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Guide to the San José State University Chicano Oral History Collection

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Guide to the San José State University Chicano Oral History Collection

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Guide to the San José State University Chicano Oral History Collection

Collection number: MSS-2005-10-03

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Chicano Oral History collection

Dates: 1968-2005

Collection number: MSS-2005-10-03

Creator: Mexican American Studies Program

Creator: Chicano Library Research Center

Collection Size: 6 boxes2.5 linear feet

Repository: San José State University Library

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: This collection consists of audio and video tapes and transcripts of interviews with San José area Chicano community leaders and activists. The oral history project was conducted by the Mexican American Studies Program and the Chicano Library Research Center at San José State University, now part of the Cultural Heritage Center.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: EnglishSpanish

Access Restrictions

Access to the Jose Carrasco and Ernestina Garcia interviews is restricted. Requests for access must be approved by the Director of Special Collections.

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Preferred Citation

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History

The Chicano Oral History Collection is the result of a joint project between San José State University's Mexican American Studies Department and the Chicano Library Resource Center (CLRC). Planning for a project to document the experiences and history of Santa Clara County's Chicano community through oral history began in the late 1970s when Dr. Sylvia Gonzales of the CLRC investigated the possibility of starting such a project. In 1985 Dr. Samuel Henry, Affirmative Action Officer at San José State University (SJSU), first proposed an oral history project to the CLRC in order to develop a repository of information on the lives of Chicanos in Northern California; however, due to funding issues the project was not implemented.

The project finally began as part of a course on oral history in the Mexican American Studies Department. Coursework, training and interviews with community leaders were conducted from 1988 - 1990. Near the end of the project, in May 1989, the Alma Chicana Revisted Symposium was held to share the results of this project with the campus and broader communities in a three-day forum of meetings and presentations. Funding sources for this program came from various library, campus and California State University (CSU) grants, including Affirmative Action, Faculty Development, and Discretionary Lottery Grants. In 2003, Cultural Heritage Director Jeff Paul conducted video interviews to be used in a program for the opening of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. These interviews document the history of the Cultural Heritage Center from its beginnings as the Chicano Library Resource Center, and also describe notable events in the history of Chicano activism on campus and in San José.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains audio tapes and transcripts from eighteen oral history interviews conducted in 1988-1990 for the Chicano Oral History Project. Additional materials include: audio tapes of additional interviews; VHS and Beta tapes; DVDs of recorded interviews from the Cultural Heritage Center project conducted in 2003; supporting documentation on the Chicano movement and the Oral History Project; and subject indexes to the transcripted interviews. Dr. Jose Carrasco of SJSU, Dr. Mauro Chavez of Evergreen College, and Jeff Paul of the CLRC (now a part of the Cultural Heritage Center) served as the principal investigators for the project, and students in a Mexican American Studies course on oral history conducted the interviews. Interviewees answered questions related to their background and their experiences in the Chicano movement of the 1960s and 1970s in San José. Interviewees include Jose Carrasco, Lela Chavez, Rudolfo Coronado, Ernestina Garcia, Humberto Garza, Salvador Gascon, Jess Jaques, Randall Jimenez, Charley Laustanau, Sofia Mendoza, Pete Michel, Frances Palacios, Linda Peralta-Conway, Vicente Perez, Gabriel Reyes, Eliodoro Rivera, Bea Robinson, Adrian Vargas, and Jose Villa.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into one series: I. Chicano Oral History Project, 1968-2005.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Chicano movement -- California -- Santa Clara County

Community activists -- California -- Santa Clara County

Mexican American leadership -- California -- Santa Clara County

Oral history

San José State University

Series I: **Chicano Oral History Project 1968-2005**

Creator: San José State University Mexican American Studies Department

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The focus of this project is on the Chicano Movement in San José and Santa Clara County in the 1960s and 1970s. During this period, San José was a center of Chicano activism and social change, including some of the earliest Chicano student walkouts in the state, student activism at SJSU and other area colleges, and community organizing. Key activities discussed in the interviews include the Fiesta de las Rosas and the emergence of community organizations including the Community Alert Patrol, the Confederacion de la Raza Unida, the Mexican American Studies Department, United People Arriba, the Mexican American Graduate Studies Department, the Mexican American Educational Opportunities Program, the Mexican American Community Services Agency, the Brown Berets for Justice and the Mexican American Student Confederacion. Other activities investigated include demonstrations and protests such as the Educational Pilgrimage to Sacramento, San José State Students at National Moratorium in Los Angeles in 1970, the walkouts at Roosevelt Jr. High School and San José City College, San José United Grape Workers Boycott, and San José State University's Chicano Commencement.

Personal Names

Lela Chavez
Rudolfo Coronado
Ernestina Garcia
Humberto Garza
Salvador Gascon
Jess Jacques
Randall Jimenez
Charley Laustanau
Sofia Mendoza
Pete Michel
Frances Palacios
Linda Peralta-Conway
Vicente Perez
Gabriel Allan Reyes
Eliodoro Rivera
Bea Robinson
Adrian Vargas
Jose Villa

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by interviewee and chronologically by date.

Box 1-3	**Audio and Visual Tapes 1978-2003**
Box 1-2	**Audiocassette Tapes 1978-2000**
Box 3	**Betamax tapes, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes 1988-2003**
Box/Folder 4/1	**Chicano Commencement Speech 1991**
Box/Folder 4/2	**Chicano Movement Newsclippings 1968-1977**
Box/Folder 4/3-4/5	**Chicano Oral History Interviews 1987-2005**
Box/Folder 4/3	**Agreements 1987-2004**
Box/Folder 4/4	**Biographies and Summaries 1988-2003**
Box/Folder 4/5	**Indexes 2005**
Box/Folder 4/6	**Chicano Oral History Project Proposals 1985-1988**
Box/Folder 4/7-4/12	**Confederacion de la Raza Unida undated 1969-1977**
Box/Folder 4/7	**Correspondence 1975-1977**
Box/Folder 4/8	**Court Documents 1975**
Box/Folder 4/9	**Newsletters 1970s**
Box/Folder 4/10	**Press Releases 1970s**
Box/Folder 4/11	**Reports and Planning Documents undated 1969**
Box/Folder 4/12	**Speeches 1969-1977**
Box/Folder 4/13	**Fresh Air Interview with Luis and Daniel Valdez 1987**
Box/Folder 5/14-6/39	**Oral History Transcripts undated 1988-1990**

Box/Folder 5/14	**Chavez, Lela 1989**
Box/Folder 5/15	**Coronado, Rudolfo 1988**
Box/Folder 5/16	**Garcia, Ernestina 1988**
Box/Folder 5/17	**Garza, Humberto 1989**
Box/Folder 5/18-5/20	**Gascon, Salvador 1989**
Box/Folder 5/21	**Jaques, Jess 1989**
Box/Folder 5/22-5/23	**Jimenez, Randall 1990**
Box/Folder 5/24	**Laustanau, Charley 1989**
Box/Folder 5/25	**Mendoza, Sofia 1988**
Box/Folder 5/26-5/27	**Michel, Pete 1989**
Box/Folder 5/28	**Palacios, Frances 1989**
Box/Folder 6/29	**Peralta- Conway, Linda 1989**
Box/Folder 6/30	**Perez, Vicente 1990**
Box/Folder 6/31	**Reyes, Gabriel Allan 1988**
Box/Folder 6/32	**Rivera, Eliodoro 1988**
Box/Folder 6/33	**Robinson, Bea Vasquez 1989**
Box/Folder 6/34	**Vargas, Adrian 1989**
Box/Folder 6/35-6/39	**Villa, Jose undated**