

John Brandeis and ~~like~~ those of his neighbors who had weathered the "depression" of the early twenties did not feel so deeply this new general depression of '29. They had a kind of security as compared to the rest of the country.

The eldest son, Hogarth, who had married and bought and lost his land, was embittered by his failure. ~~When~~ But when he went by on the road drag one day that was dry enough to get into the fields, he went by with his face averted. And Joel knew a moment of being glad that John Brandeis' eyesight had become so poor that he did not know who was on the drag . Joel had the reins of the farm now. He was a patient product of the twenties, a young man who took his responsibilities seriously. His ageing and irascible father; his brother Duane, crippled by an enraged bull , but happy in his own philosophy and his own work ; and the stony upland farm. But Joel learned terracing and diversification. He made use of the county agent and the farm organizations , which John had never forgiven for their spending. He added bottom land. But he mixed the modern methods with generous doses of John's old adage of "Plow deeply enough and plant in season." As the twenties passed they brought drama and tragedy and humor to the Brandeis family. There was drouth and hail; the trip out of the county to buy the thoroughbred bull; Hogarth's love affair with Mellie Rigdon, the hoyden Hedia Brett; the failure of the bank; the sheriff's sale; and Joel's uncertain wooing of the little school teacher who came to take the census.

In the end there was a kind of grim prosperity because of the first rumblings of World War II. As Duane remarked cryptically to Joel, (referring to a childhood incident at Sunday school) it looked as though God was getting ready to make another rock so big He couldn't lift it.

Sincerely,

Hazel M. Heckman



