

[Yankee Merchant]

Yankee Merchant W. Mass. 1938-9 12/8/32 I

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

NAME OF WORKER ROBERT WILDER

ADDRESS NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

SUBJECT LIVING LORE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT GEORGE O. DUNNELL

NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS

George O. Dunnell was born on a farm in the hill town of Heath about the time of the Civil War. His father had been a farmer of some prosperity but as George grew up, the farm became less productive and times were difficult. George attended the district school but left when he was in the seventh or eighth grade to help out on the farm. He has been in the hay grain and coal business for some years in Northfield, and has made good at it.

George is a loud voiced rough and hearty individual until he is faced with the necessity of appearing in public. Then he's as quiet as a lamb and twice as shy, his wife takes the telephone orders and keeps the books at his home. He hasn't a telephone at his [schack?] by the railroad which he uses as an office for he doesn't like "talkin into a 'phone". Although he is a politician of great local influence, he refuses to make a speech at Town Meeting, rarely enters any political dispute or debate. Mr Dunnell's small business". oldest son is a selectman of Northfield and between them, father and son know all there is to know about town politics. His younger son, Leon Dunnell is a musician of more than

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local repute. He has played over the radio from Springfield and Hartford and is well known as a entertainer in western Massachusetts. "G.O." is proud of his family and likes to talk about his children— to friends and old acquaintances. He shuts up like a clam when strangers come into view. A person getting a glimpse of Mr Dunnell's initials for the first time always makes some remark— Mr Dunnell doesn't like it. Maybe G. O. D. is different from "Most folks" but Mr Dunnell doesn't know why people fuss about it.

Mr. [Dunnell's?] office is a small wooden shack badly in need of paint close to the railroad tracks. An old table, two weary chairs and a pot-bellied stove serve as office equipment with grain sacks, offering extra seats. Despite its down-at-the heel appearance George Dunall's Hay, Grain and Coal Company does a good business. Small Town [?]