

2-26-92

Dear Mr. Lamb:

A few days ago Mr. Russert & Mr. Colton were on your program. It seemed some of you were familiar with W.P.A. I wrote the enclosed article about 3 yrs. ago when the subject came up. I didn't submit it because I didn't know where to send it. However, I saved it.

In Springfield W.P.A. built Lake Springfield, put in sidewalks (brick) & did many other improvements.

My uncle had no job & learned cement finishing which led to brick mason.

Milk men may not now be the answer but with a little capital & ingenuity I think many people would benefit.

Thanks for reading.

B A N D - A I D

By

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Our government has said that Works Projects were only a "band-aid." Let me tell my story.

It was 104° that Sunday in September 1936 when my husband, [REDACTED], and I were married. It was in the middle of the Great Depression. I want you to know that as a young man at the tender age of seventeen [REDACTED] suffered from a paralyzed arm which had come from a coal mining accident. He received a small amount of compensation for his loss and with this money he eventually opened a small restaurant across from the high school. After our marriage we operated it together for the next winter and spring, but then the high school opened its own cafeteria and our business fell off markedly.

By this time our first child was on the way and our financial fate lay in any temporary job that [REDACTED] was able to find. For awhile he worked for a local dairy, but they too had to tighten their belts and let him go. [REDACTED] looked and looked for other employment but there were just no jobs--period.

Added to his misery was the way the handicapped people were treated at that time.

He finally was able to find some employment (if you want to call it that) at a local country club five miles

from our little, two room house. He would walk to the club everyday, peanut butter and jelly sandwich in hand, hoping to caddy. Since so many men were out of work the competition for even this small opportunity was fierce. They'd have to sign in and take their turn hoping for a chance to caddy nine holes. If they were lucky they might make fifty cents, or very lucky they'd make a dollar for eighteen holes. They were almost never tipped and sometimes [REDACTED] waited around all day and never made a cent.

Then came Franklin Delano Roosevelt with his Works Projects Administration better known as the WPA. My husband applied for it and was accepted. The project was on an eighteen month basis at \$52.00 per month. This was more money than we had seen in a long time since we had learned to live very frugally.

At the end of the eighteen months we knew there would be no job waiting for us, so we made one.

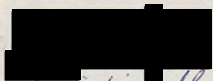
From Works Projects we had saved up enough money to buy an old Hupmobile. It was a large sedan with a back seat that could be taken out. We bought two cases of milk (twenty-four bottles) and were in business. We had milk on front porches by 6:00 a.m. everyday and within a year the route had built up enough to buy a new truck.

WPA had meant a lot to us. For one thing, we had learned we could make it on our own. In the succeeding

years the sales knowledge we gained gave us valuable sources of income.

Lately the government has said that Works Projects were only a band-aid. But, had it not been for that "band-aid" we would probably have ended up on perpetual welfare.

President Roosevelt gave our family a chance with his WPA band-aid.



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