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Some of the New Deal policies were effective in creating some jobs. But a new problem was coming out of the West, the dust storms of the winter and spring of 1934. Actually, the first dust storm to hit Waterloo was on a Sunday afternoon in October of 1933. I was doing homework for one of my classes at T.C. when I noticed the unusual darkness outside. It seems like it was well into the winter before we had the next encounter. Then they became more frequent and usually more intense.

Many times through the late winter months and through the month of May, the dust storms plagued the band of states from Texas North to the Dakotas. Dahlhart, Texas and Garden City, Kansas were frequently mentioned as being hard hit by these dust storms. The day after these towns were mentioned in the news, the skies around Waterloo would be filled with red dust, sometimes with a strong westerly wind and other times with only a very slight breeze.

On the windy days there would be a very spectacular view from the rooms on the upper floors of the Science Building on the I.S.T.C. campus. From these rooms there was a clear view of some of the farm fields to the South and West of the campus. During these dust storms there was continuous flow of dust as far as one could see. Ground level visibility was very low.

The spring months of 1934 were very deficient in rainfall and the average temperatures were much above normal. During these storms great quantities of dust were blown into the buildings on the college campus that had doors on the West side. I remember the piles of dust sometimes over an inch deep.

Not all of the unpleasant events of March 1934 were concerned with the depression or the dust storms. The 1934 Iowa State high school basketball tournament finals were held in the new men's gym on the I.S.T.C. campus. In the finals West High of Waterloo was to meet one of the high schools from Sioux City. I listened to the game on radio. It was a very close game all the way. There were never more than a few points separating the two teams. As I recall, the final score was 19 to 18 and Sioux City was the winner. This also was depressing!

I did not return to college the next fall. My savings were depleted, but I still had the paper route and in the fall 1934 I found work to supplement my income from the paper route. I was hired as a typesetter in a printing firm at the princely 'salary' of ten cents an hour. My spelling and punctuation must have been correct because in a few weeks I received a 50% salary increase to 15 cents an hour. Wow! I was rolling in luxury - the paper route plus 15 cents per hour.

In April of 1935 I was hired to work as a clerk in a drug store for ten dollars per week - sounds pretty good. But a week consisted of about seventy-two hours or more. There was little time for any recreation.

In the last day of September of 1935, I went to work as a radio serviceman for the local Montgomery Ward Store. This was better; the pay was \$16.00 per week, but you were expected to be in the store for about fifty hours or more per week.

After two years I decided to quit working at Wards and return to college. I enrolled at Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa in September of 1937. This time I wanted a career in electrical engineering. My experience with radio had lured me away from chemistry.

Come the summer of 1939, my funds were again depleted and I found some employment in a local radio service shop.

Hitler invaded Poland and what nation would be the next to succumb to Nazi aggression? Work became slack at the radio shop; I was laid off.