HANDOUT

Title: Sugar Beet Factory Labor Camp Item Label

Handout #: 16a

Content:

Factory Labor Camp, Oxnard c. 1917

Photograph, MVC Collection

Sugar beets were a successful crop in the lower Santa Clara River Valley. The American Beet Sugar Company was founded in 1898 to process the beets. The company was owned by the Oxnard brothers who had a successful sugar beet plant in Chino. When Ventura County farmers pledged to grow 18,000 acres of beets they convinced the Oxnard company to build a new processing plant in the county.

Housing for the field workers was located near the factory off Fifth St. in Oxnard. Many of original buildings were made of adobe due to the scarcity of lumber

Chunk #1 A copy of a page from a Ventura County Historical Society journal with photos of the Sugar beet factory in Oxnard and a description of the plant.

Chunk #2 1903 newspaper article about the Japanese and Mexican laborers who worked in the sugar beet fields organizing to form a union.

Chunk #3 Excerpt from an oral history done in 1988 with William Miller, Superintendent of the Hondo Ranch in Ventura, California