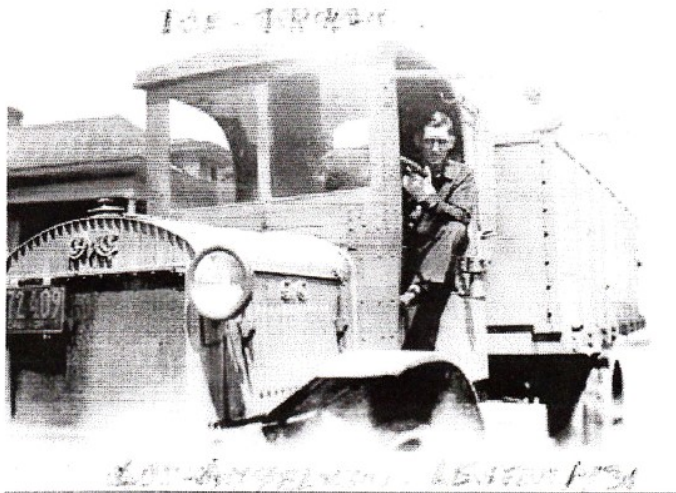


Chapter 6

EARLY STRUGGLES 1930 - 1941

In July 1930 I started work for Calif. Consumer Ice Company driving a large truck for \$.60 an hour hauling ice in 300 lb. blocks 63 to a load to sub stations throughout the city & other cities round about for storage freezers for retail drivers to come & get their load in smaller trucks 2 or 3 times a day & these sub stations had to be kept full no matter how many hours we worked & 7 days a week. 12 hr was a short day & 16 to 24 hours in hot weather was not

unusual. We would pull to side of road, sleep 15 or 20 min. & go on. I would not see my wife for days at a time as she worked also & would get on truck Sat. night & ride with me until 2 or 3 Sunday A.M. & then she would go home. At that time no 40 hour week or overtime but plenty of other men to take your job if you didn't like it. That was only 2 to 3 months in summer when hot. Then we extra men would be laid off. Later the 40 hour week law came in & we didn't get our over time even though the company Standard Oil of Calif. knew they had to pay us. We formed a committee to hire a lawyer & against all my pleading they hired a Jew, Mr. Greenfield. Out of the \$375.00 due each of us we only got \$150.00. I worked for Ice Company several summers & war broke out & I quit & went to shipyard to work.



During the winter months I worked in different departments for the Ice Company, such as cold storage or laying ammonia pipe for the engineering department.

We bought our 1st car in Sept. 1930 a Chevy coach for \$105.00 cash a '25 model. At various times when possible we would take trips home to see loved ones most always by car some were pleasant & some with lots of car troubles on



gravel roads & no freeways. We had curtains & not glass for windows & no heater. We often had to stop & build fire at side of road to get warm or warm our feet. How we ever got there and mostly always in the winter time I'll never know. We are looking for our first baby in May. Later we bought a small radio for \$35.00. At the end of 1931 we were able to buy a Ford sedan like new a '31 model & we ran it for years & kept it like new & very proud of it.

In May 2 - 1932 we had a beautiful baby boy & both doing fine. Named Harry Pat Robbins. Harry after my father. Pat after our good friend Patrick H. Groggin for whom I worked as a boy in ice business.

In June - '32 Mr. Mrs. Nels R. Nelson arrived from Salt Lake to honeymoon with us for week [they] left June 27 for Cache Valley their home.

I was laid off in the engineering department of California Construction Ice, but went back to work as a truck driver soon after.



Beverly arrived in L.A. June 1932 alone on Union Pacific RR 8 years old to spend summer with us. Happy day. [Picture inserted is of Beverly, Edna and Harry]

Aug. 7, 1932. Weather cool not working regular all enjoying good health. Bev. still with us & we love her dearly. Time is close for her return to S.L.C.

Aug. 30, 1932 Ed, Helen returned home after weeks visit with us & took Beverly home. We miss her a lot & God bless her. Weather cool & cloudy & not much work & cut to \$.55 an hour.

Oct., 1932 laid up with wrenched back & weather cool & stormy means little work at Ice Company but thankful for our many blessings.

Oct. 16. Got job as gas laborer for \$3.50 day, 5 days week. I was hired to help dig a tunnel under Broadway in Los Angeles. The tunnel is for a 4" gas line.

Temporally laid off Nov. 16.

1933 Jan. We are all well here. No work. B.J. [Beverly Jean] fine. Dear old Dad still going strong. What a wonderful man, husband & Father. God bless him & Dear old Mom.

Feb. 33 wife started work for Boose Brothers Coffee Shop for \$.15 per hour & tips. She was a lifesaver a wonderful sweetheart wife & Mother. It makes a long day for her but she never complained. God bless her.

March 10 at 5:55 a terrible earthquake in L.A. & Long Beach. Wife was working & huge chandelier swung from side to side. In our home little damage & I grabbed baby & ran out into street as few dishes & water bottle crashed on floor.

June 6, 1934 received word of Alta's death in Hospital. Bev & I left for S.L.C. She was buried in Wasatch Lawn Cemetery in Salt Lake City. We never saw her.

We moved to Ditman Street in L.A. & small house but yard for kids to play.

1936 We returned home after spending Holidays with my folks. New Years with Jennie & Bud & we danced old year out & New Year in. We visited Dad Nelson & Wife & celebrated my wives birthday Jan. 25 - 1936. She was up town having a shopping spree by herself while I baby sat.

Edna & I were married for 2nd time on Mar. 15 - 1936 in L. A. by Nicholas G. Smith as we began to hear rumors that marriages & divorces performed in Mexico are not considered legal in U. S.

We bought our first home June 26 - 1936 at 724 La Verne Ave L. A. Cost \$2,700.00. We had to borrow \$1,600.00 This was our first experience on buying a home. The wife had more nerve than I because I never wanted to be in debt. I worked for Ice Company. & we sacrificed until house was paid for much earlier than planned. It was a great step for us to buy a home, especially for me. [While working for Ice Company. Dad played on a company softball team called the Tigers. Here Dad is shown in front of home on La Verne in his Tiger uniform]



Our house was a large farm house with a large back yard. It took lots of work, but I planted a garden, built rabbit pens & chicken coops & put in a fruit tree. I also dug a dirt cellar for storing food, etc. It was a glorious experience & I loved the work as I raised & sold rabbits, chickens & vegetables. We also had a dog & cat. While digging the cellar I discovered that only the front half of the house was on a cement foundation, so I had to brace the center of the house with concrete & put concrete foundations all around the back part. A friend helped me from time to time. We enjoyed our home with all its mess & repairs, even the termites. I had to tear out a part & replace one corner of the bedroom. Not being a carpenter of any sort it was a big job for me, but I finally got it done. We were very happy on La Verne but with both of us working long hours it was difficult to take care of.