WHY WE COME TO CALIFORNY

Flora Robertson
Shafer, 1940

Here comes the dust-storm
Watch the sky turn blue,
You better git out quick
Or it will smother you.

Here comes the grasshopper,
He comes a-jumpin' high,
He jumps away across the state
An' never bats an eye.

Here comes the river
It sure knows its stuff,
It takes our home and cattle,
An' leaves us feelin' tough.

Californy, Californy,
Here I come too.
With a coffee pot and skillet,
I'm a-comin' to you!
California

A thousand miles of wonderful living~
SUNNY CAL 414' 608.1

Jack Bryant
Pisgah, 1940

You've all heard the story
Of old Sunny Cal
The place where it never rains
They say it don't know how.

They say, "Come on, you Okies,
Work is easy found
Bring along your cotton pack
You can pick the whole year round.

Get your money ever' night
Spread your blanket on the ground
It's always bright and warm
You can sleep right on the ground."

But listen to me Okies
I came out here one day
Spent all my money getting here
Now I can't get away.
INDIGENTS BARRED AT ARIZONA LINE

While a tumultuous row was raging in city council over Police Chief James E. Davis, "expeditionary force" of policemen to halt the indigents over California's far-flung borders, the lid was successfully clamped on the Arizona-California line today.

The spectacular row in the council broke out when Councilman P. P. Christensen, consistent critic of Davis, introduced a resolution demanding by whose authority the police chief was sending 136 of his "coppers" to the State line "trenches."

At the same time Deputy Chief Homer Cross said the entry ports on the Arizona boundary had been blocked against transients in an effort to halt the "flood of criminals" and divert the stream of penniless transients.

Within 3 more days, Cross estimated, the blockade would be similarly effective on the Oregon and Nevada lines, abutting California territory.

The skirmish began right after Councilman Evan Lewis took the floor to argue in favor of Christensen's resolution.

Meantime from Sacramento to Phoenix, Ariz., the reverberations resounded. At the California capital Deputy Attorney General Jess Hession declared he believed Davis' methods illegal. Governor Frank F. Merriam withheld comment but State Senator Thomas Scollan, who had brought about defeat of an indigent-barring law at the last session of the legislature, characterized the "expeditionary forces" as "damnable, absurd, and asinine."

At Phoenix, Attorney General John L. Sullivan caustically declared if California tried to "dump" indigents back on his State, he would take swift action in reprisal.

ORDERS OUTLINED

"Tactical orders" under which the city police were seeking to dam the tide of trouble at the border were outlined by S. L. Harman, assistant secretary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He said police and civic authorities were seeking to stop at the State line, persons riding trains without paying fares; give these persons the option of leaving the State or serving jail terms and finally, to discourage from entering California all auto parties without apparent sources of support.

In the sieve of the widespread border patrol, the officers by fingerprinting methods, expected to catch or at least keep out of California a considerable number of wanted criminals, Harman said.
Map of FSA Camp Locations, 1937-1942.

A map from a report on Farm Security Administration labor camps published between 1937-1942. This map showed the locations of Migratory Labor Camps, and Farm Labor Homes proposed, under construction or occupied, as well as other facilities in California. [http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/collect/history/fsamap4.htm](http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/collect/history/fsamap4.htm)