Timeline

1929
Herbert Hoover, a Republican, is inaugurated President
Harry G. Leslie, a Republican, is inaugurated Governor of Indiana
Stock Market crashes
Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture, a socioeconomic study of Muncie, Indiana, by Robert and Helen Lynd, is published

1930
Green County, Indiana is the mean center of the U. S. population
Population of Indiana is 3,238,503, ranking 11th in the nation

1932
One-fourth of Indiana’s workforce is unemployed
Unemployment approaches 50% in the Chicago and Detroit steelmaking and automotive industries
The federal budget ends up $2.7 billion in the red, the largest peacetime deficit in American history up until that time
New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic presidential candidate, greets a waiting crowd on the arrival of a special train on Sept. 13 in Indianapolis. The first day of Governor Roosevelt’s western tour covered Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri

1933
Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes President
Paul V. McNutt, a Democrat, becomes Governor of Indiana
U. S. Steel Corporation employs 225,000 fulltime workers in 1929, but only 19,000 in 1932 and none in early 1933
Unemployment in the U. S. hits nadir with 15 million unemployed, nearly 30% out of work
Civilian Conservation Corps created; there are eventually 80 CCC camps in Indiana
Division of Subsistence Homesteads in the Department of Interior created

Federal Emergency Relief Administration created

Agricultural Adjustment Administration created

1934

Roy Stryker works with Rexford Tugwell at the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for the summer

Decatur Homesteads in Indiana is started by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads

1935

Resettlement Administration created

Rexford Tugwell named as Head of Resettlement Administration

The Information Division as a department within the Resettlement Administration is created

The Historical Section as a unit of the Information Division created

Roy Stryker appointed as Head of the Historical Section

Arthur Rothstein sets up the darkroom and drafts technical guidelines for the Historical Section and becomes a field photographer

Dorothea Lange, Theodor Jung and Paul Carter are hired as field photographers

Theodore Jung is hired as a photographer and graphic designer for books and exhibitions

Works Progress Administration is created but is later renamed the Works Project Administration in 1939

Dr. Frances Everett Townsend speaks at the State Fairgrounds in September about his idea for an Old Age Revolving Pension Plan known as the Townsend Plan

Carl Mydans works as a photographer in the Housing Authority of the Resettlement Administration, but transfers to the Historical Section

First photographs taken in Indiana by Farm Security Administration photographers
1936

President Roosevelt is reelected

M. Clifford Townsend, a Democrat, is elected Governor of Indiana

Russell Lee is hired as Resettlement Administration photographer and replaces Carl Mydans who left for Life magazine

President Franklin Roosevelt’s train arrives in Gary, Indiana on August 26 en route to Bismarck, N.D., where the president is to start his tour of the drought area

Paul Carter leaves the Resettlement Administration to open a camera store near Dartmouth College in New Hampshire

John Vachon is hired as a trainee and clerk in the Historical Section

1937

Passage of the Farm Security Act

Incorporation of the autonomous Resettlement Administration into the United States Department of Agriculture and renamed the Farm Security Administration

The Report of the President’s Committee on Farm Tenancy is issued

Passage of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act

Indiana is inundated with flood of Ohio River

Pare Lorentz makes the documentary The River for the Farm Security Administration

Rexford Tugwell leaves Resettlement Administration

1938

John Vachon is given first photographic assignment by Stryker and travels to Nebraska

Deshee Farms in Indiana is started

1939

Jack Delano applies for job with FSA, but none are available

No Farm Security Administration photos are taken in Indiana this year
1940  President Roosevelt reelected

Henry F. Schricker, a Democrat, elected Governor of Indiana

Jack Delano is hired to replace Arthur Rothstein who left for Look magazine

Sullivan County, Indiana is the mean center of the U. S. population

Population of Indiana is 3,427,796, ranking 12th in the nation

1941  Criticism of the work of the Farm Security Administration increases

The Works Project Administration book Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State is published, using some FSA photos

U. S. enters World War II

The war becomes a major focus for the Historical Section

1942  There are drastic budget reductions in the Farm Security Administration

Russell Lee resigns and serves in the Air Transport Command

Esther Bubley is hired as a lab technician in the Farm Security Administration darkroom

Frank Delano takes photographs at the U. S. Army Chaplain School at Fort Benjamin Harrison

Historical Section loses its independence and becomes a photographic division of the Office of War Information

1943  Stryker resigns after having securing the preservation of the Historical Section's photographic file

Esther Bubley becomes a photographer in the Office of War Information

Springtime flooding of rivers in Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Mississippi

President Franklin D. Roosevelt tours the Republic Aviation Corporation Plant at Evansville, Indiana on April 27
1944  President Roosevelt reelected

Transfer of approximately 77,000 photographic prints by the Farm Security Administration to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The Library of Congress takes responsibility for the photographic collection in 1944, but loans it back to the Office of War Information for the duration of the World War II

1945  President Roosevelt dies on April 12

Office of War Information operates till September

Deshee Farms members vote to dissolve the corporation

World War II ends

1946  The photographic collection is physically moved to the Library of Congress

1947  Decatur Homesteads Corporation dissolves

1948  Indiana Senator Capehart in an article in *Life* said that the Farm Security Administration wasted $750,000 on silly and ridiculous pictures