



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Francine Carraro / Eric Weller "Retracing Russell Lee" Project Collection 1991–1993

Collection SWWC-052

Descriptive Summary

Creator:

Title: Guide to the Francine Carraro / Eric Weller "Retracing Russell Lee" Project Collection

Dates: 1991–1993

Abstract: This collection includes oral histories recorded on audio cassette tapes, transcriptions, videotapes, photographs, notes, and exhibit text panels which document this project, retracing FSA photographer Russell Lee's Depression era work in Pie Town, NM and San Augustine, TX.

Identification: SWWC-052

Extent: 11 Linear Feet, 16 boxes

Language: English

Repository: The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Table Of Contents

Project History	3
Administrative Information	5
Physical Location	5
Conditions Governing Access	5
Immediate Source of Acquisition	5
Preferred Citation	5
Conditions Governing Use	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Detailed Description of the Collection	6
Series I: Oral Histories, 1991	6
Pie Town, New Mexico, 1991	6
San Augustine, Texas, 1991	7
Oral history tapes with no transcript, identified location, 1991	8
Series II: Videotapes, circa 1975, 1991	8
Series III: Exhibit Catalogs, 1991 - 1992	9
Series IV: Exhibit Panels, 1992	9
Series V: Photographs, 1991	10
Kathleen Dolan, 1991	10
Kerri Madden, 1991	11
Darryl Meyer, 1991	11
Mark Edward Smith, 1991	11
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	5
Physical Location	5
Conditions Governing Access	5
Immediate Source of Acquisition	5
Preferred Citation	5
Conditions Governing Use	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Detailed Description of the Collection	6
Series I: Oral Histories, 1991	6
Pie Town, New Mexico, 1991	6
San Augustine, Texas, 1991	7
Oral history tapes with no transcript, identified location, 1991	8
Series II: Videotapes, circa 1975, 1991	8
Series III: Exhibit Catalogs, 1991 - 1992	9
Series IV: Exhibit Panels, 1992	9
Series V: Photographs, 1991	10
Kathleen Dolan, 1991	10
Kerri Madden, 1991	11
Darryl Meyer, 1991	11
Mark Edward Smith, 1991	11

Project History

In July, 1991, a team of photographers and oral historians from Texas State University set out to retrace the steps of Farm Security Administration photographer, Russell Lee (1903-1986). Fifty years after Lee visited and photo-documented the living and working conditions of the Depression era communities of San Augustine, Texas, and Pie Town, New Mexico, this group was inspired by Lee's FSA images held at Texas State's Wittliff Collections. The group visited these same two towns Lee visited, in some cases the same people, taking photographs and conducting oral histories. The team was funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation, and was led by Francine Carraro and Eric Weller. Students included Tom Anderson, Kathleen Dolan, Homero Garcia, Kerri Madden, Darryl Meyer, Stephanie Shaddock, Karen Sorenson, Mark Edward Smith, Russell Smyth, and Sondra Talbert.

The oral histories and photographs taken by this team led to an exhibit and accompanying catalog featuring selected photographs and portions of the oral histories. The exhibit was first shown at Texas State in September, 1992, and traveled to Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX) and Stephen F. Austin University (Nacogdoches, TX) in 1993.

Jean Lee, widow of Russell Lee, and Bill Wittliff donated a significant collection of Russell Lee's vintage FSA prints and field notes, as well as cameras, personal papers, and photographs spanning Lee's entire lifetime and career, to the Wittliff Collections beginning in 1986. While other institutions such as the Library of Congress, National Archives, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Louisville also hold important Russell Lee collections, the collection at Texas State University includes the largest group of vintage FSA prints.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes oral histories recorded on audio cassette tapes, transcriptions, videotapes, photographs, notes, and exhibit text panels which document this project, retracing FSA photographer Russell Lee's Depression era work in Pie Town, NM and San Augustine, TX. Dates range from 1991-1993. The collection is arranged in five series: Oral Histories, Videotapes, Exhibit Catalog, Exhibit Panels, and Photographs.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Francine Carraro and Eric Weller, 1994

Preferred Citation

"Retracing Russell Lee" Project Collection, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws. .

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Oral histories
- Photography

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Oral Histories, 1991

Pie Town, New Mexico, 1991

Box	Folder	
1	1	Barney, Arden and Josie - Transcription, 1991
1	2	Coon, Andy and Coonridge, Nancy (The Goat People) - Tape, 1991
1	3	Coon, Andy and Coonridge, Nancy (The Goat People) - Transcription, 1991
1	4	Crawford, Beatrice (also includes Don and Nita Kearbey) - Tapes (2), 1991
1	5	Hill, Mike - Tapes (3), 1991
1	6	Hill, Mike - Transcription, 1991
1	7	Hill, Mike and Chris - Tape, 1991
1	8	Hill, Mike and Chris - Transcription, 1991
1	9	Hogg, Jim (also includes Mary and Richard Medlin and Molly Thomas) - Tape, 1991
1	10	Hutton, Pat - Tape, 1991
2	1	Johnson, Barbara Ann - Transcription, 1991
2	2	Larronde, Nita and Kearney, Don - Tape, 1991
2	3	Larronde, Nita and Kearney, Don - Transcription, 1991
2	4	Lee, Dan - Tape, 1991
2	5	Lee, Dan - Transcription, 1991
2	6	McCoy, Tim and Hoggett, Pat - Tape, 1991
2	7	McGee, Bob - Tapes (3), 1991
2	8	McGee, Bob - Transcription, 1991
2	9	McGee, Opal - Tapes (2), 1991
2	10	McGee, Opal - Transcription, 1991
2	11	McGee, Opal and Bob - Transcription, 1991
3	1	McKee, Maudie Bell - Tape , 1991
3	2	McKee, Maudie Bell - Transcription, 1991
3	3	McKee, Roy - Tape, 1991
3	4	McKee, Roy - Transcription, 1991
3	5	McKee, Sam - Tapes (2), 1991
3	6	McKee, Sam - Transcription, 1991
3	7	Norris, Rex and Granvil - Transcription, 1991
3	8	Panks, Dan - Tapes (2), 1991
3	9	Panks, Dan - Transcription , 1991
3	10	Roberts, Kathryn - Tapes (4, plus 1 with Granvil Norris), 1991

4	1	Roberts, Kathryn - Transcription, 1991
4	2	Shalbar, Colita - Transcription, 1991
4	3	Sibille, Stanley - Tapes (2), 1991
4	4	Williams, Bernadine, with Clifford, Page and Crystal - Transcription, 1991
4	5	Williams, Calvin - Tape, 1991
4	6	Williams, Calvin - Transcription, 1991
4	7	Unidentified transcription, 1991
4	8	Tape #1 Lester Jackson, Fred Gengehagel, Bernadine Williams, 1991
4	8	Tape #2 [Blank], 1991
4	9	Tape #3 Rudy Akin, Frank Elliot, Barbara Johnson, 1991
4	9	Tape #4 Barbara Johnson, Molly Thomas, Arden and Josie Barney, 1991
4	10	Tape #5 Barneys, Lola Albin, Russell LeGaudiet, 1991
4	10	Tape #6 [no info], 1991
4	10	Tape #7 [no info], 1991
4	11	Notes from numbered Pie Town tapes, 1991

San Augustine, Texas, 1991

5	1	Brittain, James and Barbara - Tape, 1991
5	2	Brittain, James and Barbara - Notes, 1991
5	3	Bryan, Sheriff - Tape, 1991
5	4	Bryan, Sheriff - Notes, 1991
5	5	Clark, Ed - Tapes (2), 1991
5	6	Clark, Ed - Transcriptions, 1991
5	7	Dorsey, Ruby and Cornell - Tape (also includes Alford, Birdwell and Brewer), 1991
5	8	Dorsey, Ruby and Cornell - Tape (also includes Lane, Leroy), 1991
5	9	Dorsey, Ruby and Cornell - Tape (also includes Lane, Leroy, Ladner, Carolyn and Joe, and Oglesby), 1991
6	1	Dorsey, Ruby and Cornell - Notes, 1991
6	2	Goetz, Curt - Tape, 1991
6	3	Goetz, Curt - Notes, 1991
6	4	Grant, Jewell - Transcription, 1991
6	5	Hardy, Ray - Tapes (3), 1991
6	6	Hardy, Ray - Transcription, 1991
6	7	Jackson, Michael - Transcription, 1991
6	8	Ladner, Joe and Carol - Notes, 1991
6	9	Lane, Leroy - Notes, 1991
6	10	Lane, William and Ha - Notes, 1991
6	11	Matthews, Woodrow - Transcription, 1991
6	12	Mitchell, Rudy - Tapes (2), 1991
6	13	Mitchell, Rudy - Notes, 1991
7	1	Murpheys, and Tommy - Tapes (2) (also includes Pharmacist Bridges and Willie Mae Tendall), 1991

7	2	Murpheys, and Tommy - Notes, 1991
7	3	Nichols, Jack - Tape, 1991
7	4	Nichols, Jack - Transcription, 1991
7	5	Roberts, Kay - Tape, 1991
7	6	Roberts, Kay - Transcription, 1991
7	7	Ruth, Young William - Transcriptions (marked tape 5b), 1991
7	8	Wade, Nelsyn - Tape, 1991
7	9	Wade, Nelsyn - Transcription, 1991
7	10	Whitton - Tapes (4), 1991
7	11	Whitton - Transcription, 1991
8	1	Unidentified transcription, 1991
8	2	"San Augustine lecture – with Sam Malone, Lavonne Tendall, Willie Mae Tendall" (2 tapes), 1991
8	3	"San Augustine" Tapes 1-2, 1991
8	4	"San Augustine" Tapes 3-4, 1991
8	5	"San Augustine" Tapes 5-6, 1991
8	6	"San Augustine" Tape 7, 1991
8	7	"Cruising San Augustine" (2 tapes), 1991

Oral history tapes with no transcript, identified location, 1991

8	8	Hay, Arlan, 1991
9	1	Martin, Maxie, 1991
9	2	Murphy, Richard (2), 1991
9	3	Piper, Sue and John, 1991
9	4	Ray, 1991
9	5	Revival, 1991
9	6	Roberts, Tom, 1991
9	7	Skillern, 1991
9	8	White Rock Tie and Lumber, 1991

Series II: Videotapes, circa 1975, 1991

10	1	Russell Lee interview (black and white, poor quality, produced by Paul Hightower, 30 minutes, circa 1975), followed by unidentified color footage, 1991
10	2	"Russell Lee #2 – Pie Town" (color), 1991 0-175 Hotel briefings; 176-898 Catherine McKee Roberts; 899-1081 Hotel in Pie Town; 1082-1180 Parade, Norris Town
10	3	"Russell Lee #3 – Pie Town" (color), 1991 0-377 Norris Ranch; 378-616 McKee Ranch; 617-1348 Molly at the dump; 1349-1801 Hogg Ranch

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 10 | 4 | <p>“Russell Lee #4 – Pie Town” (color), 1991</p> <p>0-528 Hogg Ranch; 528-1130 Woody’s house (fire); 1131-1683 McGee Ranch branding; 1726-1756 Pie Town canine; 1773 Goat folks</p> |
| 11 | 1 | <p>“San Augustine #1” (color), 1991</p> <p>0-721 Murphy (County Clerk); 721-890 Francine C. and Eric W. on television; 891-1100 Kids on street; 1101-1126 Victorian house, churches; 1126 – James Brittain</p> |
| 11 | 2 | <p>“San Augustine #2” (color), 1991</p> <p>0-342 James Brittain; 343-894 Barber shop; 894-1164 Saw mill; 1164-1719 Ray Kraft; 1719-1807 Verba Lee</p> |
| 11 | 3 | <p>“San Augustine #5” (color), 1991</p> |
| 11 | 4 | <p>“San Augustine #6” (color) , 1991</p> |
| 12 | 1 | <p>“Francine” (a copy of commercial videotape on New Zealand painter Colin McMahon), undated</p> |
| 12 | 2 | <p>“El Camino Real : The Royal Road to San Augustine” by Forrest Oglesbee, Eagle Scout Project, 1989</p> |
| 12 | 3 | <p>“Reed Chapel Baptist Church [service], San Augustine”, undated</p> |
| 12 | 4 | <p>“Rev. Fred Dade & China Chapel at the Sabine Valley Association at the Taylor Tabernacle, October, 1990” (color), 1990</p> |
| 13 | 1 | <p>“Daguerre : The Birth of Photography” documentary, undated</p> |

Series III: Exhibit Catalogs, 1991 - 1992

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 13 | 2 | Pie Town general notes, 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 3-5 | Pie Town Intro notes, 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 6-7 | Pie Town Summary (typescript photocopy), 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 8-9 | San Augustine Intro notes, 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 10 | San Augustine Summary , 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 11 | General Summary Notes by Karen and Sondra, 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 12 | Proofs, 1991 - 1992 |
| 13 | 13 | Final copy, 1991 - 1992 |

Series IV: Exhibit Panels, 1992

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 14 | Exhibit Panels, 1992 |
|----|----------------------|
- Exhibit Panels include roughly the same text as is featured in the exhibit catalog, and are mounted on white mats.

15 Exhibit Panels, 1992

Exhibit Panels include roughly the same text as is featured in the exhibit catalog, and are mounted on white mats.

Series V: Photographs, 1991

Kathleen Dolan, 1991

16	1	Wedding Reception, 1991
16	1	Near Pie Town, 1991
16	1	Coonridge Farm, 1991
16	1	Mr. Clark, 1991
16	1	Lester Jackson, 1991
16	1	Rosemary Hutton, 1991
16	1	House on Datil Highway, 1991
16	1	Jim Hogg, 1991
16	1	Rosemary Hutton's House, 1991
16	1	Jim Hogg's residence, 1991
16	1	At the July Fourth Parade, (Quemado, NM), 1991
16	1	[Woman with wolf people at grocery store], 1991
16	1	[Kearney girl], 1991
16	1	Rex Norris and Granvil Norris, 1991
16	1	Autumn Laurel Larronde Kearney, 1991
16	1	Bernadine Williams, 1991
16	1	Beatrice Crawford's Gate, 1991
16	1	Wedding Reception Dance, 1991
16	2	Cecil Murphy, 1991
16	2	John Oglesbee, 1991
16	2	Joe Ladner, 1991
16	2	[Reporter], 1991
16	2	[Leroy], 1991
16	2	Arlen Hays, 1991
16	2	Barber Shop, 1991
16	2	Texaco Station, 1991
16	2	Sheriff Charles Bryan, 1991
16	2	Preacher's Son, 1991
16	2	Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Dorsey, 1991
16	2	Mike Jackson's House, 1991
16	2	Leroy Lane, 1991
16	2	Downtown Saturday, 1991
16	2	Texaco Station, 1991

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | 2 | Verba Lee's Family, , 1991 |
| 16 | 2 | Verba Lee, 1991 |
| 16 | 3 | Unidentified Location - [Man repairing electric appliance], 1991 |

Kerri Madden, 1991

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | 4 | Beatrice Crawford, 1991 |
| 16 | 4 | Interviewing Kathryn Roberts, 1991 |
| 16 | 4 | John Piper, 1991 |
| 16 | 4 | Kathleen Dolan, 1991 |
| 16 | 4 | Nita Larronde and Autumn Laurel Kearney, 1991 |
| 16 | 4 | Water Wagons, 1991 |
| 16 | 5 | Tom Roberts, 1991 |
| 16 | 5 | True Vine Church, 1991 |
| 16 | 5 | True Vine Church, 1991 |
| 16 | 6 | Unidentified Location - [Welding], 1991 |
| 16 | 6 | Unidentified Location - [Man under flag], 1991 |

Darryl Meyer, 1991

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 16 | 7 | Pie Town Post Office, 1991 |
| 16 | 7 | Pie Town Post Office, 1991 |
| 16 | 7 | Barbara Anne Johnson, 1991 |
| 16 | 7 | Tom Brannon, 1991 |
| 16 | 7 | Charles H. Hutzen, 1991 |
| 16 | 8 | Liberty, 1991 |
| 16 | 8 | First Methodist Church, 1991 |
| 16 | 8 | First Methodist Church, 1991 |
| 16 | 8 | After the Church Service, 1991 |
| 16 | 9 | Unidentified Location - [Hay bales] , 1991 |
| 16 | 9 | Unidentified Location - [Man sitting by window], 1991 |

Mark Edward Smith, 1991

- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| 16 | 10 | Catarino Amaya, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Roy and Maudie Bell McKee, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Old Homesteader's Dugout, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Old Homesteader's Dugout, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Bob Magee Ranch, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Sombra del Gallo, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | The Barney House Under Construction, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | [Barney's House Construction], 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Paul Thomas' Old Cabin, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Lester Jackson's House, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Wes Hudson, Dan Lee, Melvin Hudson, 1991 |
| 16 | 10 | Wes Hudson, Dan Lee, Melvin Hudson, 1991 |

16	10	Wes Hudson and Phil McKinley, 1991
16	10	Old Pie Town Road, 1991
16	10	Russell Smyth Interviewing Mike Hill, 1991
16	10	Melvin "Cotton" Hudson, 1991
16	10	Old Water Tower, 1991
16	10	Sam McKee and Petie, 1991
16	10	Vivian, Jeremiah, Catherine, and Jessie Bergkvist with Crystal and Sissy Williams, 1991
16	10	Roy McKee's Garden, 1991
16	10	Mike Hill, 1991
16	10	Amber Lee Hudson, 1991
16	10	Wes Hudson and Phil McKinley, 1991
16	11	Nelsyn's Furniture Store, 1991
16	11	Nelsyn's Furniture Store, 1991
16	11	Ace Hardware, 1991
16	11	Ace Hardware, 1991
16	11	Kay Roberts and Georgia May Roberts, 1991
16	11	Kay Roberts and Georgia May Roberts, 1991
16	11	7:50, 1991
16	11	Nichols Family Reunion, 1991
16	11	Mayor Curt Goetz, 1991
16	11	Cattle Auction, 1991
16	11	Future Home of the Museum, 1991
16	11	San Augustine Public Library, 1991
16	11	Downtown Saturday, 1991
16	11	White Rock Logging Scale, 1991
16	11	Sallie Whitton, 1991
16	11	First Methodist Church, 1991
16	11	San Augustine Livestock Market, 1991
16	11	Josie Nichols, 1991
16	11	Bogard Farms, 1991
16	11	Bill Whitton, 1991
16	11	Renfro Furniture Store, 1991
16	11	Kay Roberts, 1991
16	11	White Rock Tie and Lumber, 1991
16	11	Garner Family Reunion, 1991
16	12	San Marcos, Texas - Tom Anderson and Homero Garcia Interviewing Vista McCroskey, 1991