

## **The UCSD Mandeville Gallery will open its 1993-94 season with a Library of Congress photo exhibition, "Documenting America"**

**September 2, 1993**

Contact: Gerry McAllister, Mandeville Gallery, (619) 534-2864 or Alixandra Williams, 534-3120

THE UCSD MANDEVILLE GALLERY WILL OPEN ITS 1993-94 SEASON WITH A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PHOTO EXHIBITION, "DOCUMENTING AMERICA"

Series of black and white photographs taken during the New Deal Era and World War II by well-known photographers of the time will open the Mandeville Gallery's 1993-94 season, at the University of California, San Diego, from Sept. 24-Oct. 31.

A public reception will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, at the gallery. The reception is free and open to the public.

The photographers represented in the Library of Congress exhibition are Esther Bublely, John Collier Jr., Marjory Collins, Jack Delano, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, Gordon Parks, Arthur Rothstein, Ben Shahn, John Vachon and Marion Post Wolcott, all of whom worked in a special photographers' section under various agencies of the U.S. Government.

The photographs were taken during the years 1935-1943. The photographic unit, under Roy Emerson Stryker, was first with the Resettlement Administration, then the Farm Security Administration and, lastly, with the domestic operations branch of the Office of War Information (OWI), in 1942. In 1943, the domestic branch of the OWI was dissolved and Stryker and several of the section's photographers left government work.

The photographic series presented in the exhibit and the accompanying book depict the nation as it recovered from the Great Depression and entered the Second World War. Selected from the approximately 77,000 images produced by Stryker's section, the series may be seen as vignettes documenting life in the United States between 1935 and 1943.

Although not every photographer of the unit is included in the exhibition, the series represent the section's changing roster. Twenty or more photographers worked with Stryker for varying lengths of time, and 12 of them are represented in the show.

At first, the photographers focused on rural and small-town America, but as the Second World War neared--and after the attack on Pearl Harbor--they began to cover urban and industrial subjects. The Resettlement Administration, Farm Security Administration and Office of War Information used the section's photographs in their day-to-day communications, but the project did not end there. Stryker foresaw the long-term value of the photographs and assembled an encyclopedic pictorial file as a historical record of the era.

The images created by the FSA-OWI photographers have had a major impact on the history of photography, helping to define the term documentary. The photographs are from the core of the FSAOWI Collection in the Library of Congress where they are available for study. This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the

FSA-OWI photographic section and is the Library of Congress' commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography.

The book "Documenting America, 1935-1943," contains the fifteen photographic series presented in the exhibition, together with interpretive essays by Lawrence W. Levine and Alan Trachtenberg.

The Mandeville Gallery is located in Room 101, Mandeville Center. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. There is no admission charge. A parking fee is required on the UCSD campus. Please call Gerry McAllister at (619) 5342864 for additional information.

(September 2, 1993)