

Robert Burns Supper.....	20	The Lowdown with Matt Munoz	24
Monster X Tour.....	21	Kama Ruby sings Burt Bacharach	25
Arts Alive!.....	22	Scott Cox	26
Review: 'The Producers'	23	Calendar	30-31

18 Eye Street

THE FACES OF 'WRATH'

Photos of migrants who inspired novel on display at BMoA

BY JENNIFER SELF
 Californian lifestyles editor
 jself@bakersfield.com

When Henri Bristol was assigned to do a book report on "The Grapes of Wrath" in high school, he had an expert on the subject living under his own roof but didn't know it.

"I asked my dad, 'Have you ever heard of this novel,' and he realized at that point, not only had he not shared that with us, but this huge part of his life he left behind him."

Bristol's father was Horace Bristol, the photojournalist who persuaded John Steinbeck to travel with him to the great Central Valley of California to collaborate on a book of photographs chronicling what was happening: a vast migration of dispossessed people leaving their homes in Oklahoma and the surrounding region to escape drought, poverty and despair. What the men saw — families living in tents by the side of the road, children playing in the dirt, desperate men signing up for relief — stayed with them forever.

As for the book of photos, it never materialized.

What did come out of that trip was "The Grapes of Wrath" — and a Pulitzer Prize for Steinbeck.

"I don't think he ever felt betrayed," Bristol said of his father, who died at age 86 in 1997. "There was this incredible novel, and he was part of it. But it must have been difficult to have all this attention drawn to this novel after they worked on it."

"When Steinbeck wrote his memoirs, there was no mention of the events that transpired. Not until many years later, until very recently, did everyone acknowledge everyone's place in the story."

Bristol's place in the story is on display at the Bakersfield Museum of Art beginning today. Part of the winter exhibitions, "Horace Bristol: The Dust Bowl" features 32 of the images that so indelibly left their mark on the soul of Steinbeck and, later, readers of Life magazine, where Bristol was a staff photographer until being recruited by the U.S. Navy Aviation Photographic Unit at the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BAKERSFIELD MUSEUM OF ART

"Tom Joad," perhaps the most iconic image from photojournalist Horace Bristol's "Grapes of Wrath" portfolio. The photo graced the cover of several editions of the classic novel, Bristol's son said.

outset of World War II.

Many of the images in the BMoA collection are named for characters in the novel — there's "Tom Joad," probably the most iconic Bristol image from that place and time; "Winfield," which captures a boy tenderly cradling a rabbit; and "Rose of Sharon," whose subject is a young mother — an unreadable look in her staring eyes — nursing an infant.

The Bristol exhibition is one of several communitywide observances of the 75th anniversary of the novel's publication. BMoA curator Vikki Cruz sits on the arts and humanities advisory board at Cal State Bakersfield, organizer of most of the events.

"Although the work of Horace Bristol may not be as widely known as some of his contemporaries such as Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans, he definitely left an indelible place in American history by covering such subjects as World War II, Asia, famous personalities, and the architecture of American industry," said Cruz in an emailed statement. "He was highly influenced by Dorothea Lange and first traveled with her to the Central Valley in 1937."

Bristol, like Lange, was interested in his chosen medium's power, not as a high-art form, but as a vehicle for delivering the truth of people and events to viewers.

"He always thought of himself, and was told by (acclaimed photographer) Edward Weston, that he was more an artisan than a true artist," said Bristol's son. "My dad always said, 'That's

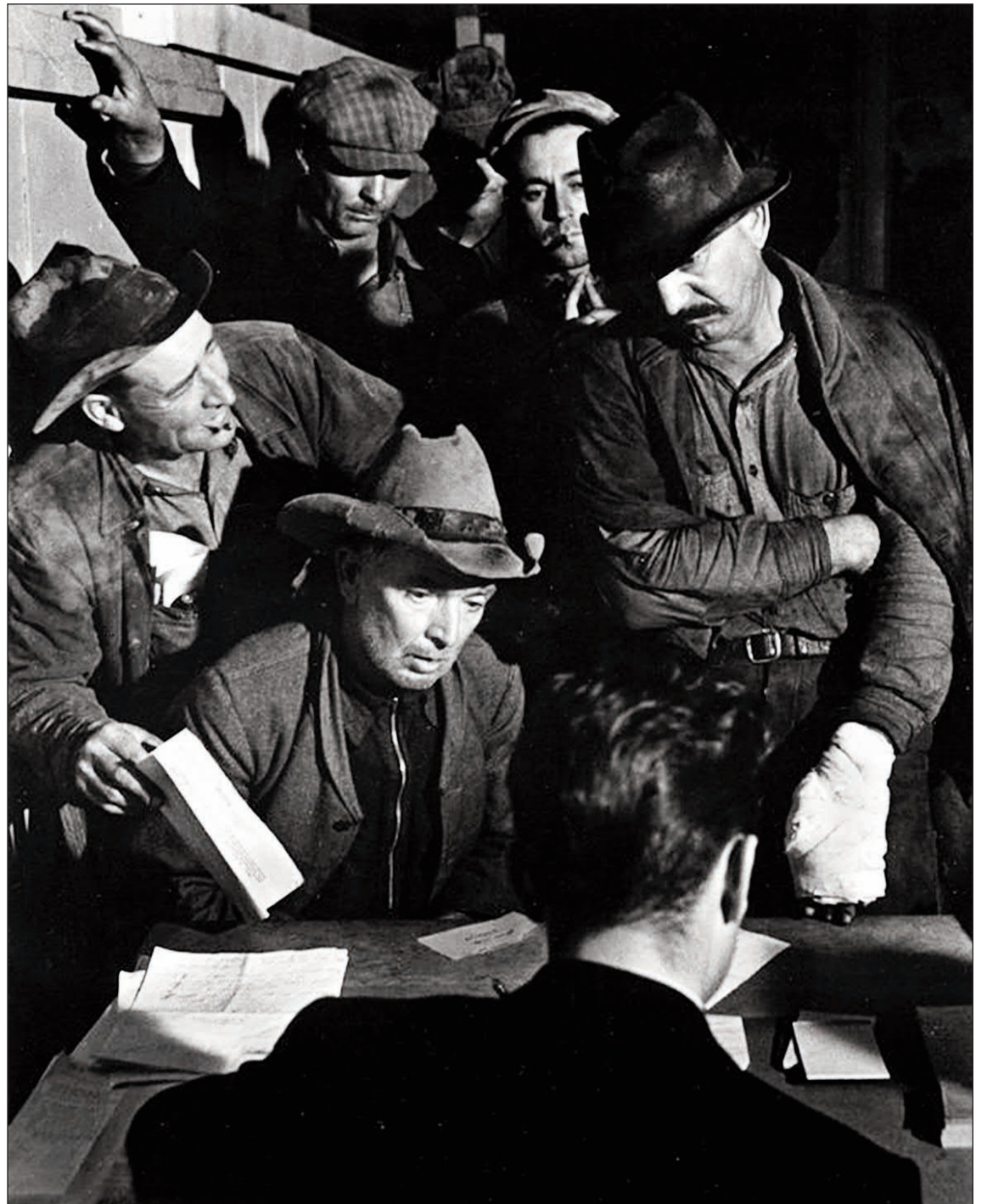


PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRI BRISTOL

"Applying for Relief" by Horace Bristol is emblematic of the photojournalist's work documenting migrant laborers in the Central Valley in the 1930s. Though not part of the collection on display at the Bakersfield Museum of Art, the photo stands out to the photographer's son for its composition and lighting. "It looks like a movie still," Henri Bristol said.

right. I'm an artisan building a cathedral."

"Dorothea Lange, who was a huge inspiration to my dad, felt photography was about story and communicating something greater. That really put my dad on a new trajectory."

Bristol went on to document the war, which led him to Japan and, in his son's estimation, the period of his greatest work. It was there that he founded a successful agency that supplied photos

shot throughout Asia to western publications.

The trouble is, few people have seen the Asian photos, said Bristol, the "de facto archivist" of his father's body of work. Part of the reason rests with Bristol himself, who descended into despair in 1956 with the suicide of his first wife. He retreated from his work, destroying many of his negatives, and distanced himself from the all-consuming career he felt was

Please see **WRATH / PAGE 28**

Winter/spring 2014 exhibitions

When: Opening reception 6 p.m. today

Where: Bakersfield Museum of Art, 1930 R St.

Admission: \$10; free to museum members



Now Showing

Bakersfield's fastest-growing network with more than 25 hours of live video programming every week!

Watch live and on-demand at
Bakersfield.com



News, Weather
and Traffic Updates
Weekdays 7 to 10 am



Cindy Pollard discusses local
business and economic
development
Mondays 10 to 11 am



Corey Costelloe
reviews CSUB's
Athletic Programs
Tuesdays
10 to 11 am



Lisa Krch explores
Wellness, Health,
Fitness and Living
Wednesdays
10 to 11 am



Kevin Bartl and Ryan Holt
discuss the Condors
Wednesdays
Noon to 1 pm



With Don Clark
and Tina Miller
Thursdays
10 to 11 am



Zach Ewing previews
High School Sports
Thursdays 2 to 3 pm

Eye Street

WRATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

partially responsible for his wife's anguish.

Even when Bristol met and married his second wife, he said little about his career to the two children they had together.

"My father was 60 when he had me," said Bristol, 45, the youngest of the photographer's four children from both of his marriages.

"We knew he was a photographer. We always got war stories at bedtime and that sort of thing. It was when I had that book report that I saw his work. It obviously was kind of a mind-blowing experience. I'm sure I got an A on the assignment."

Bristol is thrilled his father's work is getting exposure but regrets that he can't attend the opening today. He and his partner are at home in Santa Barbara looking after their newborn twins. Still, he hopes to visit BMOA during the life of the exhibition and bring the babies, though he conceded it will be many years until they can appreciate their grandfather's work and approach to his craft.

"He saw heroism in things everyday people did."

Also at BMOA

Bakersfield folk singer Joel Jacob will perform selections from the Woody Guthrie songbook and other material related to the Dust Bowl era, plus originals, during the opening reception.

In addition to the Bristol photos, four other collections are part of the winter/spring exhibitions. Descriptions were provided by the BMOA:

"The World on a String: Puppets from the Alan Cook Collection"

Though the collection includes more than 2,000 puppets, about 100 will be on view at BMOA. There are five types of puppets, including marionettes and rod puppets, representing regions from around the world. Standouts include a metal Sicilian marionette that stands over 3 feet high, a dragon shadow puppet from China and the lively Carmen Miranda marionette created by Frank Paris, who created the original Howdy Doody.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAKERSFIELD MUSEUM OF ART

Wibisana, a shadow puppet from Java, is part of "The World on a String: Puppets from the Alan Cook Collection" show at the Bakersfield Museum of Art.

"A story of Immigration: Illustrations by Belle Yang"

Belle Yang is an author, graphic novelist, and children's book illustrator who translates her experiences as a Chinese-American immigrant into bold, powerful works of art. This exhibition features 25 paintings and eight illustrations that embrace Yang's Asian heritage.

"Siddharth Parasnis and Suhas Bhujbal"

This exhibition explores two emerging California painters who were born in India. Their current body of work explores identity relating to places. The two incorporate people and architecture native to their homeland paired with the similarities found in their new California environment.

"Paintings by Keith Wicks"

A leading painter with the soul of an old master, Keith Wicks is able to capture the essence of the moment with clarity and intensity. Through the use of oil paint, he has developed the unique ability to harness the purity and energy of light, even when it is dancing in the shadows. This exhibition features a selection of recent paintings depicting bustling cityscapes, sunbathed landscapes, and intimate interiors.

SALAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

and it's not loaded down with filler. Even the tuna is like that — not all full of junk that doesn't belong in tuna. Just nice, flaky albacore. Like everything at Luigi's, it tastes really fresh.

I like this salad if I'm going to be exercising after I eat it. It seems to be just the right amount of fuel for a couple hours of tennis or a nice bike ride. Have one for lunch and you'll be good until dinner.

Oh, and I really appreciate the many let-

ters and emails about everyone's favorite salad destinations. I have to say that I'm surprised at how many people had this idea before I did, but I suppose it's just common sense. Keep the suggestions coming, and I'll keep this quest going for as long as it takes.

It should be noted that I donated blood recently, and all my vitals were outstanding, so these salads are clearly making me healthier. And I'm finding that I don't miss standard entrees much at all. I've also found that if I have three salads a week for lunch, I can eat chicken and waffles guilt-free. And that's a big deal.

FIRST LOOK

Join Assistant Lifestyles Editor Stefani Dias this morning as she chats with Scott Cox on "First Look." They'll go over the best entertainment options of the next couple of weeks and talk about a shared obsession: salad.

They'll also give away "Bedlam: A Baby Blues Collection" by Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott. Listen for your cue to call.

Watch the show on Bakersfield.com or tune in to 1180-AM, KERN.