Lesson Activity 1: Discussion Questions Lesson: Wilmer Gold

Following the watching of the vignette; Wilmer Gold read the biography of Wilmer Gold (Appendix 1) and answer the following question in small groups or as assigned by your teacher. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the rest of the class.

1. What challenges and dangers did workers in the logging industry face in the working woods in the 1930’s?
2. Which of these were faced individually and which were faced collectively?
3. What features of workers and their lives in the working woods of the 1930’s are portrayed in the images and common stereotypes of lumber workers?
4. What aspects of the workers and their lives are not portrayed in the stereotypes?
5. Do Wilmer Gold’s images, and the reality of his working life, show more of the authentic life of the workers and their work?
6. To what degree might Wilmer Gold’s images be influenced by his need to sell the images to make a personal living?
7. What is missing from Wilmer Gold’s images, and why might these images be excluded?
8. Which type of images might the forestry company wish to purchase from Wilmer, and which types would they not be interested in acquiring, or in being recorded?
9. Which type of images might the forestry workers wish to purchase from Wilmer, and which types would they not be interested in acquiring, or in being recorded?
10. Which type of images might the woodworkers’ union International wish to purchase from Wilmer, and which types would they not be interested in acquiring, or in being recorded?