

Indiana Farm Security Photographs



Timeline

- 1929** Herbert Hoover, a Republican, is inaugurated President
- Harry G. Leslie, a Republican, is inaugurated Governor of Indiana
- Stock Market crashes
- Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture*, a socioeconomic study of Muncie, Indiana, by Robert and Helen Lynd, is published
- 1930** Green County, Indiana is the mean center of the U. S. population
- Population of Indiana is 3,238,503, ranking 11th in the nation
- 1932** One-fourth of Indiana's workforce is unemployed
- Unemployment approaches 50% in the Chicago and Detroit steelmaking and automotive industries
- The federal budget ends up \$2.7 billion in the red, the largest peacetime deficit in American history up until that time
- New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic presidential candidate, greets a waiting crowd on the arrival of a special train on Sept. 13 in Indianapolis. The first day of Governor Roosevelt's western tour covered Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri
- 1933** Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes President
- Paul V. McNutt, a Democrat, becomes Governor of Indiana
- U. S. Steel Corporation employs 225,000 fulltime workers in 1929, but only 19,000 in 1932 and none in early 1933
- Unemployment in the U. S. hits nadir with 15 million unemployed, nearly 30% out of work
- Civilian Conservation Corps created; there are eventually 80 CCC camps in Indiana

Division of Subsistence Homesteads in the Department of Interior created

Federal Emergency Relief Administration created

Agricultural Adjustment Administration created

1934 Roy Stryker works with Rexford Tugwell at the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for the summer

Decatur Homesteads in Indiana is started by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads

1935 Resettlement Administration created

Rexford Tugwell named as Head of Resettlement Administration

The Information Division as a department within the Resettlement Administration is created

The Historical Section as a unit of the Information Division created

Roy Stryker appointed as Head of the Historical Section

Arthur Rothstein sets up the darkroom and drafts technical guidelines for the Historical Section and becomes a field photographer

Dorothea Lange, Theodor Jung and Paul Carter are hired as field photographers

Theodore Jung is hired as a photographer and graphic designer for books and exhibitions

Works Progress Administration is created but is later renamed the Works Project Administration in 1939

Dr. Frances Everett Townsend speaks at the State Fairgrounds in September about his idea for an Old Age Revolving Pension Plan known as the Townsend Plan

Carl Mydans works as a photographer in the Housing Authority of the Resettlement Administration, but transfers to the Historical Section

First photographs taken in Indiana by Farm Security Administration photographers

1936

President Roosevelt is reelected

M. Clifford Townsend, a Democrat, is elected Governor of Indiana

Russell Lee is hired as Resettlement Administration photographer and replaces Carl Mydans who left for *Life* magazine

President Franklin Roosevelt's train arrives in Gary, Indiana on August 26 en route to Bismarck, N.D., where the president is to start his tour of the drought area

Paul Carter leaves the Resettlement Administration to open a camera store near Dartmouth College in New Hampshire

John Vachon is hired as a trainee and clerk in the Historical Section

1937

Passage of the Farm Security Act

Incorporation of the autonomous Resettlement Administration into the United States Department of Agriculture and renamed the Farm Security Administration

The Report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy is issued

Passage of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act

Indiana is inundated with flood of Ohio River

Pare Lorentz makes the documentary *The River* for the Farm Security Administration

Rexford Tugwell leaves Resettlement Administration

1938

John Vachon is given first photographic assignment by Stryker and travels to Nebraska

Deshee Farms in Indiana is started

1939

Jack Delano applies for job with FSA, but none are available

No Farm Security Administration photos are taken in Indiana this year

- 1940** President Roosevelt reelected
- Henry F. Schricker, a Democrat, elected Governor of Indiana
- Jack Delano is hired to replace Arthur Rothstein who left for *Look* magazine
- Sullivan County, Indiana is the mean center of the U. S. population
- Population of Indiana is 3,427,796, ranking 12th in the nation
- 1941** Criticism of the work of the Farm Security Administration increases
- The Works Project Administration book *Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State* is published, using some FSA photos
- U. S. enters World War II
- The war becomes a major focus for the Historical Section
- 1942** There are drastic budget reductions in the Farm Security Administration
- Russell Lee resigns and serves in the Air Transport Command
- Esther Bublely is hired as a lab technician in the Farm Security Administration darkroom
- Frank Delano takes photographs at the U. S. Army Chaplain School at Fort Benjamin Harrison
- Historical Section loses its independence and becomes a photographic division of the Office of War Information
- 1943** Stryker resigns after having securing the preservation of the Historical Section's photographic file
- Esther Bublely becomes a photographer in the Office of War Information
- Springtime flooding of rivers in Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Mississippi
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt tours the Republic Aviation Corporation Plant at Evansville, Indiana on April 27

- 1944** President Roosevelt reelected
- Transfer of approximately 77,000 photographic prints by the Farm Security Administration to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
- The Library of Congress takes responsibility for the photographic collection in 1944, but loans it back to the Office of War Information for the duration of the World War II
- 1945** President Roosevelt dies on April 12
- Office of War Information operates till September
- Deshee Farms members vote to dissolve the corporation
- World War II ends
- 1946** The photographic collection is physically moved to the Library of Congress
- 1947** Decatur Homesteads Corporation dissolves
- 1948** Indiana Senator Capehart in an article in *Life* said that the Farm Security Administration wasted \$750,000 on silly and ridiculous pictures