
Migrant Labor Camp Photographs from the Harry Everett Drobish Papers, 1935-1936

BANC PIC 1954.013--PIC

The Bancroft Library



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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Migrant Labor Camp Photographs from the Harry Everett Drobish Papers,

Date: 1935-1936

Collection Number: BANC PIC 1954.013--PIC

Extent: 63 photographic prints; black and white; various sizes 63 digital objects

Photographer: Harry Everett Drobish

Repository: The Bancroft Library. University of California, Berkeley.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Languages Represented: English

Access

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Preferred Citation

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Digital Representations Available

[Digital representations of selected original pictorial materials are available in the list of materials below.](#) Digital image files were prepared from selected Library originals by the Library Photographic Service. Library originals were copied onto 35mm color transparency film; the film was scanned and transferred to Kodak Photo CD (by Custom Process); and the Photo CD files were color-corrected and saved in JFIF (JPEG) format for use as viewing files.

Related Collections

Title: Harry Everett Drobish Papers.

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS C-B 529.

Title: Harry Everett Drobish papers : Additions.

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 80/97 c

Title: Photographs of Migrant Laborer Camp Life From the Harry Everett Drobish Papers.

Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1905.07938-.07977--PIC

and

Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1905.08047-.08085--PIC

Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Harry Everett Drobish Papers (BANC MSS C-B 529). The papers were a gift of Faith Boardman Drobish in 1954.

Biography

Harry Everett Drobish was born in Decatur, Illinois in 1893. He moved to Riverside, California in 1905 and graduated from high school there in 1912. After attending Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years, he transferred to the College of Agriculture of the University of California, Berkeley, becoming an active member of the University YMCA, Alpha Kappa Lambda and Alpha Zeta, the agricultural society. His first job following graduation in 1917 was itinerant assistant farm advisor for the University's Agricultural Extension Service. Several years later he was promoted to farm advisor for Butte County. In 1927 he resigned to accept an assignment as marketing investigator for the California Department of Agriculture. From 1930 to 1933 he was an agricultural economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and from 1933-1934 worked for the Farm Credit Administration. From September 1934 to 1936 he was State Director of Rural Rehabilitation in the California Emergency Relief Administration and the Chief of Farm Laborer Projects for the Resettlement Administration. As State Director he conceived the idea of federally owned camps for migrant farm workers and built the first two camps at Marysville and Arvin. In 1937 the Drobishes returned to their ranch, Far View, near Bangor. The next ten years were spent purchasing and rehabilitating abandoned olive groves and slowly developing olive growing into a profitable business. In partnership with a friend Drobish bought and rebuilt an olive oil mill. After an unsuccessful campaign for the State Assembly in 1946, Drobish was elected State Senator of Butte County in a special election the following year. In the Senate he served on the Agriculture, Education, Institutions, and Public Utilities Committees and was vice chairman of the Committee on Public Health and Safety. He was also a member of the Senate Interim Committee on Statutory Salaries and the Joint Legislative Committee on Soil Conservation. After an unsuccessful campaign for re-election in 1950 Drobish returned to his ranch to devote his attention to the improvement of his olive groves and the California olive industry in general. In 1952 he was sent by the State Department to Jordan as consultant to their olive industry. His last years, until his death in 1954, were also devoted to increased involvement in community interests, including the YMCA and the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Church.


Scope and Content


This collection of 63 photographic prints of various sizes documents migrant labor camps in California. The photographs were taken in 1935-1936, many likely by Harry Everett Drobish. Included are photographs of groups and buildings at the Arvin Migratory Labor Camp and

other camps in Kern County, California. Also included are photographs of Hooverville in Sacramento, some taken by the California State Emergency Relief Administration. Printed and handwritten captions found on or below the photographs are reprinted in the container listing.


BANC PIC 1954.013:1--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Camp - the Camp Committee elected by the people to cooperate with the camp manager in governing the camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8c6009m7>

BANC PIC 1954.013:2--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - the Camp committee elected by the people to cooperate with camp manager in governing the camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8x0nb6zj>

BANC PIC 1954.013:3--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - camp orchestra .  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4199n9dt>

BANC PIC 1954.013:4--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Good Neighbors Committee - Arvin Migratory Labor Camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5199p0qw>

BANC PIC 1954.013:5--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6n39p228>

BANC PIC 1954.013:6--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Recreation Platform  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9t1nb89b>

BANC PIC 1954.013:7--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - main office building and congregating room.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf2779n8nn>


BANC PIC 1954.013:8--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - mothers and children at health clinic.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0v19n846>


BANC PIC 1954.013:9--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Washing facilities provided at the camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5t1nb44k>

BANC PIC 1954.013:10--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Laundry trays in use under the shade in the end of the sanitary unit.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1g5004m9>

BANC PIC 1954.013:11--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Campers volunteer labor in improving entrance to camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7489p2bf>

BANC PIC 1954.013:12--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Campers volunteer labor in improving entrance to camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf629008fk>

BANC PIC 1954.013:13--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Dramatics.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3t1nb3jp>

BANC PIC 1954.013:14--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - The Camp Committee - Easton, the chairman sitting in the center. Recreation platform, stage, in the background.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7q5009cz>

BANC PIC 1954.013:15--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. A makeshift privy serving squatters in a camp near Weedpatch.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf567nb48q>

BANC PIC 1954.013:16--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Home of Lloyd Frick, near Weedpatch.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5z09p11x>

BANC PIC 1954.013:17--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Frick squatter camp near Weedpatch. According to deputy health officer this is one of the worst in Kern County.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9c6010bh>

BANC PIC 1954.013:18--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp. 


<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf700008sz>


BANC PIC 1954.013:19--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Row of tent dwellings on the left and two sanitary units on the right.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9v19p3tc>


BANC PIC 1954.013:20--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - row of tent dwellings on the right. On the left is a sanitary unit.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf638nb4gg>


BANC PIC 1954.013:21--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Volunteer laborer campers constructing tent platform.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf196nb133>

BANC PIC 1954.013:22--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Arvin Migratory Labor Camp - Volunteer laborer campers constructing tent platform.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3h4nb36j>


BANC PIC 1954.013:23--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. Showing Public Health toilets put up as a result of orders to improve sanitary conditions at the Frick squatter camp.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4f59p0tr>


BANC PIC 1954.013:24--PIC Spring, 1936, Kern County. [Distant view of public toilets shown in picture #23]  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5t1nb453>


BANC PIC 1954.013:25--PIC Spring, 1935, Hooverville, Kern County. On highway north of Bakersfield. Hand made camp stove, made by a stranded worker out of sheet iron gathered from automobile bodies found in the city dump. Contains a grate, oven and door latch. Sold at \$3.50. Kept this man off relief.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0x0nb1bb>

BANC PIC 1954.013:26--PIC Spring, 1935, Hooverville, Kern County. On highway north of Bakersfield. Hand made camp stove (See other picture)  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1779n7x0>

BANC PIC 1954.013:27--PIC Spring, 1935, Hooverville, Kern County. On highway north of Bakersfield. Hand made camp stove. (See other picture)  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9p3010zs>

BANC PIC 1954.013:28--PIC July, 1936 Kern County, Kern Lake District. This is probably on the Frick Property, inside view of a laborer shanty. Note filthy walls and no windows provided  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf767nb605>


BANC PIC 1954.013:29--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. The old and the new. An old style privy alongside of Public Health Service privy. Both are dirty inside showing no supervised effort to keep clean. Note the weeds in front and the excellent field of growing cotton in the rear.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3r29n9kp>


BANC PIC 1954.013:30--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. One-hole privy, on one of the large scale ranches in Kern Lake District, probably the Hutcheson Ranch. Hutcheson is a millionaire living in Bakersfield. Note the filth on the floor and the door broken off.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf538nb3ww>

BANC PIC 1954.013:31--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District.[Broken door of small shack privy?]  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf896nb6zm>

BANC PIC 1954.013:32--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Row of cabins for farm laborers.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf5w1007x8>


BANC PIC 1954.013:33--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Typical laborer shanties. Note the screen doors are off several of the cabins.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf158004nv>


BANC PIC 1954.013:34--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. This is a typical camp for families of farm laborers in the Kern Lake District. Note one-room cabins, no windows, unpainted, and unsightly.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf796nb5h3>


BANC PIC 1954.013:35--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. The typical laborer cabins. The Deputy Health Officer of Kern County is standing near the cabin.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6g500852>

BANC PIC 1954.013:36--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Banducci Ranch. A typical cabin for laborer and his family. Note the broken screen door.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf1k4004cb>


BANC PIC 1954.013:37--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Banducci Ranch. A laborer cabin, showing the women folks at home.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf867nb62h>


BANC PIC 1954.013:38--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Banducci Ranch. Shower. Note the broken, littered-up floor, absence of any dressing quarters, and only cold water for the shower. The drain resulted in a mud hole forming in front of the door. The only shower available for the laborers and their families from several cabins.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7n39p2kb>

BANC PIC 1954.013:39--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. One of the Banducci Ranches. Typical laborer cabins. Note the crude structure, broken screen doors, and weeds in front.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf496nb3c4>


BANC PIC 1954.013:63--PIC Not much room in this one room shack, but its shelter from a trying winter. S.E.R.A. Photo, 4/17/35  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4j49p12h>


BANC PIC 1954.013:40--PIC July, 1936, Kern County, Kern Lake District. Frick Ranch. Ladies' privy. Note weeds growing around the building and necessity of crossing freshly ploughed ground to reach the building.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7x0nb6kj>


BANC PIC 1954.013:41--PIC July, 1936. Kern County, Kern Lake District. Frick Ranch. Laborers' cabins.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9q5010j8>

BANC PIC 1954.013:42--PIC July, 1936. Kern County, Kern Lake District. Frick Ranch. Laborers' cabins.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf4v19p0wd>


BANC PIC 1954.013:43--PIC July, 1936, Hoover Ranch, Kern County. Laborers' homes made of adobe.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6t1nb5c0>

BANC PIC 1954.013:44--PIC July, 1936. Kern County, Kern Lake District. Hutcheson Ranch. Negro laborer in the foreground, laborer shanties in the background. One of the dirtiest, most unsanitary camps visited. The owner is reported to be several times a millionaire.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf9489p33x>

BANC PIC 1954.013:45--PIC July, 1936, Kern County near Weed Patch. A religious colony, largely Oklahomans. Members of the Full Gospel denomination who have leased this ground and set up their own camp. These are refugees.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf8f59p35m>

BANC PIC 1954.013:46--PIC [Unidentified migratory camp]  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf3x0nb365>

BANC PIC 1954.013:47--PIC Hooverville, Sacramento, California. Ambitious but destitute families have formed this community of home-made homes.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf2v19n9h0>

BANC PIC 1954.013:48--PIC Hooverville, Sacramento, California. A few Hooverville roofs.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf7k4008n8>

BANC PIC 1954.013:49--PIC Hooverville, Sacramento, California. Sanitary conditions in Hooverville are made conspicuous by their absence.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf6p30080s>

BANC PIC 1954.013:50--PIC Hooverville, Sacramento, California. How clothes are washed in Hooverville. The washer declined to pose.  <http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/tf0m3nb11q>

