

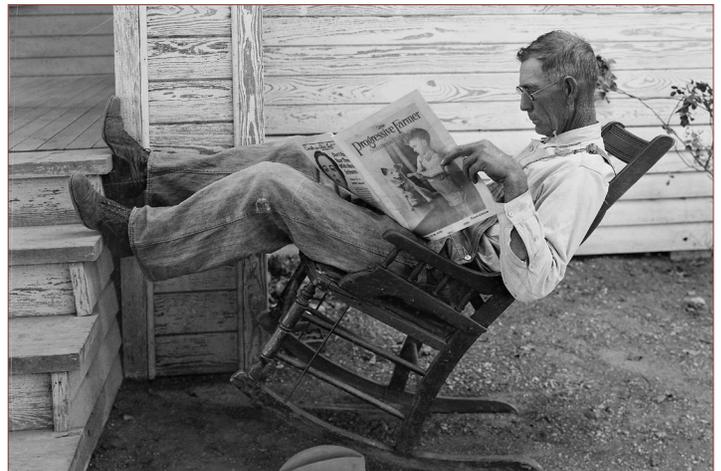
National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service



American Idyll:

Photographs of Rural Life by George W. Ackerman

Exhibition Overview: “American Idyll: Photographs of Rural Life by George W. Ackerman” rediscovers the work of a prolific and talented, but largely unknown, photographer. During a 40-year career with the Department of Agriculture, Ackerman (1884–1962) estimated that he took over 50,000 photographs. Today, his images make us nostalgic, but this was not the photographer’s intention. Instead, Ackerman was striving to show the progress that had come to the American farm in the 20th century. The rural America seen in his photographs is comfortable. Farmers use the latest laborsaving machinery. They and their neatly dressed wives and children enjoy modern conveniences and amenities.



Exhibition Details

Content:

30 framed and matted black & white digital prints, text, graphic panels, and labels

Curator:

Bruce Bustard, PhD, Senior Curator, National Archives, Washington, DC

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources

Rental Fee:

\$2,500 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:

Limited security & environmental controls

Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for outgoing shipping costs

Size:

100 linear feet

Number of Crates:

2

Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:

"American Idyll" will be available for tour 2017 through 2021. Dates are subject to change

Project Status:

In development

Contact:

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More About this Exhibition

The photographer: George Ackerman began working as a photographer for the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1910. In 1917 he moved to the Federal Extension Service, working there until his retirement in 1949. His photographs appeared in many private and government agricultural publications, although they were not usually credited to him. He died in 1962.

Ackerman's photographic prints and many of his original negatives can be found among the records of several Federal agricultural agencies held by the National Archives, most notably the records of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and of the Extension Service.

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Washington, DC 20408

