively few who understand the mechanics of banking but more particularly with the overwhelming majority who use banks for the making of deposits and the drawing of checks. I want to tell you what has been done in the last few days, why it was done, and what the next steps are going to be. I recognize that the many proclamations from State Capitols and from Washington, the legislation, the Treasury regulations, etc., couched for the most part in banking and legal terms should be explained for the benefit of the average citizen. I owe this in particular because of the fortitude and good temper with which everybody has accepted the inconvenience and hardships of the banking holiday. I know that when you understand what we in Washington have been about I shall continue to have your cooperation as fully as I have had your sympathy and help during the past week.

First of all let me state the simple fact that when you deposit money in a bank the bank does not put the money into a safe deposit vault. It invests your money in many different forms of credit-bonds, commercial paper, mortgages and many other kinds of loans. In other words, the bank puts your money to work to keep the wheels of industry and of agriculture turning around. A comparatively small part of the money you put into the bank is kept in currency -- an amount which in normal times is wholly sufficient to cover the cash needs of the average citizen. In other words the total amount of all the currency in the country is only a small fraction of the total deposits in all of the banks.

What, then, happened during the last few days of February and the first few days of March? Because of undermined confidence on the part of the public, there was a general rush by a large portion of our population to turn bank deposits into currency or gold. -- A rush so great that the soundest banks could not get enough currency to meet the demand. The reason for this was that on the spur of the moment it was, of course, impossible to sell perfectly sound assets of a bank and convert them into cash except at panic prices far below their real value.

By the afternoon of March 3 scarcely a bank in the country was open to do business. Proclamations temporarily closing them in whose or in part had been issued by the Governors in almost all the states.

It was then that I issued the proclamation providing for the nation-wide bank holiday, and this was the first step in the Government's reconstruction of our financial and economic fabric.

The second step was the legislation promptly and patriotically passed by the Congress confirming my proclamation and broadening my powers so that it became possible in view of the requirement of time to extend (sic) the holiday and lift the ban of that holiday gradually. This law also gave authority to develop a program of rehabilitation of our banking facilities. I want to tell our citizens in every part of the Nation that the national Congress -- Republicans and Democrats alike -- showed by this action a devotion to public welfare and a realization of the emergency and the necessity for speed that it is difficult to match in our history.

The third stage has been the series of regulations permitting the banks to continue their functions to take care of the distribution of food and household necessities and the payment of payrolls.

This bank holiday while resulting in many cases in great inconvenience is affording us the opportunity to supply the currency necessary to meet the situation. No sound bank is a dollar worse off than it was when it closed its doors last Monday. Neither is any bank which may turn out not to be in a position for immediate opening. The new law allows the twelve Federal Reserve banks to issue additional currency on good assets and thus the banks which reopen will be able to meet every legitimate call. The new currency is being sent out by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in large volume to every part of the country. It is sound currency because it is backed by actual, good assets.

As a result we start tomorrow, Monday, with the opening of banks in the twelve Federal Reserve bank cities -- those banks which on first examination by the Treasury have already been found to be all right. This will be followed on Tuesday by the resumption of all their functions by banks already found to be sound in cities where there are recognized clearing houses. That means about 250 cities of the United States.

On Wednesday and succeeding days banks in smaller places all through the country will resume business, subject, of course, to the Government's physical ability to complete its survey. It is necessary that the reopening of banks be extended over a period in order to permit the banks to make applications for necessary loans, to obtain currency needed to meet their requirements and to enable the Government to make common sense checkups. Let me make it clear to you that if your bank does not open the first day you are by no means justified in believing that it will not open. A bank that opens on one of the subsequent days is in exactly the same status as the bank that opens tomorrow.

I know that many people are worrying about State banks not members of the Federal Reserve System. These banks can and will receive assistance from members banks and from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. These state banks are following the same course as the national banks except that they get their licenses to resume business from the state authorities, and these authorities have been asked by the Secretary of the Treasury to permit their good banks to open up on the same schedule as the national banks. I am confident that the state banking departments will be as careful as the National Government in the policy relating to the opening of banks and will follow the same broad policy. It is possible that when the banks resume a very few people who have not recovered from their fear may again begin withdrawals. Let me make it clear that the banks will take care of all needs -- and it is my belief that hoarding during the past week has become an exceedingly unfashionable pastime. It
needs no prophet to tell you that when the people find that they can get their money -- that they can get it when they want it for all legitimate purposes -- the phantom of fear will soon be laid. People will again be glad to have their money where it will be safely taken care of and where they can use it conveniently at any time. I can assure you that it is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress.

The success of our whole great national program depends, of course, upon the cooperation of the public -- on its intelligent support and use of a reliable system.

Remember that the essential accomplishment of the new legislation is that it makes it possible for banks more readily to convert their assets into cash than was the case before. More liberal provision has been made for banks to borrow on these assets at the Reserve Banks and more liberal provision has also been made for issuing currency on the security of those good assets. This currency is not fiat currency. It is issued only on adequate security -- and every good bank has an abundance of such security.

One more point before I close. There will be, of course, some banks unable to reopen without being reorganized. The new law allows the Government to assist in making these reorganizations quickly and effectively and even allows the Government to subscribe to at least a part of new capital which may be required.

I hope you can see from this elemental recital of what your government is doing that there is nothing complex, or radical in the process.

We had a bad banking situation. Some of our bankers had shown themselves either incompetent or dishonest in their handling of the people's funds. They had used the money entrusted to them in speculations and unwise loans. This was of course not true in the vast majority of our banks but it was true in enough of them to shock the people for a time into a sense of insecurity and to put them into a frame of mind where they did not differentiate, but seemed to assume that the acts of a comparative few had tainted them all. It was the Government's job to straighten out this situation and do it as quickly as possible -- and the job is being performed .

I do not promise you that every bank will be reopened or that individual losses will not be suffered, but there will be no losses that possibly could be avoided; and there would have been more and greater losses had we continued to drift. I can even promise you salvation for some at least of the sorely pressed banks. We shall be engaged not merely in reopening sound banks but in the creation of sound banks through reorganization. It has been wonderful to me to catch the note of confidence from all over the country. I can never be sufficiently grateful to the people for the loyal support they have given me in their acceptance of the judgment that has dictated our course, even though all of our processes may not have seemed clear to them.

After all there is an element in the readjustment of our financial system more important than currency, more important than gold, and that is the confidence of the people. Confidence and courage are the essentials of success in carrying out our plan. You people must have faith; you must not be stampeded by rumors or guesses. Let us unite in banishing fear. We have provided the machinery to restore our financial system; it is up to you to support and make it work.

It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail.

Peoples stories:

Peggy Terry was an immigrant farm worker in Texas that picked fruit (like/with the blacks). Her family was unemployed. The Great depression is hard to talk about and all she could remember is being very hungry. She remembers reading the paper about President Roosevelt’s cufflinks, they were supposed to be ruby and covered with jewels. How could one man have all these cufflinks and some didn’t even have enough to eat? Her family lived on gravy and biscuits. When her father got a bonus, he bought car and showed all the kids the Oklahoma City’s Hooversvilles.

They were made out of rusted car bodies, some were shacks made out of orange crate. One family with lots of kids were living in a piano box. The area was about 10 miles by 10 miles. They were living whatever they could put together. She read a book called Grapes of Wrath. When it was talking about living in a government camp, it reminded her of when they lived in a government camp and picked fruit in Texas. People came around and helped make mattresses and teach how to sew and ever saturday night they would have a dance. She is proud of poor people after reading the book. The worst
things done to people is taking away their pride. One family lived in a hole in the ground, it was surprisingly nice, like a cave. Her family lived outdoor after her son was born, August to October. Her dad wasn’t working but her grandfather was so they moved to grandparents although they didn’t have room, so lived outside until it was cold.

People without money feel so insecure. She never had any real money so when she got a job she didn’t know how to make change. She was use to being paid in rent or food. She was so proud making a job as a waitress and when her boss taught her how to make change.

One christmas before dad got a bonus in 1935, they didn’t even get an orange or apple for christmas so she went to the church and stole a present and opened it and it was a piano scarf and so had to take it back because they didn’t need that when living in a one room shack. Usually kids are taught about santa but then, children were stealing instead. She says, people were not put on earth to suffer. [http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/43/243/2B-F3-72-63-terkel-a0a0l6-a.mp3](http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/43/243/2B-F3-72-63-terkel-a0a0l6-a.mp3)

Joe Morrison now is retired now but talks about how the depression affected the coal miners. He lived in southern Indiana. He says that the Depression started there before anywhere else. Joe was the oldest of 10 kids, his father was farmer and a coal miner. Joe quit school after 8th grade, the age of 14, to go to work in the coal mines. His father tried to keep him out because it was so dangerous with all the explosions and gasses. In 1929 the Depression really began and it got a lot worse and people were being thrown out of their houses, the large cities were the worse, and would double up with other relatives.

Joe was fired from the coal mines in 34 for a grievance. He was later blacklisted( list of people viewed in suspicion or disapproval) and worked in the fields for a family of about 6 kids that were not big enough to work yet. In 1936 he got a job working in the steel mills.

Joe says that "labor leaders are like politicians, they don’t do only what they what they pushed to do, the push has to come from the bottom.” The strikes they had were called wildcat strikes. The miners would have to pay one dollar a day for wildcatting. Then he talks about how labor leader are different know then what they were after WWII. Labor workers were more educated and you would see them reading and talking about history. Now people have all kinds of ideas on what labor is.

The communist didn’t come in until later but, the socialist were popular in the paper and in literature. “They could give a congressman a run for his money,” Joe says. He says the young generation forgotten the history of the periods and are being covered up. [http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/43/243/2B-F3-7F-63-terkel-a0a0m9-a.mp3](http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/43/243/2B-F3-7F-63-terkel-a0a0m9-a.mp3) [http://www.studsterkel.org/htimes.php](http://www.studsterkel.org/htimes.php)
**Videos:**

1. **Dust Bowl:** Ever since the end of the Civil War, the steel plow and the reaper cut the prairie grass aside all across the Plains. As World War I came along, the demand for wheat was growing and growing, this made the land vulnerable to high winds and drought. In the 1930’s, the wind swept the fertile land away in the Dust Bowl.  
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2CiDaUYr90](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2CiDaUYr90)

2. **The Great Depression:** The Great Depression affected the state of Pennsylvania unevenly. Decreasing the amount of works hours and pay for workers, also the banks were in debt and failed. The Depression brought the whole neighborhood together in order to get through this time of grief. Through many different way, families survived the Depression.  
   [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mi0j8FYEM7s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mi0j8FYEM7s)

**Infographics/Charts of the era:**

[https://docs.google.com/a/student.liberty.k12.mo.us/document/d/17YhIiQ3sj0eJCMvALp2GowTwgP9Cj_1KBCXhmUmJVMY/edit](https://docs.google.com/a/student.liberty.k12.mo.us/document/d/17YhIiQ3sj0eJCMvALp2GowTwgP9Cj_1KBCXhmUmJVMY/edit)

[https://docs.google.com/a/student.liberty.k12.mo.us/document/d/1i29T3OR_CCVq7GdQrr_QAOFWejE6q9UUbYpgxa0g/edit](https://docs.google.com/a/student.liberty.k12.mo.us/document/d/1i29T3OR_CCVq7GdQrr_QAOFWejE6q9UUbYpgxa0g/edit)

**Hoovers stance:**

Herbert Hoover was the successor to Calvin Coolidge and his term lasted from 1929-1933. His election came with the problems created by the 1920’s false prosperity. His presidency began during the beginning of the Stock Market crash of 1929 and was forced to deal with an incoming economic recession.

Nearly six months after his inauguration, Hoover faced the worst stock market crash in the history of the United States. His immediate response was to make sure people still had jobs and money in their pocket. He tried to balance Federal budgets, and reduce taxes along with increased spending on public works.

His Administration created the Federal Farm Board shortly before Black Tuesday, which bought surplus crops from farmers that no one else could afford. Hoover also made the mistake of signing the Smoot-Hawley Act that increased the already high taxes on imported goods. This caused European nations to refuse business with the United States, who desperately needed to sell goods. Many of the
public works commissioned by Hoover’s Administration were multi-million dollar projects including Boulder (Hoover) Dam. His strong values that people should be hard working and strong individuals made him first hesitant to help the needy as he believed that the people could pull themselves out of their troubles. He eventually faced the fact that the Depression was so terrible on a national scale and that people simply couldn’t persevere during this time.

After the flaunting prosperity of the 20’s, many found themselves with nothing. Many now relied on the charity of the government and stood in lines for food. Landlords were merciless and evicted many tenants without mercy and they were forced to find housing elsewhere. One place that the people lived was in Hoovervilles; simply shelters made from scrap material and were typically in large, abandoned places.

Hoovers political enemies in congress made sure to blame him for the Great Depression and to portray him as callous and cruel. This ruined the public perception of him and he lost a lot of support. As Hoover proved more unable to pull America out of its Great Depression, the public lost faith in the Republican Party. Voters solely blamed the Republican party for the economic recession. Later in the 1932 election, Hoover faced off against Franklin D. Roosevelt. Hoover lost by a landslide in both popular and electoral votes; Franklin won over both 42 states and over 7 million votes.

http://www.education.com/study-help/article/us-history-great-depression-herbert-hoover/
http://www.biography.com/people/herbert-hoover-9343371
http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/herberthoover