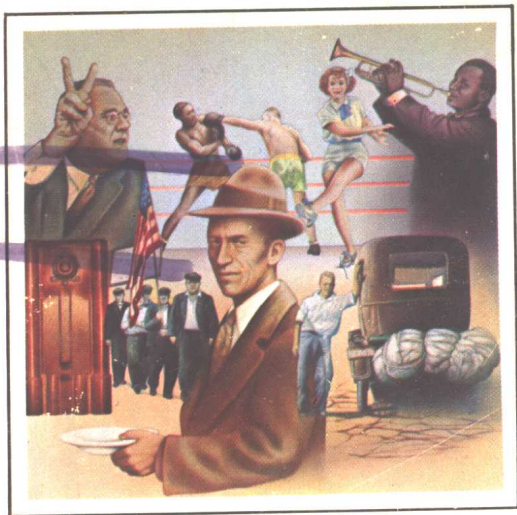


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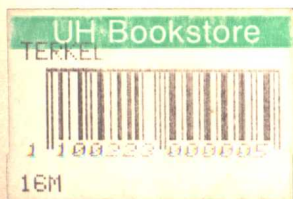
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Studs Terkel

**Hard Times:
An Oral History
of the
Great Depression**

WASHINGTON SQUARE PRESS
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NOTE

This being a book about Time as well as *a* time; for some the bell has tolled. Heroes and dragons of a long-gone day were old men, some vigorous, some weary, when I last saw them. Some have died.

FOR
my wife, my son and my editor



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See, I never heard that word "depression" before.
They would all just say hard times to me. It still is.

Roger, a fourteen-year-old
Appalachian boy, living in
Chicago

A Depression might be interesting today. It could
really be something. To be on the bum, and have
nobody say: "Look, I'll give you \$10,000 if you'd
just come back and go to school." We have a choice
today. What would it be like if we had no choice?

Tom, 20

This I remember. Some people put this out of their
minds and forget it. I don't want to forget it. I don't
want it to take the best of me, but I want to be there
because it happened. This is the truth, you know.
History.

Cesar Chavez

They loved us who had passed away.
They forgot all our errors. Our names were mixed.

The story was long.

The young people danced. They brought down new
boughs for the flame. They said, Go on with the
story now. What happened next?

For us there was silence. . . .

Genevieve Taggard, 1940



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FRIENDS, acquaintances and, in astonishing number, strangers were gracious in offering suggestions. Without their hunches and tips, this work may not have been possible. Among these casual scouts: Richard Lamparski, Robert Cromie, Herman Kogan, Mike Royko, Lew Frank, Jr., Lucy Fairbank, Robert Sherrill, Phyllis Jackson, James Patton, Clifford and Virginia Durr, John Dierkes, Lou Gilbert, Phil McMartin, Sanka Bristow, Harry Bouras, King Solomon, Brendan McMahon, Earl Doty, Lou Abraham, Elizabeth Cooper, Jesse Prosten and Leon Beverly.

As in a previous work, *Division Street: America*, it was Cathy Zmuda, who did more than transcribe the hundreds of thousands of spoken words onto pages. She offered gratuitous editorial comments and thus provided me with a perspective that might otherwise have been missing.

My colleagues at radio station WFMT, notably Norm Pellegrini, Ray Nordstrand and Lois Baum, were remarkably understanding and ingenious during my leaves of absence. My daily programs, re-broadcasts, had an air of contemporaneity, thanks to them. My gratitude, too, to Jim Unrath for beyond-the-call-of-duty chores as my companion and chauffeur, during a memorable trip through Arkansas.

Especially am I grateful to my editor, André Schiffrin, whose idea this was. His insistence and quiet encouragement are evident in all these pages. And to his perceptive associates, Verne Moberg and Linda Faulhaber, for their bright-eyed look at what was becoming burdensome matter—a salute.

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