Finding Aid to Photographs of Agricultural Laborers in California circa 1906-1911

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Finding Aid to Photographs of Agricultural Laborers in California circa 1906-1911

Collection number: BANC PIC 1905.02634-.02731--PIC

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Photographs of Agricultural Laborers in California
Date (inclusive): circa 1906-1911
Collection Number: BANC PIC 1905.02634-.02731--PIC
Collector: Cross, Ira B. (Ira Brown), b. 1880
Physical Description: 101 photographic prints, 9 x 14 cm. or smaller. 100 digital objects
Repository: The Bancroft Library
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Abstract: Collection shows laborers from various ethnic groups (Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Italian, "Hindu") working in the following locations: Sacramento (including Japantown), San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, Gilroy, and Merced. Photos show laborers in the fields, but also focus on their businesses, ranches, living conditions (including interiors of houses), street scenes, and children.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Agricultural laborers--California--Photographs
Chinese--California--Employment--Photographs
Japanese--California--Employment--Photographs
Mexicans--California--Employment--Photographs
Italians--California--Employment--Photographs
East Indians--California--Employment--Photographs
Alien labor--California--Photographs

Acquisition Information
The Photographs of Agricultural Laborers in California collection was received as a gift from Ira B. Cross.

Funding
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Biography
Ira Brown Cross, a descendant of William Bradford and John and Priscilla Alden of the Plymouth Colony, was born December 1, 1880 in Decatur, Illinois. He received his A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and while a student there became a member of the Socialist Party. In 1904 he served as the Assistant Secretary of the National Convention of the Socialist Party in Chicago. Cross received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1909. He remained at Stanford as a professor until 1914, when—despite his radical economic views—he was asked by University of California president Benjamin Ide Wheeler to accept a position in the Department of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley. Cross accepted and would remain at the University of California until his retirement in 1951. During his tenure at Berkeley he significantly expanded the scope of the Department of Economics and gained a reputation as a challenging, iconoclastic instructor and impassioned lecturer who was able to enliven student interest in a field often referred to as the “dismal science.” An estimated 60,000 students enrolled in his classes during his career. Cross was Chair of the Department of Economics in the 1919-1920 and 1923-1924 school years. In 1951 Cross was awarded the LL.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin, and in 1958 was awarded the same degree from the University of California. In 1964 he was honored with the dedication of the Ira B. Cross Room in Barrows Hall on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to his career in academia, Cross was also active in arbitration and strike-breaking efforts, and created one of the nation's first employment management training courses. Cross also served as a member of the American Institute of Banking from 1935 to 1960, for whom he taught and contributed important educational texts. Cross also helped to form the Berkeley Police School, an internationally recognized crime prevention program. After his retirement, Cross pursued his interest in the cultivation of chrysanthemums, becoming such an authority on the subject that he served as associate editor of the Bulletin of the National Chrysanthemum Society. Ira B. Cross died March 24, 1977.

In addition to publishing numerous articles and reviews, Cross also wrote several volumes on economics and banking, among them the following: Cooperative Stores in the United States (1906); Essentials of Socialism (1911); Collective Bargaining in San Francisco (1917); Domestic and Foreign Exchange (1923); History of Banking in California (1927); Economics (1931); Money and Banking (1931); and A History of the Labor Movement of California (1935).

(Sources: Cross, Ira B. (interviewee), Portrait of an Economics Professor: Oral History Transcript, Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, California, 1967; In Memoriam, Academic Senate, University of California, Berkeley, California, 1978 edition.)

Scope and Content
The Photographs of Agricultural Laborers in California collection contains 101 photographic prints taken circa 1906-1911. The collection documents various ethnic groups, many of them agricultural workers, present in California in the early twentieth century. Especially featured in the collection are Japanese farm laborers and scenes of urban Chinese communities. Also pictured are Mexican, Italian and East Indian (referred to in the captions as “Hindu”) workers and communities. Agricultural locations pictured in the collection include the Stockton area, Palo Alto, Woodland, Visalia, Ryde, and the San Joaquin River area. Many prints show the various types of housing used by the farm laborers, which included large ranch houses, communal bunk houses, dilapidated shacks, and open-air tents and beds. Also pictured are laborers at work or during travel.

The collection also includes scenes of many urban communities, including the Chinatown districts of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Fresno, Gilroy, San Jose, and Merced, as well as Japanese commercial districts in Fresno, San Francisco and San Jose. Also pictured are an Italian residential area of San Francisco, and a Mexican employment office in Fresno.

Many of the photographs in the collection may have originated from a 1908 U.S. Immigration Commission study conducted by Stanford University professor Harry A. Millis with the assistance of Cross, which sought to gather information on immigrant farm labor problems of the San Joaquin Valley.
Individuals identified in the collection include Harry A. Millis, rancher George Shima, and anarchist William C. Owen. Cross is likely to have been the photographer of many of the prints, but this has not been ascertained.

The original captions accompanying the photographs are reproduced in the container listing. They include words like "Jap" and "Hindu" that were commonplace at the time, but may now have a derogatory meaning.

"Blanket Stiff". [Man carrying bedroll on his back.] BANC PIC 1905.02634--PIC

"Blanket Stiffs". [Two men carrying bedrolls on their backs.] BANC PIC 1905.02635--PIC

Interior of bunk house. BANC PIC 1905.02636--PIC

[Housing for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02637--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap ranch laborer's shack."

[Japanese laborers tilling a beet field near Woodland, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02638--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap beet workers near Woodland."

"Blanket Stiff". [Men carrying bedrolls and belongings in front of unidentified building.] BANC PIC 1905.02639--PIC

Japanese, San Jose. [Children in street.] BANC PIC 1905.02640--PIC

[Japanese laborers and white foremen(?) in a field.] BANC PIC 1905.02641--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap laborers and white foremen."

[Japanese laborers cultivating a beet field.] BANC PIC 1905.02642--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap beet workers."

[Housing for Japanese laborers on a ranch.] BANC PIC 1905.02643--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap laborer's house on ranch."

[Interior view of a bunkhouse for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02644--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Interior Jap bunk house."

[Housing for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02645--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap farm laborer's shack."

[Unidentified farm building. Bunk house?.] BANC PIC 1905.02646--PIC

[Makeshift shelter for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02647--PIC

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap farm labor bed."
[Makeshift shelter for laborers on a ranch.] Visalia 1908. BANC PIC 1905.02648--PIC
ark:/13030/tf2q2nb58j

[Makeshift shelters for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02649--PIC
ark:/13030/tf087006x9

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap beds farm laborers."

[Beds for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02650--PIC
ark:/13030/tf5w1010c2

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap beds, farm laborers."

[ Makeshift shelter for Japanese farm laborers.] BANC PIC 1905.02651--PIC
ark:/13030/tf0v19p13r

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap bed."

Bunk house. [Jarfey?], Fresno. BANC PIC 1905.02652--PIC
ark:/13030/tf9c6012bg

Club house. [Jarfey?], Fresno. BANC PIC 1905.02653--PIC
ark:/13030/tf6r29p480

Jarfey?[?] ranch bath house, [Fresno. Shower stalls.] BANC PIC 1905.02654--PIC
ark:/13030/tf529009cg

ark:/13030/tf429009hg

[Street and sidewalk, unidentified location. Businesses include B.A. Soberanes, Real Estate Agent and Togo the Machine Shoemaker.] BANC PIC 1905.02656--PIC
ark:/13030/tf538nb6g4

Bunk house, Palm Tract, Island ...[illegible], near Stockton. BANC PIC 1905.02657--PIC
ark:/13030/tf31nb5jn

Island ranch house, Palm Tract, near Stockton. BANC PIC 1905.02658--PIC
ark:/13030/tf5489p2vk

George Shima's launch. BANC PIC 1905.02659--PIC
ark:/13030/tf4x0nb6m4

San Joaquin River Island Ranch. 1909. BANC PIC 1905.02660--PIC
ark:/13030/tf5w1010dk

[Japanese laborers with horses, on George Shima's ranch near Stockton, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02661--PIC
ark:/13030/tf9m3nb9xt

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap laborers on Shima's ranch near Stockton."

George Shima's ranch house near Stockton. BANC PIC 1905.02662--PIC
ark:/13030/tf067nb3c7

[Japanese mother and son working in a field.] BANC PIC 1905.02663--PIC
ark:/13030/tf3779p2bv

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap farm laborers. Wife and son."

[Japanese laborers riding in horse-drawn wagon, Ryde, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02664--PIC
ark:/13030/tf9b69p5vk

Additional Note
Original caption: "Ryde. Jap farm hands."

[Bedrolls and belongings of Japanese laborers stacked outside unidentified building in Ryde, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02665--PIC
ark:/13030/tf8d5nb907

Additional Note
[Hay stack with farm laborers (including Japanese?).] BANC PIC 1905.02666--PIC
ark:/13030/tf8199p5bj

[Alley in Japanese commercial district, Fresno, California, 1910.]
BANC PIC 1905.02667--PIC
ark:/13030/tf396nb4w2
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap alley. Fresno, Cal. 1910."

[Unidentified farm building, possibly in the Sacramento or Stockton area.]
BANC PIC 1905.02668--PIC
ark:/13030/tf0h4nb36m

[Japanese laborers cultivating a field.] BANC PIC 1905.02669--PIC
ark:/13030/tf100006wp
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap laborers."

[Housing for Japanese farm laborers near Sacramento, California.]
BANC PIC 1905.02670--PIC
ark:/13030/tf9779p5fq
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap farm house, near Sacramento."

[Housing for Japanese farm laborers near Sacramento, California.]
BANC PIC 1905.02671--PIC
ark:/13030/tf7x0nb99v
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap farm house, near Sacramento, Cal."

[Children in alley in Japanese commercial district, Fresno, California.]
BANC PIC 1905.02672--PIC
ark:/13030/tf0h4nb374
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap alley. Fresno, Cal. Italian and Mexicans, boot black boys."

[J. Nishita Co. building in the Japanese commercial district, Fresno, California.]
BANC PIC 1905.02673--PIC
ark:/13030/tf1t1nb55b
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap town. Fresno, Cal. 1910."

[Japanese commercial district, Sacramento, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02674--PIC
ark:/13030/tf0s2007cs
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Sacramento Jap town."

Sacramento. [Alley or side street, with Chinese sign visible.] BANC PIC 1905.02675--PIC
ark:/13030/tf938nc00p

Sacramento. [Bon Ton Meat Market. Commercial street scene in Japanese or Chinese
district.] BANC PIC 1905.02676--PIC
ark:/13030/tf4c6009t3

[Japanese commercial district.] BANC PIC 1905.02677--PIC
ark:/13030/tf0m3nb3kz
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap town, Sacramento."

[Japanese laborers working a potato field. Islands in the Sacramento River Delta?]  
BANC PIC 1905.02678--PIC
ark:/13030/tf767nb867
  Additional Note
  Original caption: "Jap potato diggers. Sacramento Islands."
[Japanese laborers stacking hay.] BANC PIC 1905.02679--PIC
Additional Note
Original captions: "Jap laborers."

[Alley of Japanese shops within a Chinese commercial district?, Fresno, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02680--PIC
Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap alley, Chinatown. Fresno, Cal."

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap town, Fresno, Cal. Jap bank and P.O. in this building."

[Japanese commercial district, San Francisco, California, with signs for Yabuno Bros. and K.F. Jan & Co.] BANC PIC 1905.02682A--PIC
Additional Note
Original caption: "San Francisco Jap town."

Chinatown, Gilroy. 1911. [Chinese commercial district.] BANC PIC 1905.02683--PIC
Chinese store, Gilroy. BANC PIC 1905.02685--PIC
Part Chinatown, Fresno, California. BANC PIC 1905.02686--PIC
[Chinatown, Fresno, California. Duplicate of :02688.] BANC PIC 1905.02688--PIC
Chinese, San Jose. [Children on a sidewalk in Chinatown.] BANC PIC 1905.02689--PIC
Chinese. San Francisco. [People gathered on street corner.] BANC PIC 1905.02695--PIC
Chinese. San Francisco. [Chinese boys and men on sidewalk, Chinatown.] BANC PIC 1905.02696--PIC
[Ranch house of a Japanese farmer, near Sacramento River, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02697--PIC
Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap farmer. Sacramento River."

Chinatown. Fresno, Cal. [Children sitting on front stoop.] BANC PIC 1905.02698--PIC
Chinatown, Sacramento. [Makeshift dwellings.] BANC PIC 1905.02699--PIC
Chinatown, Los Angeles. 1911. [Child in front of unidentified building.]
BANC PIC 1905.02700--PIC  ark:/13030/tf938nc016

China alley. Fresno, Cal. 1910. [Alley in Chinese commercial district.]
BANC PIC 1905.02701--PIC  ark:/13030/tf9c6012c0

Part Chinatown. Fresno, Cal. 1910. [Chinese commercial district.]
BANC PIC 1905.02702--PIC  ark:/13030/tf1j49p044

Merced Chinatown, Cal. BANC PIC 1905.02703--PIC  ark:/13030/tf458008wb

Chinatown. Fresno, Cal. 1910. BANC PIC 1905.02704--PIC  ark:/13030/tf3f9p1h8
Sacramento Chinatown. [People resting on sidewalk in Chinese commercial district.]
BANC PIC 1905.02705--PIC  ark:/13030/tf258007kk

Chinatown, Los Angeles. 1911. BANC PIC 1905.02706--PIC  ark:/13030/tf7s20118

Chinatown, Los Angeles, 1911. [View down street.] BANC PIC 1905.02707--PIC  ark:/13030/tf6s2010rd

[Chinese commercial district?, Fresno, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02708--PIC  ark:/13030/tf5x0nb7kd

Additional Note
Original caption: "Jap town, Fresno." (Signs with Chinese names.)

Chinatown, Los Angeles. 1911. BANC PIC 1905.02709--PIC  ark:/13030/tf4n39p2xk

Chinatown, Los Angeles. 11. [Men in front of unidentified building.]
BANC PIC 1905.02710--PIC  ark:/13030/tf5b69p3of

[Same?] China alley. Fresno, Cal. 1910. [People in front of building in Chinese commercial district.]
BANC PIC 1905.02711--PIC  ark:/13030/tf7j49p5bh

Main Street (part of) Chinatown. Fresno, Cal. Showing Mexican employment office.
BANC PIC 1905.02712--PIC  ark:/13030/tf509nb607

Part of Chinatown. Merced, Cal. BANC PIC 1905.02713--PIC  ark:/13030/tf458008xv

[Main Street, Chinatown. Fresno, California. Duplicate of :02691.]
BANC PIC 1905.02714--PIC  ark:/13030/tf387008zq

[Japanese and Chinese commercial districts, Fresno, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02715--PIC  ark:/13030/tf658010v1

Additional Note
Original caption: "Partly Jap and China town. Fresno, Cal."

[Makeshift shelter for Indian or other South Asian farm laborer.]
BANC PIC 1905.02716--PIC  ark:/13030/tf6d5nb7cb

Additional Note
Original caption: "Hindu bed."

San Francisco. 1910. [Men sitting on wooden sidewalk, one Indian or South Asian man in turban.]
BANC PIC 1905.02717--PIC  ark:/13030/tf3j49p1q1

[Group of men, including Indians?] or South Asians with turbans, outside building. San Francisco, 1910. Cf. :02717.]
BANC PIC 1905.02718--PIC  ark:/13030/tf429009j0

[South Asian farm laborers tending field, San Joaquin Valley Island, 1909
BANC PIC 1905.02719--PIC  ark:/13030/tf8199p5c2

Additional Note
Original caption: "San Joaquin Valley Island. 1909. Hindu laborers."

[South Asian farm laborers tending field.]
BANC PIC 1905.02720--PIC  ark:/13030/tf529009d7

Additional Note
Original caption: "Hindu laborers."

San Joaquin Valley Island. 1910. Italians. [Italian farm laborers in front of unidentified building.]
BANC PIC 1905.02721--PIC  ark:/13030/tf40009r0

Italian district. San Francisco. BANC PIC 1905.02722--PIC  ark:/13030/tf4n39p2z3
ark:/13030/tf4p3009r1

George Shima [(the potato king)?] -- plowing -- on ...[illegible]... lands near Stockton. BANC PIC 1905.02724--PIC
ark:/13030/tf7h4nb81m

Japanese laborers and ranch owners H.A. Miller and George Shima near Stockton, California.] BANC PIC 1905.02725--PIC
ark:/13030/tf6w10119t

Additional Note
Original caption: "Dr. H.A. Miller & Shima and Jap laborers near Stockton."

Dr. H.A. Miller and [George] Shima on Shima's ranch near Stockton. BANC PIC 1905.02726--PIC
ark:/13030/tf4p3009sj

Mexicans -- Plaza -- Los Angeles. 1911. BANC PIC 1905.02727--PIC
ark:/13030/tf5g5010t5

ark:/13030/tf7290115t

Shoe Blacks. Mexicans -- Plaza. Los Angeles. 1911. [Shoeshine boys waiting to shine shoes in unidentified plaza.] BANC PIC 1905.02729--PIC
ark:/13030/tf396nb4xk

Visalia. [Mex?] fruit. [Laborer picking fruit.] BANC PIC 1905.02730--PIC
ark:/13030/tf3p3007ki

Sailors' Union of the Pacific Headquarters. 1911. On Embarcadero, between Market and Mission. BANC PIC 1905.02730A--PIC
ark:/13030/tf6v19p4nb

Ranch house. Stanford farm, Calif. BANC PIC 1905.02731--PIC
ark:/13030/tf8x0nb9xg