

Page 43 - Farmer John Eyking: The Holland Years ISSUE : <u>Issue 50</u> Published by Ronald Caplan on 1989/1/1

patently. And in an evening, now you take 10 and 12 in a family, darning the socks. And when Sunday came, you know, proud and clean--everything had to be scrubbed. Well, it was overdone, I tell you. Because the walk to the road was scrubbed, right? The whole yard would be raked on Saturday. The knobs on the doors were all brassed. Every week the windows would be washed from the outside, all the windows in the house. Every week. Your shoes were always shined once a week, of course. The wooden shoes were scrubbed. We had a little bit like the lewish people, a lot of food was cooked on Saturday, so a minimum of work on Sunday. The pudding would be cooked, and the meat would be cooked ahead sometimes. I was born in 1930, and of course we went through that--the Depression was a little later when it was here, but I remember as a child. I was only 6 or 7 years, and you say, "What do you remember, 6, 7 years?" Six, 7 years old till about 12 years old. I'm talking about the times when there was no work, product was not salable, vessels were piled up in big piles, bulbs couldn't be sold, because the whole Western world was collapsing, as far as economics. How you going to sell flowers to somebody who's out of work? There was no income, say from October till May. We used to grow about an acre of strawberries and some rhubarb. So there was 6 months, no income. I've seen my father go into the winter with (what would be) in those days \$50. And that would be all. And then he would have another couple of hundred bucks for his seed, for his planting. After a couple of years of this, of poor markets, there was not very much left to get through the winter. So the government of those days--which I don't know too much details about--they had some kind of a re? lief thing. (This is) before the war. And it was, for people who were self-employed, a tremendous thing to take. Hurt their pride. I can still see it. For instance, they would have a scheme where you paid 25C,... and (the govern? ment) would give you a 40