

Guide to the Photographs of Migrant Agricultural Laborers in California

WA Photos Folio 225



by Matthew Daniel Mason

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Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 225

CREATOR: Columbus, Harvey Saul, 1942- , photographer

TITLE: Photographs of Migrant Agricultural Laborers in California

DATES: 1969-1971

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection of thirty-eight photographs that document aspects of housing, medical care, and education for migrant agricultural laborers in California, 1969-1971, created by photographers Harvey Saul Columbus and Calind Lewis Potts as well as by the California Farm Workers Health Service. Many of the agricultural laborers are Hispanic Americans as well as several African Americans.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from the William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Photographs of Migrant Agricultural Laborers in California. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, as well as more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This guide derives from a preliminary listing by Ashley Cale based on a transcription from inscriptions on prints followed by detailed examination of each print, arrangement, and description by Matthew Daniel Mason.

Harvey Saul Columbus (born 1942)

Harvey Saul Columbus, also known as Sol Columbus, was a photographer. Born in Michigan and a son of Ida Barbara Steiner Columbus (1915-1961) and Benjamin Columbus (1912-1996). In January 1984 Columbus married Linda Ann Koester (born 1949). He lived in Novato and San Francisco, California.

Calind Lewis Potts (1920-2016)

Calind Lewis Potts, also known as Cal Potts, was a photographer, teacher, and construction inspector. He was born in Indiana, a son of Walter Earl Potts (1889-1953) and Effie May Handley Potts (1890-1987). Potts was employed at the Plano Cabinet & Fixture Company in Porterville, California, during the 1960s. Potts then worked with Migrant Services Programs in the California Office of Economic Opportunity, approximately 1970, as well as with the Migrant Services Section of the Division of Farm Labor Services for the California State Department of Human Resources, approximately 1980-1981. He was married to Annette Rosemond Potts (1920-2008), and they had two children.

California Farm Workers Health Service

The California Farm Workers Health Service was a program established by the California State Department of Health in 1961 that included decentralized medical clinics to serve migrant agricultural laborers and their families during the peak harvest months.

Scope and Contents

Collection of thirty-eight photographs that document aspects of housing, medical care, and education for migrant agricultural laborers in California, 1969-1971, created by photographers Harvey Saul Columbus and Calind Lewis Potts as well as by the California Farm Workers Health Service. Many of the agricultural laborers are Hispanic Americans as well as several African Americans.

Seven photographs by Calind Lewis Potts document education, including classroom scenes, as well as housing for migrant agricultural laborers at Dixon, Empire, Hollister, Lodi, and Merced in California, approximately 1970.

Photographs by Harvey Saul Columbus include twelve photographs that chiefly document a free medical clinic at Livingston, California, operated by the Stanford University School of Medicine including student F. Wells Shoemaker and faculty member Keith Breden Taylor in 1969. Seventeen other photographs by Columbus document medical clinics and housing for migrant agricultural laborers at Calexico, Fresno, Imperial, Lodi, Mace, Mendota, San Joaquin County, Stockton, Sutter County, and Watsonville, approximately 1970.

Two photographs by the California Farm Workers Health Service document a woman at a grape packing factory as well as agricultural workers harvesting tomatoes at unidentified locations, approximately 1970.

Manuscript inscriptions on rectos and versos of mounts. Titles for prints in this guide derive from inscriptions on rectos and versos of mounts.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Photographs by Calind Lewis Potts, approximately 1970. II. Photographs by Harvey Saul Columbus, 1969-1971. III. Photographs by the California Farm Workers Health Service, approximately 1970.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographs by Calind Lewis Potts, approximately 1970

Photographs by Calind Lewis Potts that document education, including classroom scenes, as well as housing for migrant agricultural laborers at Dixon, Empire, Hollister, Lodi, and Merced in California, approximately 1970.

Series I is organized into five subseries: Dixon, Empire, Hollister, Lodi, and Merced.

Dixon

7 photographic prints, 34.3 x 34.8 cm and smaller, on mounts, 50.7 x 40.7 cm

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
1 | <i>Waiting for the School Bus, Office of Economic Opportunity, Migrant Labor Camp at Dixon</i>
<i>1 photographic print, 22.5 x 34.5 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Exterior view of a large group of children as well as a few adults outside a building; inscription of title on recto of mount | approximately
1970 |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
-

Empire

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
2 | <i>Recess, Empire Migrant Labor Camp, Office of Economic Opportunity</i>
<i>1 photographic print, 26.2 x 35.1 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Exterior view of a playground with two women and fourteen children among two sandboxes; inscription of title on recto of mount | approximately
1970 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
-

Hollister

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
3 | Interior view of a woman and seven children listening to a record player
<i>1 photographic print, 26.8 x 34.5 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Untitled photograph; inscription on verso: Cal Potts, Hollister | approximately
1970 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
4 | Interior view of a woman reading a book to ten children in a classroom
<i>1 photographic print, 26.1 x 34.4 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Untitled photograph; inscription on verso: Cal Potts, Hollister | approximately
1970 |
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
5 | <i>Volunteer Help with the Refrigerators. Office of Economic Opportunity, Migrant Labor Camp at Hollister</i>
<i>1 photographic print, 34.3 x 25.8 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Exterior view of four boys assisting a man and a partially visible woman move a refrigerator into a building; inscription of title on recto of mount | approximately
1970 |
-

Lodi

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1 (Oversize), f.
6 | <i>Strictly Posed, Harney Lane Migrant Labor Camp, Office of Economic Opportunity</i>
<i>1 photographic print, 27.1 x 34.4 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm</i>
Harney Lane was a migrant agricultural laborers camp in Lodi, San Joaquin County, California.

Exterior view of seven children sitting and standing outside a building | approximately
1970 |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
-

Merced

Merced (continued)

b.1 (Oversize), f.
7

*Roman Bath (Migrant in a Tub), Merced Migrant Labor Camp, Office of
Economic Opportunity
1 photographic print, 27 x 34.8 cm, on mount, 50.7 x 40.7 cm*

approximately
1970

Exterior view of two children, one sitting in a wash tub; inscription of title
on recto of mount; sheet affixed to recto with alternate title: *Bath Time at
Merced Labor Camp*

Series II: Photographs by Harvey Saul Columbus, 1969-1971

29 photographic prints, 23.7 x 24 cm and smaller, on mounts, 25.7 x 25.6 cm and smaller, on mounts, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Photographs by Harvey Saul Columbus that chiefly document a free medical clinic at Livingston, California, operated by the Stanford University School of Medicine including student F. Wells Shoemaker and faculty member Keith Breden Taylor in 1969. Other photographs by Columbus document medical clinics and housing for migrant agricultural laborers at Calexico, Fresno, Imperial, Lodi, Mace, Mendota, San Joaquin County, Stockton, Sutter County, and Watsonville, 1969-1971. Photographs are mounted on double-mounts.

Series II is organized into eleven subseries: Calexico, Fresno, Imperial, Livingston, Lodi, Mace, Mendota, San Joaquin County, Stockton, Sutter County, and Watsonville.

Calexico

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 8	<i>Labor Camp, Calexico, California</i> 1 photographic print, 18.6 x 23.8 cm, on mount, 20.4 x 25.6 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm Interior view of a room with cots and lockers	approximately 1970
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Fresno

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 9	<i>Bus Depot, Fresno, California</i> 1 photographic print, 23.7 x 17.3 cm, on mount, 25.1 x 18.1 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	approximately 1970
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b. 2 (Oversize), f. 10	<i>F Street, Fresno, California</i> 1 photographic print, 18.7 x 23.7 cm, on mount, 20.2 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm Interior view of a diner that includes seven men seated a bar and another standing as well as two men serving behind the bar	approximately 1970
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b. 2 (Oversize), f. 11	<i>Waiting for Day-Haul, Fresno, California</i> 1 photographic print, 18.4 x 23.7 cm, on mount, 20.4 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm Exterior view of three men at the 900-block of Fresno, California, with the Mission Studio operated by photographer Ezequiel Chequele Guzman in the background	approximately 1970
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Imperial

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 12	<i>Micaela Sandoval, Widow, Imperial City, California</i> 1 photographic print, 18.6 x 17.3 cm, on mount, 21.3 x 18.7 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm Exterior portrait of Micaela Sandoval with her arm raised	approximately 1970
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Livingston

From June through October 1969, F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946), a student in the Stanford University School of Medicine, and Dr. A. Frank (Adolph Frank) Brewer (1903-1977), the public health officer for Merced County, established a free medical clinic for migrant agricultural laborers and low income families at Livingston, California. Other students involved with the clinic include Larry Crapo, Han J. Dankers, Joe Neal, and Patrick Sullivan. The clinic also had bilingual aides trained in nursing and community work with their salaries paid by the Office of Economic Opportunity. One of the faculty members involved at this stage was Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007), the George de Forest Barnett Professor of Medicine in the Medical School at Stanford University from 1963 to 1989. In 1970, the Stanford Medical School established a community health clinic operated by faculty and students.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 13	<i>Dr. Keith Taylor and Stanford medical students examine patient, Livingston Migrant Clinic</i> 1 photographic print, 18.2 x 22.8 cm, on mount, 20.2 x 24.2 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946) examining a male patient with Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007) in center and two other medical students	
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>Dr. Wolohan talks to woman patient, Livingston Medical Project.</i> 1 photographic print, 18.5 x 21.7 cm, on mount, 20.4 x 25.5 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of Dr. Jeremiah John Wolohan (1917-1996) with a female patient	
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Livingston Clinic</i> 1 photographic print, 18.9 x 24.2 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.6 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007) examining a female patient and F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946) on the left	
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 16	<i>Livingston Clinic</i> 1 photographic print, 18 x 22.9 cm, on mount, 20.7 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007) on the right in a hallway with two medical students	
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 17	<i>Livingston Migrant Clinic, Waiting Room</i> 1 photographic print, 18.4 x 23.6 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.3 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of a woman holding a toddler and two men, all sitting on sofas	
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 18	<i>Livingston Migrant Project</i> 1 photographic print, 18.5 x 23.9 cm, on mount, 20.2 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm	1969
	Interior view of F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946) with a male juvenile patient and their mother	

Livingston (continued)

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|---------------------------|--|------|
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.
19 | <i>Livingston Migrant Project</i>
1 photographic print, 18.6 x 24 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Interior view of Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007) in profile on left speaking with F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946) and three additional medical students as well as two women and a child | 1969 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.
20 | <i>Registration, Livingston Clinic</i>
1 photographic print, 18.1 x 23.6 cm on mount, 20.2 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Interior view of a woman and man standing in front of a woman sitting at a desk | 1969 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.
21 | <i>Stanford Medical Student Wells Shoemaker talking to patient, Livingston Clinic</i>
1 photographic print, 18.8 x 23.8 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.5 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Interior view of F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946), a student in the Stanford University School of Medicine, with a male patient | 1969 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.
22 | <i>Wells Shoemaker, Livingston Migrant Project</i>
1 photographic print, 17.6 x 23.8 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Interior view of F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946), a student in the Stanford University School of Medicine, with a male patient | 1969 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f.
23 | <i>Wells Shoemaker and Dr. Keith Taylor, both of Stanford Medical School, examine patient</i>
2 photographic prints, 18 x 20.6 cm and smaller, on mounts, 18.8 x 21.3 cm and smaller, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Interior views of F. Wells (Franklin Wells) Shoemaker (born 1946), a student in the Stanford University School of Medicine, on left, with a female patient and Dr. Keith Breden Taylor (1924-2007) on right | 1969 |

Lodi

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------|
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.
24 | <i>Harney Lane Night Clinic, Dr. Guey Mark</i>
1 photographic print, 16.8 x 23.9 cm, on mount, 19.3 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Harney Lane was a migrant agricultural laborers camp in Lodi, San Joaquin County, California.

Interior view of Dr. Guey C. Mark (1928-2010) examining a boy with a girl and woman, presumably his mother and sister | 1969 |
|---------------------------|--|------|

Mace

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------|
| b. 4 (Oversize), f.
25 | <i>Migrant Clinic, Mace Camp. University of California, Davis Project</i>
1 photographic print, 18.7 x 23.1 cm, on mount, 20.4 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm

Mace Camp was a service site of the Migrant Workers Comprehensive Health program operated by the University of California, Davis, in 1971

Interior view of four women and one man sitting | 1971 |
|---------------------------|---|------|

Mendota

Mendota (continued)

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 26 *Migrant Family, Coit Ranch, Mendota, California* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 17.8 x 24 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.3 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Frank Raymond Coit (1908-1970) operated the Coit Ranch and grew cantaloupes.
- Exterior portrait of a boy, woman, and man, likely family members, at Coit Ranch, Mendota, California.
-

San Joaquin County

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 27 *Migrant Education Project, San Joaquin County* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 19.3 x 19.5 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 20.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of four children including two boys looking at the same book
-

Stockton

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 28 *Single Men's Clinic, Stockton, California* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 18 x 23.8 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.2 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of a woman and man with both seated
-

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 29 *Single Men's Clinic, Stockton, California* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 16.5 x 23.6 cm, on mount, 19.2 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of a male medical doctor taking the pulse of a man with both seated
-

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 30 *Single Men's Clinic, Stockton, California* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 23.5 x 19.2 cm, on mount, 25.7 x 20.1 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of a female nurse giving an inoculation to a man; intermediary mount loose
-

Sutter County

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 31 *Barracks Type Housing, Sutter County* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 18.8 x 23.5 cm, on mount, 19.9 x 24.3 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of a man sitting on a cot
-

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 32 *Barracks Type Housing, Sutter County* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 18 x 23.8 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.5 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of a man lying on a cot
-

- b. 4 (Oversize), f. 33 *Barracks Type Housing, Sutter County* approximately 1970
1 photographic print, 18.1 x 23.1 cm, on mount, 20.3 x 25.4 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 40.5 cm
- Interior view of two men sitting on two cots
-

Sutter County (continued)

b. 4 (Oversize), f.
34 *Barracks Type Housing, Sutter County* approximately
1 photographic print, 19 x 23.9 cm, on mount, 20.4 x 25.5 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 1970
40.5 cm
Interior view of three men lying and sitting on cots as well as a man partially
visible

Watsonville

b. 4 (Oversize), f.
35 *Labor Camp, Watsonville, California* approximately
1 photographic print, 19 x 23.9 cm, on mount, 20.2 x 25.5 cm, on mount, 50.9 x 1970
40.5 cm
Exterior view of a boy sitting on the ground behind a stucco building

Series III: Photographs by the California Farm Workers Health Service, approximately 1970

2 photographic prints, 23.9 x 24 cm and smaller, on mounts 28.1 x 35.8 cm

The California Farm Workers Health Service was a program established by the California State Department of Health in 1961 that included decentralized medical clinics to serve migrant agricultural laborers and their families during the peak harvest months.

Photographs by the California Farm Workers Health Service document a woman at a grape packing factor as well as agricultural workers harvesting tomatoes at unidentified locations, approximately 1970.

Series III is arranged alphabetically.

b. 4 (Oversize), f. 36	Exterior view of a woman at a packing factory, likely packing grapes <i>1 photographic print, 23.9 x 19.4 cm, on mount, 28.1 x 35.8 cm</i> Untitled photograph	approximately 1970
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 37	Exterior view of children and adults harvesting tomatoes <i>1 photographic print, 14.9 x 24 cm, on mount, 28.1 x 35.8 cm</i> Untitled photograph; ink stamp on verso: State Department of Public Health, Farm Workers Health Service	approximately 1970

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African Americans -- California -- Pictorial works
Agricultural laborers -- California -- Pictorial works
Agricultural laborers -- Health and hygiene -- California -- Pictorial works
Agricultural laborers -- Housing -- California -- Pictorial works
Hispanic Americans -- California -- Portraits
Migrant agricultural laborers -- California -- Pictorial works
Migrant agricultural laborers -- Health and hygiene -- California -- Pictorial works
Migrant agricultural laborers -- Housing -- California -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

California -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Photographs

Contributors

Columbus, Harvey Saul, 1942- , photographer
Potts, Calind Lewis, 1920-2016 , photographer
California. Farm Workers Health Service ,
photographer

Acquired From

William Reese Co. , bookseller