

0. COLOR PHOTOS of the GREAT DEPRESSION - Story
Preface

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Image of a dugout home in Pie Town, New Mexico, as it appeared in October of 1940. Photo by Russell Lee who was working on behalf of the Farm Security Administration. Mt. Allegro appears in the background. Online via the Library of Congress.

Although most photos depicting the Great Depression are black-and-white, America's Library of Congress has a series of color transparencies which have been digitized. Photographers employed by the Farm Security Administration (also known as the FSA, which later merged with the Office of War Information) took the slides between 1939 and 1943.

Providing a glimpse into the lives of people enduring hardship, while sharing family love, these amazing FSA pictures are part of an exhibit which the Library calls "[Bound for Glory: America in Color](#)." Take a look at some of the exhibit's 70 featured photos (and learn the stories behind the pictures):

- [Dugout home](#) of Jack Whinery and his family
- [The Jack Whinery Family](#)
- [Faro and Doris Caudill](#), with their family, in [Pie Town](#)
- Faro Caudill, [drawing water at the dugout](#)
- Fourth of July [at St. Helena Island](#)
- [Family at Bayou Bourbeau Plantation](#)
- [Tenant Home](#) by a Mississippi River levee
- [Worker at a carbon black plant](#) in Sunray, Texas
- [At the Vermont State Fair](#)
- [Children in the Tenement District](#)
- [Children Gathering Potatoes](#) near Caribou, Maine
- [Trucks Outside a Starch Factory](#) in Caribou
- [Migratory Workers by a "Juke Joint"](#) in Belle Glade, Florida

These colored pictures are just a sampling of the FSA's photographs depicting Americans during the Great Depression. What were the causes of that catastrophic economic decline which adversely impacted the well-being of so many people?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/COLOR-PHOTOS-of-the-GREAT-DEPRESSION-Great-Depression>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/COLOR-PHOTOS-of-the-GREAT-DEPRESSION-Great-Depression>

Media Stream

Great Depression - Dugout House

When life was tough, during the Great Depression, Americans improvised. This photo depicts a family home—a dugout house—in [Pie Town, New Mexico](#).



Russell Lee (1903-1986), a photographer working for the Farm Security Administration, took this color slide in October of 1940 (shortly before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor). It is maintained by the Library of Congress where curators provide [this description](#): *Dugout house of Faro Caudill, homesteader with Mt. Allegro in the background, Pie Town, New Mexico.*

Click on the image for a better view.

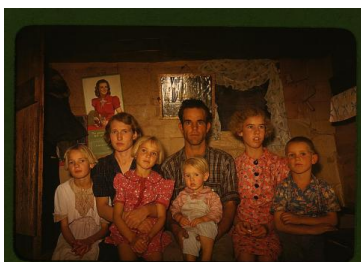
Russell Lee, working on behalf of the Farm Security Administration, took this color slide in October of 1940. It is online via the Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Great-Depression-Dugout-House>

Jack Whinery and His Family

Image 22 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:



Russell Lee. Jack Whinery, homesteader, and his family. Pie Town, New Mexico, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-319. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34098. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Quoted passages from [American Photography and the American Dream](#), by James Guimond.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jack-Whinery-and-His-Family>

Faro and Doris Caudill - Pie Town Homesteaders

Image 20 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:



Faro and Doris Caudill, homesteaders. Pie Town, New Mexico, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-317. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34096. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Quoted passages from [Pie Town Woman: The Hard Life and Good Times of a New Mexico Homesteader](#), by Joan Myers.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Faro-and-Doris-Caudill-Pie-Town-Homesteaders>

Caudill Family - Life in Pie Town

Image 3 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:

Russell Lee. The Faro Caudill family eating dinner in their dugout. Pie Town, New Mexico, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-326. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34105. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Caudill-Family-Life-in-Pie-Town>





4th of July at St. Helena Island

Image 11 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Marion Post Wolcott. A Fourth of July celebration. St. Helena Island, South Carolina, 1939. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-206. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34304. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Quoted passages from *(A New Heartland: Women, Modernity, and the Agrarian Ideal in America)*, by Janet Galligani Casey.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/4th-of-july-at-St.-Helena-Island>



Family at Bayou Bourbeau Plantation

Image 10 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Marion Post Wolcott. Bayou Bourbeau plantation, a Farm Security Administration cooperative. Vicinity of Natchitoches, Louisiana, August 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-93. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34354. FSA/OWI [Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information] Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Quoted passages from *Silent Witnesses: Representations of Working-Class Women in the United States*, by Jacqueline Ellis.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Family-at-Bayou-Bourbeau-Plantation>



Tenant Home - Mississippi River Levee

Image 49 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Marion Post Wolcott. African American's tenant's home beside the Mississippi River levee. Near Lake Providence, Louisiana, June 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-109. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34358. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tenant-Home-Mississippi-River-Levee>



Children in the Tenement District

Image 46 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Jack Delano. Children in the tenement district. Brockton, Massachusetts, December 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-5. LC-DIG-fsac-1a33853. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

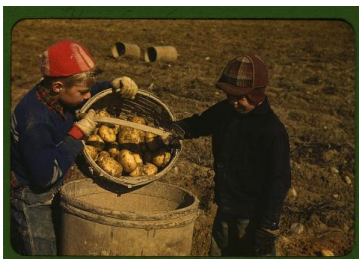
Quoted passages from *Picturing Faith: Photography and the Great Depression*, by Colleen McDannell.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Children-in-the-Tenement-District>

Children Gathering Potatoes Near Caribou, Maine

Image 47 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:



*Jack Delano. Children gathering potatoes on a large farm. Vicinity of Caribou, Aroostook County, Maine, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-63. LC-DIG-fsac-1a33844. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Quoted passages from *Maine, a Peopled Landscape*, by Hugh T. French.*

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Children-Gathering-Potatoes-Near-Caribou-Maine>



Trucks Outside a Starch Factory - Caribou, Maine

Image 48 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Jack Delano. Trucks outside of a starch factory. Caribou, Aroostook County, Maine, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-64. LC-DIG-fsac-1a33845. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trucks-Outside-a-Starch-Factory-Caribou-Maine>



Migratory Workers by a "Juke Joint"

Image 50 (of 70) included in the Exhibition, "Bound for Glory," online courtesy Library of Congress. The LOC describes this reproduction, from a color slide, as follows:
Marion Post Wolcott. African American migratory workers by a "juke joint". Belle Glade, Florida, February 1941. Reproduction from color slide. LC-USF351-172. LC-DIG-fsac-1a34395. FSA/OWI Collection. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Quoted passage from Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories, by Matthew Potteiger and Jamie Purinton.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Migratory-Workers-by-a-Juke-Joint->