Race


Reports on the reactions of various newspapers in California, Oregon, Arizona and Nevada to LAPD Chief James E. Davis’ ordering his police officers to patrol California’s borders and arrest “all persons who have no definite purpose for entering the State, and are without visible means of support.” The Los Angeles Times apparently supported Davis’ order claiming that these “imported criminals, radicals and troublemakers” have contributed to a $70,000,000 deficit. Yet, Stephen O’Donnell of the Los Angeles Evening News and the Nevada State Journal insisted that the Davis “frontier guard violates every principle that Americans hold dear.” And, according to the Arizona Republic, the exclusion policy will have a tremendous impact on Arizona: “There is no other intermountain or western state which will suffer so much...”


Reports on the number of individuals who arrived in California by car from drought states during June through December 1935. Provides statistics of refugees by race and state of origin. Information based on data provided by Paul S. Taylor.


Camp nurse’s attempt to educate “dust bowlers” about personal hygiene and preventative medicine as she contends with home remedies and superstition. For many “dust bowlers” life in the migratory labor camp was an improvement over the poverty and starvation they experienced since leaving their farms in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas. Condescending article portraying the ignorance of migrants toward health care and nutrition. Reflects the prevailing view of migrants as shiftless and illiterate.


Argues that migration from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas to California was not limited to the 1930s but had been occurring since the 1910s and lasted into the 1960s, that not all of them were poor sharecroppers, and that the employment opportunities presented to them by the state's emerging aerospace industry let many escape farming but did little to attenuate their identity as a group, which could be succinctly described as populist yet conservative in politics, evangelically religious, and fiercely self-conscious, especially through country music.


Focuses on immigration and repatriation of Mexican-American farm workers in California during the Great Depression.


Nicholas Natanson's book discusses Resettlement Administration and Farm Security Administration photographs of African-American life from 1935 to 1942. Photographers include Dorothea Lange, Marion Post Wolcott, and Gordon Parks.

"Mexicans Depart for Old Homes in Durango, Mexico; Many Neighbors Say Adios." *Wasco News* February 3, 1933: 1.

“No Room for Undesirables.” *Shafter Progress* August 9, 1935: 8.


Reports on a presentation by James Gregory, an assistant professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, which argues contra Steinbeck that migrants from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri have not only refused to shed their regional cultural proclivities but have profoundly affected the culture of the southern San Joaquin Valley. Evidence for this change includes the proliferation of evangelical churches, the genesis of country music, and even the popularity of chicken fried steak and Dr. Pepper in Bakersfield.


One California schoolteacher's opinion that the majority of migrant families in her community are irresponsible adult children who happily take advantage of the state's relief program. Stereotypes all migrant farm families as "footloose, jobless" slackers. Her classroom is overcrowded with children of migrant laborers whom she asserts are of low moral character and compares them to the children from "our established resident citizenry" whose parents taught them the "virtues of work and decent living." Concludes that these people are lazy, illiterate, and ungrateful. Recommends that the state re-examine the "liberal cash dole" disbursed by the state. Relief has failed the migrants and has become
a burden to the taxpayer. For similar stereotypical comments, see Ester Canter's (64).


Discusses the "Okie" migration into California's agricultural valleys during the 1930s. Stein explains how these "Okies" competed with and rapidly supplanted the Mexicans, Filipinos, Chinese, and Japanese farm laborers who had dominated farm labor for two decades.


Taylor surveys the issues concerning the peculiarities of California farm labor needs, which occur because of the industrialization of farmland. This large-unit agricultural structure depends upon an abundant labor supply. Since the 19th century, farm labor supply has been composed of dispossessed peoples, including Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Hindustanis, Filipinos, and whites migrating from the southern region of the U.S. Of rural America, California has a record of the most intense labor conflict. Over the few decades, there have been repeated attempts to organize the workers. Taylor concludes his survey with a list of resources related to labor relations and California.


Report cites the industrialization of California agriculture as the reason for the increase in migrants to California. Underhill provides information collected at grower-owned farm labor camps in Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties, in the neighborhoods of Madera, Los Banos, Dos Palos and Firebaugh. Data includes: family size, income, residence status, previous occupations, relief received by 132 families including Mexican, white, black and Native American. The statistical tables emphasize the health situation of children, including nutrition, infections, hygiene, tuberculosis, congenital defects. Underhill concludes that although considered "migratory," most in study remained in the county. Many migrant families do not receive relief; non-residents do not receive medical care and are unable to pay for private medical care. Those migrants who are residents often do not take advantage of medical services. Recommends that state and federal agencies should pay for the improvement of the poor conditions under which migrant families live.


Report on the characteristics and activities of Depression migrant families who received relief from the
transient program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). Report debunks stereotypical misconceptions of migrants as irresponsible, chronic wanderers. Suggests as solution to the transient migrant relief problem the elimination of state settlement requirements which designate transient as a separate category. Contains detailed analysis of 5,489 migrant families selected from the total number receiving care in transient bureaus during September 1935. Includes reasons for migration, family histories, origins and movement, personal characteristics, such as composition of migrant families, age, ethnicity, citizenship, marital status, and education, among others. Contains tables and figures. Concludes that the transient relief problem is national; the solution is Federal leadership.


Discusses 20th-century migrant farm labor in western United States, in particular, Mexican workers in California.