Dust Bowl migration archive

Finding aid created by Sonoma State University Library staff using RecordEXPRESS
Sonoma State University Library
Special Collections
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2019
Descriptive Summary

Title: Dust Bowl migration archive

Dates: 1938-1981

Collection Number: Consult repository

Creator/Collector: Haslam, Gerald W., 1938-Kinkead, David

Extent: 6 linear feet

Repository: Sonoma State University Library

Rohnert Park, California 94928

Abstract: Concerned that the history of the migration of 350,000 "Okies" to California would be lost, Gerald Haslam, Professor of English, established the Okie Studies Project. Included are examples of the work of Charles L. Todd, a librarian in the U.S. National Archives, who collected camp songs to add to the folk music collection of the National Archives. The name of the collection was changed to the Dust Bowl Migration Archive in January, 2008. A subset of the collection was added in 2016 with the donation of the David Kinkead materials, donated by Kinkead's daughter, B.J. Blanchard. These materials include correspondence, newspaper clippings, government documents, and a personal journal.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection is open for research by appointment.

Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Preferred Citation

Dust Bowl migration archive. Sonoma State University Library

Acquisition Information


Scope and Content of Collection

Correspondence to Gerald Haslam, stories, music, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, photographs and camp diaries, correspondence and reports of Charles L. Todd, document the history and experiences of the "Okies" who migrated to California in the 1930's. Box 10 includes a subset, the David Kinkead materials, about a camp manager's experience in multiple Dust Bowl migration camps. The collection was processed by Deb Swan; the finding aid was created by Deb Swan. The David Kinkead materials were processed, and a full inventory created, by Anthropology Department student intern Jayelene Lyons, December 2016.

Indexing Terms

Dust Bowl migration.

Migrant labor.

Migrant agricultural laborers – California History.

Labor camps.

Dust storms – History – 20th century.

Depressions – 1929.

Droughts – History – 20th century.


Migrant agricultural workers.

Dust Bowl Era, 1931-1939.

Haslam, Gerald.

Todd, Charles L.

Kinkead, David.

Dust Bowl Migration Inventory