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We H. V. Glenn and Jason Glenn Mayfield
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

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H. V. Glenn
(Interviewee's signature)

Address Route 3

Date February 26, 1996

Crossville, AL 35962

Phone 205-659-~~8~~330

Jason Mayfield
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Interviewee Background Information

Name: H.V. (Valdor) Glenn
Address: Route 3 Box 146 Crossville, AL 35962
Phone Number(s): 205 659-2330
Approximate age or date of birth: 88 year old - 9-24-07
Mother's name: Lema Ragsdale Glenn
Father's name: Marion D. Glenn
Places lived and when: Lifelong resident of Painter Community - Crossville
DeKalb County

Education: High School Graduate - Some College

Religion: Methodist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present):

Farmer - Book Keeper Steel Plant Gadsden - DeKalb County
Democrate Party - Historical Society - 55 years as a Mason

Present occupation: Farmer / Retired

Former occupation(s):

Special skills:

Major Accomplishments: Raised a family during Great Depression

Local events in which you have participated: All political events
of DeKalb County of Democratic Party

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: State Politics

National events in which you have participated:

Participated in the New Deal

International events in which you have participated: None

Natural born U.S. citizen? (Yes)/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date:

Country from which you emigrated:

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession:

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview:

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- 1918 - Hydroelectric Dam Construction Begins
Armistice
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Women's Suffrage Passed
- 1920 - Warren G. Harding
Prohibition
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Radio Broadcasting
- 1921 - Ku Klux Klan
- 1923 - William Woodward Brandon Elected Governor
Harding died in office
Calvin Coolidge President
- 1924 - Calvin Coolidge Elected President
- 1927 - Bibb Graves Elected Governor
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- 1928 - Al Smith's Handicap
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- 1929 - Stock Market Crash
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- 1931 - Benjamin Meek Miller Governor
- 1932 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt President
- 1933 - New Deal
- 1935 - Bibb Graves Governor
- 1939 - Frank Murray Dixon Governor
- 1940 - Prepare for war

LIFE OF H.V. GLENN

1907 Birth

1912 Formal Education Begins

1917 Family gets first car

1923 Receives first car

1927 Graduated High School

1928 Voted first time
Enters Jacksonville College

1929 Death of father - Marion Glenn

1930 Return to farm
Taught School

1932 Elected to DeKalb County Democrat Committee
Hoboed to western states seeking work

1933 Worked for TVA

1935 Married Pearl Trussell

1936 Birth of first child, Kenneth

1937 Used Social Security Act
Birth of second child, Catherine

1939 Birth of third child, Carolyn

1940 Worked for U.S. Transportation

1941 Bought Farm

1944 Birth of fourth child, Genelle

1945 Worked at Steel Plant Gadsden, Alabama

1958 Marriage of Kenneth to Rebecca Peacock

1959 Marriage of Catherine to Lamar Freeman
Ran for Clerk of Circuit Court DeKalb County

1960 Death of Mother - Leona Glenn

1961 Marriage of Carolyn to Wayne Bruce
Ran for Tax Assessor DeKalb County

1963 Birth of first grandchild - Geoffrey Freeman

1965 Birth of second grandchild - Kimberly Glenn
1967 Marriage of Genelle to Jimmy Mayfield
1969 Birth of third grandchild - Jennifer Mayfield
1971 Birth of fourth grandchild - Joe Glenn Freeman
1973 Birth of fifth grandchild - Nancy Bruce
1975 Birth of sixth grandchild - Jason Glenn Mayfield
Until Present - H.V. Glenn farms and serves as community
Historian and Philosopher.

QUESTIONS USED IN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. The United States stayed out of World War I until 1917. About two million American troops called "doughboys" crossed the Atlantic in troopships. You were ten years old at this time. Do you recall the sentiment in DeKalb County about the war?
2. Following World War I, many changes came to American life. The booming economy gave the decade the nickname of the Roaring Twenties. Women began wearing radically new clothing styles: short skirts, rolled-down stockings, and short "bobbed" hair. The women who wore such clothes became known as "flappers". You were just entering your teenage years and high school. Did this fast-pace life style come to DeKalb County?
3. What was your style of dress during the Roaring Twenties?
4. DeKalb County is apart of the Bible-belt, did you notice any trend toward revivalism during the twenties?
5. The 19th Amendment passed in 1920 which gave women the right to vote. How did the men of DeKalb County accept the Women's right to vote?
6. Did many women register to vote in your voting box in the 1920's?
7. Many women found new roles during the 1920's with careers outside the homes. Women began thinking of themselves more as equal with men and less of housewives and mothers. How was the new role of women accepted in DeKalb County?
8. Some of America's best loved authors wrote of the average American during the 1920's. Sinclair Lewis' novels portrayed the average American as narrow minded and dull. Ernest Hemingway portrayed people who did not fit into society. If you were a writer how would you portray the average DeKalb County farmer? Include education and religion background.
9. What role did the KKK play in DeKalb County during the 1920's and 1930's?
10. Radio broadcasting began on a large scale during the 1920's. It brought news of the world and entertainment into millions of homes. When did you receive your first radio?
11. What did you listen to?

12. How did your neighbors accept the radio?
13. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic. This made the world seem like a smaller place. How did you and your graduating class perceive this great step into the modern world?
14. During the 1920's did the people of DeKalb County develop an admiration of Jack Dempsey the boxer, and Babe Ruth of baseball? Were the people of DeKalb County aware of sports figures in the 1920's?
15. The cost of cars dropped low enough in the 1920's that the average American could afford to buy one. In the ten years between 1920 and 1930, the number of cars registered in the United States almost tripled from about 8 million to 23 million. Were there many cars in DeKalb County?
16. How did DeKalb County cope with problems of road construction?
17. In the 1920's, motion pictures became a part of almost every town in America. Were there any movie theaters in northeast Alabama? Where were they?
18. Can you recall the silent films?
19. Do you remember the excitement these films brought to the public?
20. Can you tell me about the "talkies"?
21. The decade of 1930-1940 produced only two Presidents: Herbert Hoover, a Republican 1929-1933 and Franklin D. Roosevelt, a democrat. By 1932 Herbert Hoover was hated by masses of Americans - how did DeKalb County feel about Hoover?
22. Thousands of banks failed during the Great Depression. Tell about the banks in your area.
23. Many of Alabama's poor people hardly knew that a Depression had hit America. Were there any poor-people in DeKalb County?
24. What type of people rode the rails with you?
25. In his campaign, FDR promised government action to end the Great Depression. This was the first year you served as beat committeeman. How did the voters of DeKalb County respond to the election in November, 1932?
26. Do you recall how many voted at Painter?

27. How had the Republicans ever gained control of DeKalb County?
28. Roosevelt's program for recovery and reform was called the New Deal including public works projects. How did this effect DeKalb County?
29. The Agricultural Adjustment Act encouraged farmers to restrict acreage in growing specific crops to guarantee federal price support, was this popular in DeKalb County?
30. Before the election of Roosevelt .2% of farms in the Tennessee Valley had electricity. Was that about the average in DeKalb County? About how many farm homes have electricity in DeKalb County?
31. The New Deal established the TVA which provided a network of hydroelectric dams along the Tennessee River. How did the people of DeKalb County react to TVA bringing them electricity?
32. The river, with TVA would provide navigation, flood control, recreation and electricity. How did the land owners of the Tennessee Valley feel as they learned their lands would be flooded with the backwaters forming TVA lakes?
33. How did World War II effect northeast Alabama socially and economically?
34. Which do you feel boosted the economy of northeast Alabama more the New Deal or World War II?

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

LIFE AND TIMES OF H.V. GLENN
CENTERING ON
THE TWENTIES AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

ALABAMA HISTORY 444

BY

JASON GLENN MAYFIELD

JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA

APRIL 1996



LIFE AND TIMES OF H.V. GLENN
CENTERING ON
THE TWENTIES AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The state of Alabama has went through numerous changes since the defeat of the Civil War. Alabama has left the restrictive and dying world of agriculture, where cotton was not only king but life, and began to venture deeper into the unconfined world of industry and technology. The reconstruction period following the Civil War left Alabama and the rest of the dead Confederacy lost in the rubble of an agricultural era long passed. The progress of Alabama from the lost state of reconstruction to a modern living state has been a continuous but slow journey. Throughout its history Alabama has endured hardships socially, politically, and economically. Not only has Alabama endured these hardships but it has risen above them. Alabama took its largest strides against social, political, and economic hardships during the period between World War One and World War Two. It was during this time that Alabama fought back against its greatest hardships the depression. H.V. Glenn has been a resident of Northeast Alabama since 1907. During these many years of residency H.V. Glenn has been a witness to the hardships which have fell on Alabama, and like thee

state H.V. Glenn has risen above these hardships.

The United States went to war against Germany in 1917. America hoped to keep Germany from dominating Europe. Alabama helped the war effort in various ways. Some United States troops were trained at Camp McClellan near Anniston. Army pilots learned how to fly at Maxwell Field in Montgomery. Warships were built and repaired in Mobile. Alabama lumber was processed for wartime construction. The output of iron and steel increased in Birmingham plants. Construction of two nitrogen plants on the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals was begun in 1918. The following year, construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the river was begun. The dam was to furnish electricity to the large nitrogen plants. The nitrogen was to be used to make explosives for the war. The project was planned and undertaken as a war measure, but with the idea that nitrate plants and hydroelectric dam would be useful after the war ended.¹

Over ninety-five thousand Alabamians served in the army, navy, or marines during World War I. Official War figures indicate 2,401 were killed and another 3,861 were fatally wounded or dead from disease. Most of the men returned to Alabama to grand receptions in cities and towns across Alabama. Thousands of citizens welcomed the troops

¹ Sarah Woolfolk Wiggins, From Civil War to Civil Rights Alabama 1860-1960, (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press 1987), 297-308.

home waving American flags.²

The war was remembered by H.V. Glenn: "At the beginning of the war, I was only ten years old, but my dad received a newspaper, the Atlanta Constitution, which I read. It was my pleasure to hear about the cause and happening concerning 'Old Wilson's War'. The majority of our neighbors were Republican so you see Woodrow was not their hero and was not well received."³

When the troops returned home to Alabama following the war, they were mature young men. They had lived and fought along side of men from all parts of the country. They had seen sights of the world. Many returned knowing Alabama was far from ideal.⁴ In an effort to become modern, many of these young men and eventually women adapted a new life-style. Women began wearing radically new clothing with short skirts and "bobbed" hair. They smoked, drank, danced the Charleston and necked in automobiles.⁵ H.V. Glenn stated:

"These changes came to Dekalb County in big style. The 'doughboys' came home with a pack of 'ready-rolls'

² Daniel Savage Gray, Alabama A Place, A People, A Point of View, (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 1977), 209-211.

³ H.V. Glenn, Interviewed by Jason Mayfield, Tape recording, Crossville, Alabama, 26 February 1996.

⁴ Gray, Alabama A Place, 210-211.

⁵ William Warren Rogers, Robert David Ward, Leah R. Atkins, and Wayne Flynt, Alabama The History of A Deep South State, (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1994) 411.

cigarettes, but most of those who smoked though, could not afford to buy 'ready-roll' cigarettes and they had to stay with the roll-your-own tobacco. In the beginning in my area, it was considered a 'sin' for a married lady to wear short hair or skirts knee length. But now, even if she was married and had a family the hair had to be cut, the stockings rolled below the knee and her skirt shortened. Their high top, button shoes were replaced with slippers.⁶

Before 1920, the Alabama political system was dominated by sectionalism between north and south Alabama in statewide elections. This caused candidates to have to run twice before being elected to office. The political system did not encourage progressive thinking or any political change. However, Governor Charles Henderson requested the Russell Sage Foundation of New York to conduct a study of the state's conditions in 1918. The study reported that education was Alabama's top priority problem. The study found inequity in Alabama's white and black schools and only three four-year public high schools for blacks over the entire state. The study found, only fifty percent of black elementary students attended school. It further found that the state of Alabama spent only fifty-four percent of the national per pupil. The salaries of teachers were below the national average by seventy-nine percent. The Alabama illiteracy rate was 16.1 percent for whites and 31.3 percent for blacks.

The study found the second problem in the state of Alabama was its penal system. The citizens of Alabama had

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Glenn, Interview.

been unwilling to pay taxes for state prisons; instead the state leased convict labor to coal mines and industry.

The study indicated one hundred thirty thousand children between the ages of ten and seventeen employed in agriculture and industry. State law required children to attend school until fourteen years old. The study showed that one thousand, two hundred of these children below sixteen years old worked in cotton mills across the state.

The study indicated Alabama had institutions for the insane, but neglected three thousand 'feeble-minded' citizens and one thousand neglected children.

The study showed the Alabama tax structure inadequate. The statewide property assessments were far below the state tax code of sixty percent of the fair cash value.⁷

A reform-minded individual won the governor's seat in 1918. Thomas E. Kilby, a former mayor from Anniston and United States Senator, took office in January 1919. Kilby had just taken office when a labor dispute erupted in Birmingham. When Alabama Coal Miners joined a nationwide strike led by United Mine Workers. Governor Kilby backed the mine owners. The miners union had admitted blacks into the union on an equal basis as whites. The governor used the militia to restore order at the mines. He replaced the striking miners with nonunion labor. This caused support

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Rogers, Alabama The History, 413-415.

for the governor to grow.⁸

Before Governor Kilby set to work on his platform, he called a special session of the Alabama legislature. The governor presented a package allowing provision for women suffrage. The campaign had organized in Alabama in 1892, and at last had ended in victory.⁹

Apparently only the middle and upper class of Alabama women participated in the following election. In speaking of the poor women H.V. Glenn stated:

"I would say the majority of men did not want their wives to vote or the women did not want to vote. Only a half of dozen registered in my box."¹⁰

Governor Kilby created a new budget commission to run the government on a businesslike basis. The legislature passed legislation that forced an increase in property tax assessments to the recommended sixty percent. Kilby forced the legislature to establish the state Child Welfare Department. He enforced the state's child-labor laws. He established the state Board of Education. He placed the states illiteracy program under the Division of Exceptional Education within the new state department. Funding for education nearly doubled under Kilby's administration. Funding for state health care grew fifty percent. Governor Kilby realized he would be unable to fulfill his campaign

⁸ Gray, Alabama A Place, 211-213.

⁹ Wiggins, From Civil War to Civil Rights, 290-293.

¹⁰ Glenn, Interview.

promise of abolishing the convict lease program. Instead he began the largest prison construction in the state's history near Montgomery. Eventually, the prison bore his name.¹¹

In January 1920 the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution took effect, this prohibited liquor sales across America. To the rural preacher, feminist reformer and sober industrialist, a dry nation would tighten family values. But neither the law nor moral virtue could quench the nation's thirst. Speakeasies was abound in American cities.¹² H.V. Glenn said that bootlegging was commonplace even in remote Alabama and was considered a vocation. The farmers had no market for corn that they produced so they distilled it into whiskey.¹³

Prohibition's only solid support came from the rural areas. In a very real sense it was an attempt to overcome city wickedness with country virtue. It became law of the land when the 1920 census revealed more people lived in cities and towns, than on farms and villages of fewer than twenty-five hundred people. No one can really say how great the reduction in the consumption of alcohol was nationwide, but the good was far outweighed by speakeasies, bootlegging,

¹¹ Rogers, Alabama The History, 416-418.

¹² Thomas A. Bailey, Probing America's Past, A Critical Examination and Misconceptions, (Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Company, 1973), 642-646.

¹³ Glenn, Interview.

corruption, gang wars and crime in politics.¹⁴

DeKalb County had very few automobiles according to H.V. Glenn, before 1920. His father could afford to buy a 1917 Ford, but the roads were too bad to drive in the winter months because of the rains. He sold the '17 Ford in 1923 for a new model touring car. In 1928, his family owned an A-Model car. By the Depression they had become a two-car family.¹⁵

Millions of Americans saved up almost desperately for their first car between 1919-1929. Ownership of a car created mobility, a sense of power, and a feeling of equality and pride.¹⁶

Before World War I only the rich had cars, but the cost of an automobile dropped and the average American could afford to buy one. In just ten years, between 1920 and 1930, the growth of the number of automobiles registered in Alabama almost tripled from about 75,000 in 1920 to about 277,000 in 1930.¹⁷

The legislature of 1920 submitted a twenty-five million dollar bond issue for the people's approval to get federal

¹⁴ James F. Wickens, Themes in United States History, (Beverly Hills, California: Glencoe Press, 1970), 242-243.

¹⁵ Glenn, Interview.

¹⁶ Gordon Axon, The Stock Market Crash of 1929, (New York: Mason and Lipscomb, 1974) 17-18.

¹⁷ Rogers, Alabama The History, 429.

Act sponsored by Senator John H. Bankhead of Alabama.¹⁸

"There were no paved roads in DeKalb County. The road from Chattanooga to Birmingham was a gravel road. Every twenty-one year old man in DeKalb County was to donate six days of work a year on the neighboring roads from sun-up until sun-down. Anyone could hire someone to work in his place. Each community had a road over-seer who was appointed and paid by the state," stated H.V. Glenn.¹⁹

One of the results of the automobile was that of installment buying which established itself in the twenties. Many of the automobiles were purchased on the installment plan. Living beyond one's means was a sin to previous generations, but became the thing to do in the twenties.²⁰

Alabama and all of America were ready to return to a relaxed normal life after the war years. William Harding with Calvin Coolidge as his running mate won the election of 1920 by campaigning from his front porch. Harding seemed to the people to be a warm, kind, good neighborly individual. Calvin Coolidge appeared to be a shrewd Yankee from Vermont. The irony was that Harding-Coolidge were the precise opposite. They had been nominated by a Republican convention dominated by big business. It was predictable

¹⁸ Gray, Alabama A Place, 212.

¹⁹ Glenn, Interview.

²⁰ Joan Hoff Wilson, The Twenties: The Critical Issues, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1972), 139.

that they would encourage government policy directed toward big business.

The new president's circle of friends became known as the "Ohio Gang". The members of the gang of the President of the United States drank and played poker often in the White House even during prohibition.

Several of the gang resigned their posts or committed suicide. On June 20, 1923 Harding left Washington for a speaking tour of the West. He fell seriously ill and died August 2, 1923 in San Francisco evidently of a cerebral embolism. Harding's successor in the White House, Calvin Coolidge won another term in office in 1924.²¹

William W. (Plain Bill) Brandon won the governorship in 1922; however, no significant legislation was passed during his administration.²² During the Brandon Administration Henry Ford and Thomas Edison offered to buy the unfinished Wilson Dam and nitrate plants from the Federal Government. Ford and Edison planned to build one Seventy-Five Mile city - a string of farms, factories, residences and commercial districts. It could have been an economic boom for northwest Alabama. The proposal stalled in the Senate until October 1924, Ford withdrew his offer.²³

²¹ Bailey, Probing America's Past, 648-650.

²² Gray, Alabama A Place, 214.

²³ Wiggins, From Civil War to Civil Rights, 297-308.

Amid a prevailing mood of political apathy, only slightly more than half those eligible to vote bothered to cast presidential ballots in 1924. The voters had in any case little to choose between the two major candidates as regards to fundamental issues that year. The Democratic nominee, John W. Davis, a wealthy lawyer, was a conservative basically as his Republican opponent Calvin Coolidge. Davis vainly tried to make viable issues out of the League of Nations, which he favored America entering, and the Republican Corruption. Coolidge won by a landslide victory.²⁴

Concerning the Ku Klux Klan H.V. Glenn said:

"I do not know when or where the KKK began, but I do know that it was not considered a race oriented organization on Sand Mountain in the early twenties. I remember my dad and his friend talking about some of their friends asking them to join the order. I think the fee was five dollars. The Klansmen were at picnics in the summer. The better class of people participated in the Klan. I do think I recognized some of them. I remember hearing about a man who whipped his wife and the Klan carried him out and gave him a flogging."²⁵

The Ku Klux Klan of the twenties was unlike the Klan of 1870. This new version began innocently enough as a fraternal association. William J. Simmons, the founder of the revised Klan, was born in Alabama in 1880. Simmons had joined numerous fraternal organizations when he envisioned a fraternal organization patterned after the Reconstruction

²⁴ Charles A. Beard, The Old Deal and the New, (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1941) 45-46.

²⁵ Glenn, Interview.

Ku Klux Klan. He and several friends climbed Stone Mountain in Georgia, carrying a fiery cross, the group formally inaugurated the Ku Klux Klan. The group grew very slowly their early years. Its members were often religious fundamentalists who were against immigrants, sexual immorality, and for prohibition. The Klan's rapid growth in membership came in 1921. When over eighty-five thousand men across the south had joined at ten dollars each. Simmons pocketed two hundred thousand dollars of the initiation fees and was exposed by northern newspaper. Simmons was replaced by another Alabamian Hiram Wesley Evans. Under Evans the Klan was better organized and much more politically active. It's influence spread nationwide.

In the 1926 elections the Klan enjoyed important political victories. The Governor-elect Bibb Graves and Attorney General-elect Charles C. McCall were both members of the Montgomery Klan. Hugo L. Black elected United States Senator was a member of the Robert E. Lee Klan in Birmingham.

One of the worse outrages of the Klan was flogging. The total number who suffered this outrage will never be known. The Birmingham News estimated in 1927 that the number would be well into the hundreds. Finally in 1927 with judicial convictions of kidnapping and floggings of several Klan members. A rapid descent of the power, respect, and influence of the Klan begun in Alabama. The

decline of the Klan nationally and locally were precipitous. In 1924 the Klan was riding high; by 1926 it had lost its influence in every state except Alabama. Many people who were in sympathy with the Klan condemned its violence.²⁶

Bibb Graves, a tobacco-chewing honor student of Yale Law School, was a member of the Montgomery Ku Klux Klan. Graves was recognized as a leader of progressive forces of Alabama. The conservatives wanted to maintain a simple government and they vigorously opposed Graves. He ran strongest in rural north Alabama, but received a substantial vote from every section of the state except the Black Belt.

The Graves administration was distinguished because of its expansion of the state's education system. Graves saw the necessity for better teacher training to improve public schools of Alabama. The legislature appropriated thirty-five thousand dollars annually to each of the normal schools at Florence, Jacksonville, Livingston, and Troy. The legislature appropriated funds for a building program at each of these schools. To improve the black education in the state appropriated funds were provided to them as well. Other funds went to the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute, Bryce Hospital, The Boys and Girls Industrial Schools. He expanded the Health Departments.

One of the most important reforms of the Graves Administration was the abolition of the convict leasing

²⁶Wiggins, From Civil War to Civil Rights, 309-325.

system. Alabama needed tax reforms to improve the state's base of taxation and were instituted. His administration also improved the state's system of highways. His term began in 1927 when money was plentiful. It ended in 1931 when the worst economic depression gripped America.²⁷

The radio broadcasting made its appearance in the twenties. It brought the news of the world and entertainment into millions of homes. H.V. Glenn stated his family was one of the first to get a radio in their home. He said that the reception was often bad. At first the neighbors did not believe in listening to the radio because they thought it was the devil's work.

When asked about heroes of the twenties H.V. Glenn had the following comments:

"In 1927, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic. This made the world seem like a smaller place. This same year I graduated from high school. My graduating class felt Charles Lindbergh was a super hero. He exhibited real courage flying across the Atlantic not knowing if he could make it or not.

"Another hero was Babe Ruth. Every crossroads that had a school enjoyed a baseball team. He was America's superman. Jack Dempsey, the boxer came in the late twenties when more people had radios and was better informed."

"In the twenties, almost every town in Alabama had a movie theater to show silent movies. The dialogue of the actors took up much of the screen. The words had to remain on the screen long enough for even slow readers to read. They were exciting especially the cowboy movies which we played out at school. When I was older, the talkies came out. I drove to Gadsden to see

²⁷Gray, Alabama A Place, 214-216.

them."²⁸

Most industries shared in the business expansion of the twenties. The growing prosperity brought rising demand for electrical devices, such as telephones and refrigerators. People had money for the movies. The wide variety of goods sold in stores gave that business a boom. Retail trade in general expanded greatly. The twenties was one of hope not fear. It was an era of revolution in ideas, beliefs, inventions, and ways of living. It included Prohibition, jazz, the vote for women, the flapper age, and the achievements of Charles Lindbergh.²⁹

Farmers, unlike many other groups in America during the twenties, did not share in the nation's prosperity because of a decline in demand for farm products. Farmers had a reduced market in Europe after World War I and America had a decline in its population during the twenties.³⁰

The presidential election of 1928, Alabamians were united in opposition to Al Smith. The Democrats nominated a "wet" Roman Catholic a former governor of New York. This sent the Bible belt into a frenzy. In Alabama Senator Tom Heflin led the outcry against Smith. Heflin swore on the senate floor that he would never support Smith. Heflin ruined his political career in working for the election of

²⁸ Glenn, Interview.

²⁹ Axon, The Stock Market Crash, 21-22.

³⁰ Bailey, Probing America's Past, 646-648.

fell to Benjamin Meek Miller, a lawyer from Wilcox County, who won the nomination in 1930. Governor Miller pushed for the Budget Control Act to make sure state money was in hand before it was spent. Careful with state funds, Miller was frugal with his personal money. He used kerosene lamps in the governor's mansion rather than pay for electric lights.³⁴

By 1932 Herbert Hoover was hated by masses of Americans and DeKalb County was no exception. Hoover was hated by all democrats as well as most Republicans as stated by H.V. Glenn.³⁵

H.V. Glenn graduated high school in 1927 and entered Jacksonville College only to return to the farm when the Depression hit. He taught school for a term; then he became a hobo riding the rails; going from town to town looking for work. He and thousands of other men with the same objective. Hobo's were not a bunch of murderers or thieves they had their own code of conduct to live by. They respected whatever another man had. The Hobo's were all without jobs usually work for fifty to seventy-five cents a day. The railroads hired men to police the rails called the Rail Road Bulls. The Rail Road Bulls told H.V. Glenn more than once to clear the rails.

Thousands of banks failed during the Great Depression.

³⁴ Gray, Alabama A Place, 216-217.

³⁵ Glenn, Interview.

Republican Herbert Hoover. Heflin paid the price when the Alabama Democratic Committee blocked him from receiving the nomination for another term, and the Alabama voters sent John H. Bankhead, Jr. to reclaim the family seat in the senate.³¹

Herbert Hoover had been in office only eight months in October 29, 1929. The depression that followed 1929 was world wide. It was Herbert Hoover's misfortune to be President of the United States in October 1929. After the crash of 1929, Hoover now had to try to lead the nation for three more years into a reality. That reality being suffering and stagnation, unemployment and insecurity. Hoover would support much of the next years trying to convince Americans that prosperity was "just around the corner."³²

H.V. Glenn said that poverty existed before the Great Depression. Some poor people in Alabama hardly knew a Depression existed. There was a large number of people living from hand to mouth. They lived as well during the Depression as they did before by growing everything they ate.³³

The job of leading the state through a depressing time

³¹ Wiggins, From Civil War to Civil Rights, 349-371.

³² William Graebner and Leonard Richards, The American Record - Images of the Nations Past, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982), 219-221.

³³ Glenn, Interview.

But H.V. Glenn said that he did not know of but one bank closing during the depression.³⁶

The depression deepened as the election of 1932 approached. The Republicans slated Hoover for re-election. The Democrats choose Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In his campaign, Roosevelt promised not only government action to end the Great Depression but also reforms to avoid future depressions. Roosevelt won by a landslide victory.³⁷

Alabamians could do nothing about their economic frustrations in 1932 but get to the polls and vote the Republicans out of office. The swing to Franklin D. Roosevelt was so great that even Winston County went Democratic by one vote.³⁸

H.V. Glenn reported that Roosevelt lost in his voting box but he carried DeKalb County. The Republicans just didn't show up at the polls.³⁹

At the height of the depression in 1933, about thirteen million Americans were out of work. Farm product prices dropped so sharply that more than seven hundred fifty thousand farmers lost their farms. A terrible drought hit the western Great Plains, known as the Dust Bowl, whipped many farmers. Throughout the depression many Americans went

³⁶ Glenn, Interview.

³⁷ Gray, Alabama A Place, 215.

³⁸ Gray, Alabama A Place, 217.

³⁹ Glenn, Interview.

hungry. People in cities relied on "bread lines" and "soup kitchens" to get food from charities. Many people built shacks out of scraps of wood and tin. They called these shacks "Hoovervilles" in reference to Herbert Hoover.⁴⁰

Bibb Graves was inaugurated Governor January, 1936. The Graves brilliance worked a second time on Goat Hill. In 1937, he pressed the legislature to enact a 1.5 percent sales tax to be paid with small tokens. This caused grumbling across Alabama. That same year President Roosevelt appointed Senator Hugo Black to the Supreme Court. Governor Graves appointed his wife Dixie Graves to the Senate. In January 1938 he replaced her with Congressman Lister Hill. During Graves' second term, Alabama emerged from the depression.⁴¹

Roosevelt's program for recovery and reform was called the "New Deal". Its many provisions included public works projects, relief for farmers, aid to manufacturing and the regulation of banking. This was exciting times for north Alabama because the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydroelectric dams gave promises of electricity to north Alabama farms. Before T.V.A. only about .2 percent of farms had electricity and those had to be near towns. H.V. Glenn

⁴⁰ Broadus Mitchell, Depression Decade From New Era Through New Deal 1929, (New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1947, 9), 92-96.

⁴¹ Gray, Alabama A Place, 221-222.

went to work for the T.V.A. for \$3.45 per day.⁴²

Alabama shook off the effects of the depression during Bibb Graves' second term as governor. Through federal soil conservation programs Alabama was introduced to "soil-clutching" legumes called soybeans and kudzu. These two didn't carry Alabama through World War II but they are both still around.⁴³

Governor Frank Dixon was elected in 1939. He was a conservative from Birmingham who advocated less government. He worked to unseat liberals in Montgomery as well as Washington including Lister Hill. However, the need for wartime harmony kept him quite of public criticism of the Roosevelt administration. He made Alabama the first in the nation in buying the government's War Bond and Victory Bond campaigns.

Dixon created the Alabama War Chest to coordinate charitable and relief efforts.⁴⁴

Alabama's climate, good transportation system and cheap labor made Alabama attractive to the military and private companies during the 1939-41 defense buildup as Franklin D. Roosevelt began to prepare America for war. The war in turn would play a major

⁴² Glenn, Interview.

⁴³ Gray, Alabama A Place, 222.

⁴⁴ Gray, Alabama A Place, 227.

role in shaping the state.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Allen Cronenberg, Forth to the Mighty Conflict-
Alabama, (Tuscaloosa: The University Press, 1995), 6-7.

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