

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

October 21, 1939

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5 8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

Russell Lee, well-known American photographer, is represented in the Museum of Modern Art's current exhibition, "Our Litter Years: 1929 - 1939" on view through November 27. Lee came to New York last week for the opening of the exhibition which consists of over 200 photographs of rural America selected from thousands taken for the Farm Security Administration during the Depression. On October 27 he will participate in a symposium on F.S.A. photography to be held at the Museum.

The F.S.A. photographic project was one of the most important and successful visual representations ever undertaken by any government. Over 270,000 photographs were made, under the direction of Roy E. Stryker, to record the problems of America's farm population during the depression. This historic survey of rural areas and small towns revealed not only the trials of the period but also the people's basic faith and affirmation. Not a photographer or himself, Mr. Stryker assembled a team of young men and women, many of whom became leading figures in the field of photography. They include, in addition to Mr. Lee, Paul Carter, John Collier, Jr., Jack Delano, Walker Evans, Chesebrough, Florence Lange, Carl Mydans, Arthur Rothstein, Ben Shahn, G. L. V. and Marion Post Wolcott.

According to Edwin Ouchter, director of the exhibition, "The image recorded by the photographers of the F.S.A. stands as one of the grandest collective contributions made in the realm of photography. This exhibition represents a very real and incisive part of the people's story. It is the record of families - sharecroppers and tenant farmers - literally driven out of their simple, meager homes, uprooted from the soil they had cultivated for generations; to wander willy nilly east and west and north and south in search of a livelihood; men, women and children of the land, cold, wet, starving, in makeshift surroundings, fighting to keep alive, to keep from cracking up. There is evidence in the richness and the starkness of the fierce pride and courage which turned the struggle through those 'litter years' into an American epic."

Information regarding the photographs is available from Nancy Lee, Assistant Publicity Director of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York 19, N.Y. Circle 5 8900.