

Collection #
P 0589

**GRANT COUNTY MIGRANT CAMP
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM, 1966**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	4
Contents	5

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1966

PROVENANCE: Ed Breen, Marion, Indiana. Donated December 2016.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

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HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2016.0373

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Ed Breen was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa in 1943. He attended Saint Edmond High School where he worked as a drugstore soda jerk and worked part-time and as a summer employee at his hometown newspaper. After leaving Loras College of Dubuque, Iowa, in 1964, Breen worked as a photographer at the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*. Breen married Ruth Joanne Schiltz on 27 February 1965, later moving to Wisconsin to edit the *Plymouth Review*. Breen was eventually offered a position of photographer and report for the Marion, Indiana's *Leader-Tribune*, where he worked until 1995. He subsequently worked as the assisting editor of Fort Wayne's *Journal Gazette* until retiring in 2009. He has a longstanding interest in Indiana history and has served as trustee and currently serves on the Publications Committee at the Indiana Historical Society.

Breen photographed and reported the activities and lives of the Uzaguirre family, farmers working on a tomato farm in Grant County, Indiana, in 1966. Throughout the 1960s, Hoosier famers relied on seasonal workers to help plant and harvest pick crops throughout the state. The Uzaguirre family depicted in this photo collection worked on a tomato farm during the summer months in Grant County, Indiana. The Uzaguirre family lived a relatively nomadic lifestyle, dependent on where the farm labor was needed throughout the country.

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.

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 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 provided food, clothing, childcare, health literacy education, school liaison services, water access and advocacy 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 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:

Breen, Ed. "Migrant Family: a photo story," *Marion Leader-Tribune*. 20 October 1966.

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. "Ed Breen, 2016"

<<http://mediaschool.indiana.edu/ijhf/breen-ed>>. accessed 8 August 2017.

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 newspaper clippings and original black and white photographs pertaining to a three-part photo series covering the life of a migrant family in Grant County, Indiana, in 1966. Photocopies of the newspaper story, “The Migrant Family: A Picture Story” have been stored in folder of photographs.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Grant County Migrant Camp Photographs and
Clippings, 1966

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1