

I'm Fred Olds,  
founder of this museum.  
Find a few of my  
favorite things—and see  
if you can answer  
my questions!

# Fred's Finds

## A Warming Tobacco

Dorothea Lange took photos that have become symbols of the Great Depression. Among many other photographers, she was hired by the Farm Security Administration (FSA) to help explain the problems the FSA was trying to solve and “show the city people what it’s like to live on the farm.”

## B Rendering Lard

Melted and strained pig fat is called lard. It can be used to fry foods and as shortening in cakes, cookies, corn bread, and biscuits. Lard can be used to make soap and candles, too, which was handy in the 1930s because many rural farms had no electricity.

## C Canning Jars

Little money could mean little food. North Carolinians young and old were taught to grow their own. Women learned to can fruits, vegetables, and even meat at home using glass jars like these.

## D Drinking Fountain on County Courthouse Lawn

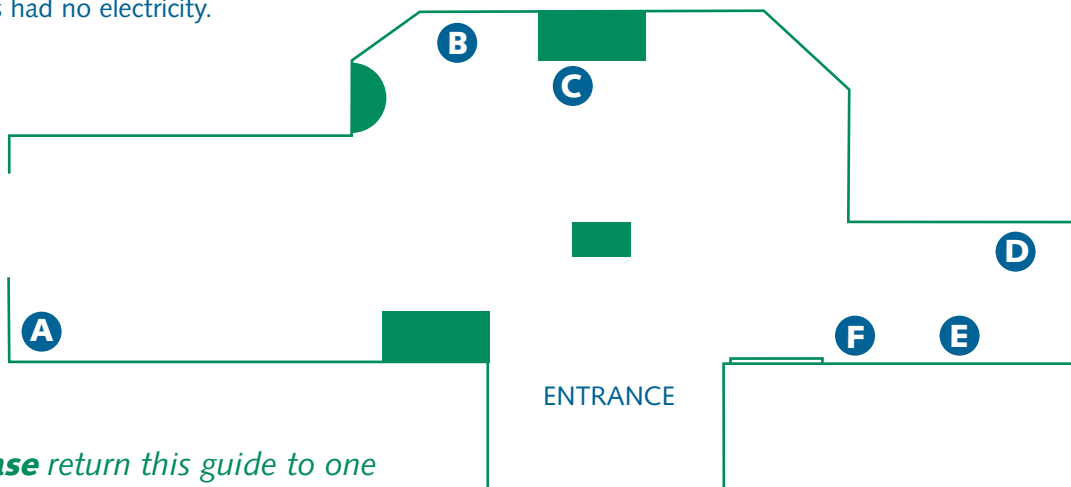
In addition to suffering economic hardships caused by the Depression, African Americans and American Indians had to deal with the strict constraints of segregation.

## E Home of Indians

Like Dorothea Lange, Marion Post Wolcott was hired by the Farm Security Administration (FSA) to document the hardships of people during the Depression. Her photos often touched on the political aspects of poverty and the effects of segregation in the South.

## F Living Quarters in a Tobacco Barn and a Streetcar (two photos)

When families moved in search of work during the Depression, it was often difficult to find homes. People lived in what they could find.



**Please** return this guide to one of the gallery racks when you are finished with it!

**Information & Questions** →

## In Search of a New Deal: Images of North Carolina, 1935-1941

### **A** Worming Tobacco

#### *Squish!*

Most farmers in the 1930s used people, not chemicals, to control insects. Worms could destroy a tobacco plant by eating holes through the leaves and stalk. Worming tobacco was a chore most farm children, boys and girls, were expected to help with. This meant looking at each leaf of each plant, row after row, picking worms off and crushing them with a hand or a foot. Worms grew as small as a sliver or as big as a thumb, and it was important to find them all. One worker might find and kill hundreds of worms in a day.

? *Are you expected to help with chores in your family? If yes, name some.*

### **B** Rendering Lard

#### *The only thing not used is the squeal*

Pigs had long been an important food in North Carolina, and most small farms kept one or two of them. People in the 1930s usually butchered their hogs at home and prepared the meat themselves. To make lard they carefully trimmed the fat from the meat and melted chunks of it in large kettles over a very slow fire. It could take hours to do this, and the fat needed to be stirred often to keep it from burning. Bits of meat called cracklings were strained out of the melted fat, which was then dipped or poured into storage containers, where it cooled, turning solid and white.

? *Look to the next wall on your right and find the photograph of Lincoln Market. How much did four pounds of lard cost in the store?*

### **C** Canning Jars

#### *Grow your own*

North Carolina had many small farms as the Depression began. Most farmers grew cotton or tobacco to sell instead of food for their families to eat. When the price of cotton and tobacco fell, farmers couldn't make enough money to buy food. So the state began the "Live-at-Home" program calling on farmers to grow fewer cash crops and more fruits and vegetables. By 1933 North Carolina boasted 140,000 relief gardens, 11,500,000 jars of canned food, and thirty curb markets that brought in \$300,000 annually. At school, kids were encouraged to help their parents garden and to raise their own chickens, pigs, and cows.

? *How would you get by today if you had no money to buy food?*

### **D** Drinking Fountain on County Courthouse Lawn

#### *Keep Out*

"Jim Crow" segregation laws were designed to keep whites, blacks, and sometimes American Indians separate. Blacks could not use the same schools, bathrooms, restaurants, water fountains, stores, or hospitals as whites. Some North Carolina counties had triple segregation, separating whites, blacks, and Indians. Signs stating "Colored" and "White" were an everyday fact of life for North Carolinians.

? *How would you feel if someone didn't give you food or water because of how you looked? What would you do?*

### **E** Home of Indians

#### *With a little help...*

In an effort to prop up tobacco and cotton prices, the government paid many landowners NOT to farm. As a result, sharecroppers—people who worked land they didn't own in return for a share of any profit—often lost their homes and jobs. Lumbee sharecroppers applied for local relief funds, only to find that help went first to whites. In 1935 the state FSA office began to give loans to Indian families and relocate them to an area called Pembroke Farms. Three years later a group of Lumbee started Red Banks Mutual Association, a cooperative farming effort, with the help of government loans. Up to fifteen families farmed over 1,700 acres of land, sharing the food they raised and proceeds from the sale of crops.

? *Why do you suppose this house has so many paper posters tacked up on the walls?*

### **F** Living Quarters in a Tobacco Barn and a Streetcar

#### *Any port in a storm*

Finding a place to live was sometimes harder than finding work. The working family in the tobacco barn seems to have a fair amount of food and supplies while managing to live in a very small, cramped space. Another family moved into an abandoned streetcar that offered shelter from the weather but little else. Both families probably had to haul water from a well for cooking or bathing. The woman with two small children most likely spent a great deal of time hauling water to wash diapers!

? *If you had to choose, what could you do without: electricity, running water, or heating?*

NORTH CAROLINA  
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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