



87. An early 1940s gathering shows draftees waiting to board a bus, which will take them from their homes in Ramsey to an Army induction point. This poignant photo of life in America during that period includes Red Cross volunteers on the left who provided food and toiletries for the inductees. Unhappy families wait on the sidewalk in front of Community Lunch to bid their fathers, sons and brothers a safe trip and quick return.

*Someone asked about the Depression of the 1930s. The wages did go way down and some people lost their jobs. Around Ramsey, I think most people who wanted jobs could find some kind of work. There was garden work and painting. One family that I knew, the man had lost his job, and he worked for my family in the garden and his wife did housework for Mother. The wages then were at most about fifty cents an hour. One woman scolded Mother because she was paying fifty cents an hour and she thought twenty-five cents was plenty. She thought Mother was spoiling people by paying fifty cents. My father had to take a cut in salary, but he was able to keep my sister in college. When I lost my job I came home and Dad helped me out. I had been teaching in a private school and the uninsured bank where the private school had their funds closed, leaving the school without sufficient funds to proceed as it had been. The cities were hit the worst, of course. There, things were really very bad. I think Ramsey didn't suffer as much as the cities did. Some people did lose their houses because they had mortgages; they had borrowed too much money.*