



Using Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State

From 1935 to 1942 the Indiana office of the Federal Writers Project employed writers and photographers as field workers to create *Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State*. The aim was to publish a book that provided a portrait of the state, including its history, culture, education, people, industry and agriculture, folklore and all the major cities. The finished guide included 109 illustrations, including many photographs. Some of the field workers submitted snapshots, but the photos came from a variety of places. Besides using some photos from the Farm Security Administration, they also sought photos from Indiana newspapers, chambers of commerce, state agencies, Purdue University, commercial photographers, as well as many other businesses and organizations, such as the United States Steel Corporation and Studebaker plant in South bend.

The volume contains twenty-five tours that people can take along major highways and roads. The guide and tours have been used ever since its publication. Many of the tours include counties where FSA photographers took pictures. Those tours that include counties in which FSA photographers took photos for the Farm Security Administration project are as follows:

Tour 3

Lake

Tour 4

Starke
Lake

Tour 5

Huntington
Newton

Tour 7

Marion
Hendricks
Parke

Tour 8

Marion
Hendricks
Clay

Tour 8A

Marion
Hendricks

Tour 9

Brown
Monroe
Clay

Tour 10

Dearborn
Martin
Daviess
Knox

Tour 11

Gibson

Tour 11A

Posey

Tour 11B

Posey

Tour 12

Martin
Knox

Tour 13

Adams

Tour 14

Huntington
Grant

Tour 16

Marion

Tour 17

Starke
Grant

Tour 17A

Marion
Shelby

Tour 18

Dearborn
Shelby
Marion
Tippecanoe
Benton
Newton

Tour 19

Marion
Morgan
Monroe

Tour 19A

Morgan
Greene
Knox

Tour 20

Lake
Newton
Benton
Parke
Knox
Gibson

A great project for students would be to read the *Guide* and take a tour today to see how those counties have changed. They can take pictures and put together a tour of their own to match one in the *Guide*. How do things look today? How have they changed? What would they want to take photos of?

Indiana State University, then a college, was the base of the WPA Indiana Writers' Project, which is where the papers and photographs are housed today at the Cunningham Memorial Library. The collection houses many more photos than are in the guide, which are described at <http://library.indstate.edu/about/units/rbsc/iwpp/iwpp-idx.html>.