Farmer and his wife, in field, digging sweet potatoes. They have a small irrigated farm on reclaimed land, Northern Oregon. Came from Idaho in 1919, and cleared the land from sage brush. Raised ten children here, five now at home. Melons and turkeys are their cash crop.

“We done everything you see here.

“We haven’t had once cent of this relief money—but we’ve had to work twenty-four hours a day to stay off.

“You can, if you’ll work.”

Excerpt from Dorothea Lange’s field notes on the farm in Irrigon, Morrow County.
Yakima Indian village, on the Columbia River, Inhabited during salmon season. After the fishing is over they return to the Yakima Valley.

Indian girl: “They don’t want to live better. The government is trying to make them.”

Celilo, Wasco County, Oregon
Method of scraping hide for softening.
Indian fishing village.
Celilo, Wasco County, Oregon
Couple digging their sweet potatoes in the fall.
Irrigon, Morrow County, Oregon

sponsored by Gloria E. Myers
in memory of her parents John & Mary Kowal and childhood on the family farm
Father: “We build as we can, to get away from rent and get something for what we pay out.”

Mother: “We didn’t take the tent down ’til we had the roof over it.

“Next year we’ll be painted and have a lawn and flowers.

“We’ll put our driveway over there where those beans are.

“We’ve got rabbits now and we’ll get some chickens as soon as we can.

“We think we’re doing swell.”

Excerpt from Dorothea Lange’s field notes on a family originally from Oklahoma in Klamath County.
Hop picker with her children goes from paymaster’s window to company-owned store adjoining. She had earned forty two cents that morning, spent it for one pound bologna sausage, one package “Sensation” cigarettes, one “mother’s cake.”

Near Grants Pass, Josephine County
Deputy sheriff, stationed at paymaster’s window on large Willamette hop ranch. Owner employs between 500 and 600 hop pickers for three weeks each year. He says, “We have (meaning deputy) to kinda keep them scared as much as anything.”

Near Grants Pass, Josephine County
Sign of service station, U.S. 99. Hop pickers are wanted for four big growers of the area three weeks before opening season. They also advertise in newspapers including San Francisco newspapers, 450 miles away, “but they don’t say what they pay,” a picker said. Josephine County, Oregon

sponsored by Christopher L. Monlux
Was Nebraska farmer, now migrant farm worker in the West.

“The WPA has ruined the working man in the USA…I’ve never asked for as much as a piece of bread, and I ain’t agoin’ to.”

“You don’t realize that there’s thousands of families out of their homes. Now look at me. This is the first time I’ve been out of the state of Nebraska for 30 years… Listen, people aren’t through coming away from the state of Nebraska. They’re not started yet.”

Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon

sponsored by Martha E. Metzger

in memory of Bernard Moss (1920–2003)
Neglected baby, parked in truck in which they came from Mississippi. Father drunk, mother sleeping, 3 p.m., in dirty tent. There is another 5-weeks-old baby. (Attention called to this by camp nurse.) Farm Security Administration camp, Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon October 27, 1939
Migrant children. In unit of FSA (Farm Security Administration) mobile camp.
Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon

sponsored by Lois Leonard
“Pond monkey” guides course of logs from the mill pond to the chute. Pelican Bay Lumber Company mill. Klamath Falls, Oregon

sponsored by PSU President Wim Wiewel & Portland State University Foundation
On main street of potato town during harvest season.
Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon
Lighthearted kids in Merrill FSA (Farm Security Administration) camp, Klamath County, Oregon

sponsored by Stan Amy & Christy Eugenis
North Star Foundation
One of the forty potato camps in open field, entering town.
Malin, Klamath County, Oregon
The camp nurse introduces doctor to mother of sick baby. FSA (Farm Security Administration) camp unit, Merrill, Klamath County, Oregon
Doctor examining children in trailer clinic.
FSA (Farm Security Administration) mobile camp,
Klamath County, Oregon
Young migrant mother has just finished washing.
Merrill FSA (Farm Security Administration) camp,
Klamath County, Oregon
Young mother, twenty five, says
“Next year we’ll be painted and have a lawn and flowers.”
Rural shacktown, near Klamath Falls, Oregon

sponsored by Jessica Sandoval-Orzel & Elizabeth Burke