

1993 REVISED CAPTIONS FOR THE MIGRATION SERIES

THE MIGRATION SERIES

PANEL NO. 1. During World War I there was a great migration north by southern African Americans.

PANEL NO. 2. The war had caused a labor shortage in northern industry. Citizens of foreign countries were returning to their native lands.

PANEL NO. 3. From every southern town migrants left by the hundreds to travel north.

PANEL NO. 4. All other sources of labor having been exhausted, the migrants were the last resource.

PANEL NO. 5. Migrants were advanced passage on the railroads, paid for by northern industry. Northern industry was to be repaid by the migrants out of their future wages.

PANEL NO. 6. The trains were crowded with migrants.

PANEL NO. 7. The migrant, whose life had been rural and nurtured by the earth, was now moving to urban life dependent on industrial machinery.

PANEL NO. 8. Some left because of promises of work in the North. Others left because their farms had been devastated by floods.

PANEL NO. 9. They left because the boll weevil had ravaged the cotton crop.

PANEL NO. 10. They were very poor.

PANEL NO. 11. Food had doubled in price because of the war.

PANEL NO. 12. The railroad stations were at times so crowded with people leaving that special guards had to be called to keep order.

PANEL NO. 13. The crops were left to dry and rot. There was no one to tend them.

PANEL NO. 14. For African Americans there was no justice in the southern courts.

PANEL NO. 15. There were lynchings.

PANEL NO. 16. After a lynching the migration quickened.

PANEL NO. 17. Tenant farmers received harsh treatment at the hands of planters.

PANEL NO. 18. The migration gained in momentum.

PANEL NO. 19. There had always been discrimination.

PANEL NO. 20. In many of the communities the Black press was read with great interest. It encouraged the movement.

PANEL NO. 21. Families arrived at the station very early. They did not wish to miss their trains north.

PANEL NO. 22. Migrants left. They did not feel safe. It was not wise to be found on the streets late at night. They were arrested on the slightest provocation.

PANEL NO. 23. The migration spread.

PANEL NO. 24. Their children were forced to work in the fields. They could not go to school.

PANEL NO. 25. They left their homes. Soon some communities were left almost empty.

PANEL NO. 26. And people all over the South continued to discuss this great movement.

PANEL NO. 27. Many men stayed behind until they could take their families north with them.

PANEL NO. 28. The labor agent sent south by northern industry was a familiar presence in the Black communities.

PANEL NO. 29. The labor agent recruited unsuspecting laborers as strike breakers for northern industries.

PANEL NO. 30. In every southern home people met to decide whether or not to go north.

PANEL NO. 31. The migrants found improved housing when they arrived north.

PANEL NO. 32. The railroad stations in the South were crowded with northbound travelers.

PANEL NO. 33. Letters from relatives in the North told of the better life there.

PANEL NO. 34. The Black press urged the people to leave the South.

PANEL NO. 35. They left the South in great numbers. They arrived in the North in great numbers.

PANEL NO. 36. Migrants arrived in Chicago, the gateway to the West.

PANEL NO. 37. Many migrants found work in the steel industry.

PANEL NO. 38. They also worked on the railroads.

PANEL NO. 39. Railroad platforms were piled high with luggage.

PANEL NO. 40. The migrants arrived in great numbers.

PANEL NO. 41. The South was desperate to keep its cheap labor. Northern labor agents were jailed or forced to operate in secrecy.

PANEL NO. 42. To make it difficult for the migrants to leave, they were arrested en masse. They often missed their trains.

PANEL NO. 43. In a few sections of the South leaders of both Black and White communities met to discuss ways of making the South a good place to live.

PANEL NO. 44. But living conditions were better in the North.

PANEL NO. 45. The migrants arrived in Pittsburgh, one of the great industrial centers of the North.

PANEL NO. 46. Industries boarded their workers in unhealthy quarters. Labor camps were numerous.

PANEL NO. 47. As the migrant population grew, good housing became scarce. Workers were forced to live in overcrowded and dilapidated tenement houses.

PANEL NO. 48. Housing was a serious problem.

PANEL NO. 49. They found discrimination in the North. It was a different kind.

PANEL NO. 50. Race riots were numerous. White workers were hostile toward the migrant who had been hired to break strikes.

PANEL NO. 51. African Americans seeking to find better housing attempted to move into new areas. This resulted in the bombing of their new homes.

PANEL NO. 52. One of the most violent race riots occurred in East St. Louis.

PANEL NO. 53. African Americans, longtime residents of northern cities, met the migrants with aloofness and disdain.

PANEL NO. 54. For the migrants, the church was the center of life.

PANEL NO. 55. The Migrants, having moved suddenly into a crowded and unhealthy environment, soon contracted tuberculosis. The death rate rose.

PANEL NO. 56. The African American professionals were forced to follow their clients in order to make a living.

PANEL NO. 57. The female workers were the last to arrive north.

PANEL NO. 58. In the North the African American had more educational opportunities.

PANEL NO. 59. In the North they had the freedom to vote.

PANEL NO. 60. And the migrants kept coming.