

## **Petro Hurskyj**

First, they organized the collective farm. Then they began to levy grain quotas. For example, the collective farms first had to pay the state the levy, then reserve grain for sowing, so that there would be something to plant. Whatever was left was divided up by "labor days." This was in the collective farm, because at the time of the Famine, the collective farm was established already. It began to be organized in 1929. This was planned. And when people couldn't pay anymore, because there was nothing left, [the authorities] began to go around and search [for hidden food]. And it didn't make a difference if you were in the collective farm or an independent farmer. There was no difference; they took whatever they could [find].

My father realized that things would get bad. And he hid grain, maybe some meat and lard in the forest somewhere. They didn't find it. They came with long rods, sharpened at one end, and prodded the ground, looking for freshly-dug earth. They prodded the hay in the barn; they searched everywhere but they didn't find anything. This saved our family.