Selected Shooting Scripts

From R. E. Stryker
To all photographers

Suggestions recently made by Robert Lynd
(co-author of Middletown)
for things which should be photographed as American Background.

Home in the evening
- Photographs showing the various ways that different income groups spend their evenings, for example:
  - Informal clothes
  - Listening to the radio
  - Bridge
  - More precise dress
  - Guests

Attending church
- Follow through a set of pictures showing people on their way from their home to church
- Getting out of church
- Visiting and talking
- Returning from church to home
- Visiting and talking in the vestibule

Here again, note the difference in the habits of the various income groups.

The group activities of various income levels
- The organized and unorganized activities of the various income groups

"Where can people meet?"
- Well-to-do
  - Country clubs
  - Homes
  - Lodges
- Poor
  - Beer halls
  - Pool halls
  - Saloons
  - Street corners
  - Garages
  - Cigar stores

Consider the same problem as applied to women.
- Do women have as many meeting places as men?
  - It is probable that the women in the lower-income levels have far less opportunity of mingling with other women than do the women of the higher-income groups.

"How many people do you know?"
- There is a marked difference here between the circle of acquaintanceship between the income groups and also on the basis of urban versus rural.

Backyards
- "What do you see out of the kitchen window?"
  - Various exhibit pictures could be taken in different towns and on the basis of different income groups.
- "Looking down my street"

People on and off the job.
- How much different do people look and act when they are on the job than when they are off?
  - This would necessitate some very careful camera studies.

Pictures showing relationship between time and the job.
- This would include such things as pictures taken of the same people every ten years, showing how people age in their work, and pictures emphasizing the aged man and woman and the job.

The effect of the depression in the smaller towns of the United States.
- To include such things as the growth of small independent shops, stores, and businesses in the small towns; for example, the store opened up on the sun porch, the beauty shop in the living room.

The baseball diamond as an important part of our general landscape.
- This is particularly noticeable when one views small towns from the air.

"Fit for the likes of us"
- What are the things which we feel comfortable doing with some and not with others?

Relationship between density of population and income of such things as
- Pressed clothes
- Polished shoes and so on
  - Is it likely in large industrial areas that even the poor groups will make a greater effort to have polished shoes, pressed clothes, than the same or even a higher-income group might in the smaller populated areas. What effect does wealth have on this?

"How do people look?"
- In towns of various sizes—1500, 25,000 to 30,000, 100,000. Consider the same thing from a geographical standpoint.

The wall decorations in homes as an index to the different income groups and their reactions.

The photographic study of the difference in the men's world and the women's world.

A photographic study of use of leisure time in various income groups.

Compare headlines regionally.
- Take the same topics such as a kidnapping or other news item with national interest and note the manner in which it is treated in the different parts of the country.
From R. E. Stryker  
To Russell Lee,  
Arthur Rothstein,  
in particular

I. Production of foods—fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, eggs, milk and milk products, miscellaneous products.  
   a. Packaging and processing of above  
   b. Picking, hauling, sorting, preparing, drying, canning, packaging, loading for shipping  
   c. Field operations—planting; cultivation; spraying  
   d. Dramatic pictures of fields, show “pattern” of the country; get feeling of the productive earth, boundless acres.  
   e. Warehouses filled with food, raw and processed, cans, boxes, bags, etc.

II. Poultry—large-scale operations  
   Hatching, shipping chicks  
   Get a few pictures “cute” of little chicks  
   Real close-ups  
   Eggs—get “pictorial” shots of eggs in baskets, in piles, in crates (get pattern pictures for posters)  
   Dressed poultry  
   Chickens in pens and yards  
   Feeding operations

III. General farming—get pictures of representative small farms (California—Texas) General farming, buildings, farmer & family, farmer at work.

IV. Small town under war conditions  
   Select a small town some distance from large cities and make a camera study of how this town looks under war conditions.
   Civilian Defense Activities  
   Meetings of all kinds—Red Cross  
   Farm groups, etc.  
   Look for a town near an Army Camp  
   Signs—stores, filling stations, etc.  
   Selective Service  
   Registration of new age groups  
   Home gardens, Civilian Defense Activities  
   Schools. More neighborliness (Any evidence of this?)

V. Auto and auto tire rationing. A civilian population gets off rubber tires. (Many things should be photographed now before disappearance or marked decline.)  
   Old tires piles.  
   Used car lots. Especially when enormous numbers of cars are stored.

Signs—any sign which suggests rubber (or other commodity) shortage, rationing, etc. Horse-drawn vehicles. Blacksmith shops, harness shops, buggies, delivery wagons, horse drays (for trucks), bicycles.  
(What will happen to roadside hamburger stand?)  
Watch for closed filling stations or eat joints.

VI. The highway  
Watch for any signs which indicate a country at war. “Man at Work” pictures. We are still short of these pictures. These should include:  
   (1) highway building—big stuff, e.g., in the Rocky Mts. or major highways.  
   (2) Repair and maintenance.  
   (3) Emphasize the men.

VII. (for R. Lee) Mining, California, Arizona, New Mexico  
Get pictures showing increased activities among prospective and small operating outfits.  
   Mercury—near San Jose, California. Cement, Kaiser’s cement plant near San Jose, California.  
   (See Jack Tolan. Also Sat. Eve. Post article on Kaiser.)  
   Miners—faces & miners at work

VIII. The land  
   The long shots for a “feel” of the country  
   Details

IX. People—we must have at once:  
   Pictures of men, women and children who appear as if they really believed in the U.S. Get people with a little spirit. Too many in our file now paint the U.S. as an old person’s home and that just about everyone is too old to work and too malnourished to care much what happens. (Don’t misunderstand the above. FSA is still interested in the lower-income groups and we want to continue to photograph this group.) We particularly need young men and women who work in our factories, the young men who build our bridges, roads, dams and large factories.  
   Housewives in their kitchen or in the yard picking flowers.  
   More contented-looking old couples—woman sewing, man reading; sitting on porch; working in garden; sitting in park; coming from church; at picnics, at meetings.