

Gift and Release Agreement

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Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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Gainesboro, Tennessee

on the date(s) of May 17, 1994

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

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Interviewee's signature

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Date 5-15-94

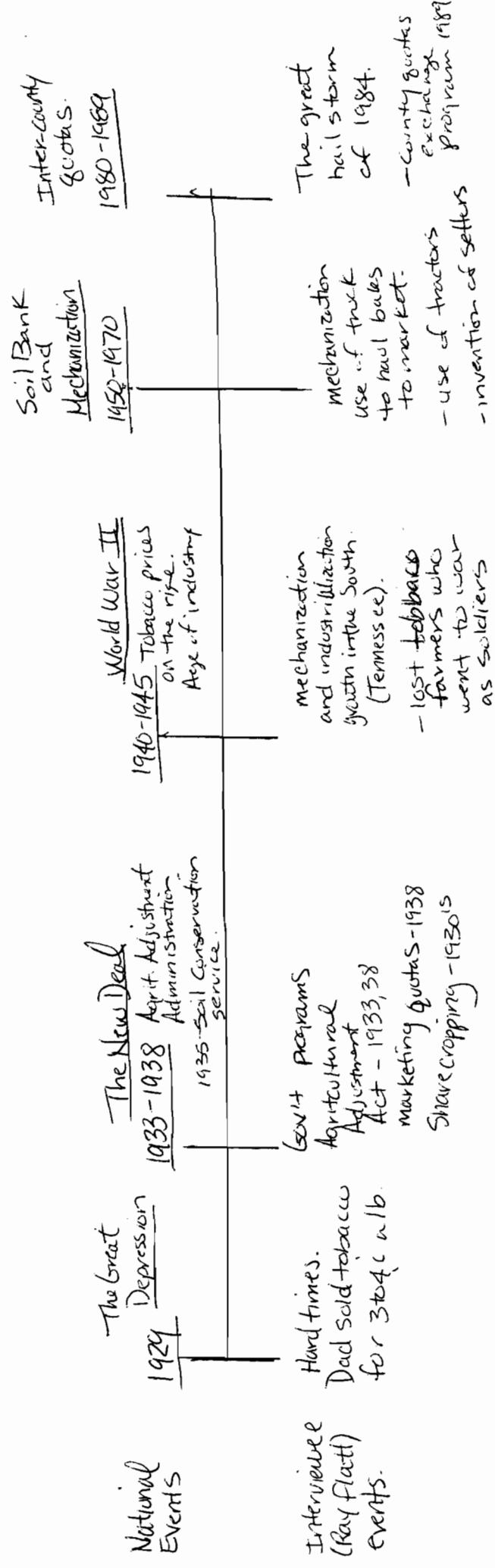
Gary R. Morrison
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Date 5-15-94

Tobacco farming

Chronology Time Line (1929-1989)



1929
The Great Depression

1933-1938
The New Deal
Agr. Adjustment Administration
1935 - Soil Conservation Service

Gov't Programs
Agr. Adjustment Act - 1933, 38
marketing quotas - 1938
Sharecropping - 1930's

1940-1945
World War II
Tobacco prices on the rise.
Axis of industry

mechanization and industrialization growth in the South (Tennessee).
- lost tobacco farmers who went to war as soldiers

1945-1970
Soil Bank and Mechanization

mechanization use of truck to haul bales to market.
- use of tractors
- invention of settlers

1980-1989
Inter-county quotas

The great hail storm of 1984.
- county quotas exchange program 1989

National Events

Interviewee (Ray Flatt) Events.

Hard times.
Dad sold tobacco for 3 to 4 c a lb.

ORAL HISTORY

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 - A). HARMONICA

TERMS

Soil Bank- a farmer would get paid to store their tobacco crops from one year to the next.

Fodder- corn leaves used to feed the cattle.

Mama Maybelle- a local singer in Gainsboro, Tennessee.

Suckering- sidewise sprouts that are removed from the tobacco plant.

Topping- cutting or trimming the tobacco plant while it is in the bed.

Flue Cured- method of heat transfered through a long pipe in order to dry out tobacco.

Setter- invention in the 1970's to ease the transplanting of burley tobacco. Setter has a water tank and either one or two mechanized setters, which automatically transplants the burley tobacco to the patch.

Eckeds- a lice like insect that attacks the tobacco leaf.

MH-30- a pesticide used on the buds of the tobacco crop.

Chawing tobacco- chewing tobacco.

Seven dust- pesticide use to kill suckers.

Tobacco quotas- established in 1938, restricted the amount a tobacco farmer could grow in one year. Later quotas were established which allowed excess tobacco to be rented or leased between county lines.

Disking- turning of the soil.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

NAME: Ray Flatt
DATE: 17 May 1994
BIRTHDATE: 8/7/21
OCCUPATION: Tobacco Farmer

1. How long has family been farming, generations?
2. Father use of fertilizer?
3. What type of tobacco grown?
4. Age of children working the tobacco fields? How many?
 - a). mens and womens roles in working tobacco?
5. Curing of tobacco? (any timesavers or shortcuts?
6. Beds? Burning weeds? Size of beds? How long in beds? and when is tobacco transplanted to patch?
7. Transplanting? Turning the field or patch? Fertilizer used? crimson clover or wheat? Transplanting old way or new way? Soil life? Suckering?
8. Cutting? Poles or tools used?
9. Curing? hang in barn, how long?
10. Stripping? Labor intensive?
11. Animals or insects affecting the crop?
12. Grow other crops? why? use?
13. Use of environment? soil?
14. Growth cycle, how long? storage life?
15. Industrial affect on farming tobacco?
16. When to market?
17. Bailing vs stick method, explain?
18. Quotas? When? what year? why?
19. Fertilizers and pesticides use? stripping room fuel?
20. Historical events? WWI? Populist movement? Depression? AAA, TVA, and the New Deal, WWII impact ? industrialization?
21. How has tobacco farming changed?
22. Future for tobacco farmers?
23. Jeffersonian? ideal self-made man? yeoman farmer, comment?
24. Harmonica?

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Ray Flatt
 Address: 4 Flynn's Creek Rd, Gainsboro Tenn 38502 (M)F
 Phone number(s): 615-268-9757
 Approximate age or date of birth: 72 8-7-21
 Mother's Name: MARY Elizabeth Flatt
 Father's Name: Logan H. Flatt
 Places lived and when: Gainesboro Tenn - for my whole life
 Education: 8th grade Center Grove Elementary
 Religion: Church of Christ
 Business, political and social memberships (past and present) none
 Present occupation: Farmer
 Former occupations: Farmer
 Special Skills: Raise Tobacco
 Major Accomplishments: _____
 National Events in which interviewee has participated: Depression, New Deal, World War II
 Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____
 National born U.S. citizen? Yes No
 Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
 Country from which he/she emigrated: U.S.A
 Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: none
 Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: Harold Robinson
 Additional information: _____