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"We were rich in the '30s," a widow recalls. "My husband made \$5,000 a year and we had everything we wanted because food costs were so low. Cost of food was a big difference between then and now."

Some prices from 1932 newspaper advertisements: Butter 19 cents; spring lamb chops 24 cents; two dozen eggs 25 cents; potatoes 100 pounds, \$1.35; 24½ pounds of flour and one package of cake flour 99 cents; pork and beans 20 large cans, \$1; coffee 27; cigarets, 2 packages, 25 cents, carton \$1.17.

If you had a job and your bank failed, you still had much to be thankful for. This writer lost half his \$1,200 savings when a bank and a building and loan failed. He took a cut in salary as did thousands of others in hundreds of businesses.

That's the way it was on March 4, 1933, when Roosevelt was inaugurated President and tried to calm the nation with his statement that "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

As for Roosevelt, you were either for him or against him and the ants were legion.

One anecdote is a commentary on his farm policies and the Depression.

Roosevelt, on tour, saw a farmer leaning against a rail fence, beaming broadly.

"Why are you so happy," Roosevelt asked.

"I'm a new father, a one and one-half pound boy," said the farmer.

"That's not very large," the President commented.

"Hell," the farmer said, "These days you're lucky to get your seed back."

(Samuel G. Blackman, retired general news editor of the Associated Press, was a reporter during the Depression.)

INTERESTING TREES

---A Blue Spruce in DeKalb County is the largest spruce in Illinois with a 4'11" circumference. It is 53' high and 26' wide.

---A Shagbark Hickory in Clark County holds its records at 10' 3½" circumference, 88' high, 90' wide and a Hackberry on the S.I.U. campus is 17' 4½" in circumference, 88' high and 82' wide.

A booklet you might be interested in writing for is entitled "The Most Interesting Trees in The National Park System". It is free from the National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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