



Southwestern Writers Collection

Special Collections at the Alkek Library
Texas State University-San Marcos

A Guide to the Carraro / Weller “Retracing Russell Lee” Project Collection

1991 - 1993

Collection 052

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Francine Carraro and Eric Weller
Title:	The Carraro / 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:	Collection 052
Extent:	16 boxes (11 linear feet)
Language:	English
Repository:	Southwestern Writers Collection, Special Collections, Alkek Library, Texas State University-San Marcos

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 Southwestern Writers Collection. 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, founding donor of the Wittliff Collections, 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 Southwestern Writers Collection 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 Content Note

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.

Series I: Oral Histories (1991) includes audiocassette tapes and transcriptions of oral histories taken by team members are arranged into Subseries A: Pie Town, New Mexico, and Subseries B : San Augustine, TX. Under each town, materials are filed in alphabetical order by the name of the subject, with the audiocassette tapes first, followed by the transcripts. Most tapes have transcriptions, several do not.

Series II: Videotapes (1991) documents the project by capturing the team members traveling and planning their progress, and by including some oral history work. These tapes are marked either "Pie Town" or "San Augustine", and are numbered. Additionally, one tape includes a thirty-minute interview with Russell Lee circa 1975, produced by Paul Hightower.

Series III: Exhibit Catalog (1991-1992) includes notes, drafts of the catalog text, page proofs, and one final copy. And series IV: Exhibit Panels (1992) include roughly the same text as is featured in the exhibit catalog, and are mounted on white mats.

Series V: Photographs (1991) of Pie Town and San Augustine by Kathleen Dolan, Kerri Madden, Daryl Meyer, and Mark Edward Smith are included in this series. They are arranged by photographer in alphabetical order, then in groups featuring Pie Town and San Augustine.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research.

Preferred Citation

The Carraro / Weller "Retracing Russell Lee" Project Collection, Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State University-San Marcos

Acquisition Information

Donated by Francine Carraro and Eric Weller, 1994.

Processing Information

Processed by Amanda Oates, 2000. Finding aid revised by Alan Schaefer, 2010.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Oral Histories (1991)

Box **Folder**

Pie Town

Barney, Arden and Josie

1 1 Transcription

Coon, Andy and Coonridge, Nancy (The Goat People)

1 2 Tape

1 3 Transcription

Crawford, Beatrice (also includes Don and Nita Kearbey)

1 4 Tapes (2)

Hill, Mike

1 5 Tapes (3)

1 6 Transcription

Hill, Mike and Chris

1 7 Tape

1 8 Transcription

Hogg, Jim (also includes Mary and Richard Medlin and Molly Thomas)

1 9 Tape

Hoggett, Ms. (filed under McCoy, Tim)

2 6 Tape

Hutton, Pat

1 10 Tape

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

Pie Town, continued

Johnson, Barbara Ann

2 1 Transcription

Larronde, Nita and Kearney, Don

2 2 Tape

2 3 Transcription

Lee, Dan

2 4 Tape

2 5 Transcription

McCoy, Tim (and Ms. Hoggett)

2 6 Tape

McGee, Bob

2 7 Tapes (3)

2 8 Transcription

McGee, Opal

2 9 Tapes (2)

2 10 Transcription

McGee, Opal and Bob

2 11 Transcription

McKee, Maudie Bell

3 1 Tape

3 2 Transcription

McKee, Roy

3 3 Tape

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

		<u>Pie Town</u>
		McKee, Roy, continued
3	4	Transcription
		McKee, Sam
3	5	Tapes (2)
3	6	Transcription
		Medlin, Mary and Richard (filed under Hogg, Jim)
1	9	Tape
		Norris, Rex and Granvil (see also tape with Granvil Norris and Kathryn Roberts, filed under Roberts)
3	7	Transcription
		Panks, Dan
3	8	Tapes (2)
3	9	Transcription
		Roberts, Kathryn
3	10	Tapes (4, plus 1 with Granvil Norris)
4	1	Transcription
		Shalbar, Colita
4	2	Transcription
		Sibille, Stanley
4	3	Tapes (2)
		Thomas, Molly (filed under Hogg, Jim)
1	9	Tape

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

Pie Town

Williams, Bernadine, with Clifford, Page and Crystal

4 4 Transcription

Williams, Calvin

4 5 Tape

4 6 Transcription

4 7 Unidentified transcription

Numbered Pie Town tapes (oral history interviews with named persons)

4 8 #1 Lester Jackson, Fred Gengehagel, Bernadine Williams
#2 [Blank]

4 9 #3 Rudy Akin, Frank Elliot, Barbara Johnson

#4 Barbara Johnson, Molly Thomas, Arden and Josie Barney

4 10 #5 Barneys, Lola Albin, Russell LeGaudiet

#6 [no info]

#7 [no info]

4 11 Notes from numbered Pie Town tapes

San Augustine

Alford, A.B. "Red" (filed under Dorsey)

5 7 Tape

Birdwell, Harold (filed under Dorsey)

5 7 Tape

Brewer, Flo (filed under Dorsey)

5 7 Tape

Bridges (Pharmacist, filed under Murphey)

5 7 Tape

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

San Augustine, continued

Brittain, James and Barbara

5	1	Tape
5	2	Notes

Bryan, Sheriff

5	3	Tape
5	4	Notes

Clark, Ed

5	5	Tapes (2)
5	6	Transcriptions

Dorsey, Ruby and Cornell

5	7	Tape (also includes Alford, Birdwell and Brewer)
5	8	Tape (also includes Lane, Leroy)
5	9	Tape (also includes Lane, Leroy, Ladner, Carolyn and Joe, and Oglesby)
6	1	Notes

Goetz, Curt

6	2	Tape
6	3	Notes

Grant, Jewell

6	4	Transcription
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Hardy, Ray

6	5	Tapes (3)
6	6	Transcription

Jackson, Michael

6	7	Transcription
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Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

San Augustine, continued

Ladner, Joe and Carol (filed under Dorsey)

5 9 Tape

6 8 Notes

Lane, Leroy (filed under Dorsey)

5 8 Tape

6 9 Notes

Lane, William and Ha

6 11 Notes

Matthews, Woodrow

6 11 Transcription

Mitchell, Rudy

6 12 Tapes (2)

6 13 Notes

Murpheys, and Tommy

7 1 Tapes (2) (also includes Pharmacist Bridges and Willie Mae Tendall)

7 2 Notes

Nichols, Jack

7 3 Tape

7 4 Transcriptions

Oglesby

5 9 Tape (filed under Dorsey)

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

San Augustine, continued

Roberts, Kay

7 5 Tape
7 6 Transcription

Ruth, Young William

7 7 Transcriptions (marked tape 5b)

Tendall, Willie Mae

7 1 Tape (filed under Murpheys)

Wade, Nelsyn

7 8 Tape
7 9 Transcription

Whitton

7 10 Tapes (4)
7 11 Transcription

8 1 Unidentified transcription

8 2 "San Augustine lecture – with Sam Malone, Lavonne Tendall, Willie Mae
Tendall" (2 tapes)

"San Augustine" numbered tapes

8 3 Tapes 1-2
8 4 Tapes 3-4
8 5 Tapes 5-6
8 6 Tape 7

8 7 "Cruising San Augustine" (2 tapes)

Oral history tapes with no transcript, unidentified location

8 8 Hay, Arlan

Series I: Oral Histories, continued

Box Folder

Oral history tapes with no transcript, unidentified location, continued

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

Series II: Videotapes

10	1	Russell Lee interview (black and white, poor quality, produced by Paul Hightower, 30 minutes, circa 1975), followed by unidentified color footage
10	2	“Russell Lee #2 – Pie Town” (color) 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) 0-377 Norris Ranch 378-616 McKee Ranch 617-1348 Molly at the dump 1349-1801 Hogg Ranch
10	4	“Russell Lee #4 – Pie Town” (color) 0-528 Hogg Ranch 528-1130 Woody’s house (fire) 1131-1683 McGee Ranch branding 1726-1756 Pie Town canine 1773 Goat folks
11	1	“San Augustine #1” (color) 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

Series II: Videotapes, continued

Box Folder

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 11 | 2 | “San Augustine #2” (color)
0-342 James Brittain
343-894 Barber shop
894-1164 Saw mill
1164-1719 Ray Kraft
1719-1807 Verba Lee |
| 11 | 3 | “San Augustine #5” (color) |
| 11 | 4 | “San Augustine #6” (color) |
| 12 | 1 | “Francine” (a copy of commercial videotape on New Zealand painter Colin McMahon) |
| 12 | 2 | “El Camino Real : The Royal Road to San Augustine” by Forrest Oglesbee, Eagle Scout Project, 1989 |
| 12 | 3 | “Reed Chapel Baptist Church [service], San Augustine” |
| 12 | 4 | “Rev. Fred Dade & China Chapel at the Sabine Valley Association at the Taylor Tabernacle, October, 1990” (color) |
| 13 | 1 | “Daguerre : The Birth of Photography” documentary |

Series III: Catalog (1991-1992)

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

Series IV: Exhibit Panels (2 boxes)

- 14-15 - Exhibit Panels

Series V: Photographs

Kathleen Dolan

Pie Town

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | 1 | Barbara Johnson's House, 1991
Walker Larronde Kearney, 1991 |
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Series V: Photographs, continued

Box Folder

Kathleen Dolan

Pie Town, continued

- 16 1 Wedding Reception, 1991
Near Pie Town, 1991
Coonridge Farm, 1991
Mr. Clark, 1991
Lester Jackson, 1991
Rosemary Hutton, 1991
House on Datil Highway, 1991
Jim Hogg, 1991
Rosemary Hutton's House, 1991
Jim Hogg's residence
At the July Fourth Parade, (Quemado, NM), 1991
[Woman with wolf people at grocery store]
[Kearney girl]
Rex Norris and Granvil Norris, 1991
Autumn Laurel Larronde Kearney, 1991
Bernadine Williams, 1991
Beatrice Crawford's Gate, 1991
Wedding Reception Dance, 1991

San Augustine

- 16 2 Cecil Murphy, 1991
John Oglesbee, 1991
Joe Ladner, 1991
[Reporter]
[Leroy]
Arlen Hays, 1991
Barber Shop, 1991
Texaco Station, 1991
Sheriff Charles Bryan, 1991
Preacher's Son, 1991
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Dorsey, 1991
Mike Jackson's House, 1991
Leroy Lane, 1991
Downtown Saturday, 1991
Texaco Station, 1991
Verba Lee's Family, 1991
Verba Lee, 1991

Series V: Photographs, continued

Box Folder

16 3 Unidentified Location [Man repairing electric appliance]

Kerri Madden

Pie Town

16 4 Beatrice Crawford, 1991
Interviewing Kathryn Roberts, 1991
John Piper, 1991
Kathleen Dolan, 1991
Nita Larronde and Autumn Laurel Kearney, 1991
Water Wagons, 1991

San Augustine

16 5 Tom Roberts, 1991
True Vine Church, 1991
True Vine Church, 1991

Unidentified Locations

16 6 [Welding]
[Man under flag]

Darryl Meyer

Pie Town

16 7 Pie Town Post Office, 1991
Pie Town Post Office, 1991
Barbara Anne Johnson, 1991
Tom Brannon, 1991
Charles H. Hutzen, 1991

San Augustine

16 8 Liberty, 1991
First Methodist Church, 1991
First Methodist Church, 1991
After the Church Service, 1991

Series V: Photographs, continued

Box Folder

Darryl Meyer, continued

Unidentified Location

- 16 9 [Hay bales]
[Man sitting by window]

Mark Edward Smith

Pie Town

- 16 10 Catarino Amaya, 1991
Roy and Maudie Bell McKee, 1991
Old Homesteader's Dugout, 1991
Old Homesteader's Dugout, 1991
Bob Magee Ranch, 1991
Sombra del Gallo, 1991
The Barney House Under Construction, 1991
[Barney's House Construction]
Paul Thomas' Old Cabin, 1991
Lester Jackson's House, 1991
Wes Hudson, Dan Lee, Melvin Hudson, 1991
Wes Hudson, Dan Lee, Melvin Hudson, 1991
Wes Hudson and Phil McKinley, 1991
Old Pie Town Road, 1991
Russell Smyth Interviewing Mike Hill, 1991
Melvin "Cotton" Hudson, 1991
Old Water Tower, 1991
Sam McKee and Petie, 1991
Vivian, Jeremiah, Catherine, and Jessie Bergkvist with Crystal and
Sissy Williams, 1991
Roy McKee's Garden, 1991
Mike Hill, 1991
Amber Lee Hudson, 1991
Wes Hudson and Phil McKinley, 1991

San Augustine

- 16 11 Nelsyn's Furniture Store, 1991
Nelsyn's Furniture Store, 1991
Ace Hardware, 1991

Series V: Photographs, continued

Box Folder

Mark Edward Smith

San Augustine , continued

- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| 16 | 11 | Ace Hardware, 1991
Kay Roberts and Georgia May Roberts, 1991
Kay Roberts and Georgia May Roberts, 1991
7:50, 1991
Nichols Family Reunion, 1991
Mayor Curt Goetz, 1991
Cattle Auction, 1991
Future Home of the Museum, 1991
San Augustine Public Library, 1991
Downtown Saturday, 1991
White Rock Logging Scale, 1991
Sallie Whitton, 1991
First Methodist Church, 1991
San Augustine Livestock Marcket, 1991
Josie Nichols, 1991
Bogard Farms, 1991
Bill Whitton, 1991
Renfro Furniture Store, 1991
Kay Roberts, 1991
White Rock Tie and Lumber, 1991
Garner Family Reunion, 1991 |
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San Marcos

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| 16 | 12 | Tom Anderson and Homero Garcia Interviewing Vista McCroskey, 1991 |
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