

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Gladys Smecher
Address: Constantine Apts. 316 Elm St
Phone Number(s): 835-9581
Approximate age or date of birth: 1905
Mother's name: Rose Thompson
Father's name: William Thompson
Places lived and when: 508 W 11/2 St, small child, Flatwoods
5 or 6 yrs old.

Education: second grade

Religion: Baptist
Business, political and social memberships (past and present): _____

Present occupation: housewife
Former occupation(s): housewife

Special skills: no
Major Accomplishments: _____

Local events in which you have participated: none.

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: none

National events in which you have participated: none

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: pictures of family throughout the years.

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: none.

Additional information: _____

Gift and Release Agreement:

We Gladys Smelcher
~~Mary Smelcher~~ and Mary Smelcher
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at Constantine Apts. on the date(s) of Nov 8, 1996 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

Gladys Smelcher
(Interviewee's signature)
Address Constantine Apts
316 Elm St.
Phone 835-9581

Date Nov 8, 1996

Mary Smelcher
(Interviewer's signature)
Address 20 Darden Dr.
Anniston, Al 36201
Phone 238-6428

Date Nov. 8, 1996

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS THAT HAD AN IMPACT ON ALABAMA

- 1920 18TH AMENDMENT INSTITUTES PROHIBITION.
- 1920 19TH AMENDMENT GIVES WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.
- 1920 U.S. SENATE VOTES AGAINST LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
- 1921 HARDING ELECTED 29TH PRESIDENT. COOLIDGE VICE PRESIDENT.
- 1923 HARDING DIES, COOLIDGE PRESIDENT.
- 1924 J. EDGAR HOOVER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS.
- 1925 50,000 ROBED KU KLUX KLAN MEMBERS MARCH ON WASHINGTON.
- 1925 JOHN SCOPES GOES TO TRIAL FOR TEACHING THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION.
- 1928 KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT OUTLAWING WAR SIGNED BY 15 NATIONS.
- 1929 HOOVER ELECTED AS 31ST PRESIDENT. CURTIS VICE PRESIDENT.
- 1929 WALL STREET CRASH LEADS TO ECONOMIC DEPRESSION.
- 1931 STAR SPANGLED BANNER BECOMES UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM.
- 1932 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PLEDGES A NEW DEAL.
- 1933 HOOVER AWAKES ON THE LAST DAY OF HIS PRESIDENCY TO FIND THAT BANKS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WERE CLOSING THEIR DOORS.
- 1933 PROHIBITION ERA END WITH 21ST AMENDMENT.
- 1933 NRA LAUNCHED BY ROOSEVELT.
- 1933 PWA LAUNCHED BY ROOSEVELT.
- 1934 THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FORMED

- 1937 JOE LOUIS THE BROWN BOMBER WINS THE HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS.
- 1938 THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES INVESTIGATES U.S. SUBVERSIVES.
- 1939 PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ORDERS A U.S. EFFORT TO BUILD AN ATOMIC BOMB.
- 1941 CHURCHILL AND ROOSEVELT'S ATLANTIC CHARTER MEETING ESTABLISHED WAR AND PEACE AIMS.
- 1941 PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TALKS OF FOUR FREEDOMS IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH.
- 1941 JAPANESE BOMB PEARL HARBOR. UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II.
- 1941 LAND LEASE ACT ALLOWS THE TRANSFER OF U.S. WAR MATERIALS TO BRITAIN AND CHINA.
- 1941 U.S. FREEZES JAPANESE ASSETS IN RETALIATION FOR JAPAN'S TERRITORIAL AGGRESSION.
- 1942 UNITED STATES TRANSFERS 110,000 JAPANESE AMERICANS TO INTERNMENT CAMPS.
- 1943 AMERICAN AIRCRAFT JOIN THE RAF IN ROUND THE CLOCK BOMBING OF GERMANY.
- 1943 CHURCHILL, ROOSEVELT, AND STALIN MEET AT THE TEHRAN CONFERENCE.
- 1944 ALLIED D-DAY INVASION FORCES LAND AT NORMANDY.
- 1944 ROOSEVELT RE-ELECTED FOR UNPRECEDENTED FOURTH TERM.
- 1944 G.I. BILL ESTABLISHED.
- 1945 JAPANESE SIGN AN ARMISTICE WITH ALLIES. WORLD WAR II IS ENDED.
- 1945 ROOSEVELT DIES IN GEORGIA. TRUMAN BECOMES 33RD PRESIDENT.
- 1945 UNITED STATES DROP ATOMIC BOMB ON THE JAPANESE CITIES OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI.

- 1945 UNITED NATIONS IS FORMED.
- 1947 JACKIE ROBINSON BECOMES THE FIRST BLACK TO PLAY IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES.
- 1948 APARTHEID POLICY OF RACIAL SEGREGATION IS MADE OFFICIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.
- 1950 TRUMAN ORDERS DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN BOMB.
- 1953 EISENHOWER 34TH PRESIDENT. NIXON VICE PRESIDENT.
- 1954 SUPREME COURT DECISION PROHIBITS RACIAL SEGREGATION IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
- 1955 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEADS A BOYCOTT AGAINST RACIAL SEGREGATION ON BUSES.
- 1960 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND RICHARD NIXON TELEVISED.
- 1961 KENNEDY 35TH PRESIDENT.
- 1961 KENNEDY INCREASE MILITARY EXISTENCE IN VIETNAM.
- 1961 KENNEDY ESTABLISHES PEACE CORPS.
- 1962 U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES THAT SCHOOL PRAYERS ARE A VIOLATION OF THE 1ST AMENDMENT.
- 1962 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FORCED TO ADMIT BLACK STUDENT,. JAMES MEREDITH.
- 1963 KENNEDY ASSASSINATED IN DALLAS,. TEXAS.
- 1963 LYNDON B. JOHNSON 36TH PRESIDENT.
- 1963 KENNEDY ASSASSIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD IS SHOT AND KILLED BY JACK RUBY.
- 1963 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH GIVEN IN WASHINGTON.
- 1964 U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS ACT PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT.

- 1965 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEAD A CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH FROM SELMA, TO MONTGOMERY.
- 1965 RACE RIOTS BEGIN IN THE WATTS SECTION OF L.A.
- 1965 U.S. GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES MEDICARE AND MEDICAID PROGRAMS.
- 1965 VIETNAM WAR ESCALATES AS U.S. BEGINS BOMBING NORTH VIETNAM.
- 1967 THURGOOD MARSHALL BECOMES FIRST BLACK MEMBER OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT.
- 1968 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ASSASSINATED.
- 1968 ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATED.
- 1969 NIXON 37TH PRESIDENT.
- 1969 NIXON BEGINS TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM VIETNAM.
- 1969 STONEWALL RIOTS SPARK MODERN GAY'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT.
- 1970 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IS ESTABLISHED IN U.S.

THE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF GLADYS SMELCHER, A COMMON
WOMAN IN UNCOMMON TIMES

- 1925 WILLIAM THOMPSON AND ROSE THOMPSON GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR FIRST CHILD, GLADYS.
- 1930 WILLIAM THOMPSON AND ROSE THOMPSON GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR SECOND CHILD, RUBY.
- 1931 THE THOMPSON FAMILY MOVES TO THE FLATWOODS AND TENANT FARMED.
- 1931 ROSE THOMPSON REMAINS IN THE MILL VILLAGE WORKING AT THE MILL.
- 1933 THOMPSON FAMILY GETS FIRST CAR.
- 1933 THOMPSON MOVE BACK TO ANNISTON .
- 1933 GLADYS THOMPSON FORCED TO QUIT SCHOOL AND TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE.
- 1940 WILLIAM THOMPSON WORKS AT KILBY STEEL.
- 1940 ROSE THOMPSON WORKING AT THE MILL.
- 1942 WILLIAM THOMPSON TURNED SELF IN FOR PREVIOUS CRIMES IN TEXAS.
- 1942 ROSE THOMPSON DEVELOP SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEMS THAT FORCE HER TO QUIT WORKING.
- 1943 THOMPSON FAMILY FORCED TO LIVE OFF OF THE HANDOUTS THE MILL GAVE THE FAMILY.
- 1946 GLADYS THOMPSON MARRIES JAMES HENRY SMELCHER

- 1947 GLADYS SMELCHER AND JAMES HENRY SMELCHER GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR FIRST CHILD, JAMES FLOYD SMELCHER.
- 1948 GLADYS SMELCHER AND JAMES SMELCHER GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR SECOND CHILD, ROSA LEE SMELCHER.
- 1950 GLADYS SMELCHER AND JAMES HENRY GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR THIRD CHILD, WILLIAM SMELCHER.
- 1951 GLADYS SMELCHER AND JAMES HENRY GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR FOURTH CHILD, SHIRLEY ANN SMELCHER
- 1952 GLADYS SMELCHER AND JAMES HENRY GIVE BIRTH TO THEIR FIFTH CHILD, MARTHA SUE SMELCHER.
- 1954 JAMES HENRY BEGINS TO SHOW SERIOUS MENTAL PROBLEMS AND IS INSTITUTIONALIZED.
- 1955 GLADYS SMELCHER MOVES HER FAMILY TO TALLADEGA.
- 1964 GLADYS SMELCHER MOVES HER FAMILY TO ANNISTON

QUESTIONS

1. What was your mother and father's names?
2. How many kids did they have?
3. Where did your father work?
4. Where did your family live?
5. What do you know about rationing?
6. Where did your mother work?
7. Do you remember any political issues or participants?
8. When were you born?
9. Where did you go to school?
10. Do you remember interacting with blacks?
11. Do you know about vagrancy laws?
12. Do you know about the CCC?
13. Was in of your family in the war?
14. What do you know about tenant farming or sharecropping?
15. What crops did your family raise?

16. How long did you live on the farm?
17. Did your family own a car?
18. Were you able to eat lunch at school?
19. Were pencil and paper expensive?
20. Do you remember the train riders?
21. Do you know about the WPA, or the PWA?
22. Did your family have to go through the blackout periods?
23. How did your family heat the home and cook?
24. Who was your family doctor?
25. When did you get married?
26. Where did your husband work?
27. Where did you work?
28. Was there a welfare system?
29. How were blacks treated?
30. Was the KKK active?
31. What do you know about prohibition?
32. Did the Red Cross help Families?

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GLADYS SMELCHER, A COMMON WOMAN IN
UNCOMMON TIMES

MARY JANE SMELCHER

ALABAMA HISTORY

NOVEMBER 1996

ORAL HISTORY

In October of 1929, the stockmarket crashed. Abigail McCarthy describes it as a time were people lost faith in the government, and banking systems. People invested their whole lives in the stockmarket. They believed they could get rich quick. People had big dreams in the late twenties. Magazines had advertisements that encouraged investing a portion of your monthly income into the stock market. Banks went under and closed their doors. The people were left dazed, broken, and disappointed (McCarthy 1-3).

Poor people were already in a depression. They were already going hungry. Farmers went through a depression that was caused by high tariffs. Tariffs and overproducing dealt a horrible blow to farmers. The farmer had to struggle to make ends meet before the depression. When the Great Depression hit, the farmer had nothing more to lose. Gladys Smelcher was a member of both the farming, and the poor Americans (Brinkley 678-715).

Gladys Thompson Smelcher was born in 1925. She was

born four years before the depression hit the entire country. Her family was already in a depression. They were poor and worked hard to provide a living.

Her father was William Franklin Thompson. He lived in Texas for a while. As a teenager, he forged some checks. His actions caught up with him and he was forced to flee the state. He chose to make a new start in Alabama. William Thompson met Rose Thompson in Alabama. She had one child from a previous marriage. He was called Boots. William and Rose were married soon after they met. They produced my grandmother, Gladys Smelcher Thompson, a year after they were married. Five years later, they gave birth to their last child. They named her Ruby.

William Thompson worked in the Anniston Manufacturing Company. It was located on Eleventh Street. The company was within walking distance of their home on the other end of Eleventh Street.

Rose Thompson worked at the mill. She was paid fifteen or sixteen dollars after working there many years.

They took Social Security out on her in 1935 or 1936. She would never live to draw her Social Security check. The income helped out in hard times, but the family barely made it through the war.

According to Life's "The year in Pictures," every American received forty-eight blue points for canned goods each month. They received sixty-four red points for perishables each month. These stamps determined the amount of food a family could purchase. The meat was really scarce. Housewives whipped up dishes that contained spam and oatmeal to replace the meat (Life 12).

The "Rationing Era" says that Americans now take a lot of things for granted. Everything had to be rationed during the war because the soldiers needed to be fed. Items like gasoline, tires, shoes, meat, and butter were not in abundance (U.S. News and World Report 1-2).

The Thompson family was lucky that they had farm animals. They lived inside the city limits but there was not a law against having farm animals in the back yard.

They owned a cow, pigs, and a few chickens.

Times were hard. The children had to sit up at night and guard the barn. If the animals were stolen, they would starve. The Thompson's once had a neighbor by the name of Mr. Hewitt. He had a big hog in his pen. Late one night, someone cut the hams off the hog. The next morning Mr. Hewitt found the hog dragging around in the pen. It was a great loss for the Hewitt family. The Thompson family could not afford a loss that was that great. They would rather lose sleep.

The Thompson family moved to a place that Gladys called the Flatwoods. She was about five years old. They were allowed to live on a man's farm. The man allowed the family to live there and take care of his property. The family grew cotton and corn. They worked hard on the farm. Gladys was only five or six, but her hands were needed in the field.

The family got up at four in the morning. They ate a small breakfast that consisted of cornbread and "thick

gravy". They labored in the sun until noon. They went to the house and consumed their lunch. It was the usual cornbread and "thick gravy". The family returned to the baking fields to work until dark. The day had finally come to an end.

Gladys Thompson would eat her dinner of cornbread and "thick gravy" and go to bed. She would be able to rest for a few hours. The entire family went to sleep with nothing to dream of for the future.

Rose Thompson did not go with her family to the Flatwoods in Gadsden. She remained in the mill village. Her family had to have her income each week. She paid two dollars to the mill owner for rent. The rest of her earnings went on feed for the animals. Rose Thompson went to bed without hope for the future.

The Thompson family considered themselves lucky when their neighbor in the Flatwoods died. He had a yard full of chickens. The two oldest children went and took the man's chickens and placed them in their pen. They did not

believe they were stealing. They had to survive.

The family now had enough eggs to do some trading. A man on a wagon pulled by mules would come by and trade different items for the eggs. The family gave him eggs and milk from their cow Rosie. The man would give the Thompson's items that they could not produce. They had the bare necessities.

The Thompson family moved back to Anniston around 1933. William Thompson bought a car for the family. It didn't work too good. The family would push the car most of the time.

Gladys Thompson Smelcher went to school for a couple of years. She didn't get pass the second grade. She was the oldest female child in the family. She was expected to take care of the house. Her mother and father were both working. She had to grow up and accept responsibility at the age of eight. Life had given her another raw deal.

The younger girl, Ruby, would go on to high school. She was not required to take care of the home. She would

be given a fair chance because of birth order.

Times were just about to get worse for the Thompson family. William Thompson had to turn himself in to the police. He had to pay for the crimes he committed. It seems that William not only was wanted for forgery, he was also wanted for breaking out of prison. He ran from the dogs, the police, Texas, and his previous life. It was time to face the music.

He explained everything to his family. He told them about the prison break. He even told them how he had to cut the dog's throat in order to reach his freedom. He just did not realize the freedom would be short lived. He would have to serve most of his twenty year sentence.

Rose Thompson worked hard at the mill. She might have worked too hard. She went back to work the day after giving birth to her last child. She would face a series of female problems. Doctors did not know how to deal with these problems. Her womb began to drop severely. Fellow workers had to carry her home from the mill. She would

spend the rest of her life being taken care of on a daily basis.

The duty fell on the small shoulders of Gladys Thompson. She had to take full responsibility of her mother, father, and sister. She cooked for her father, fed her mother, and sent her sister off to school.

Gladys explained to "old lady Woods", the school teacher her situation. She informed her that she could not go to school. She had to take care of her mother. She felt that her mother was not even in this world.

Her mother may have lost her mind due to the pain. She may have lost her mind due to the hard labor. She may have even lost her mind due to the pressures of the depression. It may have been a combination of all the factors. She had given up on a life that seemed to have long since given up on her. She did not realize that giving up meant that Gladys would once again be given a raw deal.

Gladys Thompson Smelcher looked forward to a future

with Roosevelt as president. She believed he was a genuine life saver. She explains that Roosevelt helped in areas Hoover did not help. She says:

"Hoover didn't know how to start, didn't know how to get the country going, didn't know how to get the country growing, and didn't know how to create jobs for people" (Smelcher)¹.

Gladys believes that Roosevelt took over and got everything started. She believes that World War II helped to get things moving.

Gladys Thompson Smelcher does not remember a whole lot about politics, but Roosevelt is well stamped into her memory. She remembers Roosevelt riding on the back of a passenger train. The people were gathered to see him along the tracks on 4th street. She was twelve years old, the memory would last a lifetime.

Roosevelt created programs like the WPA and the CCC Gladys recalls the programs helping many of her neighbors receive jobs. Her older brother, Boots, worked on the WPA program digging ditches at one time. People did hard labor for little money in those days. Gladys says "Back then

2

fifty cents a day kept people from starving". The jobs gave people a chance to earn money for food. The Red Cross was not really active in Anniston during the rough times. Gladys declares "It was a tough road to travel".³

Gladys Thompson married James Henry Smelcher. They had five children. She thought getting married would solve her problems. She did not know that there was a lot of rocky roads in the path that she chose.

James Henry Smelcher worked at the local lumber company. He worked long hours, sometimes into the night. He worked five days a week. He drank each and every weekend that came. He spent most of his pay checks at the local bootlegger's house. Anniston was dry, but James Henry was determined to stay wet. He would get real rowdy when he was drinking. He sometimes ran around the house throwing objects like a madman. There oldest son, James Floyd, can remember his father beating everyone in his path. James Henry beat Gladys into a bloody mess one day. Her clothes were covered in blood. She got help that day.

They realized his problem was not just the alcohol, he was mentally disturbed. They had him sent to a mental hospital in Tuscaloosa.

Gladys Smelcher had been working hard to take care of her mother. She struggled to take care of things at home. Her mother was in bad condition and things at home were not the best. When James Henry started beating her and the kids, things just seemed to get worse. She was able to get away from him, but not her troubles. Her mother died.

Before James Henry was committed, he was imprisoned. In an alcoholic rage, he shot a woman. He did not mean to shoot the woman. The bullet was meant for her husband. Her husband pushed her in front of him for protection. She died soon after she was shot. James Henry served one of his two year sentence.

Gladys Smelcher was left with no way to feed her children. The local welfare stepped in and gave her hand. They took her children from her. She was left alone and devastated. She would later recover four of her five

children.

She left Anniston after she lost her children. She moved to her father's farm in Heflin. She lived there while her husband served his time. She should have worked to get her children back and moved on in life. She felt she needed James Henry. She depended on him. She would endure a lot of beatings before she left him alone. He will always remain a part of her life.

My grandpa, James Henry, still controls my grandma's life in a round about way. She feels sorry for him and lets him live with her at times. He shouts and screams at her and she tolerates it for a while. He used to chase her around the table until he lost his legs. He now sits in a wheelchair at a nursing home. He gets the nurses to write her letters begging for her to visit. She keeps them. She claims she is unable to visit him because of transportation.

Gladys Smelcher could not say much about black and white relations in Anniston. Things were totally

segregated in Anniston. The rich lived on the east side. The poor lived on the west side. The blacks were pushed way back on the west side. Gladys remembers that blacks shopped, worked, and lived on their side of town. They didn't come around whites. They had their own restrooms and water fountains. They only bothered white people every once in a while. Gladys remembers a black man who raped a white woman in Blue Mountain, an area next to Anniston. She claims that the man caused the woman to go crazy. He had his trial in the local courthouse. He was convicted and sentenced to death.

Gladys Smelcher remembers one other occasion where she had to deal with blacks. A black man, named Nelson, broke into her house. She shot him. The police came and told her that everything was all right. The man died of infection in his wounds. Gladys believes the doctors caused him to set up an infection. They did not like the fact that a black man messed with a white woman.

Gladys remembers that blacks had all of their stores

lined up on 15th street. They had their high school on Cobb Avenue. The elementary school was on 12th Street. They had their own swimming pools. Whites could come and swim in their pool. They could not go near a white persons pool. Blacks were in their own world on their side of town. Gladys has always referred to that side of town as "Nigger Town".

The Ku Klux Klan cracked down hard on blacks. They made their presence known by burning crosses in yards. They would hang a man because of the color of his skin. Gladys claims they would also deal with white people. They punished whites for some things. She says there was a white man in Gadsden who quit his job and left his family. The KKK went and got him. They made him return to his family. Gladys says the KKK would tie men to trees and whip them with buggy whips.

The times were very hard. Sometimes the programs that were set up to help did not work. Gladys Smelcher had a friend named Rose Patterson. Rose had a little girl named

Josephine. They needed help bad. They were living with Gladys and her family. Rose Patterson went to apply for assistance. She was told she could not be helped because she lived with someone. She threatened to assault the lady. The lady then gave her food, clothing, and signed her up for a check. Rose was desperate and had to take those drastic measures. She was willing to take those extreme measures in order to provide for her child. Rose received a check for thirty-five dollars each month. It was enough to keep them from starving.

Laws and ordinances seemed to be against the poor man. Anniston had a vagrancy law that was really tough. Gladys' brother, Boots, was walking home from his mill job one night when he was stopped by the police. He was asked how much money he had. He did not have any money. He had a couple of mill debt coins in his pocket. He was arrested because he was out at night without five dollars in his pocket.

Gladys thought her troubles were over when her husband

was committed. She had taken care of her mother up until her mother died. She had struggled through the Depression. Her family made it through the war. She was a survivor. She did not realize there were more troubles ahead. Her oldest son would bring her a lot of heartache.

James Floyd repeated the cycle his father created. He would marry and have children. He would abuse his wife and terrorize his children. He spent most of his time in and out of prison for various crimes. He brought a lot of shame to his family. His family would enjoy the times when he was locked up in jail. He could not do too much harm behind bars. He became an alcoholic just as his father before him.

Gladys' youngest son, William, would never be recovered from the welfare system. He had become attached to his foster parents. They would later adopt him. He would later have his own run ins with the law.

Gladys' oldest daughter, Rosa Lee, would become a victim. She fell into the cycle her mother created. She

chose a husband who was a lot like her father. He drank daily. He beat her daily.

Her middle daughter, Shirley Ann, would be haunted by old family memories her entire life. She was never able to let them go and live her own life. She was very lenient with her children. She did not want to become her father.

Her youngest daughter, Martha Sue, would inherit the mental problems that Gladys's mother had acquired. She was abusive like her father. She would also choose a husband that was like her father.

Gladys Smelcher now sits alone most of the time. She looks at her photo album and remembers the "old days". She does not have many visitors. She really enjoys having company. Her days start out with a cup of coffee and a small breakfast. She listens to her radio during the day. She feeds her cat which is her only companion. She may take a few dips of snuff during the day. She is finally somewhat at peace.

Notes

1. This quote came from Gladys Smelcher in the interview done with her in November of 1996. It was pulled from the section of the interview where she speaks of Rosevelt's accomplishments and Hoover's failures.

2. The quote came from Gladys Smelcher in the interview done with her in November of 1996. It was pulled from the section of the interview in which she spoke about the different programs that Rosevelt created.

3. The quote came from Gladys Smelcher in the interview done with her in November of 1996. It was pulled from the section of the interview in which she spoke about the Red Cross. She says they did not help people like they do today.

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U.S. News and World Report. "The Rationing Era."
18 Dec. 1995: 1-3.



First black appear in Gladys Smelcher's daughter Shurley's class



Sept 1944 - Japara

Old mill village.



Nov 14 1950



JULY 1961

Gladys with neighbors
child in mill
village



49 mill village



family cow Rosie



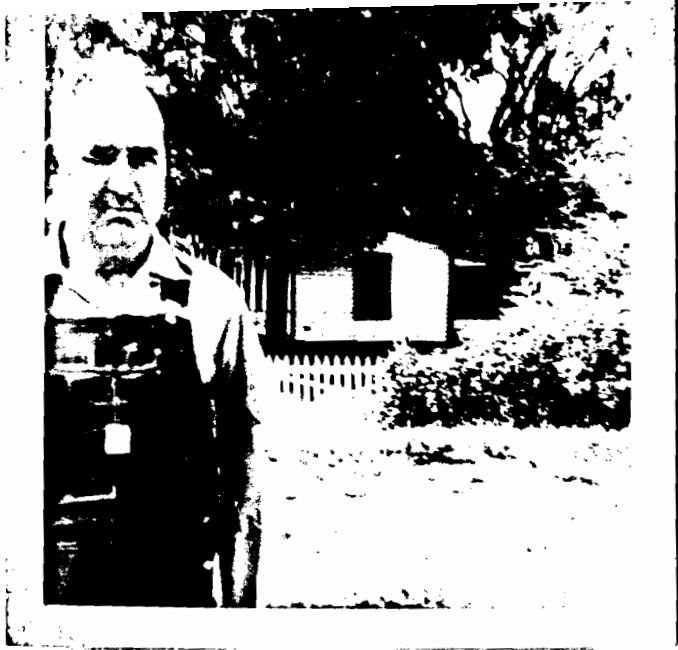
mill village

PINE AVENUE SCHOOL	
Name	Floyd Smecker
Address	722 W. 11th St.
Father's First Name	James
Mother's Maiden Name	Gladys
Date of Birth	10-21-1949
Grade	
Telephone No.	

55



W. 11th St.



Nov. 70 ↑
James Henry after release from
institution



War years → Uncle Bud Thompson



Loved one's gone
Gladys Smelcher's
Friend Pattie (wrote last name).
Her husband gone
in the war.



71
Gladys Smelcher's first
son James Floyd with
his wife Jane O'Hare Smelcher
and their first child.



APR 1960

Gladys Smelcher's nephew David
on the farm.



1951 Lane Liggott Foto Stores
Ferry boat crossing in
Texas - on a visit ~~to~~ to
Dee William Thompson



Noble St. date unknown



1945
Man and his wife who lived
next door to Gladys.



1970
Right Gladys, Martha Sue,
and Gladys' daughter-in-law
Jane Ottare Smeleker



1942
mill village