

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 119

FOR RELEASE:

Thursday, Oct. 18, 1962

PRESS PREVIEW:

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 1962

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Bitter Years: 1935-1941, an exhibition of over 200 photographs of rural America by Farm Security Administration photographers, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from October 18 through November 25. The photographs were selected by Edward Steichen, Director Emeritus of the Museum's Department of Photography, from 270,000 taken for the F.S.A. to record the plight of the farm population during the Great Depression. Davis Pratt was in charge of the picture research. The installation was designed by Kathleen Haven.

Mr. Steichen has dedicated the exhibition to Roy E. Stryker, director of the F.S.A. historical section, and to his photographers who made one of the most important and successful visual documentations ever undertaken by any government. Stryker, a former professor and not a photographer himself, assembled a team of young men and women, many of whom are now leading figures in the field of photography: Paul Carter, John Collier, Jr., Jack Delano, Walker Evans, Theo Jung, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, Carl Mydans, Arthur Rothstein, Ben Shahn, John Vachon, and Marion Post Wolcott. Their historic survey of rural areas and small towns of America revealed not only the trials of the period, but also the people's basic faith and affirmation.

"The image recorded by the photographers of the F.S.A. stands as one of the proudest collective contributions made in the realm of photography," Mr. Steichen says. "This exhibition represents a very small but incisive part of the whole. Here is the record of families - sharecroppers and tenant farmers - literally thrown out of their simple, meager homes, uprooted from the soil they had cultivated for generations, to wander willy nilly east and west and north and south in search of a livelihood; men, women and children of the land, cold, wet, starving, in makeshift surroundings, fighting to keep alive, to keep from cracking up. There is evidence in the pictures and in their own words of the fierce pride and courage which turned the struggle through those long, bitter years into an American epic."

Stryker sent his photographers throughout the country fully briefed on the background of the situations they would confront. "The job is to know enough about the subject matter to find its significance in itself and in relation to its surroundings, its time, and its function," he said.

The exhibition opens with photographs illustrating Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous statement in his Second Inaugural Address, January 20, 1937: "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished." Natural and social forces which led to this condition are shown in photographs of dust-storms, drought and erosion and of

more...

farmers driven to migratory work by the mechanization of agriculture.

Photographs of men, women and children at work in the cotton fields, where under the most favorable conditions they made no more than \$1 a day, are followed by pictures of sharecroppers, their families and shanty-homes; abandoned farms plowed up to the doorways, the tenants having been displaced by machines; "refugee" families on the road, their possessions piled on an old car or strapped to their backs.

A series of photographs by Dorothea Lange shows the tent cities in California where migratory workers lived during the picking season. Some of the tents were improvised by the workers, others provided by the government. Some housed as many as 13 people. Also included are pictures of rural schools and of houses built with the aid of F.S.A. loans.

The final sections of the exhibition are devoted to photographs of the elderly, the unemployed--able bodied young men in bread-lines, in picket-lines, waiting for relief checks--and of the heroic faces of men and women whose endurance and fortitude conquered the depression.

Many of the pictures are accompanied by comments made by the people as they were photographed.

The Resettlement Administration, which later became the Farm Security Administration, was established in 1935. Rexford G. Tugwell, then Under Secretary of Agriculture and former Professor of Economics at Columbia, was its administrator. An advocate of the use of visual means to bring the events of the period to public attention, Tugwell chose Stryker to head the historical section of the information division. Stryker, a long-time colleague on the Economics Faculty at Columbia, had become interested in visual education while doing the picture research for a heavily illustrated economics textbook by Tugwell.

270,000 photographs of rural America were made under Stryker's direction during the eight years before the program became part of the Office of War Information. The negatives are now on file in The Library of Congress, while approximately 200,000 prints are in the Picture Collection of The New York Public Library. Stryker's project was first brought before the public in 1938 when it formed an important part of the First International Photographic Exposition held at New York's Grand Central Palace.

Stryker, who now lives in Colorado, will come to New York for the exhibition and, along with Arthur Rothstein, Ben Shahn and René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, will participate in a symposium on F.S.A. photography to be held at the Museum Thursday evening, October 25.

The Museum will also present two evening programs of F.S.A. documentary films on November 8 and November 15.

Photographs, additional information and an illustrated brochure, to be published later, available on request from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, New York. Circle 5-8900.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

CHECKLIST

THE BITTER YEARS: 1935-1941

Rural America Seen by the Photographers of the
Farm Security Administration

Oct. 18 - Nov. 25, 1962

Selected by Edward Steichen, Director Emeritus

WALL 1

- JOHN VACHON 16151 M-5
Picket line at Mid-City Realty Company. South Chicago, Illinois. July, 1941.
- BEN SHAHN 6135 M-4
Coal miner's child. Omar, West Virginia. October, 1935.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 30180 M2
Coal miner's child taking home kerosene for lamps, company houses,
coal tipple in background. Pursglove, Scotts Run, West Virginia.
September, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18294-C
Wife of a migratory laborer with 3 children, near Childress, Texas.
June, 1938. "If you die, you're dead - that's all." Texas Panhandle, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE
He has picked cotton all day and stands at the edge of the field and the
cotton wagon. Eloy, Arizona, 1940. Enlarge. of MOMA 472.59
- DOROTHEA LANGE 2328-C
Dispossessed Arkansas farmers(wife only). These people are resettling
themselves on the dump outside of Bakersfield, California. Undated.
- CARL MYDANS 550 M-5
Interior of wood shack built upon Ford truck chassis housing father,
mother, and seven children. This view shows the mother and two of her
children. Tennessee. They were found on U.S. Route 70, between Camden
and Bruceton, Tennessee, near Tennessee River. March, 1936.
- JOHN COLLIER, JR. 41326
Pennsylvania coal miner. Undated.

WALL 2 (Drought and Erosion)

- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 4091-E
An abandoned farm, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. April, 1936.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 4380D
Dry and parched earth in the Bad Lands of South Dakota. May, 1936.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 50720E
Negro children and old home on badly eroded land near Wadesboro,
North Carolina. December, 1938.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25121-D
Eroded land tenant's farm, Walker County, Alabama. February, 1937.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 5045-D
Corn withered by the heat and chewed by grasshoppers. Terry, Montana.
July, 1936.
- JACK DELANO 44763-D
Mrs. M. W., widow, who with two children runs a rented farm near
Woodville, Greene County, Georgia. June, 1941.

more...

224

WALL 3 (Disaster)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 18607-C
Industrialized agriculture. From Texas farmer to migratory worker in California. Kern County. November, 1938.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 4052-E
Farmer and sons walking in the face of a dust storm, Cimarron County, Oklahoma. April, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 2812-E
Dust storm. It was conditions of this sort, which forced many farmers to abandon the area. April, 1935. (New Mexico).

WALL 4

- BEN SHAHN 6029 M-1
Arkansas squatter's home. October, 1935.
- RUSSELL LEE 33695-D
Child looking out of window of tent home near Sallisaw, Oklahoma, Sequoyah County. June, 1939.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 30350 M-4
Old Negro, near Camden, Alabama. May, 1939.
- BEN SHAHN 6032 M-3
Children of destitute Ozark mountaineer, Arkansas. October, 1935.
- WALKER EVANS 9217 M-3
Negroes in the line-up for food at mealtime in the camp for flood refugees, Forrest City, Arkansas. February, 1937.
- RUSSELL LEE 33952-D
Child in May's Avenue Camp, Oklahoma, eating an overripe canteloupe found in market. July, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE "A"
Detail of woman's head. Undated.
- RUSSELL LEE 10124-D
Christmas dinner in home of E.P., near Smithfield, Iowa. Dinner consisted of potatoes, cabbage, and pie. December, 1936.

WALL 5

- (ANGUS McDOUGALL)
(5 photographs of Roy E. Stryker. Courtesy of International Harvester Co.)

WALL 6

- DOROTHEA LANGE 17753-E
Sharecropper family near Hazelhurst, Georgia. July, 1937.

WALL 7 (Cotton)

- JACK DELANO 44593-D
Plowing a field of cotton. Greene County, Georgia. June, 1941.
- JACK DELANO 46508-D
Mr. W. H. H., a renter on the Wray place, plowing sweet potatoes, Greene County, Georgia. November, 1941.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9884-E
Young cotton picker, Kern County, Migrant Camp. California, November, 1936.

WALL 8 (Cotton)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 17464-E
These cotton hoers work from 6 am to 7 pm for \$1. Near Clarksdale, Mississippi. June, 1937. Mississippi Delta plantation. Use of machinery in cotton production is increasing. It is displacing labor and dislodging tenants. Day laborers for seasonal peaks of hoeing and picking are drawn back from the nearest towns in trucks.

more...

WALL 8 (Cotton) cont'd

- MARION POST WOLCOTT 54481-E
Member of Allen Plantation Cooperative Association and her children taking a rest from hoeing cotton. Near Natchitoches, Louisiana. July, 1940.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9328-C
Hoe culture, Alabama tenant farmer near Anniston. June, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9539-C
Hoe culture in the South, near Eutaw, Alabama. July, 1936.
- RUSSELL LEE 11674 M-1
Picking cotton, members of Lake Dick Cooperative Association working together. September, 1938.
- BEN SHAHN 6220 M-4
Cotton pickers, Pulaski County, Arkansas. October, 1935.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18392-E
Migratory field worker picking cotton in San Joaquin Valley, California. These pickers are being paid 75 cents per 100 pounds picked cotton. Strikers organizing under CIO Union are demanding \$1. A good male picker, in good cotton under favorable weather conditions, can pick about 200 pounds in a day's work. November, 1938.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 30628 M-3
Picking cotton on plantation outside Clarksdale, Mississippi, Delta, Mississippi. October, 1939.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 30527 M-4
A. J. J.'s youngest child, Statesville, North Carolina, Route 3, plowing cotton. October, 1939.
- BEN SHAHN 6029 M-4
Arkansas cotton pickers, Pulaski County. October, 1935.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9599
Plantation Owner, Mississippi Delta, Mississippi. Undated.

WALL 9 (Sharecroppers)

- WALKER EVANS 8137-A
Corner of kitchen in F.B.'s cabin, Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8141-A
Home of B.F., Alabama Sharecropper. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8143-A
Corner of kitchen in B.F.'s home, Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8147-A
B.F. and his family at home, Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8145-A
B.F., cotton sharecropper. Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8127-A
Landowner in Moundville, Alabama. August, 1936.

WALL 10 (Sharecroppers)

- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2022 M-4
Wife and child of a sharecropper. Washington County, Arkansas. August, 1935.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17081-C
Home of white tenant farmer family. Newport, Oklahoma. June, 1937.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25359-D
Girl at Gee's Bend, Alabama. April, 1937.
- WALKER EVANS 8156-A
Negro cabin, Hale County, Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8144-A
Kitchen wall in B.F.'s house, Alabama. 1936.

- JACK DELANO 43556-D
Children of a "squatter" family who were preparing to move out of the Spartanburg army camp area. Near Whitestone, South Carolina region. March, 1941.
- JACK DELANO 43568-D
One of the children of a "squatter" family that had to move out of the Camp Croft area. Near Whitestone, South Carolina region. March, 1941.
- RUSSELL LEE 11609-M-5
Family, squatting on FSA property. Caruthersville, Missouri. August, 1938.
- RUSSELL LEE 31221-D
Southeast Missouri Farms - Son of sharecropper combing hair in bedroom of shack. May, 1938.
- BEN SHAHN 6174 M-4
Children of F. family. Hammond, Louisiana. October, 1935.
(Strawberry pickers).
- BEN SHAHN (Detail from) 6035 M-4
Family of Rehabilitation Client, Boone County, Arkansas. October, 1935.
- BEN SHAHN 6068 M-5
Wife and children of sharecropper. October, 1935.
- RUSSELL LEE 34008-D
Children looking outside of window of shack home, community camp, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. July, 1939.
- RUSSELL LEE 11938 M-1
Child of white migrant worker in front of trailer home, Weslaco, Texas. January, 1939.
- RUSSELL LEE 33651-D
Children of agricultural day laborer in doorway of home near Tullahassee, Oklahoma, Wagoner County. June, 1939.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2140 M-4
Child of North Carolina Sharecropper. He has two strikes on him already. September, 1935.
- WALKER EVANS 31294 M-2
"Squinchy" asleep. Child of F.B., Alabama sharecropper. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS No. 30 Lot 991
Sharecropper's child, Alabama. 1936
- BEN SHAHN 6037 M-3
S.N., tenant farmer, Boone County, Arkansas. October, 1935.
- BEN SHAHN 6066 M-3
Family of destitute Ozark. Arkansas. 1935.
- WALL 11 (Sharecroppers)
- JACK DELANO 43996-D
Mrs. L. S. preparing the afternoon meal on her farm in Carroll County, Georgia. April, 1941.
- WALKER EVANS 8133-A
Washroom in the dog-run of F.B.'s cabin, Alabama. 1936.
- PAUL CARTER
Tubercular mother and child. New York City. April, 1936.
- RUSSELL LEE 31000-D
Baby in front of dresser in J.B.'s farm home. Divide County, North Dakota. November, 1937.
- THEO JUNG 4048 M-5
Interior of a home of prospective client. Brown County, Indiana. Oct. 1938.
- JACK DELANO 44563
Interior of rural house. Greene County, Georgia. June, 1941.

WALL 12 (Sharecroppers and Other Rural Subjects)

- DOROTHEA LANGE (Detail of) 16980-E
Woman on relief. Memphis, Texas. June, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17269-C
12 year-old-son of a cotton sharecropper near Cleveland, Mississippi.
June, 1937.
- RUSSELL LEE 11442 M-2
FSA client, former sharecropper. Southeast Missouri farms. 1938.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25391-D
Inhabitants of Gee's Bend, Alabama. April, 1937.
- RUSSELL LEE 11849 M-5
Negro on porch of general store. Louisiana. October, 1938.
- JOHN VACHON 61054-D
Ozark mountain farmer and family, Missouri. May, 1940.
- WALKER EVANS 8138-A
F.B., cotton sharecropper, Hale County, Alabama. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8139-A
Alabama Cotton Tenant Farmer Wife. 1936.
- WALKER EVANS 8140-A
L.B., daughter of cotton cropper. Hale County, Alabama. 1936.
- CARL MYDANS 0528-M
Baby girl of family living in Natchez Trace Project, near Lexington,
Tennessee. 1935 or 1936.
- RUSSELL LEE 30459-D
W. H. family eating dinner, Williams County, North Dakota.
(Drought area). September, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17327-C
Grandmother, mother and new-born baby of a sharecropper family near
Cleveland, Mississippi. June, 1937.
- RUSSELL LEE 32230-D
Daughter of migrant auto wrecker doing her lessons on bed in tent home,
Corpus Christi, Texas.

WALL 13 ("Tractored Out")

- DOROTHEA LANGE 18281-C
Power farming displaces tenants from the land in the western dry cotton
area, Texas Panhandle. June, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "L"
Carey, Texas. Country postmaster. Small Texas town in area being
depopulated by tractor farming. Undated.
- BEN SHAHN 18281-C
Roadside Advertising. Along Route 40. Central Ohio. Summer, 1938.
- JOHN VACHON 64630
Field with deserted house. Dewey County, S.D. Undated.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17128-C
Abandoned tenant house on a mechanized plantation of the Mississippi Delta,
June, 1937.

WALL 14 (Eviction)

- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2975-M-3
State highway officials moving sharecroppers from roadside to area between
Levee and Mississippi River. New Madrid County, Missouri. June, 1939.
- THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL (page from) (Reproduced from An American Exodus by
Dorothea Lange and Paul S. Taylor). January 11, 1939.
Newspaper headline: Evicted Sharecroppers Camp Along Highways In Missouri

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL (cont'd)

Caption in book: Plantations of the Delta are coming under the machine. The sharecropper system is collapsing in its advance, and croppers are being cut from the land. In protest, hundreds of families - white and black victims of its devastation - left their cabins in January 1939 to camp along 150 miles of open road. Highway U.S. 61 in Southeast Missouri.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2930 M-Z
State highway officials moving sharecroppers away from the roadside to area between Levee and Mississippi River. New Madrid County, Missouri. June, 1939.

WALKER EVANS 14006-E
Evicted sharecroppers from Dibble Plantation. Arkansas. January, 1936.

WALL 15 (On the Road - Automobile)

DOROTHEA LANGE 16453-E
Route 99 near Tracy, California. Missouri family of five, seven months from the drought area. Worked in California sawmill at 40 cents an hour until it closed. Went to cotton fields at end of harvest, made \$5 a week "just scrappin' along; we're not tramps; we hold ourselves to be white folks. We was forced out; we couldn't stay there." A common story. Broke, hungry, sick, car trouble. February, 1937.

WALL 16 (On the Road)

DOROTHEA LANGE 2461-E
One migrant family hauls the broken down car of the other to the pea fields at Nepoma, U.S. Route 101, California. February, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE 16418-C
Car of drought refugees on the edge of carrot field in the Coachella Valley, California. Spring, 1937.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25485-D
Tenant farmer moving his household goods to a new farm. Hamilton County, Tennessee. 1937.

BEN SHAHN 6018 M-3
Street musicians in Memphis, Tennessee. 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 21823-E
Baby from Mississippi parked in truck at FSA Camp, Merrill, Oregon. October, 1939.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2393 M-2
Sign. Birmingham, Alabama. February, 1937.

BEN SHAHN 6071 M-4
Destitute Ozark family, Arkansas. October, 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9740-C
Family between Dallas and Austin, Texas. The people have left their home and connections in South Texas and hope to reach the Arkansas Delta for work in the cotton fields. Penniless people. No food and 3 gallons of gas in tank. The father is trying to repair a tire. Three children. Father says, "It's tough but life's tough anyway you take it." August, 1936.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2372 M-3
The family of a migratory fruit worker from Tennessee now camped in a field near the packing house at Winterhaven, Florida. January, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE 1618-C
Imperial Valley, California. Old Mexican laborer saying "I have worked hard all my life and all I have now is my broken body." June, 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 18227-C
Family walking on highway, five children. Started from Iobel, Oklahoma. Bound for Krebs (Kreas), Oklahoma. Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. In 1936 the father farmed on thirds and fourths at Eagleton, McClirtain County, Oklahoma. Was taken sick with pneumonia and lost farm. Unable to get work on WPA and refused county relief in county of 15 years residence because of temporary residence in another county after his illness. June, 1939.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL (cont'd)

Caption in book: Plantations of the Delta are coming under the machine. The sharecropper system is collapsing in its advance, and croppers are being cut from the land. In protest, hundreds of families - white and black victims of its devastation - left their cabins in January 1939 to camp along 150 miles of open road. Highway U.S. 61 in Southeast Missouri.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2930 M-2
State highway officials moving sharecroppers away from the roadside to area between Levee and Mississippi River. New Madrid County, Missouri. June, 1939.

WALKER EVANS 14006-E
Evicted sharecroppers from Dibble Plantation. Arkansas. January, 1936.

WALL 15 (On the Road - Automobile)

DOROTHEA LANGE 16453-E
Route 99 near Tracy, California. Missouri family of five, seven months from the drought area. Worked in California sawmill at 40 cents an hour until it closed. Went to cotton fields at end of harvest, made \$5 a week "just scrappin' along; we're not tramps; we hold ourselves to be white folks. We was forced out; we couldn't stay there." A common story. Broke, hungry, sick, car trouble. February, 1937.

WALL 16 (On the Road)

DOROTHEA LANGE 2461-E
One migrant family hauls the broken down car of the other to the pea fields at Nepoma, U.S. Route 101, California. February, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE 16418-C
Car of drought refugees on the edge of carrot field in the Coachella Valley, California. Spring, 1937.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25485-D
Tenant farmer moving his household goods to a new farm. Hamilton County, Tennessee. 1937.

BEN SHAHN 6018 M-3
Street musicians in Memphis, Tennessee. 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 21823-E
Baby from Mississippi parked in truck at FSA Camp, Merrill, Oregon. October, 1939.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2393 M-2
Sign. Birmingham, Alabama. February, 1937.

BEN SHAHN 6071 M-4
Destitute Ozark family, Arkansas. October, 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9740-C
Family between Dallas and Austin, Texas. The people have left their home and connections in South Texas and hope to reach the Arkansas Delta for work in the cotton fields. Penniless people. No food and 3 gallons of gas in tank. The father is trying to repair a tire. Three children. Father says, "It's tough but life's tough anyway you take it." August, 1936.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2372 M-3
The family of a migratory fruit worker from Tennessee now camped in a field near the packing house at Winterhaven, Florida. January, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE 1618-C
Imperial Valley, California. Old Mexican laborer saying "I have worked hard all my life and all I have now is my broken body." June, 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 18227-C
Family walking on highway, five children. Started from Iobel, Oklahoma. Bound for Krebs (Kreas), Oklahoma. Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. In 1936 the father farmed on thirds and fourths at Eagleton, McClirtain County, Oklahoma. Was taken sick with pneumonia and lost farm. Unable to get work on WPA and refused county relief in county of 15 years residence because of temporary residence in another county after his illness. June, 1939.

- DOROTHEA LANGE 16319-E
Young Oklahoma mother, age 18, penniless, stranded in California.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18271-C
U.S. 54, north of El Paso, Texas. One of the westward routes of the migrants. June, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANG 16912-C
Flood refugee family near Memphis, Texas. These people, with all their belongings, are bound for the lower Rio Grande Valley, where they hope to pick cotton. They come from Arkansas, May, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16102-C
Young family, penniless, hitch-hiking on U.S. Highway 99, California. The father 24 and the mother 17, came from West Salem, North Carolina, early in 1935. Their baby was born in the Imperial Valley, California, where they were working as field laborers. November, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17790-E
A hitch-hiking family waiting along the highway in Macon, Georgia. The father repairs sewing machines, lawn mowers, etc. He is leaving Macon, where a license is required for such work (\$25) and heading back for Alabama. July, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 19185-E
On U.S. 99. Near Brawely, Imperial County. Homeless mother and youngest child of seven walking the highway from Phoenix, Arizona, where they picked cotton. Bound for San Diego, where the father hopes to get on the relief "Because he once lived there." February, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18801-E
Napa Valley, California. More than 25 years a bindle-stiff. Walks from the mines to the lumber camps to the farms. The type that formed the backbone of the IWW in California before the war. December, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18789-E
Firebaugh, California. February, 1939. Came from Webber Falls, Oklahoma, with two grown sons in 1939, cotton picker.
- DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "M"
Georgia Road Sign. Warning vagrants. 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 20985-E
Mother and baby of family on the road. Tullake, Siskiyou County, California. September, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16317-E
Toward Los Angeles, California. March, 1937.

WALL 17 (Field Workers)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 16213-C
Billboard on U.S. Highway 99 in California. National Advertising Campaign sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers. March, 1937.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 2350-M-3
Notice to celery workers. Sanford, Florida. January, 1937.
- CARL MYDANS 6322-D
Day laborer and wife. Migrants .
"Damned if we'll work for what they pay folks hereabouts." Crittendon County, Arkansas. Cotton workers on the road with all they possess in the world. May, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "P"
Transplanting sweet potato plants; feet and hands; clouds .
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16230-C
A former tenant farmer from Texas, now working in California as a pea picker. Nipoma, California. March, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE 18660-C
Arkansas mother come to California for a new start, with husband and 11 children. Now a rural rehabilitation client. Tulare County, California. November, 1938.

DOROTHEA LANGE 20960-E
Migrant potato pickers. Tulelake, Siskiyou County, California. September, 1939.

RUSSELL LEE 13063 M-1
Labor contractors crew picking peas. Nampa, Idaho. June, 1941. (Pea pickers wages in 1939 1 cent per lb. Hamper holds 28 lbs.)

DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "H"
Poverty in the Land of Plenty. Migrant Pea Pickers. California, 1938. Lined up for weighing of filled hampers.

WALL 18 (Tents)

CARL MYDANS 13160-D
Street of tents. Undated.

DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "O"
("What Hurts Business Hurts Me" sign and tents). Squatter camp on the flat where families live during the orange picking season. Near Porterville, California. February, 1938.

DOROTHEA LANGE 19479-D
A grandmother washing clothes in a migrant camp. Stanislaus County, California. April, 1939.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9098-C
Migrant agricultural worker's family. Seven hungry children. Mother aged 32. Father is a native Californian. March, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE 16270-C
18-year-old mother from Oklahoma, now a California migrant. March, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9058-C
Destitute pea pickers in California. Mother of seven children. Age 32. February, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9666-E
Drought refugees from Oklahoma camping by the roadside. They hope to work in the cotton fields. There are 7 in family. Blythe, California. August, 1936.

RUSSELL LEE 33601-D
Tubercular wife and daughter of agricultural day laborer. She had lost six of her eight children and the remaining two were pitifully thin. The mother said she had tuberculosis because she had always gone back to the fields to work within two or three days after her children were born. Shack home is on Potear Creek near Spiro, Oklahoma. June, 1939.

DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "J"
Member Southern Tenant Farmer's Union at time of strike of sharecroppers. Memphis, Tennessee. In Union Hall. Undated.

DOROTHEA LANGE 16439-E
Migratory field worker's home on the edge of a pea field. The family lived here through the winter. Imperial Valley, California. March, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9909-E
Daughter of migrant Tennessee coal miner, living in the American River Camp near Sacramento, California. November, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE 1638-E
Brooding child. Undated.

WALL 19 (Tents)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 1823-C
Drought refugees, California. February, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16013-C
Aged woman from Oklahoma. Kern Migrant Camp, California.
(FSA Camp). November, 1936.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16302-E
Woman in pea picker's camp, California. "I seen our corn dry up and blow
over the fence back there in Oklahoma." March, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 19486-E
Young migrant mother with 6-week-old baby in a labor contractor's camp,
near Westley, California. The baby was born in a hospital with the aid
of FSA Medical and (Aid?) Association for Migratory Workers. "I try to
keep him eatin' and sleepin' regular like I got him out of the hospital."
April, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 19208-C
Brawely, Imperial Valley (California), in FSA Migratory Labor Camp.
Family father, mother and 11 children originally from Mangrom (or grum?)
Oklahoma. February, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18440-E
Migrant cotton picker's child who lives in a tent in the Government Camp
instead of along the highway or in a ditch bank. Shafter Camp for Migrants,
California. November, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9857-C
Grandmother of 22 children, from a farm in Oklahoma; 80 years old. Now
living in camp on the outskirts of Bakersfield, California. "If you lose
your pluck you lose the most there is in you -- all you've got to live
with." November, 1936.

WALL 20 (Old Age)

- DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "F"
White Angel Breadline, San Francisco. 1932.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 9679-C
"Old age" near Washington, Pennsylvania. July, 1936.
- MARION POST WOLCOTT 52102-D
Mrs. L., ninety-one-year-old mother of Miss N.L., and reared in Orange
County, North Carolina, and had lived here since her marriage sixty-nine
years ago. 1939.
- RUSSELL LEE 10582
Hands of Iowa tenant farmer's wife (Mrs. O. - See 11121 below)
Miller Township, Woodbury County, Iowa. December, 1936.
- RUSSELL LEE 11121 M-3
Mr. and Mrs. O., homesteaders, Miller Township, Woodbury County, Iowa.
December, 1936.

WALL 21 (Old Age)

- RUSSELL LEE 11159 M-4
Exhausted flood refugee resting. Sikeston, Missouri. February, 1937.
- JACK DELANO 21093 M-4
Aged couple at an auction in East Albany, Vermont, August, 1941.
- JACK DELANO 45320-D
Mrs. C. L., life-long resident of area being taken over by the Army,
who is moving to the town of Adams. Leraysville, New York. August, 1941.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN Study Coll. MOMA 2187
F. C. of Corbin Hollow, Virginia. October, 1935.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 17970-C
This man was born a slave in Greene County, Georgia. July, 1937.

- DOROTHEA LANGE 9743
A. S., born a slave in South Texas, Corpus Christi. August, 1936.
- JACK DELANO 44273-D
Hands of Mr. H.B., ex-slave. Parks Ferry Road, Greene County, Georgia.
May, 1941.
- JACK DELANO 20949 M-2
Old ex-slave on a farm near Greensboro, Alabama. May, 1941.
- JACK DELANO 42296-D
In the home of S.D., Italian FSA client, near Canterbury, Connecticut.
His mother sells hooked rugs to supplement their farm income. November, 1949.

WALL 22 (Houses, etc.)

- RUSSELL LEE 12785 M-2
Helping the plates at dinner on the grounds at all day community sing.
Pie Town, New Mexico. June, 1940.
- PAUL CARTER 28.41
Tubercular mother and child, New York City, April, 1936.
- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 29111-D
A physician cooperating with FSA medical health plan visits the home of
a rehabilitation client. St. Charles County, Missouri. November, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 18667-C
Home of Rural Rehabilitation client, Tulare County, California. They
bought 20 acres of raw, unimproved land with a first payment, which was
money saved out of relief budget (August, 1936). They received an FSA
loan of \$700 for stock and equipment. Now they have a one-room shack,
7 cows, 3 sows and home-made pumping plant, along with 10 acres of
improved permanent pasture. Cream check approximately \$30 per month.
Husband also works about 10 days per month on odd jobs outside the farm.
Husband is 26 years old, wife 22, 3 small children. Been in California
5 years. "Piece by piece this place gets put together. One more piece
of pipe and our water tank will be finished." November, 1938.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 21800-C
Home of FSA Borrower who moved on this land six years ago, built log
house and buildings. Cut enough hay between stumps to feed 8 cows and
3 calves and 2 horses through the winter of 1938. \$315 land clearing
loan. Priest River Peninsula, Bonner County, Idaho. October, 1939.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 20902-D
Family living in tent and building the house around them. Near
Klamath County, Oregon. August, 1939.

WALL 23 (Field Workers)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 16166-C
Cabbage cutting and hauling by new Vessey (flat truck) system now also
used in carrots and lettuce. Imperial Valley, California. March, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange "Q") 826 ZB
(Stoop Labor). Gang of Filipino lettuce cutters. Salinos Valley,
California. 1935.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16113-E
Migrant agricultural worker. Near Holtville, California. February, 1937.
Waiting for the second pea crop, after the winter crop froze.

WALL 24 (Unemployed)

- DOROTHEA LANGE 17373-C
Sharecropper boy, Chesnee, South Carolina. June, 1937.
- DOROTHEA LANGE 16336-C
Ex-tenant farmer on relief grant in the Imperial Valley, California.
March, 1937.

JOHN VACHON 60517-D
Line of men waiting in alley outside City Mission. They are waiting for the meal which will be served at 5:00 p.m. Dubuque, Iowa. April, 1940.

DOROTHEA LANGE 16271-C
Waiting for the semi-monthly relief checks at Calipatria, Imperial Valley, California. Typical story: 15 years ago they owned farms in Oklahoma. Lost them through foreclosure when cotton prices fell after the War. Became tenants and sharecroppers. With the drought and dust they came west - 1934-37. Never before left the county where they were born; now although in California over a year they haven't been continuously resident in any single county long enough to become a legal resident. Reason: migratory agricultural laborers. March, 1937.

BEN SHAHN 6157 M-4
Unemployed trappers. Plaque Mines Parish, Louisiana. 1935.

DOROTHEA LANGE 17265-C
Former Texas tenant farmers displaced by power farming. May, 1937.

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 24211-D
Migrant field worker. Tulare Migrant Camp. Visalia, California. March, 1940.

MARION POST WOLCOTT 5271 C-D
Mr. R.B.W. visiting his general store. He is president of the bank and practically owns and runs the town. He is a big land owner, owns W.D. farm and a cotton mill in Clayton. He says he cut down the trees and pulled up the stumps out of the main street and was the first man in that town of Wendall, Wake County, North Carolina. September, 1939.

DOROTHEA LANGE 9930-C
The day after election. Oakland, California. November 12, 1936.

DOROTHEA LANGE (Lange) "G"
Father and Son. Idle American workmen near Budgeton, N.J. No date.

BEN SHAHN 6121 M-3
A deputy with a gun on his hip during the September, 1935 strike in Morgantown, West Virginia. September, 1935.

MARION POST WOLCOTT 56850
Spanish muskrat trappers drinking wine and playing "cache," a form of poker, in their camp in the marshes. Delacroix Island, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. January, 1941.

DOROTHEA LANGE 19524-D
FSA Camp for migratory agricultural workers. Farmsville, California. Meeting of camp council. May, 1939.

DOROTHEA LANGE No number
Sign during great cotton strike. Kern County, California. 1938.

WALL 25 (Schools)

JOHN VACHON 64805-D
Morton County, North Dakota. Playing "Cut that Pie" or "Fox and Geese" at noon recess at a rural school. February, 1940.

RUSSELL LEE 11375 M-5
Farm children playing on home-made merry-go-round. Williams County, North Dakota. November, 1937. (Drought area).

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN 25198-D
School at Skyline Farms, Alabama. February, 1937.

RUSSELL LEE 31938-D
Negro mother teaching children numbers and alphabet in home of share-cropper. Transylvania, Louisiana. January, 1939.

JACK DELANO 46226-D
White Plains, Greene County, Georgia. The three-teacher Negro school.

BEN SHAHN

6090 M-5

Interior of Ozark School, Arkansas. September, 1935.

WALL 26 (Couples)

JACK DELANO

43918-D

Negro preacher and his wife sitting under photos taken of them twenty years ago. They live in an old converted school house with two grandchildren. The rest of their children have moved out of the country. Beard County, Georgia. April, 1941.

DOROTHEA LANGE

19227-C

Migratory labor workers. Brawely, Imperial Valley, California. February, 1939.

JACK DELANO

45615-D

Farmer and his wife who live on one of the hill farms east of Burlington, Vermont. August, 1941.

THEO JUNG

4051 M-4

Prospective clients whose property has been optioned by the Government. Brown County, Indiana. October, 1935.

BEN SHAHN

6034 M-2

Rehabilitation clients, Boone County, Arkansas. October, 1935.

JACK DELANO

42816-D

Mr. and Mrs. O.A. - Armenian vegetable farmers in West Andover, Massachusetts. They have an 11-acre farm and a son works in a blanket factory in Lowell to help support the family. January, 1941.

WALL 27 (Heroic Women)

RUSSELL LEE

12244 M-5

Indian woman, wife of farmer, McIntosh County, Oklahoma.

DOROTHEA LANGE

(Lange) "C"

Ex-slave with a long memory. Alabama. 1938.

DOROTHEA LANGE

16239-C

"This is a hard way to serve the Lord." Oklahoma drought refugee, California. March, 1937.

RUSSELL LEE

(Enlargement of detail from)

12022 M-4

Migrant man and wife camped near Sebastin, Texas. January, 1939. (Wife only).

WALL 28 (Heroic Women)

ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN

26097-D

M.K., widow living with her daughter on farm. Garrett County, Maryland. December, 1937.

DOROTHEA LANGE

Lange "E"

Clouds. Undated.

DOROTHEA LANGE

18289

Ma B. An "Arkansas Hosier" born in 1855, Conway, Arkansas. "My father was a Confederate soldier. He gave his age a year older than it was to get into the Army. After the War he bought 280 acres from the railroad men and cleared it. He never had a mortgage on it. In 1920 the land was sold, the money divided. Now none of my children own their land. It's all done gone, but it raised my family. I've done my duty - I feel like I have. I've raised 12 children." June, 1938.

WALL 29 (Heroic Women)

JACK DELANO

44571-D

Daughter of Mr. B.G., preacher and FSA borrower. Near Union Point, Greene County, Georgia. June, 1941.

WALL 30 (Heroic Women)

DOROTHEA LANGE

(Lange) "B"

Young child, long hair. Near Casa Grande, Arizona, 1940.

Over door between Walls 29 and 30

U.S. Department of Agriculture

7772-ZB

Planted field. No caption. March, 1940.

235

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 West 53 Street
New York 19, New York
Telephone: Circle 5-8900

In connection with the exhibition

THE BITTER YEARS: 1935-1941

Rural America Seen by Photographers of the Farm Security Administration

FILMS

Thursday, November 8 8:00 p.m.

THE HOME PLACE (1941), produced by U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service, directed by Raymond Evans, photographed by Calle Carrello, music by Leon Brusiloff, narrated by Milton Cross.

THE RIVER (1937), produced by the Farm Security Administration, written and directed by Pare Lorentz, photographed by Willard Van Dyke, Stacey Woodard and Floyd Crosby, music by Virgil Thomson.

THE PLOW THAT BROKE THE PLAINS (1936), produced by the U.S. Resettlement Administration, written and directed by Pare Lorentz, photographed by Paul Strand, Ralph Steiner, and Leo Hurwitz, music by Virgil Thomson.

Admission to the Museum, \$1.00, includes film showing. Members free.

Thursday, November 15 8:00 p.m.

THE POWER AND THE LAND (1940), produced by the Rural Electrification Administration and Department of Agriculture, directed by Joris Ivens, photographed by Floyd Crosby and Artur Ornitz, commentary by Stephen Vincent Benet, music by Douglas Moore.

THE LAND (1942), produced by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, directed by Robert Flaherty with the collaboration of Frances H. Flaherty, edited by Helen Van Dongen, music by Richard Arnell, commentary by Russell Lord, narrated by Robert Flaherty.

Admission to the Museum, \$1.00, includes film showing. Members free.

The Bitter Years: 1935-1941, a catalogue edited by Edward Steichen, contains a selection of outstanding photographs in the exhibition. 36 pages; 27 plates; \$1.25 (members 95 cents). Available mid-November.

THE MUSEUM OF MODE

Release **RT** the following
sent to the following:
on October 23, 1962

HEET

City Editors-
San Francisco Chronicle
San Francisco Examiner
San Francisco News-Call Bulletin
Berkeley Daily Gazette
Oakland Tribune
Bakersfield Califoonian
(with ~~xxx~~ photo)

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Oct. 24, 1962

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

Dorothea Lange, well-known San Francisco photographer, is featured in the Museum of Modern Art's current exhibition, The Bitter Years: 1935-1941, on view through November 25. The exhibition consists of over 200 photographs of rural America selected from thousands taken for the Farm Security Administration during the depression. Miss Lange has the largest representation with 85 pictures, many of migrant farmers driven to California in search of work. Other California photographers represented are Theo Jung, also of San Francisco and John Collier, Jr. of Sausalito.

The F.S.A. photographic project was one of the most important and successful visual documentations ever undertaken by any government. Over 270,000 photographs were made, under the direction of Roy E. Stryker, to record the problems of America's farm population during the depression. This historic survey of rural areas and small towns revealed not only the trials of the period but also the people's basic faith and affirmation. Not a photographer himself, Mr. Stryker assembled a team of young men and women, many of who are now leading figures in the field of photography. They include, in addition to Miss Lange, Mr. Jung and Mr. Collier, Paul Carter, Jack Delano, Walker Evans, Russell Lee, Carl Mydans, Arthur Rothstein, Ben Shahn, John Vachon and Marion Post Wolcott.

According to Edward Steichen, director of the exhibition, "The image recorded by the photographers of the F.S.A. stands as one of the proudest collective contributions made in the realm of photography. This exhibition represents a very small but incisive part of the whole. Here is the record of families - sharecroppers and tenant farmers - literally thrown out of their simple, meager homes, uprooted from the soil they had cultivated for generations, to wander willy nilly east and west and north and south in search of a livelihood; men, women and children of the land, cold, wet, starving, in makeshift surroundings, fighting to keep alive, to keep from cracking up. There is evidence in the pictures and in their own words of the fierce pride and courage which turned the struggle through these long, bitter years into an American epic."

Dorothy Lange, a native of New Jersey, has spent most of her life in California. She gave up a successful portrait studio in San Francisco to concentrate on documentary work. In 1935 she made a study of migratory labor in California and later joined the corps of F.S.A. photographers. She has worked for various other government agencies including the O.W.I. and the War Relocation Authority. Among her many photo-essays made during the past decade are "Public Defender," an essay on the law-courts, "The Last of a Valley," the story of an area evacuated and devastated as a dam site, and the "New California." Miss Lange now lives in Berkeley.

Additional information and photographs available from Nancy Reed, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N.Y. Circle 5-8900.