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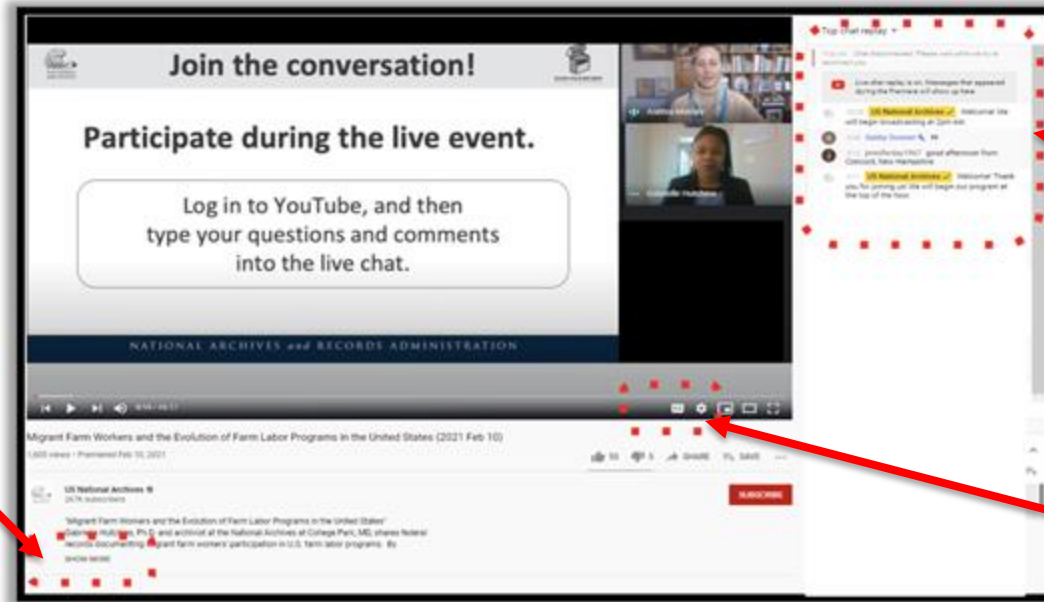
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Session Overview

New Deal-Era Photographs Within the Holdings of the Still Picture Branch

More than 60 federal agencies and offices were created between 1933 and 1939. Consequently, New Deal-era photographic records are spread across many different record groups and series. Our presenters will provide an overview of Still Picture Branch holdings that document New Deal-era programs. They will specifically focus on series that contain images related to New Deal arts and culture programs, public works programs, rural and farm assistance, and land and wildlife conservation.

Presenter Biographies



Sarah Bseirani

Sarah Bseirani is an archivist in the Still Picture Branch. Before joining the National Archives in 2018, she received her Bachelor of Arts in history/art history from Goucher College and her Master of Arts in public history from American University.

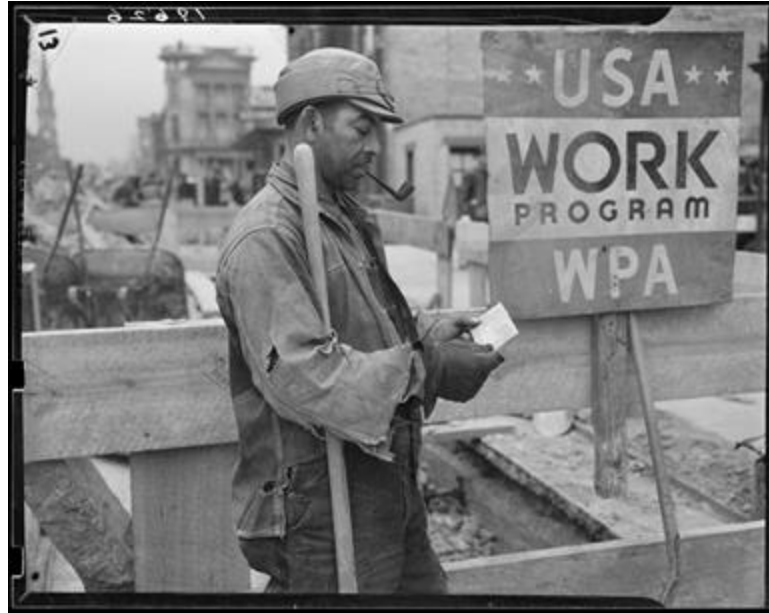
Presenter Biographies



Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez

Kaitlyn Crain Enriquez is an archivist in the Still Picture Branch, where she has worked since 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State University.

New Deal-Era Photographs Within the Holdings of the Still Picture Branch



Photograph of Works Progress Administration Worker Receiving Paycheck.
Local ID: 69-N-19626 (National Archives Identifier: [594956](#)).



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Beginning of the New Deal Era

“Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.”

-First Inaugural Address of Franklin D. Roosevelt,
March 4, 1933

Original Caption: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the U.S., delivering his inaugural address. East front of the Capitol building, Washington D.C. March 4, 1933. Local ID: 111-SC-98459 (National Archives Identifier: [329579559](#)).



Presentation Goals

Through the course of this presentation, we aim to provide a general overview of Still Picture Branch holdings that document New Deal-era programs and projects. We'll primarily highlight series that fall within the categories of:

- Arts and Culture Programs
- Public Works Programs
- Rural and Farm Assistance
- Land and Wildlife Conservation



We also hope to set expectations in terms of what researchers will and will not find among our holdings. Researchers should know that:

- The Still Picture Branch does not have photographs of individuals employed during the New Deal era.
- Our photographs primarily document the projects themselves, not necessarily the individuals that did the work.
- We do not have photographs of every project started or completed during the New Deal.
- New Deal photographs can be found across National Archives custodial units, and across the United States within many different archival and museum institutions.

Original Caption: Scott's Run, West Virginia. This building is a part of the abandoned mine buildings of the stranded camp of Jere. It is the exterior of the old fan house. The children are a part of a WPA nursery now functioning in the camp. March 19, 1937. Photo by Lewis Hine. Local ID: 69-RP-85 (National Archives Identifier: [518370](#)).

New Deal Arts and Culture Programs

Record Group 69

Records of the Work Projects Administration, 1922–1944

69-N: WPA Information Division Photographic Index (National Archives Identifier: [518261](#))



WPA Workers Indexing 1920 Census Records.
Local ID: 69-N-39-13590-D (National Archives
Identifier: [175739355](#)).



Children Taking a Hearing Test Given by Works Progress
Administration Instructors. Local ID: 69-N-9189-C
(National Archives Identifier: [176251200](#)).

Federal Art Project



Airbrushing a Poster. Local ID: 69-AN-846-1
(National Archives Identifier: [431356230](#)).

- 69-AS: Federal Art Project State File (National Archives Identifier: [518246](#))
- 69-AN: New York City Federal Art Project (National Archives Identifier: [518242](#))
- 69-AG: Federal Art Project General Project File (National Archives Identifier: [518241](#))

Federal Theatre Project

- 69-TC: Federal Theater Project Central Files (National Archives Identifier: [518797](#))
- 69-TMP: Federal Theater Project Productions (National Archives Identifier: [518799](#))
- 69-TP: Federal Theater Project (National Archives Identifier: [518800](#))
- 69-TS: Federal Theater Project States' Files (National Archives Identifier: [518801](#))



Jack Riano, Noted Comedy Tumbler.
Local ID: 69-TC-NYC-19-14 (National
Archives Identifier: [100311075](#)).



69-PIN: Sketches of Costumes for a Production of "Pinocchio"

National Archives Identifier: [518279](#)



Drawing of Pinocchio Costume. Local ID: 69-PIN-1
(National Archives Identifier: [26138912](#)).



Drawing of Ballet Puppet Costume. Local ID: 69-PIN-30
(National Archives Identifier: [26144141](#)).



Drawing of Band Leader Costume. Local ID: 69-PIN-9
(National Archives Identifier: [26142461](#)).

Federal Writers' Project

69-GU: The American Guide (National Archives Identifier: [518256](#))



Benjamin Franklin Shop, Philadelphia, PA.
Local ID: 69-GU-3531C (National Archives Identifier: [430689617](#)).

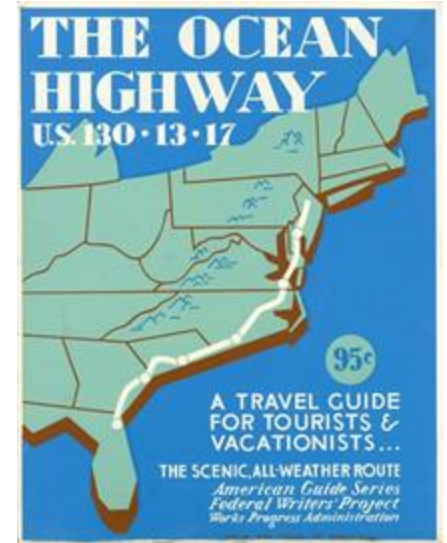


Top: Glacier Falls, Ohio. Local ID: 69-GU-140 (National Archives Identifier: [430689622](#)).

Bottom: Porgy's Inn, South Carolina. Local ID: 69-GU-1506 (National Archives Identifier: [430689629](#)).



69-GP: Posters Created by the WPA Federal Art Project, N.Y.C. Advertising Individual Publications of the American Guide Series Created under the Federal Writers' Project (National Archives Identifier: [518255](#))



Local ID: 69-GP-4 (National Archives Identifier: [430993658](#)).

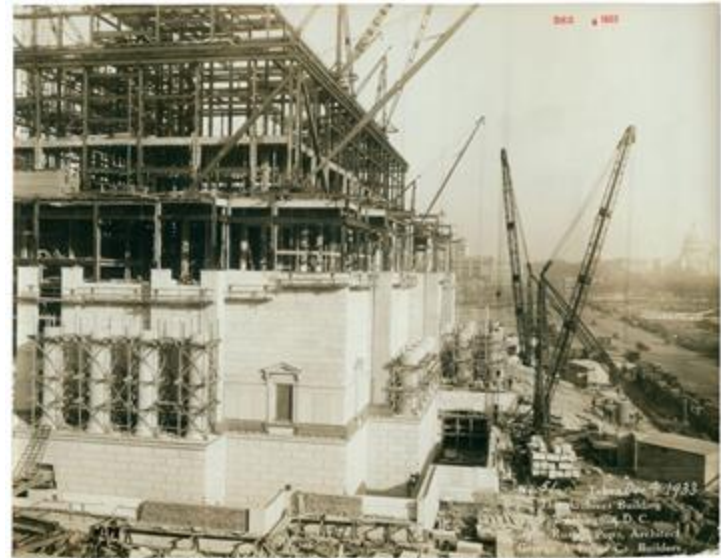
New Deal Arts and Culture Programs

Record Group 121

Records of the Public Buildings Service, 1801–2000



Post Office, Tampa, Florida. Local ID: 121-BS-16M-1 (National Archives Identifier: [315834153](#)).



Construction of the National Archives Building. Local ID: 121-BCP-111C-51 (National Archives Identifier: [7368458](#)).

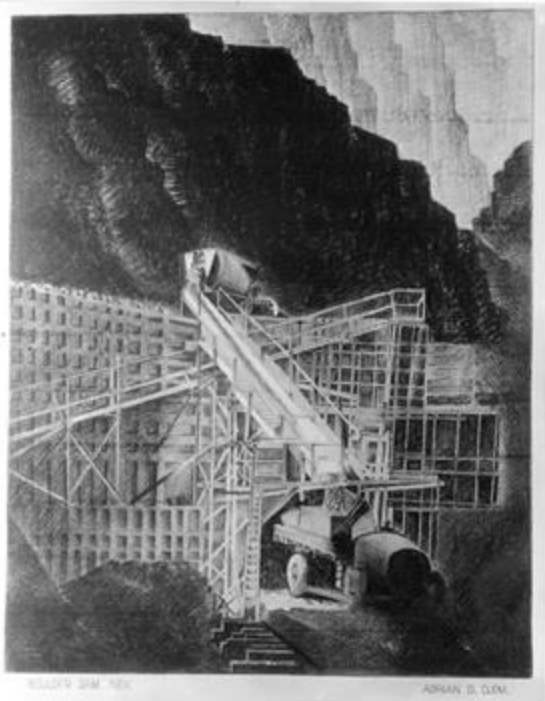
Art and Buildings

- Public Works of Art Project (PWAP), 1933–1934
 - 121-PWAP: Public Works of Art Project (National Archives Identifier: [532318](#))
- The Section of Fine Arts (The Section), 1934–1943
 - 121-PS: Paintings and Sculptures Commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts (National Archives Identifier: [532317](#))
- Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP), 1935–1938
 - 121-TR: Treasury Relief Art Project (National Archives Identifier: [532328](#))
- Works Progress Administration, Federal Art Project (WPA/FAP), 1935–1942
 - 121-GA: Paintings and Sculptures Commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts (National Archives Identifier: [532307](#))



Art and Buildings

Photograph of a Drawing of Boulder Dam by Adrian Clem. Local ID: 121-PWAP-1J-5 (National Archives Identifier: [431966102](#)).



Installed Work in Rutland, Vermont, by Stephen Belaski. Local ID: 121-TR-9-1732 (National Archives Identifier: [431966109](#)).

Photograph of Ceiling Mural by Edward Biberman at Los Angeles, California, Post Office and Courthouse. Local ID: 121-GA-4BIBE2-4 (National Archives Identifier: [404791701](#)).



“Express Man”/Express Mail Carrier by Heinz Warneke



Local ID: 121-CMS-6A-26 (National Archives Identifier: [70170705](#)).



Taken in 2011 at the Ariel Rios Federal Building, Washington, DC. Photograph by Carol M. Highsmith, [LC-DIG-highsm-24961](#).

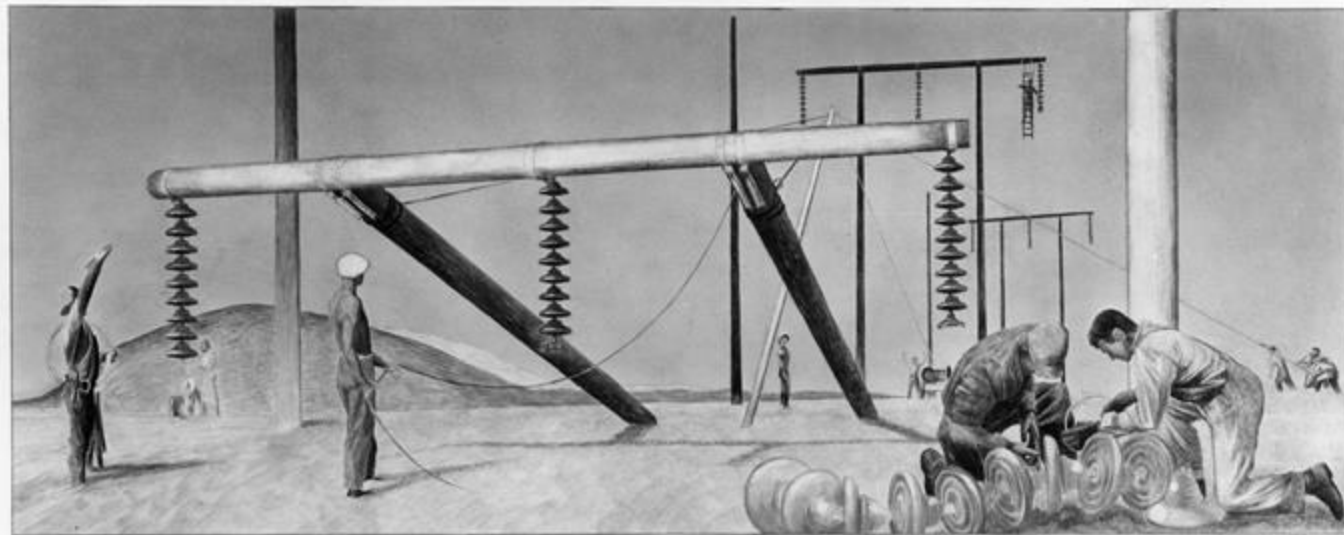
Art in Federal Building Contests



Research Services

- 121-CMS: Completed Murals and Sculptures in United States Post Offices and other Federal Buildings (National Archives Identifier: [532304](#))
- 121-MS: Photographs of Murals, Paintings, and Sculptures Submitted in Competitions (National Archives Identifier: [532314](#))
- 121-FES: Sketches Submitted in the "48 States Competition" For Murals to be Placed in Post Offices (National Archives Identifier: [532306](#))

Art in Federal Building Contests



Photograph of Drawing by David Stone Martin for Lenoir City, TN, Post Office.
Local ID: 121-FES-773 (National Archives Identifier: [404791698](#)).



Mural by Robert F. Gates in the Bethesda, MD, Post Office (Cropped).
Local ID: 121-CMS-3A-46 (National Archives Identifier: [70169682](https://www.foia.gov/70169682)).



Art for the People

Photograph of the Art Caravan. Local ID: 69-N-20901-C (National Archives Identifier: [434070920](#)).



Photograph of Pack Horse Librarian. Local ID: 69-N-13119-D (National Archives Identifier: [148728424](#)).

WPA Furniture Repair Project. Local ID: 69-N-10201-D (National Archives Identifier: [276538173](#)).



Public Works Projects



Research Services



Row of men at the New York City docks out of work during the depression, 1934. Local ID: 69-R-1L-3 (National Archives Identifier: [518288](#)).



Levee workers eating lunch, Memphis, Tennessee. Local ID: 69-N-6063 (National Archives Identifier: [175539893](#)).

Record Group 69: Records of the Work Projects Administration (WPA)

Predecessor agencies include: the Civil Works Administration (CWA, 1933–1934); Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA, 1933–1938); and the Works Progress Administration (1935–1939)

Record Group 135: Records of the Public Works Administration (PWA)

Predecessor agency includes: Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (FEAPW, 1933–1939)

Record Group 69: Photographs Taken by Predecessor or Related Agencies

69-PWA: Photographs of Public Works Administration Projects, 1936–1942 (National Archives Identifier: [518284](#))

- The photographs in this series illustrate the variety of projects funded by PWA
- Images highlight construction, repair, and improvement of public highways; conservation programs; hospitals; bridges; dams; dock; schools; waterworks; universities; power plants; aircraft and naval bases; military housing; and the maintenance and development of transportation facilities.
- Prints organized by subject. There is also a caption index, organized numerically by negative number 69-PWAX (National Archives Identifier: [518285](#))



Original Caption: Setting up bolts of a new arch at the tunnel heading during the construction of the Hudson-Midtown Tunnel, New York. Local ID: 69-PWA-1794 (National Archives Identifier: [431966119](#)).

69-FERA: Federal Emergency Relief Administration Projects, 1934–1935 (National Archives Identifier: [518254](#))

- Photos show projects related to agriculture, archeology, the arts, childcare, construction, education, health, recreation, and work relief.
- On the reverse of some prints is a project name or description or references to related reports and letters.
- Finding aid includes an annotated folder title listing, in addition to an annotated list of photographers.



Original Caption: A section of the furniture factory operating in Indianapolis by the Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief with ERA workers. Physically handicapped men are shown here constructing artificial legs to be supplied to Indiana relief clients so that they in turn may find employment. Local ID: 69-FERA-71-3 (National Archives Identifier: [431966121](#)).

Record Group 69: Series Documenting WPA Projects and Activities



Original Caption: "San Antonio River Beautification. WPA Tipica Orchestra playing on stage of the Arneson River Theatre." WP No. 13085, District 10, OP 65-66-5963. April 26, 1940. Local ID: 69-PR-TX-10 (National Archives Identifier: [175539903](#)).

69-PR: Pictorial Report, ca. 1935–1943 (National Archives Identifier: [518281](#))

- These photos were to be used in a pictorial report on the WPA. Pictures were sent in to the DC office through May 1943. Includes photos taken in most states (including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia), though Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, and the territory of Alaska are not present.
- The subjects of the photographs reflect the final organization of the WPA, which included the Division of Engineering and Construction, Division of Service Projects, and the Division of Training and Reemployment.

69-PS: Reports of Progress of the Works Program, 1935–1941 (National Archives Identifier: [518282](#))

- This series contains photographs used in the Reports on Progress of the Works Program. The reports were issued between March 1936 to June 1942. The photos for all reports, **except June 1936 and June 1942**, are in this series.

69-MP: Photographs of WPA Projects and Activities, 1934–1942 (National Archives Identifier: [518259](#))

- Contains photographs of various WPA projects and activities that were recorded by the Photographic Section and filed with the WPA's Information Division. Includes images of projects involving road construction, sewage improvements, public health, facilities for the people with disabilities, child and adult education, and aid to communities affected by natural disasters such as floods and drought.

69-NS: WPA Information Division State Files, 1934–1942 (National Archives Identifier: [518274](#))

- Most of the photos in this series were received from the state WPAs.
- The photos are arranged by project type, such as construction, conservation, the arts, education, emergency, highways, public health, research and clerical, production activities, recreational facilities, etc.

Record Group 69: Series Documenting WPA Projects Within Specific Locations and Regions

- 69-CWA: Civil Works Administration Projects in Wisconsin, 1934 (National Archives Identifier: [518250](#))
 - Caption list is in a separate series, 69-CWAX (National Archives Identifier: [51821](#))
- 69-CM: Photographs of Civil Works Administration Projects in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin (National Archives Identifier: [518249](#))
- 69-PT: Projects in Texas and Other States (National Archives Identifier: [518283](#))
- 69-NY: Photographs of Professional Activities and Projects in New York City, 1935–1939 (National Archives Identifier: [518276](#))
- 69-NYA: National Youth Administration Photographs Showing Projects in New England and New York, 1935–1942 (National Archives Identifier: [518277](#))



Original Caption: Civil Works Administration, State Project No. 14. Project located in the County of Florence. Project Classification: Public Building Improvement. Photographer: Chris A. Lind. Local ID: 69-CWA-75 (National Archives Identifier: [431966313](#)).

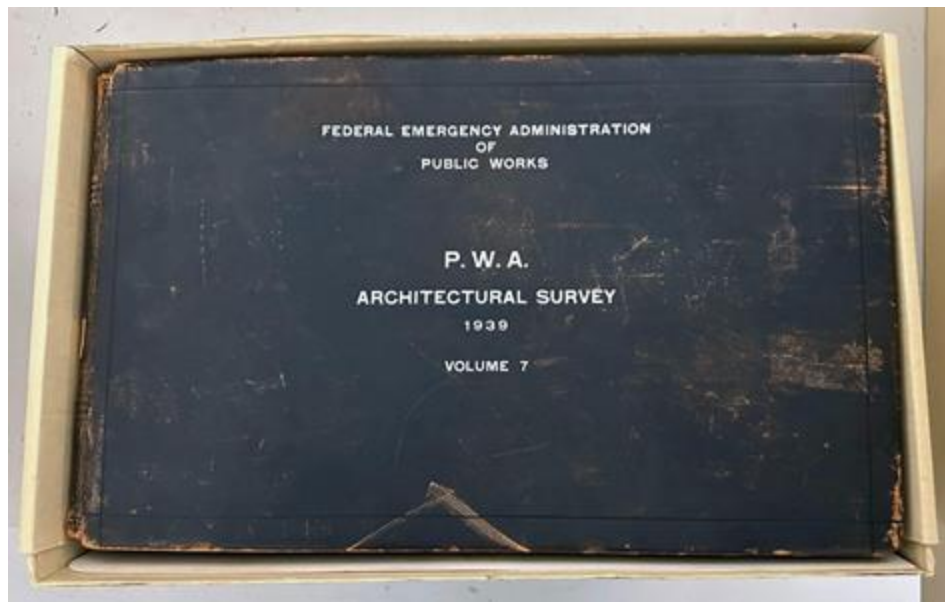


Photograph of a National Youth Administration worker as he assembles street signs in Easthampton, Massachusetts. (National Archives Identifier: [7350925](#)).



Original Caption: Oklahoma, Perry. Stadium being built entirely by the WPA. Photo shows construction work on the stands and the men wearing safety devices. Local ID: 69-PT-234-23110 (National Archives Identifier: [431966315](#)).

135-SA: Photographic Report to the President, "Survey of the Architecture of Completed Projects of the PWA"



Photograph of volume 7 from the PWA Architectural Survey (left).

Finding aid for 135-SA (right).

P.W.A. FEDERAL PROJECTS

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

<u>FED. PROJ. NO.</u>	<u>GOV. BUREAU</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>REPORT PAGE</u>	<u>BOOK PAGE</u>
<u>ALABAMA</u>				
92	Agr. Eng.	Farm. Mech. Lab.	0 1489	
<u>ARIZONA</u>				
11	Soil Con. Service	Lab. & Greenhouses	0 1513	645
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>				
5	Forest Service	Office & Lab. Bldgs.	0 1499	637
5	Forest Service	Dam & Bridge	0 1500	585
5	Forest Service	Lookout Tower	0 1501	
<u>FLORIDA</u>				
1	Bur. Chem. & Soil	Office & Lab. Bldg.	0 1499	
<u>IOWA</u>				
16	Bur. Chem. & Soils	Office & Lab. Bldg.	0 1499	
<u>MAINE</u>				
4	Food & Drug Adm.	Lab. & Greenhouses	0 1498	
16	Bur. Dairy Industry	Nutrition Lab.	0 1498	
26.6	Entomology & Plant Quarantine	Lab. & Office	0 1498	606
26.6	Entomology & Plant Quarantine	Head Lab. & Office Green Houses	0 1497	

Search Example – Grand Coulee Dam

- July 27, 1933, President Roosevelt appropriated \$63,000,000 for the beginning stages of the Grand Coulee Dam.
- As part of the Columbia Basin Project, the Bureau of Reclamation (Record Group 115) began construction of the Grand Coulee Dam in 1933.
- Bureau of Reclamation used workers for the Civilian Conservation Corps (Record Group 35) and the Works Progress Administration (Record Group 69).
- The Nez Perce and other tribes fought the construction of the dam. (Record Group 75: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs)



Photograph of the Grand Coulee Dam, taken by the 116th Photo Section, Washington National Guard. March 25, 1938. Local ID: 18-AA-134-25A (National Archives Identifier: [68151535](#)).



Photograph of the Grand Coulee Dam - first overflow. ca. June 1, 1942. Local ID: 18-AA-134-66 (National Archives Identifier: [68151569](#)).

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 115: Records of the Bureau of Reclamation



E525-2

Original Caption: BR-48. Columbia Basin Coulee Dam, Washington. Building Rock Steps on a Tourist Vista Point near the Dam. Photographer: K.S. Brown. October 1935. Local ID: 115-C-BR48-25 (National Archives Identifier: [431966353](#)).



Original Caption: BR-48. Columbia Basin Coulee Dam, Washington. Loading top soil for landscape work in Government Camp. Photographer: K.S. Brown. April 23, 1936. Local ID: 115-C-BR48-42 (National Archives Identifier: [431966356](#)).

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 69: Records of the Works Progress Administration



Original Caption: This long sloping downstream face of Grand Coulee Dam gives an idea of the magnitude of the construction. The vertical height from bedrock to the dam crest will be 550 feet and the slope even longer. Note the men like ants on the slope. Local ID: 69-N-10641D (National Archives Identifier: [434037794](#)).



Original Caption: Washington, Lincoln - Artist's sketch of one of the permanent camps in Lincoln to house workmen clearing the Columbia River Reservoir Area. Grand Coulee Dam. Local ID: 69-N-19733D (National Archives Identifier: [434037811](#)).



Original Caption: This angle shot of the Grand Coulee Dam from a point far above the east end shows the status as 1939 placing of concrete ended. Immediately below is the mixing plant and the curved track over which work train run to cross the trestle. Local ID: 69-N-10642D (National Archives Identifier: [434037815](#)).

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 69: Records of the Works Progress Administration



Original Caption: General view of the Grand Coulee Dam site. Local ID: 69-PWA-2023B (National Archives Identifier: [434070818](#)).



Original Caption: Washington, Grand Coulee Dam - Surveyors at the Dam. Local ID: 69-PWA-2026B (National Archives Identifier: [434070819](#)).



Original Caption: Washington, Coulee Dam - Power shovel and heavy duty truck really move rock. Local ID: 69-PWA-P-1994 (National Archives Identifier: [434070821](#)).

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 75: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs



Original Caption: Grand Coulee Dam. March 22, 1941. Left to right: Charley [Charlie] Williams and Lige Williams, Nez Perce tribe, Nespelem, Washington. Local ID: 75-N-GCD-1 (National Archives Identifier: [434070914](#)).



Original Caption: Grand Coulee Dam. Left to right - Gov. Langlie, State of Washington; Frank Banks, engineer - charge of center Grand Coulee Dam; 3rd man's name unclear; retired Indian judge Jim James*, Colville Tribe, Nespelem, Washington. March 22, 1941. Local ID: 75-N-GCD-11 (National Archives Identifier: [434070916](#)).

*The caption information is not always 100% accurate. The man pictured is Chief Jim James, a member of the Sanpoil tribe on the Colville Reservation

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 135: Records of the Public Works Administration

- 20 -

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT (Cont'd)

FILE NO., DATE, ETC.	OFFICE, DIVISION	DESCRIPTION	REPORT DATE	FOIA DATE
0	Bureau Insulation	Grand Coulee Dam	0 1938	
0	" "	" " "	0 1938	

MINNESOTA

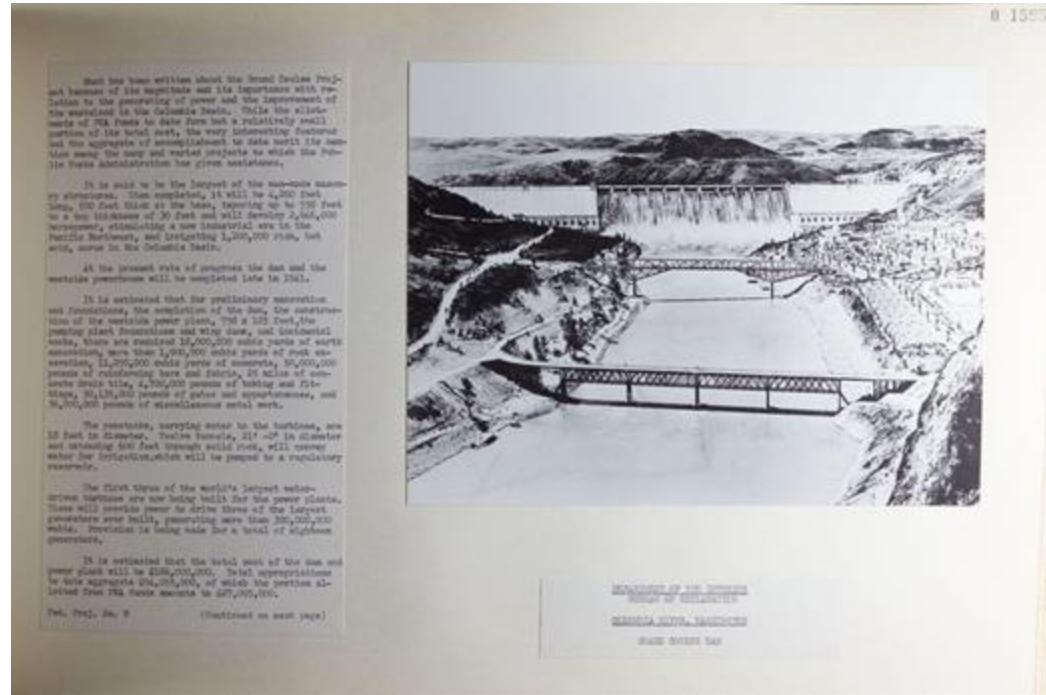
11	Bureau Insulation	Alexis Dam & Reservoir	0 1937	020
200-4	National Park Service	Chadwick Pavilion	0 1934	

ALASKA

19	Alaska P.A.	Access to Fairbanks	0 1934	
60	Territories & Island Possessions	Juneau/Chitina Bridge	0 1939	
104	National Park Service	Bellevue Quarters	0 1934	

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1	St. Elizabeth Hospital	Waters Heating Etc.	0 1939	
20-24	General University	Chemistry Laboratory	0 1947	
30	" "	Library	0 1948	138
308	National Park Service	Washington Monument	0 1931	009
308	" " "	Bridge	0 1939	104
372	" " "	Soil Development	0 1939	412
372	" " "	Stone Hill	0 1939	143
372	" " "	" "	0 1939	
4944	" " "	Whitewater	0 1940	
640	" " "	Soil Development	0 1940	412
940	" " "	Field House	0 1934	
947	" " "	Admission Pavilion	0 1933	
949	" " "	Park Police Lodge	0 1934	
972	" " "	Storeroom in House	0 1939	
973	" " "	" " "	0 1939	
989	" " "	" " "	0 1939	

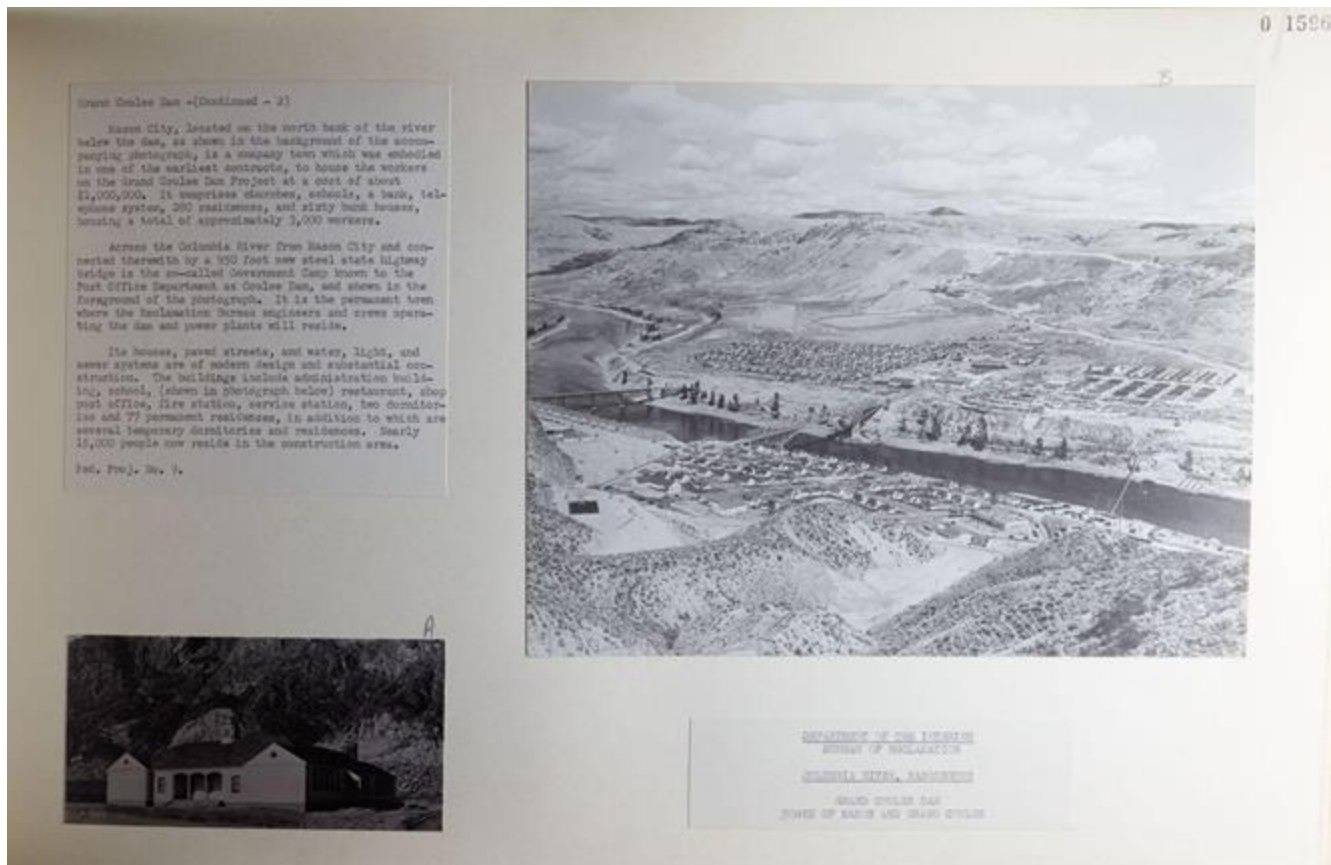


Above: Full page view from Architectural Survey. Local ID: 135-SA-1595.

Left: 135-SA finding aid with Grand Coulee Dam listed.

Search Example - Grand Coulee Dam

Record Group 135: Records of the Public Works Administration



Grand Coulee Dam entry
from Architectural Survey.
Full page view, continued.
Local ID: 135-SA-1596.

Rural and Farm Assistance and Land and Wildlife Conservation

Record Group 33: Records of the Extension Service

Record Group 79: Records of the National Park Service (NPS)

Record Group 114: Records of the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Predecessor agencies include: Soil Erosion Service (SES), Department of the Interior (1933–1935); SES, Department of Agriculture (USDA, March 23–April 27, 1935); Soil Conservation Service, USDA (1935–1994)

Record Group 221: Records of the Rural Electrification Administration

*Record Group 35: Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps

- [2018 Genealogy Fair Session 4 - How to Search for Photographs that Document CCC Camps & Activities](#)
Slides from presentation available here: <https://www.archives.gov/files/calendar/genealogy-fair/2018/4-noel-enriquez-presentation.pdf>
- [The Unwritten Record - Spotlight: Photographs Documenting the Civilian Conservation Corps \(CCC\)](#)



Research Services

Record Group 33: Overview



Original Caption: Moonlight desert scene, giant cactus in silhouette. Pinal County, Arizona. October 1934. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S19229C (National Archives Identifier: [439373550](#)).

- Photographers: George W. Ackerman, E.F. Shipp, E.C. Purdy, F.S. Knoblock.
- Images document various activities of rural American life: maintenance and harvesting of crops, raising of livestock, production of goods, equipment, and community.
- There is also extensive coverage of Black Americans in rural areas, including images of Black extension service agents, farmers, their families, and Black communities.
- Photographs of other underrepresented groups, such as migrant Mexican farm workers, are also represented within Record Group 33.
- Limited photographic prints; negatives and slides are the predominant format.
- Extensive coverage of 4-H activities.

33-SC: Photographs of Extension Service Activities and Personnel, 1928–1943 (National Archives Identifier: [513408](#))

- Only a handful of prints available.
- Finding aid consists of Xeroxed negative sleeves and their captions (when available). Many Xeroxed captions have been cut off, so researchers may find additional information directly on the negative sleeves.
- Organized by negative number and generally by date.
- 42 states represented to varying degrees (AK, CO, DE, HI, ID, IN, KY, PR, RI not included).
- Captions can include the name of the farm, land owner, or farmer. Most captions also note the county where the photograph was taken.
- About 20% of negatives have no caption information.
- Includes documentation of Extension Service agents and agency activities.



Original Caption: [Black] community spring meeting, Jacksonville, Texas. April 1933. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16829C (National Archives Identifier: [439373537](#)).

Agency Activities



Original Caption: [Black] county agent's office, McLennan County, Texas. Waco. April 1933. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16844C (National Archives Identifier: [439373543](#)).



Original Caption: [Black] county agent's office, McLennan County, Texas. Waco. April 1933. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16845C (National Archives Identifier: [439373545](#)).

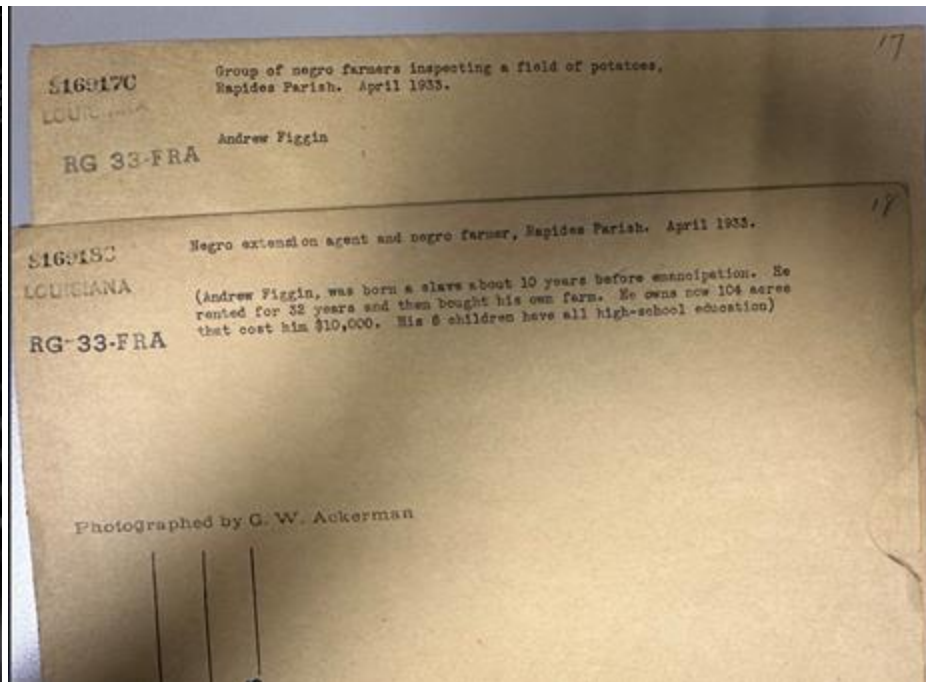


Original Caption: [Black] home demonstration agent giving demonstration in making slipper chair, McLennan County, Texas. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16853C (National Archives Identifier: [439373547](#)).

People, Communities, and Land



Caption: [Black] extension agent and [Black] farmer, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. April 1933. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16918C (National Archives Identifier: [439373540](https://www.foia.gov/foia/439373540)).



Photograph of original negative sleeves bearing caption information.

People, Communities, and Land



Original Caption: Loading sun-dried prunes at Deterding Ranch, near Sacramento. Sacramento County. October 1935. Mrs. Mary A. Deterding owner of the ranch is examining the prunes before they are hauled to the packers. The helpers are migratory Filipino workers who began the 1935 season in lettuce fields near the Mexican border. They followed the maturing crops northward with thousands of other migratory farm laborers and expect to end the season picking apples in Oregon. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S20463C (National Archives Identifier: [439373553](#)).



Original Caption: The Mexican village where citrus workers live on avenues lined with acacias and eucalyptus trees, Los Angeles County, Whittier. About 30 families with 70 children live on this ranch the year round. The houses have running water and electricity and rent from \$5 to \$8 a month. Each house is accessible to the community toilets and baths. The company maintains the streets, takes care of the yards, provides free water and gas and removes the garbage. The company also maintains a dormitory for unmarried men and a recreation center. The workers have their own orchestras and two baseball teams. They have self government within the village and select their own mayor. October 1935. Local ID: 33-SC-S20500C (National Archives Identifier: [439373556](#)).



Caption: Director Warburton, Mr. Evans and two Home demonstration agents from the Philippines, Washington, D.C. 1933. Miss Presentacion Atienza and Miss Natividad Brodieth of the Philippines have a year's leave, at their own expense, to study extension work in the United States. Photographer: G.W. Ackerman. Local ID: 33-SC-S16607C (National Archives Identifier: [439373560](#)).

Record Group 79: Overview

- On June 10, 1933, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166 to consolidate all 64 existing federal parks, monuments, and historical sites under the National Park Service (NPS) in the Department of the Interior.
- Under the New Deal, eight national park acts were approved by Congress and signed by the President: Everglades, Great Smokey, Shenandoah, Big Bend, Olympic, Kings Canyon, Isle Royale, and Mammoth Cave. Additionally, 21 new national monuments were created, some of which later became national parks.

Original Caption: A tent camping area is provided at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park, high in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Local ID: 79-G-25L-5 (National Archives Identifier: [434070879](#)).



Record Group 79: Series Documenting the NPS During the New Deal Era



Above, left to right: Workers Alliance of America (WAA) march in Washington, D.C., ca. August 1937. Local IDs: 79-EN-2-23 (National Archives Identifier: [439373598](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/439373598)), 79-EN-2-4 (National Archives Identifier: [439373596](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/439373596)), 79-EN-2-14 (National Archives Identifier: [439373597](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/439373597)).



Uncaptioned photograph of CCC workers at an NPS park. Local ID: 79-TR-300 (National Archives Identifier: [439546027](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/439546027)).

Original Caption: SP-2, Baxter, Maine. Lunch over an open fire. Stone fireplace. July 1936. Photographer: Rinehart. Local ID: 79-SP-ME-4 (National Archives Identifier: [439723669](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/439723669)).

- 79-G: General Photographs of the National Park Service - Historic Photographic File, ca. 1880–1962 (National Archives Identifier: [520066](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520066))
 - This serves as the primary historical file and covers a wide date range.
 - The series is actually comprised of multiple photographic collections, including the collection of Dr. Charles Porter, who served as a historian with NPS until 1965.
 - File units have been added to the National Archives catalog: <https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520066>
- 79-SP: Photographs of State Park Facilities, 1935–1936 (National Archives Identifier: [520200](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520200))
- 79-EA: Engineering Activities, 1928–1939 (National Archives Identifier: [520062](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520062))
- 79-CCC: Photographs of Emergency Conservation Work Projects, 1933–1937 (National Archives Identifier: [520058](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520058))
- 79-NP: National Parks and Monuments, 1908–1945 (National Archives Identifier: [520099](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520099))
- 79-TR: Photographs Related to the Supervisor of Project Training in the National Park Service, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, ca. 1935–1941 (National Archives Identifier: [520207](https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/520207))

Record Group 114: Overview

- Extensive photo coverage of the 1930s within Record Group 114
- 39 different series (some related and overlapping) within Record Group 114 that cover the New Deal era
- Photos document soil erosion, dry land farming, Soil Conservation Service surveys and studies, water conservation, land utilization, resettlement, and scientific research



Original Caption: Buried machinery in barn lot. Owner is County Commissioner of Gregory County. Dixon Area. SE ¼ 19-99-73. May 13, 1936. Photographer: O. N. Olsen. Local ID: 114-DL-SD-5089 (National Archives Identifier: [431966351](https://www.foia.gov/431966351)).

114-G: Soil Conservation State File - The General Photographic Negative File of the Soil Conservation Service, 1932-1977

- Central negative file for the Soil Conservation Service (National Archives Identifier: [531521](#))
- The negatives document the varied interests of the Service in aiding in the protection and conservation of the natural resources in the United States
- Access to the information in this series is most easily accomplished by researching the various photographic print files that correspond to the negatives in this series.

LEGEND - LOCATION	NUMBER
State <u>California</u>	Photographer <u>V. A. Bedford</u>
County <u>San Joaquin</u>	Date <u>9/29/37</u> Time <u>5:30 pm</u>
Distance and Direction from nearest town <u>13 miles north of King City</u>	Weather <u>Clear</u>
Location by Permanent Landmark <u>North west of Bittansore-King city</u>	Camera <u>3x7 Ansco View</u>
Photographer's Position <u>100 feet north west of gate</u>	Film <u>35 Panchromatic</u>
<u>Looking west.</u>	Stop <u>Exposure</u>
	Filter <u>Meter Reading</u>
	Land Owner or Operator
	Name <u>Tenneshill ranch</u>
	Address <u>King Valley</u>
	Cooperative Contract
SUBJECT AND HISTORY	
In SCS Range Examiner inspects the grass covered Coast Range of California to determine the effect of vegetation in controlling erosion. The effect of grazing on range cover is studied to estimate to what extent these hills can be utilized for pasture without accelerating soil loss.	
Purpose of photo: Record of range condition.	
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Section of Information	
SCS-27 Negative Preserver	To be returned to Chief Photographer, Washington, D. C.

Original Caption: An SCS Range Examiner inspects the grass covered Coast Range of California to determine the effect of vegetation in controlling erosion. The effect of grazing on range cover is studied to estimate to what extent these hills can be utilized for pasture without accelerating soil loss. September 29, 1937. Local ID: 114-G-CAL-4053 (National Archives Identifier: [431966346](#)).



114-G: Soil Conservation State File - The General Photographic Negative File of the Soil Conservation Service, 1932-1977



LOCATION		Number: PR-224	
State: <u>Puerto Rico</u>	Photographer: <u>W. J. Squires</u>	Date: <u>12-27-38</u>	Time: <u>10:00 A.M.</u>
County: <u>Mayaguez</u>	Weather: _____	Distance and direction from nearest town: _____	Camera: _____
Location by permanent landmark: _____	File: <u>18</u>	Exposure: <u>1/25</u>	Filter: _____
Photographer's position: _____	Name: <u>LAND OWNER OR OPERATOR</u>		
Address: _____	Cooperative Contact: _____		

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Lodging in Guinea Corn, serious in the first stubble crop.

None

LOCATION		Number: TH 262	
State: <u>California</u>	Photographer: <u>W. J. Squires</u>	Date: <u>Nov 22 1940</u>	Time: <u>11:00 P.M.</u>
County: <u>San Diego</u>	Weather: <u>clear</u>	Distance and direction from nearest town: _____	Camera: <u>Leica</u>
Location by permanent landmark: _____	File: <u>TH 262</u>	Exposure: <u>1/25</u>	Filter: <u>none</u>
Photographer's position: _____	Name: <u>CALIFORNIA PACKING CORPORATION</u>		
Address: <u>San Diego, Ca.</u>	Cooperative Contact: _____		

SUBJECT AND HISTORY

Field No. 68 of California Packing Corporation. Man on right is standing in terrace channel and man on left is standing on ridge. Channel has six square feet cross section. Perfect control is demonstrated by operations in this field. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Purpose of photos: record

None



Original Caption: Field No. 68 of California Packing Corporation. Man on right is standing in terrace channel and man on left is standing on ridge. Channel has six square feet cross section. Perfect control is demonstrated by operations in this field. Honolulu, Hawaii. November 22, 1940. Local ID: 114-G-TH-262 (National Archives Identifier: [434042388](https://www.foia.gov/434042388)).

Original Caption: Lodging in Guinea Corn, serious in the first stubble crop. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. December 27, 1938. Local ID: 114-G-PR-224 (National Archives Identifier: [434042375](https://www.foia.gov/434042375)).

Record Group 114: Photographic Print Series



Original Caption: Soil drifted around the buildings, also shows hay rack on running gears almost completely buried. Also soil drifted around barn. SE ¼ 19-99-73. Dixon area. May 4, 1936. Photographer: O. N. Olson. Local ID: 114-DL-SD-5042 (National Archives Identifier: [431966352](#)).

- 114-SF: State File of Photographs of Conservation Projects , 1936–1958 (National Archives Identifier: [531534](#))
- 114-P: General Photographic File, 1933–1977 (National Archives Identifier: [531530](#))
- 114-DL: Dry Land Farming in Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming, 1935–1939 (National Archives Identifier: [531518](#))
- 114-A: Photographs of Water and Soil Conservation Practices, 1932–1977 (National Archives Identifier: [531512](#))
- 114-CT: Records Relating to Soil Conservation Reproduced by the Soil Conservation Service Photography Laboratory, 1936–1946 (National Archives Identifier: [531517](#))

Record Group 221: Overview



Photograph of REA sign. Local ID: 221-G-42 (National Archives Identifier: [439373568](#)).

- Rural Electrification Administration (REA) staffers that took the photographs were often not photographers by profession. Because of this, most photos were developed and printed, but no real effort was made to identify or caption the images. Therefore, most negatives within Record Group 221 are not identified. Generally, however, the photos are in chronological order by month and year.
- There is a select list of negatives that was created to help researchers find groupings of images by topic. The list was made by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association prior to transfer to the National Archives.
- A 1983 memo states that “much additional work needs to be done before the REA collection is fully usable. A complete cataloging would be a major project, involving research in publications to help identify subjects, times, and places. Perhaps someday it will be done. This effort is a beginning; we realize that many good or significant photographs remain to be discovered.”
- 221-G: Photographs Created by the Rural Electrification Administration, 1936–1964 (National Archives Identifier: [540042](#))
- 221-P: Photographic Prints of Electrification and Telephone Improvements in the Rural United States, 1936–1964 (National Archives Identifier: [540048](#))

People in Rural America



Photograph of boy and mother in front of their home. Local ID: 221-G-922 (National Archives Identifier: [439373573](#)).



Photograph of woman with an electric washing machine on the porch. Local ID: 221-G-352 (National Archives Identifier: [439373570](#)).



Photograph of woman at newly installed electric range. August 1938. Local ID: 221-G-1229 (National Archives Identifier: [432882302](#)).

Agency Activities



REA Federal Credit Union. Local ID: 221-G-6374 (national Archives Identifier: [439373585](#)).



Above: Photograph of early linemen stringing line. Local ID: 221-G-474 (National Archives Identifier: [439373577](#)).

Middle Top: Photograph taken during an “Electric Circus” event. Local ID: 221-G-2362 (National Archives Identifier: [433205602](#)).

Middle Bottom: Photograph of a demonstration at an “Electric Circus” event. Local ID: 221-G-6551 (National Archives Identifier: [439373582](#)).

Prominent People



Local ID: 221-G-2482 (National Archives Identifier: [432667545](#)).



Local ID: 221-G-2481 (National Archives Identifier: [432667542](#)).



Local ID: 221-G-2485 (National Archives Identifier: [432685136](#)).

Above: Uncaptioned photographs of FDR, taken in Barnesville, GA, August 1938

Famous Photographers in New Deal Records

Family group on farm near Andersonville, Tennessee. Photographer: Lewis Hine. Local ID: 142-H-25 (National Archives Identifier: [532649](#)).



Bakersfield, California. On the Freights. Photographer: Rondal Partridge. Local ID: 119-CAL-5 (National Archives Identifier: [532070](#)).

Sharecropper's Son, Ozark Mountains, Arkansas. Photographer: Arthur Rothstein. Local ID: 47-GA-7-1175 (National Archives Identifier: [434070910](#)).



New Deal Records Beyond the Still Picture Branch

- Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division
 - Farm Security Administration (FSA)/Office of War Information (OWI)
- National Archives at Atlanta
 - Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- Archives II Textual Reference Branch
- State Archives
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum



Research Services



Left: Migrant Mother by Dorothea Lange, Farm Security Administration, Library of Congress.

Right: Photograph of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Employee Interviewing Family, National Archives at Atlanta, National Archives Identifier: [650161](#).





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Thank You!

For more information about Still Picture Branch holdings, visit <https://www.archives.gov/research/still-pictures> or email stillpix@nara.gov.



Photograph of Hugh Bennett, First Chief of Soil Conservation Service, Surveying a Field in Oregon. Local ID: 114-MN-OR-302 (National Archives Identifier: [148727600](#)).



Works Progress Administration (WPA) sewing shop at 475 Tenth Avenue, New York City. Local ID: 69-N-22420D (National Archives Identifier: [518269](#)).



After the Broadcast

Email questions to inquire@nara.gov

Video recordings of lectures and downloadable handouts
will remain online at

www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



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Event Evaluation:

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Questions and Answers in Chat

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