

1: About The Dust Bowl

Get this from a library! Golden age, Great Depression, and Dust Bowl. [Ellen May Stanley] -- "This book completes the three-volume series of Lane County's history compiled by the author.

My own greatest hope was to achieve the American Dream: Everything about football was more intense back in the day, especially in my home state of Kansas. Our field was the entire Dust Bowl. Our quarterback Pete was a small tornado we recruited after our original quarterback died in a different tornado. Our football was a football stuffed with dust. That was mostly an aesthetic choice. The biggest game of my life ended in a ten-person pile-up. A windstorm was touching down in the next town over, and 60mph gusts were whipping up our dust-field. Pete was even quieter than usual, which was unsettling. The other fellows were struggling as well: That was our name for normal cancer. I spent the season in a coma, but unfortunately recovered just in time for the season. The shape of my head would never be the same, and neither would Sunday dinner. While I was in my coma, I had this brilliant dream: This other fellow charges towards me, head-on. We both lower our skulls and prepare for the Moment of Impact, fingers crossed that it will be gory and slow. I close my eyes. My parents and siblings cheer in the stands. The other runner is ten feet away now, five, twoâ€”one. We miss, though, somehow. In the stands, each member of my dream-family sheds a single grimy tearâ€”and I will have to eat dust for dinner. More From This Issue.

Golden age, Great Depression, and Dust Bowl by Ellen May Stanley, , Ellen May Stanley edition, in English.

Baca County was among the areas hardest hit, near the center of what was named the Dust Bowl. Southeastern Colorado received only total inches of moisture for all the years between and This was inches less than the previous decade, and well below the 18 inches annually needed to grow wheat. No rain meant no crops, and no crops meant no protection for the soil when the spring winds arrived. They came back the next year with more vigor, and by the dust storms were so intense that everyday life became almost impossible for both people and livestock. One storm, beginning on May 9, and lasting for several days, was estimated to have removed million tons of fertile top soil off of the Great Plains. Towns had to turn on their street lights during the day; dust sifted into buildings, causing people to put wet sheets over doors and window to try to stop the infiltration. They ate meals under a tablecloth and had to wear goggles or masks of wet towels while outdoors. Dust covered roads, fences, and cars, piling as high as snow drifts; rail traffic was stopped. Cases of dust pneumonia reached epidemic proportions in southeastern Colorado in animals as well as humans. Red Cross workers and nurses were sent to Baca County with masks and goggles. During this period of blowing dust, called by some the worst ecological disaster in the history of the United States, an ever-changing area of over fifty million acres encompassing primarily southeastern Colorado, western Kansas, northeastern New Mexico, and the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma became known as the Dust Bowl. There were no specific boundaries – it could change from year to year, season to season, and even day to day. In Colorado, Baca County in the southeast corner of the state was the hardest hit, but dust storms were not uncommon during the thirties as far north as Burlington in Kit Carson County and Julesburg in Sedgwick County. As if all the dust storms were not enough, the Colorado plains suffered from recurring and serious infestations of grasshoppers during the thirties. Grasshoppers seemed to thrive in the dry soil; they caused problems in and , but this was nothing compared to the billions that came in and They moved up to a mile and a half a day in eastern Colorado, and almost blackened out the sun. There were so many the ground appeared to be moving. To make matters worse, even during this severe drought there were often brief periods of heavy rain, which in turn caused severe floods and even further damage to these counties denuded of vegetation by poor farming practices and the drought. The citizens of eastern Colorado were truly in distress. The combined effects of the economic depression, the drought, the dust bowl, and other ecological disasters had a devastating effect on Baca County. Although some families were able to survive, primarily through the New Deal programs that were implemented, many residents of Baca County residents could no longer support themselves. With no crops, no income, no livestock, no rain, and in some cases no soil remaining, they left in hopes of finding a better life. Baca County lost 4, residents from to , representing a The population never rebounded and remains the peak population year for the county. Although the drop in population was dramatic, it is clear that without the aid of numerous New Deal programs the numbers remaining would be even lower. There were several programs which dealt with direct relief to the needy residents of eastern Colorado and others which were aimed at recovery for the economy of the area. The New Deal programs which worked towards recovery provided loans for farmers and businesses, or initiated changes to banking practices to help protect depositors and prevent bank closures. Direct relief to families in need came in the form of cash payments and food and goods allocations. Farmers received relief in the form of payments to keep lands fallow and for livestock which were unsuitable for slaughter. Relief figures for the Depression years show that there were few in eastern Colorado who did not benefit in some way from the New Deal. In , more than fifty percent of Baca County residents were on the relief rolls. Many of the relief cases were farmers, both owners and tenants. In fact, only four states had a higher percentage of farmers on relief at this period. As the majority of WPA funds were required to go towards wages, these figures represent a significant boost to the local economies. The WPA was the major source of public jobs for the unemployed during the latter part of the thirties. Its main goal was to put the unemployed back to work and off of the relief rolls. The WPA funded numerous road and school projects throughout the county. The majority of WPA construction projects in Baca County were

transportation related, specifically the grading and graveling of farm-to-market roads. Culverts and bridges were included in many of these transportation projects although some larger bridges were built as separate WPA projects. Some of the bridges were even constructed for the purpose of raising the road bed out of the dust in low areas. The ecological disaster of the Dust Bowl also led to a dramatic shift in government policy related to land use. Since the s, the federal government had been focused on settling the plains. As the prime agricultural land was taken, the government expanded homesteading legislation to promote settlement of more marginal lands. As a result, the population of southeast Colorado boomed in the s and s. Fields of wheat replaced native grasses and pastures were overgrazed. When drought hit in the s, there was nothing to hold the fine topsoil in place, resulting in the severe erosion and dust storms of the s. Agricultural experts meeting to discuss the Dust Bowl crisis in Pueblo, Colorado in estimated that winds had blown ,, tons of topsoil off the South Plains that year. The Roosevelt administration created a series of New Deal programs including the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Resettlement Administration, Farm Security Administration, and Soil Conservation Service to address the environmental crisis and change land use in eastern Colorado. One method of achieving this was the Land Utilization Program. Under the Roosevelt administration, the Homesteading movement initiated by President Lincoln came to a halt. With the Taylor Grazing Act of , the government closed remaining public lands to homesteaders. This land was in the arid and semi-arid West, which was suffering due to overgrazing and dry land farming techniques. New Dealers determined that too many people were trying to make a living on too little land, so no more settlement would be allowed in these marginal areas. The act also authorized the Interior Department to establish grazing districts and manage a grazing permit system. Established in , the Land Utilization Program LUP was one of a range of New Deal programs intended to help alleviate rural poverty and restore the economic vitality of the agricultural industry. They believed the loan defaults, tax delinquency and farm failures were the result of misguided settlement patterns and improper land use, rather than individual failure. Through the LUP, the government would purchase submarginal and eroded lands, restore them, and then convert them to grazing, forestry, wildlife or recreation areas. New Deal agencies worked to restore the lands, encouraged grazing over farming, and promoted soil conservation methods. The government eventually purchased more than 4,, acres of submarginal farmland and overgrazed rangeland in the West. The land was rehabilitated and turned over to federally-managed grazing. Through the local grazing associations managing the purchased lands jointly with other publically and privately owned lands, the improved land use affected more than 30 million acres. In , the management of these lands was transferred within the U. On June 20, the land was reformed into the National Grasslands. The federal lands in Baca County became part of the Comanche Grasslands.

3: The Great Depression Changes America Forever

Dust Bowl Refugees. After suffering through several years of severe drought and joblessness, farm workers from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri began arriving at the fruit and vegetable fields of the San Joaquin Valley in the mids, looking for work.

About The Dust Bowl For eight years dust blew on the southern plains. It came in a yellowish-brown haze from the South and in rolling walls of black from the North. Children wore dust masks to and from school, women hung wet sheets over windows in a futile attempt to stop the dirt, farmers watched helplessly as their crops blew away. Its primary area of impact was on the southern Plains. The northern Plains were not so badly effected, but nonetheless, the drought, windblown dust and agricultural decline were no strangers to the north. In fact the agricultural devastation helped to lengthen the Depression whose effects were felt worldwide. The movement of people on the Plains was also profound. Car-loads, caravans, homeless and hungry; twenty thousand and fifty thousand and a hundred thousand and two hundred thousand. They streamed over the mountains, hungry and restless - restless as ants, scurrying to find work to do - to lift, to push, to pull, to pick, to cut - anything, any burden to bear, for food. The kids are hungry. We got no place to live. Like ants scurrying for work, for food, and most of all for land. Plains grasslands had been deeply plowed and planted to wheat. During the years when there was adequate rainfall, the land produced bountiful crops. But as the droughts of the early s deepened, the farmers kept plowing and planting and nothing would grow. The ground cover that held the soil in place was gone. The Plains winds whipped across the fields raising billowing clouds of dust to the skys. The skys could darken for days, and even the most well sealed homes could have a thick layer of dust on furniture. In some places the dust would drift like snow, covering farmsteads. Timeline of The Dust Bowl Severe drought hits the midwestern and southern plains. Dust from the over-plowed and over-grazed land begins to blow. Fourteen are reported this year; next year there will be When Franklin Roosevelt takes office, the country is in desperate straits. The Farm Credit Act of established a local bank and set up local credit associations. Over 6 million young pigs are slaughtered to stabilize prices With most of the meat going to waste, public outcry led to the creation, in October, of the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation. The FSRC diverted agricultural commodities to relief organizations. Apples, beans, canned beef, flour and pork products were distributed through local relief channels. Cotton goods were eventually included to clothe the needy as well. During the strike, two men and one woman were killed and hundreds injured. In the settlement, the union was recognized by growers, and workers were given a 25 percent raise. Great dust storms spread from the Dust Bowl area. The drought is the worst ever in U. This act restricted the ability of banks to dispossess farmers in times of distress. Originally effective until , the act was renewed four times until , when it expired. Roosevelt signs the Taylor Grazing Act, which allows him to take up to million acres of federally-owned land out of the public domain and establish grazing districts that will be carefully monitored. The "Yearbook of Agriculture" for announces, "Approximately 35 million acres of formerly cultivated land have essentially been destroyed for crop production. The federal government forms a Drought Relief Service to coordinate relief activities. Those unfit for human consumption - more than 50 percent at the beginning of the program - were destroyed. The remaining cattle were given to the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation to be used in food distribution to families nationwide. Although it was difficult for farmers to give up their herds, the cattle slaughter program helped many of them avoid bankruptcy. The worst "black blizzard" of the Dust Bowl occurs, causing extensive damage. Congress declares soil erosion "a national menace" in an act establishing the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture formerly the Soil Erosion Service in the U. Under the direction of Hugh H. Bennett, the SCS developed extensive conservation programs that retained topsoil and prevented irreparable damage to the land. Farming techniques such as strip cropping, terracing, crop rotation, contour plowing, and cover crops were advocated. Farmers were paid to practice soil-conserving farming techniques. At a meeting in Pueblo, Colorado, experts estimate that ,, tons of topsoil has blown off the Southern Plains during the course of the year, and that if the drought continued, the total area affected would increase from 4,, acres to 5,, acres in the spring of Wilson of the Resettlement

Administration proposes buying up 2,, acres and retiring it from cultivation. Davis sends policemen to patrol the borders of Arizona and Oregon to keep "undesirables" out. As a result, the American Civil Liberties Union sues the city. The SCS publishes a soil conservation district law, which, if passed by the states, allows farmers to set up their own districts to enforce soil conservation practices for five-year periods. One of the few grassroots organizations set up by the New Deal still in operation, the soil conservation district program recognized that new farming methods needed to be accepted and enforced by the farmers on the land rather than bureaucrats in Washington. Roosevelt addresses the nation in his second inaugural address, stating, "I see one-third of the nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. The project called for large-scale planting of trees across the Great Plains, stretching in a mile wide zone from Canada to northern Texas, to protect the land from erosion. Native trees, such as red cedar and green ash, were planted along fence rows separating properties, and farmers were paid to plant and cultivate them. The project was estimated to cost 75 million dollars over a period of 12 years. When disputes arose over funding sources the project was considered to be a long-term strategy, and therefore ineligible for emergency relief funds , FDR transferred the program to the WPA, where the project had limited success. However, the drought continued. During the next few years, with the coming of World War II, the country is pulled out of the Depression and the plains once again become golden with wheat.

4: How the 'Dust Bowl Girls' hooped their way through 'golden age' of women's basketball

"Dust Bowl Girls" tell the story of "a team that barnstormed its way to basketball glory." Not long after the stock market crash of 1929, Babb began recruiting for OPC's first women's basketball.

The refugees came from several states, including the drought-ravaged corners of Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico but especially the impoverished parts of Oklahoma the origin of one fifth of Okies, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri. Okies were escaping two distinct although simultaneous and bordering catastrophes, one economic, the other more environmental. Many Okies' families from Arkansas, Missouri, eastern Oklahoma, and East Texas were not Dust Bowl refugees but instead were tenant-farming casualties of sinking commodity prices and agricultural mechanization during the 1920s. Beef and oil prices plummeted after World War I, and the price of cotton fell from thirty-five cents per pound in 1919 to six cents in 1920. Farmers hung on by expanding production and assuming more debt, prompting widespread foreclosures after 1920. In an effort to raise prices, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 subsidized landowners to take land out of production, allowing them to mechanize, consolidate holdings, discontinue leases, and evict sharecroppers. The Dust Bowl years on the Southern Plains also had economic origins. Mechanization and falling wheat prices in the 1920s combined to fuel the "Great Plow-Up," a decade of aggressive expansion of cultivated acreage during which farmers hoped for a good year that would allow them to recover spiraling debts on new equipment and land. In 1930, however, the rains stopped, and the Great Plains entered a decade-long drought. Families suffered drought, wind, dust, and death from dust pneumonia for half a decade before the horrific dust storms and heat of forced many to abandon their homes and search for a new life in the Golden State. The Dust Bowl exodus reduced the populations of Texas and Oklahoma panhandle counties by as much as one-fourth and killed or stunted numerous towns. The images of the refugees' hungry, gaunt families riding overloaded jalopies over lonely Route 66 remain vivid in the American collective memory. Predominantly upland southerners, the half-million Okies met new hardships in California, where they were unwelcome aliens, forced to live in squatter camps and to compete for scarce jobs as agricultural migrant laborers. They displaced Mexican workers, but despite the initial fears of landowners that they would demand better working conditions, these conservative, self-reliant, and persevering folk proved even easier to exploit. With many more willing hands than jobs, wage rates dropped. Genuine relief for the Okies arrived in 1942, when federal defense dollars inflated West Coast industries, allowing many to abandon the orchards for shipyards and bomb plants. In fact, while the squatter camps disappeared, the number of people coming to California from the Southern Plains actually increased in the 1930s. The Okie migration brought the dialects, denominations, politics, and attitudes of the Southern Plains to California, where they persist in places like Bakersfield. Separated by ideology and a generation, both Guthrie and Haggard painted in their lyrics the imagery of a cruel, decadent California and a righteous, nostalgic Oklahoma. That image lasts in the regional meanings of "Okie": Oxford University Press, *Dust Bowl Migrants in the American Imagination*. University Press of Kansas, *On the Road to the Grapes of Wrath*. Introduction by Charles Wollenberg.

5: To Kill a Mockingbird

The Dust Bowl was the name given to an area of the Great Plains (southwestern Kansas, Oklahoma panhandle, Texas panhandle, northeastern New Mexico, and southeastern Colorado) that was devastated by nearly a decade of drought and soil erosion during the s.

For businesses and millions of individuals, fear and failure became as commonplace as optimism and prosperity had been before the economic collapse. The Great Crash soon became the Great Depression. Owners of manufacturing plants could not sell their goods, so they laid off workers. Unable to find employment, workers lost their savings and could not afford to make purchases. Additional businesses closed down. In the downward spiral, society was devastated. To make matters worse, one of the worst droughts in history struck the nation in . On a half million farms from Virginia to Oklahoma, crops vanished and livestock died of thirst. By late , more than 12 million U. Many others were reduced to part-time employment. Thousands lost their homes and farms. Cities and counties ran out of funds to feed the unemployed. In California, farm income in sank to less than half of its level. By , building permits had plummeted to one-ninth of their peak in . By , more than 1. Roosevelt, who promised a "New Deal for the American People," soundly defeated incumbent president Herbert Hoover in the election. Roosevelt instituted a number of economic measures. He pushed for a banking reform bill to restore confidence in financial institutions. He devalued currency so that borrowers could more easily repay debts. He pushed for stock market regulation. He "primed the pump," spending public money through newly created programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and Public Works Administration, which undertook projects that put people to work and money into circulation. In California, the Depression gave birth to bitter and sometimes violent struggles between labor and employers. Violence resulted when growers and the local police attempted to crush several Central Valley strikes. The San Francisco waterfront strike culminated in a day still known as "Bloody Thursday," when two strikers were killed and 64 people injured after strike breakers and police attempted to "open the port. By mid-decade, more than a hundred thousand Americans who had lost their farms and homes in the Dust Bowl were arriving in California each year, many of them joining the ranks of migrant farm labor. As the decade ended, a world war loomed on the horizon and the Golden Gate International Exposition, which celebrated the recent completion of both the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, was enjoyed by large crowds on Treasure Island.

6: Golden age, Great Depression, and Dust Bowl (edition) | Open Library

what did the great depression destroy of the people causes of the great depression weakened american economy, unbalanced economy (needed diversity), poor distraction of purchasing power, internal debt (farmers especially), international debt, self fulfilling prophecy, market collapse.

Copy Link Men stand in line outside a depression soup kitchen, NARA During the economic boom of the Roaring Twenties, the traditional values of rural America were challenged by the Jazz Age, symbolized by women smoking, drinking, and wearing short skirts. The average American was busy buying automobiles and household appliances, and speculating in the stock market, where big money could be made. Those appliances were bought on credit, however. The imbalance between the rich and the poor, with 0. On Black Tuesday, October 29, , the stock market crashed, triggering the Great Depression, the worst economic collapse in the history of the modern industrial world. It spread from the United States to the rest of the world, lasting from the end of until the early s. With banks failing and businesses closing, more than 15 million Americans one-quarter of the workforce became unemployed. A strong believer in rugged individualism, Hoover did not think the federal government should offer relief to the poverty-stricken population. Focusing on a trickle-down economic program to help finance businesses and banks, Hoover met with resistance from business executives who preferred to lay off workers. Blamed by many for the Great Depression, Hoover was widely ridiculed: He took quick action to attack the Depression, declaring a four-day bank holiday, during which Congress passed the Emergency Banking Relief Act to stabilize the banking system. During the first days of his administration, Roosevelt laid the groundwork for his New Deal remedies that would rescue the country from the depths of despair. The New Deal programs created a liberal political alliance of labor unions, blacks and other minorities, some farmers and others receiving government relief, and intellectuals. The hardship brought on by the Depression affected Americans deeply. Since the prevailing attitude of the s was that success was earned, it followed that failure was deserved. The unemployment brought on by the Depression caused self-blame and self-doubt. Men were harder hit psychologically than women were. Since men were expected to provide for their families, it was humiliating to have to ask for assistance. Although some argued that women should not be given jobs when many men were unemployed, the percentage of women working increased slightly during the Depression. Traditionally female fields of teaching and social services grew under New Deal programs. Children took on more responsibilities, sometimes finding work when their parents could not. As a result of living through the Depression, some people developed habits of careful saving and frugality, others determined to create a comfortable life for themselves. African Americans suffered more than whites, since their jobs were often taken away from them and given to whites. In , 50 percent of blacks were unemployed. Discrimination continued in the South, however, as a result a large number of black voters switched from the Republican to the Democrat party during the Depression. The Great Depression and the New Deal changed forever the relationship between Americans and their government. Government involvement and responsibility in caring for the needy and regulating the economy came to be expected. Learn More Related Features.

7: Dust Bowl - Wikipedia

In all, , people left the Great Plains, victims of the combined action of severe drought and poor soil conservation practices. To find additional documents from American Memory on this topic, use such key words as migrant workers, migrant camps, farm workers, dust bowl, and drought.

Geographic characteristics and early history A dust storm approaches Stratford, Texas , in The Dust Bowl area lies principally west of the th meridian on the High Plains , characterized by plains which vary from rolling in the north to flat in the Llano Estacado. The region is also prone to extended drought, alternating with unusual wetness of equivalent duration. The region is also subject to high winds. The lack of surface water and timber made the region less attractive than other areas for pioneer settlement and agriculture. With the end of the Civil War in and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in , waves of new migrants and immigrants reached the Great Plains, and they greatly increased the acreage under cultivation. Waves of European settlers arrived in the plains at the beginning of the 20th century. A return of unusually wet weather seemingly confirmed a previously held opinion that the "formerly" semiarid area could support large-scale agriculture. At the same time, technological improvements such as mechanized plowing and mechanized harvesting made it possible to operate larger properties without increasing labor costs. The combined effects of the disruption of the Russian Revolution , which decreased the supply of wheat and other commodity crops, and World War I increased agricultural prices; this demand encouraged farmers to dramatically increase cultivation. For example, in the Llano Estacado of eastern New Mexico and northwestern Texas , the area of farmland was doubled between and , then tripled again between and . Furthermore, cotton farmers left fields bare during winter months, when winds in the High Plains are highest, and burned the stubble as a means to control weeds prior to planting, thereby depriving the soil of organic nutrients and surface vegetation. After fairly favourable climatic conditions in the s with good rainfall and relatively moderate winters, [15] which permitted increased settlement and cultivation in the Great Plains, the region entered an unusually dry era in the summer of . The drought dried the topsoil and over time it became friable, reduced to a powdery consistency in some places. Without the indigenous grasses in place, the high winds that occur on the plains picked up the topsoil and created the massive dust storms that marked the Dust Bowl period. The fine soil of the Great Plains was easily eroded and carried east by strong continental winds. On November 11, , a very strong dust storm stripped topsoil from desiccated South Dakota farmlands in just one of a series of severe dust storms that year. Beginning on May 9, , a strong, two-day dust storm removed massive amounts of Great Plains topsoil in one of the worst such storms of the Dust Bowl. On April 14, , known as " Black Sunday ", 20 of the worst "black blizzards" occurred across the entire sweep of the Great Plains, from Canada south to Texas. The dust storms caused extensive damage and turned the day to night; witnesses reported that they could not see five feet in front of them at certain points. Denver-based Associated Press reporter Robert E. Geiger happened to be in Boise City, Oklahoma that day. On rare occasions when the wind did subside for a period of hours, the air has been so filled with dust that the town appeared to be overhung by a fog cloud. Because of this long seige of dust and every building being filled with it, the air has become stifling to breathe and many people have developed sore throats and dust colds as a result. In , a Kansas agricultural experiment station released a bulletin that suggested reestablishing native grasses by the "hay method". Developed in to speed up the process and increase returns from pasture, the "hay method" was originally supposed to occur in Kansas naturally over 25â€”40 years. Specifically, Atlantic Ocean sea surface temperatures appear to have had an indirect effect on the general atmospheric circulation, while Pacific sea surface temperatures seem to have had the most direct influence. United States Buried machinery in a barn lot; Dallas, South Dakota , May In , many families were forced to leave their farms and travel to other areas seeking work because of the drought which at that time had already lasted four years. More than , Americans were left homeless. Over houses had to be torn down after one storm alone. Parents packed up " jalopies " with their families and a few personal belongings, and headed west in search of work. Between and , approximately 3. This number is more than the number of migrants to that area during the Gold Rush. So many families left their farms and were on the move

that the proportion between migrants and residents was nearly equal in the Great Plains states. Gregory examined Census Bureau statistics and other records to learn more about the migrants. Based on a survey of occupation by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of about 10,000 families who arrived in California in the 1930s, he learned that only 43 percent of southwesterners were doing farm work immediately before they migrated. Nearly one-third of all migrants were professional or white-collar workers. After the Great Depression ended, some moved back to their original states. Many others remained where they had resettled. Different groups took many different approaches to responding to the disaster. To identify areas that needed attention, groups such as the Soil Conservation Service generated detailed soil maps and took photos of the land from the sky. Finally, groups like the Resettlement Administration, which later became the Farm Security Administration, encouraged small farm owners to resettle on other lands, if they lived in dryer parts of the Plains. Interior Secretary Harold I. Green in 1935, it was transferred and reorganized under the Department of Agriculture and renamed the Soil Conservation Service. Under the law, "benefit payments were continued as measures for production control and income support, but they were now financed by direct Congressional appropriations and justified as soil conservation measures. The Act shifted the parity goal from price equality of agricultural commodities and the articles that farmers buy to income equality of farm and non-farm population. To stabilize prices, the government paid farmers and ordered more than six million pigs to be slaughtered. It paid to have the meat packed and distributed to the poor and hungry. FDR in an address on the AAA commented, Let me make one other point clear for the benefit of the millions in cities who have to buy meats. Last year the Nation suffered a drought of unparalleled intensity. If there had been no Government program, if the old order had obtained in 1930, that drought on the cattle ranges of America and in the corn belt would have resulted in the marketing of thin cattle, immature hogs and the death of these animals on the range and on the farm, and if the old order had been in effect those years, we would have had a vastly greater shortage than we face today. Our program "we can prove it" saved the lives of millions of head of livestock. They are still on the range, and other millions of heads are today canned and ready for this country to eat. The FSRC diverted agricultural commodities to relief organizations. Apples, beans, canned beef, flour and pork products were distributed through local relief channels. Cotton goods were later included, to clothe the needy. Animals determined unfit for human consumption were killed; at the beginning of the program, more than 50 percent were so designated in emergency areas. Although it was difficult for farmers to give up their herds, the cattle slaughter program helped many of them avoid bankruptcy. The administration also began to educate farmers on soil conservation and anti-erosion techniques, including crop rotation, strip farming, contour plowing, terracing, and other improved farming practices. The government paid reluctant farmers a dollar an acre to practice the new methods. In the fall of 1935, after nearly a decade of dirt and dust, the drought ended when regular rainfall finally returned to the region. The government still encouraged continuing the use of conservation methods to protect the soil and ecology of the Plains. Land degradation varied widely. Aside from the short-term economic consequences caused by erosion, there were severe long-term economic consequences caused by the Dust Bowl. By 1940, counties that had experienced the most significant levels of erosion had a greater decline in agricultural land values. The economy adjusted predominantly through large relative population declines in more-eroded counties, both during the 1930s and through the 1940s. Because the amount of topsoil had been reduced, it would have been more productive to shift from crops and wheat to animals and hay. During the Depression and through at least the 1940s, there was limited relative adjustment of farmland away from activities that became less productive in more-eroded counties. Some of the failure to shift to more productive agricultural products may be related to ignorance about the benefits of changing land use. A second explanation is a lack of availability of credit, caused by the high rate of failure of banks in the Plains states. Because banks failed in the Dust Bowl region at a higher rate than elsewhere, farmers could not get the credit they needed to buy capital to shift crop production. Patrick Allitt recounts how fellow historian Donald Worster responded to his return visit to the Dust Bowl in the 1960s when he revisited some of the worst afflicted counties: Capital-intensive agribusiness had transformed the scene; deep wells into the aquifer, intensive irrigation, the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers, and giant harvesters were creating immense crops year after year whether it rained or not. According to the farmers he interviewed, technology had provided the perfect answer

to old troubles, such of the bad days would not return. They were continuing to work in an unsustainable way, devoting far cheaper subsidized energy to growing food than the energy could give back to its ultimate consumers. Mother of Seven Children. The crisis was documented by photographers, musicians, and authors, many hired during the Great Depression by the federal government. For instance, the Farm Security Administration hired numerous photographers to document the crisis. Artists such as Dorothea Lange were aided by having salaried work during the Depression. Among her most well-known photographs is Destitute Pea Pickers in California. Mother of Seven Children, [51] which depicted a gaunt-looking woman, Florence Owens Thompson, holding three of her children. This picture expressed the struggles of people caught by the Dust Bowl and raised awareness in other parts of the country of its reach and human cost. Decades later, Thompson disliked the boundless circulation of the photo and resented the fact she did not receive any money from its broadcast. Thompson felt it gave her the perception as a Dust Bowl "Okie. Author John Steinbeck, borrowing closely from field notes taken by Farm Security Administration worker and author Sanora Babb, [citation needed] wrote The Grapes of Wrath about migrant workers and farm families displaced by the Dust Bowl. Oklahoma migrants, in particular, were rural Southwesterners who carried their traditional country music to California. Today, the "Bakersfield Sound" describes this blend, which developed after the migrants brought country music to the city. Their new music inspired a proliferation of country dance halls as far south as Los Angeles. The science fiction film Interstellar features a ravaged 21st-century America which is again scoured by dust storms caused by a worldwide pathogen affecting all crops. Along with inspiration from the crisis, director Christopher Nolan features interviews from the documentary The Dust Bowl to draw further parallels. Agricultural land and revenue boomed during World War I, but fell during the Great Depression and the s. The land and revenue began increasing again in , and has been increasing since then. From to the s, total farmland increased and remained constant until when it slightly declined. During this time, total population increased steadily, but there was a slight dip in trend from to

8: Depression Era: s: Depression | Picture This

The Dust Bowl greatly worsened life for people who were already suffering from the Great Depression. Like so many others of the era, Guthrie was unable to make a living. Like so many others of the era, Guthrie was unable to make a living.

On the other hand musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Fletcher Henderson, also associated with the Harlem Renaissance, were still very influential during the Great Depression with their complex and exhilarated forms of jazz. For many people chasing the Depression blues away with music was far more beneficial than celebrating its woes. In he experienced Black Sunday, the worst dust storm of the decade resulting in a "Dust Bowl" that killed crops and devastated farms in Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Dust Bowl greatly worsened life for people who were already suffering from the Great Depression. He left his wife, three children and his first band to look for work in California. While hitchhiking he wrote folk songs about the Dust Bowl, migrant workers, corrupt politicians and union organizing. Dance Marathons, an American phenomenon of the s and s, were human endurance contests in which couples danced almost non-stop for hundreds of hours as long as a month or two, competing for prize money. They continued into the s. They were said to mirror the marathon of desperation Americans underwent during the Great Depression. They were also an escape of the harsh realities of daily life. It linked the country and ended the isolation of rural residents. Although radio programs were entertaining, they had to be paid for; and this brought about the commercial. Everything from aspirin, toothpaste, soft drinks, etc. The commercials were a huge success and businesses saw sales of their brand names boom. During the Great Depression, the significance of the radio for rural families grew despite the lean conditions. Families struck with poverty would rather choose to give up an icebox or a bed before they would part with their radios. The radios symbolized lifelines to the outside world. A child with a Depression-era radio. Nothing beats the blues like music. Special events like the horserace between Seabiscuit and War Admiral became a national event due to the radio. Nearly 40 million people listened to this race. Americans learned of news events within hours now instead of days. They heard the famous words of Herb Morrison, "Oh the humanity," as he described the Hindenburg catching on fire. Yankees baseball players Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth. Many businesses went bankrupt or suffered major losses during the Depression. The movies were an exception; in fact, they gained popularity and were so successful that many historians of the Depression consider this time period to be their golden age. Full-length motion pictures were most popular. They allowed a peek into the lives of high society. Not only were people fascinated by the movies themselves, they wanted to know all about the glamorous lives of the actors who starred in them. Musicals starring the elegant dance team of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were also favorites. Fields, Bob Hope and the Marx Brothers made comedic films which made people laugh and forget their difficulties. The Marx Brothers in During the Great Depression many immigrants that came to America worried that perhaps they had made a mistake. Providing more than a simple distraction from the horrors of life during the Depression era, these movies reflect the hopes, dreams, and fears of Americans during this most difficult time. The hopes and fears of society are displayed in full motion in the horror films of the day. Laughing was another way to escape the woes of the Great Depression. The clown like appearance of an underprivileged gentleman made Americans laugh as Charlie Chaplin, who was known as the "little tramp", ate his boot for Thanksgiving in the movie The Gold Rush. The audience could relate because of the desperate times experienced during the Great Depression. Movie poster for The Gold Diggers of It defined a generation of Americans in which every family felt its effects in one way or another, and all sought a way to deal with it and get some form of relief. Entertainment in some form was necessary to cope with the daily challenges, and with hard economic times people had to be creative in how they were entertained. In the end survival was the key and we still see the effects in much of daily life today. Students with recreational director during basketball game. Prairie Farms, Montgomery, Alabama.

9: Great Depression: Entertainment for Kids

The Dust Bowl was a period of severe dust storms that greatly damaged the ecology and agriculture of the American and Canadian prairies during the s; severe drought and a failure to apply dryland farming methods to prevent the aeolian processes (wind erosion) caused the phenomenon.

In Our Print Collection Do a subject search using the on-line catalog. Check our encyclopedias i. Checkout our books on the s. Listed by call number. Chelsea House, , c Features popular television shows, actors and actresses, music, and dances, and includes a chronology of events for each decade. A year-by-year guide to the twentieth century, providing photographs and brief information about significant events in the history of America. Lifestyles, fashion, and fads -- The arts and entertainment -- Sports -- Politics at home and abroad -- Science, technology, and medicine. Describes the major American events and people of the s. Lucent Books, [], c Discusses the political, economic, and cultural life of the United States in the troubled s, focusing on the Depression, the Dust Bowl phenomenon, formation of labor unions, the rise of organized crime, and the Golden Age of radio. A multicultural portrait of the Great Depression. Describes the history of the Great Depression from the vantage point of minorities and women. R DES Destiny. An illustrated, year-by-year guide to popular culture of the twentieth century, looking at trends, music, movies, celebrities, and other highlights of the s. Examines trends in clothing style, fabric, accessories, and footwear from ancient Egypt through the twentieth century, and includes over three hundred photographs and illustrations. Fashions of a decade. Facts on File, c Chronicles trends in s styles such as lower hemlines and broader shoulders; the introduction of synthetic fabrics; and new views of fitness, health, and personal beauty. A chronology of the decade including world headlines, news, sport and the arts, and science and technology. Includes a time chart and biographical notes on important people of the time. On the Internet Novelguide: To Kill a Mockingbird. We provide an educational supplement for better understanding of classic and contemporary literature through Chapter Summaries, Character Profiles, Metaphor Analysis, Theme Analyses, and Author Biographies. The Student Survival Guide. Developed by a high school teacher. To Kill a Mockingbird: Includes many links, s scrapbook, and more. Includes links to many useful sites, including biographical information on Harper Lee and racism in the s.

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