

## Vasyl Dudka

**VD** - They dekulakized...there was nothing left. There was nothing left, they took everything.

**Interviewer** - *Who came? Can you describe this?*

**VD** - They were ours; locals. The whole gang was drunk and they took everything. First, there was snow, so they threw my grandmother and mother out in the snow. When I came home from school, it was getting dark, and I saw that there was no light. My grandmother always waited for me, but here there was no light in the house. My mother called me, "Come here son, we're sitting over here." I came there and they made me a space, I lay down between them. There was a lot of snow. At three or four o'clock, our neighbor who lived across the street, who was a mechanic - we had a mill and an oil mill, which worked 24 hours a day. He saw what was happening to us, and took us in. He had a shed and he put us up there. In the morning, those bandits who threw us out came by, and stripped my mother and grandmother - they were searching for gold. Because when they first took everything, my mother's father was wealthy, and he gave her a lot of silverware - spoons, forks, everything - they took it all earlier.

**Interviewer** - *When was it that they came for your mother? Was it winter?*

**VD** - It was in the morning.

**Interviewer** - *But this was the winter of '32?*

**VD** - Yes, there was snow already. It was pretty cold already. And they told this [neighbor] that he didn't have the right to put us up.

Night and day, they would ship out the grain. There was a lot of people working there [at the grain storage], and when my sister worked there, I brought her lunch. This was already after the Famine.

**Interviewer** - *But during the Famine, they shipped this grain out?*

**VD** - They shipped it out during the Famine too. The train cars stood there, and they loaded them day and night. Day and night they loaded it and shipped it out. The grain there, you can't understand, I was there inside, it was in heaps, 7-8 meters high, like 2 stories. And every 10-15 feet, there were poles in the grain, that had thermometers at the bottom. And every day they would check the temperature, and when the temperature began to rise, immediately they would send in twenty or thirty women with wooden shovels to turn over the grain. There was a lot of dust from this, you couldn't go in there. Because it's very dangerous when it starts to ferment.

**Interviewer** - *And you saw this? That day and night they shipped out this grain?*

**VD** - Day and night.