

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

– As sung by Bing Crosby

They used to tell me I was building a dream

And so I followed the mob

When there was earth to plow or guns to bear

I was always there, right on the job

They used to tell me I was building a dream

With peace and glory ahead

Why should I be standing in line

Just waiting for bread?


Once I built a railroad, I made it run

Made it race against time

Once I built a railroad, now it's done

Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower up to the sun

Brick and rivet and lime

Once I built a tower, now it's done

Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee, we looked swell

Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum

Half a million boots went slogging through Hell

And I was the kid with the drum


Say, don't you remember? They called me 'Al'

It was 'Al' all the time

Why don't you remember? I'm your pal

Say buddy, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, ah, gee, we looked swell

Full of that Yankee Doodly Dum

Half a million boots went slogging through Hell

And I was the kid with the drum

Oh, say, don't you remember? They called me 'Al'

It was 'Al' all the time

Say, don't you remember? I'm your pal

Buddy, can you spare a dime?

The Great Depression

1. How did the depression affect people in the cities? (**472,473**)
2. How did it affect African Americans and Latinos? (**473**)
3. Why did many farmers lose their land early during the depression? (**473**)
4. What was the Dust Bowl, and how many states were affected? (**474**)
5. What were “hoboes,” and how did they survive? (**475**)
6. What are some ways that women survived in the depression? (**475,476**)
7. How did the depression affect many children? (**476**)
8. What effect did the depression have on people’s attitude toward money and each other? (**477**)