

Collection #  
P 0572

## MIGRANT MINISTRY, UNION CITY, INDIANA SLIDES, 1970

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 58 Color Slides stored in one folder with color photographs in cold storage

COLLECTION DATES: July and October 1970

PROVENANCE: Rachel Pannabecker, North Newton, Kansas

RESTRICTIONS: Slides must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment and with the assistance of library staff.  
Requests must be made in advance.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0244

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

As the agricultural sector and farming became a large scale industry - so did the demand for workers to keep up with the steadily growing supply and demand. Throughout the first half of the 20th century - various guest worker programs have been established by the United States Government to help supplement the demand for farm workers in the agricultural sector. Commonly, those farm workers were of foreign birth or Mexican descent.

In 1914 - 1918 during World War I - when migration from Europe to the United States drastically declined, the demand for agricultural farm workers increased. The first guest worker program allowed for legal recruitment of foreign temporary workers in the agricultural sector. This guest worker program ended in 1921.

In 1920 the Migrant Ministry (now the National Farm Worker Ministry) investigated the needs of these foreign farm workers and concluded that the workers were living in extreme poverty and poor living conditions. Additionally they identified the specific needs of the migrant farm worker and in some cases, their families as well. The Migrant Ministry then provided; food, clothing, childcare, health literacy education, school liaison services, water access and advocating for improved living conditions. By 1939 the Migrant Ministry had programs in 15 states.

The Dust Bowl of the 1930s and the Great Depression severely affected agricultural crops and employment options in the American West and Southwest. This forced farm owners to sell their farm land or it was lost due to the economic upheaval of the Great Depression. During this time Mexican migrant farm workers were pressured or forced to leave the United States through the Mexican Repatriation movement (1929-1939).

In 1942 The Bracero Program was established as a guest worker program that was due to the labor shortage of World War II. This program allowed the legal recruitment of a temporary foreign workforce to work in the agricultural fields and railroads. This program ended in 1964.

In 1952 a temporary guest worker visa program was signed into law, as a part of Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

In 1962 Mexican-Americans; Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (now called United Farm Workers Union) during the Civil Rights era. This organization served as an advocate for migrant workers rights and the right for migrant farm workers to unionize for fair pay and treatment. Chavez and Huerta

organized various strikes throughout the American West and Southwest to highlight migrant farm worker exploitation, which gained national attention.

In 1971 Migrant Ministry became the National Farm Worker Ministry. Their mission changed from a focus on works of charity to advocacy. Many other faith communities throughout the United States soon began to form rural and migrant ministry outreach programs to work with local migrant farm workers and their families.

Sources:

U.S. Department of State;

Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, United Farm Workers of America, National Farm Worker Ministry

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of fifty-eight 35mm color slides from the summer/fall of 1970 in Union City, Indiana. The images were captured by a Bluffton College student, Rachel Pannabecker - who was a participant in the summer migrant ministry program through the United Church of Christ. The images include children in educational and recreational activities, field workers in the tomato fields and daily life in migrant camps. Union City is located in Randolph County in eastern central Indiana along the Indiana and Ohio border.

The slides were originally numbered by the developer in October of 1970, with one slide from July 1970. The slides were developed from multiple rolls of film – resulting in duplicate number stamps. The duplicates have been given additional letters (a, b, c, d and e) to differentiate them within the sequence. For preservation and storage purposes the slides are mounted in three slide sheets and are stored with color photographs in cold storage.

## **CONTENTS**

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58 color slides numbered 1A–20C

### CONTAINER

Color Photographs:  
Folder 1