

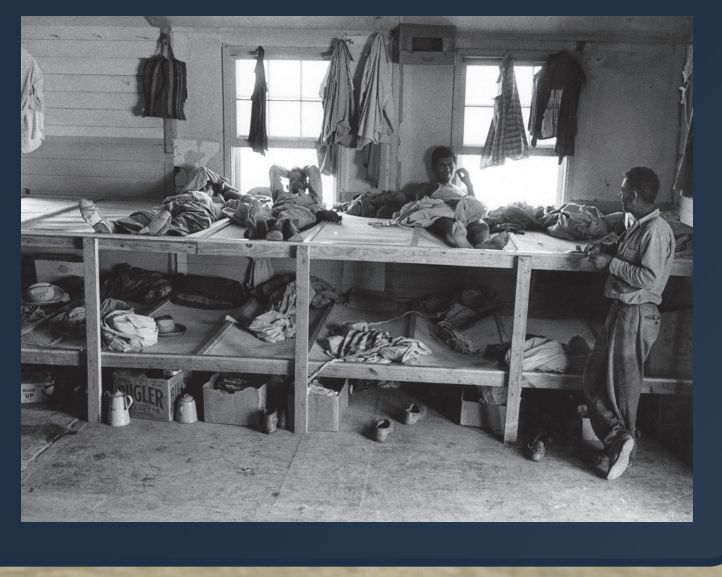
A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

1930s

The Great Depression produced high unemployment leading to agricultural labor strikes and over 1 million Dust Bowl migrants from the Midwest migrating to California.

1943

Simi Valley rancher Thomas Robertson appointed special recruiter for all states west of the Mississippi River and opens three offices to distribute 1,700 braceros throughout the county.

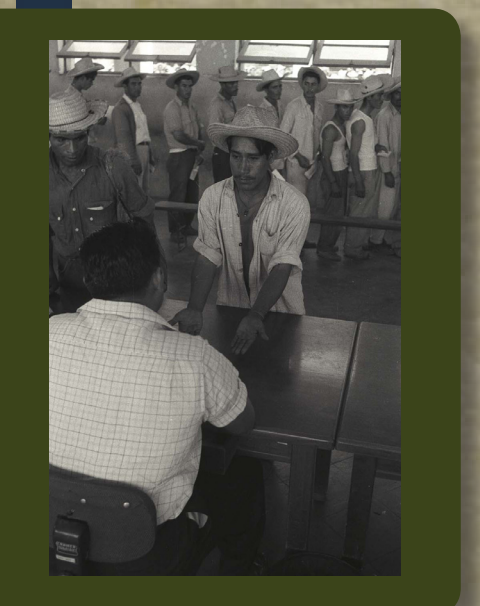


1947

15,000 braceros in Ventura County are repatriated to Mexico after the Bracero Program expired and renewed a year later.

1942

On Aug. 24th U.S. and Mexico sign an executive agreement to recruit Mexican braceros to the U.S.



1948

Limoneira Company builds more housing for braceros bringing the total housing units on the ranch to approximately five hundred.



1956

Ventura County Farm Labor Association signs agreement with Fidel Villaseñor to operate bracero camps in Oxnard, and later Piru, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Somis, Moorpark, and Simi Valley.

1962

Ventura County braceros made up 81.6% of the workforce in the lemons, 79.9% in tomatoes and 71.4% in lettuce.



1960

The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee entered Ventura County to begin organizing farm workers.

1958

Cesar Chavez arrives in Oxnard to open the Community Service Organizations to help domestic workers whose wages are being depressed and displaced by braceros.

1963

32 braceros lost their lives when the bus they were riding in was struck by a train in Chualar, CA. The Chualar accident galvanized opposition to end the Bracero Program.

BRACERO PROGRAM EVENTS

1940

1945

1950

1955

1960

1965

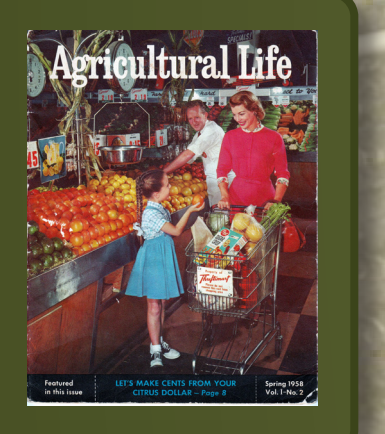
VENTURA COUNTY EVENTS

1943

The Bracero Program was sanctioned by the U.S. Congress through Public Law 45 and the Farm Security Administration was replaced by the War Manpower Administration to administer the Bracero Program.

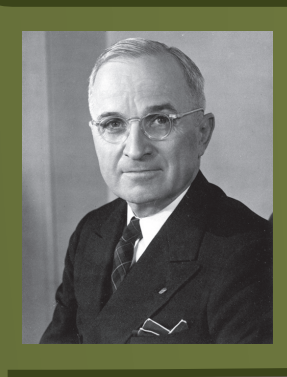
1946

U.S. farmers pressure the federal government to continue the agricultural portion of the bracero program citing postwar labor shortages.



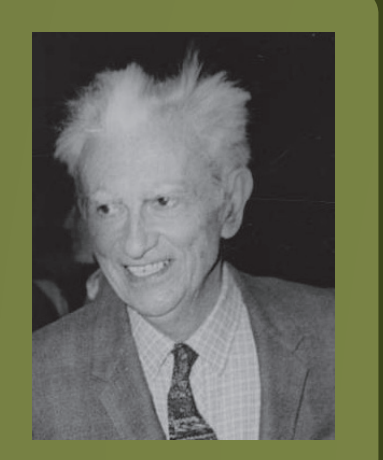
1951

President Harry S. Truman extended the life of the Bracero Program with Public Law 78.



1955

Ernesto Galarza publishes *Strangers in Our Fields*, a blistering account of how safeguards in bracero contracts were constantly violated.

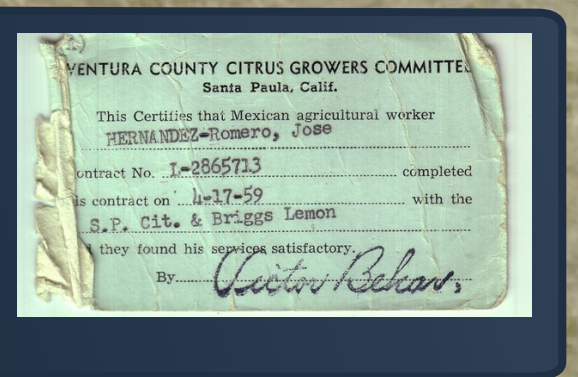


1959

The Buena Vista Labor Camp in Oxnard is declared the biggest bracero camp in the nation.

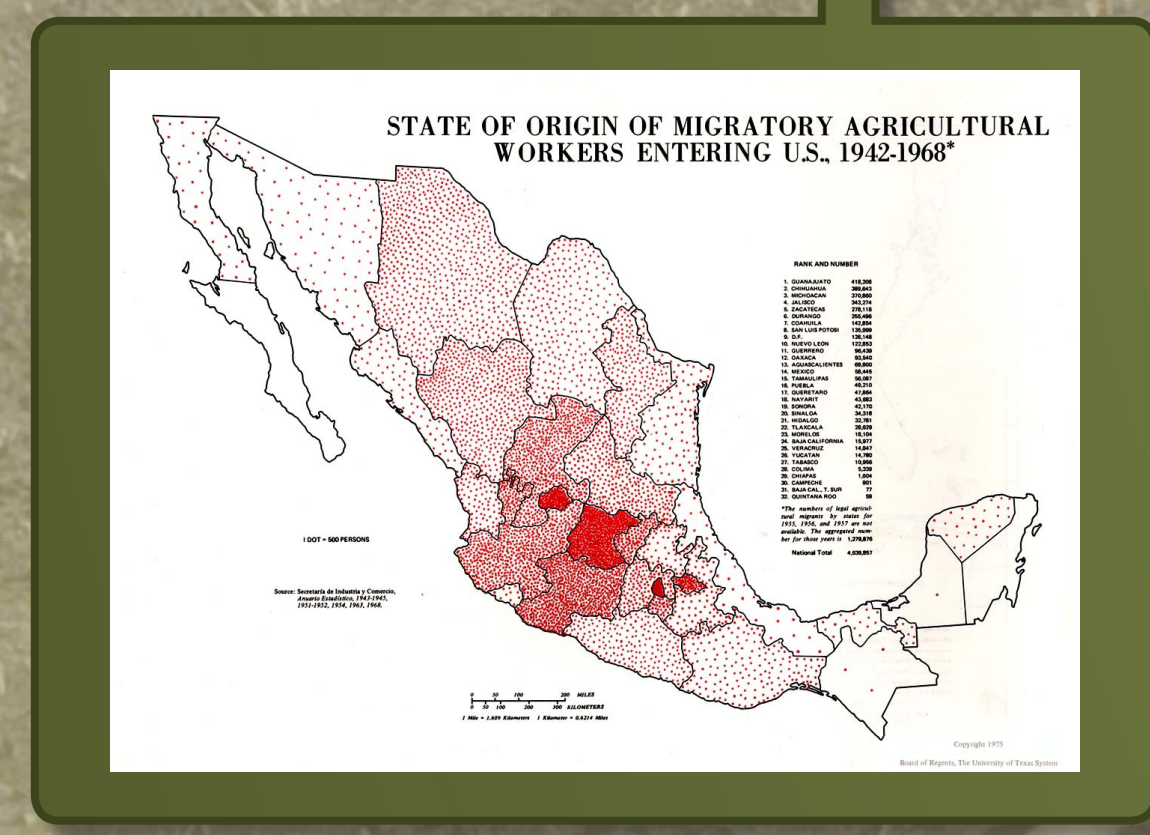
1942

Ventura County Citrus Growers Committee led by William Tolbert is formed and became the prime contractor of Mexican braceros in the county.



1941

Ventura County Citrus Strike begins in January and ends six months later when growers evicted striking families from company housing and imported Dust Bowl migrants as strikebreakers.



1957

Santa Paula city council tries to pass a tax against local business owners who provide recreational services to braceros.

1962

Cesar Chavez leaves Oxnard for Delano, California to help form the United Farm Workers.

1964

The Bracero Program officially ends.

1965

Facing a severe labor shortage citrus growers recruited domestic workers including high school and college students but lasted only two weeks.