Captions 344-345

(1)

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Feb.
~~Nov~~ 19 1936

To Mr. Stryker —
Rolleiflex Roll film # 1 — marked on roll — This roll is Panatomic film
Contains —

(1) The Highway U.S 101 —
~~1681~~ 5 Exposures —
~~2387-2391~~ Rejected
"You Road I Enter and look upon —
*** You hold neither preference nor denial"
Walt Whitman

(These I made to get my work started, knowing that this Highway 101 holds all that I can grasp and a lot more)

(2) Sugar beet field
2395 } in ~~1683~~
2398 } ~~168~~
Freshly plowed, near King City, Calif.
To show large scale farm operations of California

4 Exposures

(3) The trek of "bums", "tramps", "single
2393-2394 transients", "undesirable indigents" out of
Los Angeles Co, because of police activity.
2399 This theme I shall follow through the state under the heading "Bum Blockade"
Further Explanation later

2 Exposures

2392E (4) D.L. on the job — 1 Exposure

(2)

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

To Mr. Stryker — ~~Nov~~ Feb. 19 1936 This box is Panatomic

4 x 5 negatives — Box # 1 —

(1) Highway U. S 101 — which Runs the full length of the state, a main artery on which all travel.

1681 2 Exposures.

1682 (2) Sugar beet field, freshly plowed, deep furrows of rich black soil. California large scale Extensive farming.

1683 2 Exposures.

1684 (3) San Miguel Mission, San Miguel, California Erected 1797, by the Franciscan fathers.

1807-1809 inc. Historic landmark — on U. S. 101

5 Exposures —

Weather only fair Today. Rain threatening.

(3)

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To Mr. Stryker - ~~Dec~~ Feb. 19-20, 1936

Box # 2 - 4x5 negatives

(1) Same Sugar beet field.

1685-1689 (inc) showing tractor with plowshare attached and operator (Mexican)

5 Exposures

(2) Note on Mobile Housing

1690 C 1691 C Car and homemade trailer on U.S. 101 near King City

man and wife, middleaged, from Wisconsin.

"Old man Depression sent us out on the Road. Been out 2 years. You don't know anything about how many people are living in trailers 'till you hit Florida"

2 Exposures - 1 probably very poor

(3) "Bum Blockade"

all heading north.

1692 C 1696 C (inc) South of King City

2 Exposures -

(Villicus to get a record of his movement because these men would be photographed as a result of Los Angeles police activities)

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

(4)

Feb.
~~Nov~~ 21, 1936

Raining hard this morning
writing from hotel room. San Luis Obispo

I load up the films and transfer the exposed ones to the boxes, all night. Last night made a slip and got the headers mixed. Following are the contents of Boxes 3 and 4. But don't know which is which

~~Boxes 3 + 4~~ — 1801 — 1818 inc.)

1. San Luis Hot Springs Federal Shelter

1801
1802

One of 5 Federal Camps for Homeless men. in Calyornia

Year ago Enrollment 375 men,
now 157.

Average age 50, are Physically disabled, not capable of manual or project work.

2 Exposures - 1. Administration building
2. Dining Hall, Kitchen, Hospital

2. Filipmo gang Labor. in pea fields.
near Pismo Beach, Calif -
work for Japanese, Live in Jap. Ranches
60 men in this gang

1806 C

(5)

3. "Bum Blockade"

Heading north

Says - "Been 4 years in California - have got nowhere yet" Came from Illinois

4. The "Pea Pea"

1803
1804
1805

Pea Pickers homes. ½ mile off the Highway 101, at Nipomo. There are now 6 large Camps in the area. Each managed by a Mexican contractor. The growers control Everything in the Town - Stores, pool halls, liquor, Gambling etc. The peas Represent a crop valued at 1½ million dollars and are Shipped to all parts of the country. No cannery operates here. Some years 6000 people have Come in for the work. The Rains have delayed the Season, the big crowd IS not yet here, but they Expect to start picking next week. Here one finds all Kinds and Conditions of people. Mexicans predominating but

(6)

in these last years hundreds of families of Depression Whites have swelled the horde of pea pickers. There are many Drouget Refugees. Peas are family work, the women and children work alongside the men. Am Photographing the condition of these people because the situation is unique to California, because the future of our Resettlement Camps for migrant Agricultural workers is still uncertain. (We have two, need twenty) The growers - the big growers - are opposed.

Yesterday made negatives of a group of White - Americans from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, all camped in one group. You will find, if the negatives are good, tow-headed kids from Texas, and the broken-down Oklahoma cars. Rag houses and paper houses. Mobile Housing. A string of 5 house cars in a row in this camp. This group represents good conditions among pea pickers, not the worst by any means.

(7.)

Sayings of the Pea-pickers.

1. Man, Sitting on the Running board of his home made house car. You'll find a negative of him. also wife —

1803
1804
1805

" Main. I've picked peas from Calipatria to Ukiah. This life is simplicity boiled down"

2. Young man, father of 3 children. Refugee from Oklahoma - Can't get on W.P.A. because he's "lost his citizenship"

" I was Raised by my Dad. If I wanted Something to get out an Rustle for it —

This government Stuff may be alright, but Seems like Everything's turned 'Round. If you get out to keep yourself they won't have anything to do with you"

Please, mister. Can I have a typewriter?

D. L.

2

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Rolleiflex Roll film Box # 2 – contains

2462 – 2464

1. migrants, family of Mexicans on the Road – The old story, seen over and over again – Tire Trouble. 3 exposures –

2459 – 2461

2. more migrants. 2 families, 2 cars, from Missouri — looking for work in the peas.

2465 – 2470

3. The Rest of this Roll are Roadside camps, pea pickers, in Rain –

Nipomo, Calif – Feb 21 –

Rolleiflex Roll film Box # 3 – contains only 7 exposures on the Roll. (Raining too hard, and too dark to read the numbers)

2471

1. Pea camps in the Rain. Nipomo Feb 22

2472 inc 2476

2. Road trouble again – man + woman fixing a flat, and all possessions loaded in the car and trailer. near Paso Robles – Feb 23 –

3. Car and trailer — An oil worker builds himself a trailer and takes to the Road.

near Lompoc – Feb 23.

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3

Box #7 - 4x5 negatives contains
shots of one of the larger pea camps -

1. Ark Kansas family, 7 months in California
   washing dishes

1783C
1790C (inc)

2. ~~1783C~~ Camp in Rain - very unlikely shots -
   hipomo - Feb 22 -

Feb 24, 1936
Kern Co, California

Boxes #5 — #9

The negatives contained in these boxes show the result of the migration of people from the Dust Bowl to California. These people come mainly from Oklahoma — but there are many from Texas and Ark Kansas. As I see it the importance of these negatives to the Resettlement Administration is that they show what happens to people and under what conditions they live when they Re-Settle themselves. These are a destitute class.

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(4)

I worked in this county and photographed these people last Summer during the potato harvesting. At that time hundreds were coming in for the work. Camping in fields and along highways. On this trip, Eight months later I find that many have Remained here, that they are trying to Establish themselves here permanently, on a minimum living standard, and that a new Section is being Rapidly built up —— any kind of a shack to live in on the outskirts of Shafter, California- "Little Oklahoma"

Box #5 - Street and homes in Little Oklahoma. Lots 50 x 150 - cost, 120 - 200 — bought on hope and sold on promises

RA 1762 C to RA 1771 C (inc)

40 families in this group

Tents, Tent Houses and Shacks - converted freight cars.

No work available since fall. Onions start in 60 - 90 days. A few get Relief and "welfare" — not many for they say they are not Eligible in California.

(5)

Box #8 - contains

more Shafter drought Refugee housing - and

People, living in camps about Shafter, all

1658E 1668C dust bowl Refugees -

"We was starved out and we live on Perhaps" (i.e. hope -)

"We could maybe find a little work if we could afford to Roll" - (ie gas, oil, for car)

Box #6, contains

(1). The Present Home of the Howard family.

A tent house by a mud puddle, clothes line, privy - on 1 acre.

These are negatives which I wish I did not have to send on - I need them in my file - for this reason - Have met and photographed this family twice before - once, April 1935 when they were on their way into California from Oklahoma.

1776 - 1778 - in

They were at that time camped in an open field, without shelter of any kind, mother pregnant, with 5 starving children. They were eating green onions, Raw, and that was all they had.

(6)

The second time we Encountered the Howard family was during the potato harvest. They were doing better - had a tent, the baby was born - and they had food.

Yesterday we found this family in the third stage. Settling at Shafter. A pile of second hand odds and ends of lumber in the yard where trees Eventually be used for their house — and a truck garden planted! Can Send you the Earlier negatives if you want to use them.

Buying land $50 year for 7 years.

1772 in 1774 C 1775 ~~1781~~ (2) Hooverville of Bakersfield - 2 Exposures

A Rapidly growing Community of people living Rent free on the Edge of the town dump in whatever kind of Shelter they can devise. Approximately 1000 people now living here, and Raising Children here.

1781-3. More housing for Oklahomans.

1782

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7.

Box #9 - Shafter Calif - Feb 24, contains

1. Howard Family

Mrs. Howard & the baby. The rest of the children were in School.

1819 in
1829

2. Mrs. Howard shows her first showing of a garden to a neighbor

3. Oklahoma Grandmother in California + her pieced quilts

(1779?) OK
1780

4. Development of Kern Co.

① negative shows plot with { tent, tent-house, shack, new houses under construction

② new houses, in Rows - Rent $9

5. Oklahomans. penniless, camped along highway - (father washing clothes)

These people came 7 months ago - "Can't make it" - want to go back. "ate up their car ate up their tent, living like hogs"

(8)

6. Checking the land for alfalfa -

1667C 2 men ~~in~~ with tractor, field near Bakersfield

Rolfflex Roll # 4 contains People and living conditions in a Shafter Camp ground.

2383
2386
2477
2484

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see folder Kern

3

John C. Packard, brother of Resettlement's Walter C. Packard — who is preparing the case for the American Civil Liberties Union.

BOX 10 — Views of the Kern Migrant Camp, showing facilities. Also contains 3 negatives made of a Roadside Ranch camp — 12 tents in group — 1½ miles away — for contrast. This camp site belongs to one of the large growers of Kern Co. who is strongly opposed to the Camp program. For this reason these negatives have be valuable here.

1923-1933

BOX 12

The Self-Help Co-operative Dairy. Photographs of the people Engaged in the Enterprise. Resettlement ~~Co~~ is taking over the Self-Help Cooperative program in California. These photographs show one of the small units which is applying for a loan.

(1720C-1731C-inv)

Near Santa Ana, California
12 men working in the unit
Supply milk to CCC nearby. (note negative)

Some of these exposures were made to record the types of men one finds Engaged in these co-ops, as well as what they are doing.

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4

Box 11 -

Unit X 275
Arotex Self-help Cooperative
Burbank, California -

Organized Aug 1934 - now has 76 active members and is fairly successful.
1934 - 1938 - Have farm, 180 acres, and supply vegetables to members. Also dairy. 65 cows, yielding 120 gallons milk daily. Photographs show headquarters and people there.
Have applied for loan from Resettlement.

Box 14 El Monte Federal Subsistence Homesteads —

Feb 29. 1936

1708 C -
1719 C - (inc)

100 homes, are occupied. Each with 3/4 acre land.
Average family income all 800 per annum -

Box 15 contains

Typical El Monte homesteads and homesteaders.

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a. 3 bedroom house
4 in family, grown son, girl 11.
Father occupation, Carpenter.
Earns $10 monthly – pays $17.70 Rent (to apply on purchase)
In the photograph he works in the garden with a wheel cultivator.
Shows mother and daughter in garden

b. 2 bedroom house
3 in family, girl 14
Father occupation truck driver.
Earns $95 monthly, pays $15.20 –
mother and daughter working before the house in the flower bed –

c – Douglas family – 4 bedroom house
8 in family. mother. father. Six boys ages 1 – 14 years
Father occupation. Street car conductor
Earns $100. pays $16.20 month

And others —

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6

Box 16 - March 1 -

1939 - 1949 C

mostly pictures of the people of San Fernando working in their gardens

Box 17 - El Monte, type houses.

1669 C - 1680 C inc. Gardens - Kids - (contains 2 double Exposures)

Box 18

San Fernando Federal Subsistence Homesteads. 40 homes, all occupied. Each with nearly an acre of ground. Same income group as occupy El Monte, but average age of homesteaders is younger and the monthly rental is slightly lower.

1697 C 1707 C (inc)

Box 19

San Fernando -

1913 ~~1920~~ 1922

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7

Box 20 - March 3

Types of Rural Rehabilitation Clients

3 chicken farmers -
all making good on a R.R. loan "so far"
all Selling a case of eggs a day.
all were on SERA jobs previous to the loan.

1902 give
1912

Situated in San Fernando valley, near Van Nuys -

Box 21 - March 3 -

Re Slums of Los Angeles -

1791-
1800
-me

Dear Mr. Stryker :- There are none. I Scoured the Town. I got all the Expert help I could. There are POOR Sections and Isolated Examples of bad housing but there IS no slum area here. These Reputions were

601957

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

8 made in the Mexican Quarter - 1/4 mile from the city hall. The area has been Condemned and will be torn down shortly to make Space for the new Union R.R. Station. The average Rentals is $8 — Some houses have plumbing. The boy also includes one shot taken from a parking Station of the rear view of a lodging house.

Would you like some affidavits to the effect that Los Angeles has no real Slums?. Something keeps me that you won't believe it.

Lange

I wish you would answer my telegram. Please write me % Berkeley office until further word.

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