
Guide to the Antonio and Luz Mendez Calvo Family Collection

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives

Title: Antonio and Luz Mendez Calvo Family Collection

Creator: Calvo, Antonio and Luz Mendez, 1896-1982

Identifier/Call Number: URB.ALC

Extent: 0.42 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1926-2001

Abstract: Antonio Regalado Calvo and Maria de la Luz Mendez Calvo were immigrants from the Mexican state of Sonora. They immigrated to the San Fernando region of California where they met and married during the Mexican Revolution. The collection gives a glimpse into the lives of a Mexican-American family in the Los Angeles area during the mid-20th century.

Language of Material: English

Family History:

Antonio Regalado Calvo (1900-1973) was born in Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. Maria de la Luz Aguilar Mendez (1896-1982) was born in La Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. Both of them, independently, moved north during the time of the Mexican Revolution. Antonio and Luz married in 1926 and after living near downtown Los Angeles for a short time, moved to San Fernando, where Luz had extended family.

In their first years together, Luz worked in the local fruit packing houses while Antonio found employment working in restaurants, hotels, pool halls, and later, on Works Project Administration (WPA) projects. Eventually, the couple started their own business selling Mexican food to workers in the local packing houses. Working in her home's kitchen, Luz prepared tacos, tamales, and burritos, which Antonio (and sometimes their children) then sold to workers during their lunch breaks.

As the business grew, Antonio and Luz were eventually able to open a small restaurant. Their restaurant, Las Delicias Café, did not find a permanent location until 1946. By this time, the restaurant had developed a distinctive Sonora-style menu and a loyal following. Known for its pure and simple dishes made of high-quality ingredients, Las Delicias Café was a popular San Fernando restaurant until it closed in the early 1970s.

Luz and Antonio had four children, who were raised working in the restaurant, waiting tables or helping out in the kitchen. The family's primary language was Spanish and the children learned English in school. Antonio gained a working command of English and was able to communicate with his English-speaking customers.

The couple was active in the Santa Rosa parish, the Catholic Church in San Fernando that served the Mexican immigrant population. They were active in civic affairs, participating in the San Fernando "fiesta days," and catering its "mantilla dinner" held at Saint Ferdinand's church. They were also involved in exchanges with San Fernando's sister city, Manzanillo, in the state of Colima, Mexico.

Scope and Contents

The *Antonio and Luz Mendez Calvo Family Collection* gives a glimpse into the lives of a Mexican-American family in the Los Angeles area during the mid-20th century. Antonio Regalado Calvo and Maria de la Luz Mendez Calvo were immigrants from the Mexican state of Sonora. They immigrated to the San Fernando region of California where they met and married during the Mexican Revolution. After working several different jobs, the Calvos started their own business selling Mexican food to workers in the local packing houses. Eventually the couple opened Las Delicias Café on Pico Street in downtown San Fernando. The collection consists of baptismal certificates, birth certificates, correspondence, family trees, identification cards, invitations, marriage certificates, newspaper clippings, photographs, and a yearbook.

Electronic Format:

Digital reproductions of selected items in this collection are available electronically as a part of the [Latina\(o\) Cultural Heritage Archives](#) project.

General

Other Information:

This collection was processed under a U.S. Department of Education Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Tony H. and Beverly Calvo. 08/2004.

Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Processing Information:

Rebecca S. Graff

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Documents

Photographs

Box 1, Folder 1	Calvo Family Tree, 2001
Box 1, Folder 2	Calvo, Hector Antonio: vital records, 1935-1938
Box 1, Folder 3	Calvo-Mendez marriage, 1926
Box 1, Folder 4	Calvo, Antonio Regalado: driver licenses, 1973, 1977
Box 1, Folder 5	Calvo, Antonio Regalado: vital records, 1973
Box 1, Folder 6	Calvo, Tony H., 1959
Box 1, Folder 7	Letter of introduction, 1965
Box 1, Folder 8	Mendez, Luz: baptismal certificate, 1964
Box 1, Folder 9	Mexican citizenship and US immigration, 1919-1946
Box 1, Folder 10	Newspaper clippings, 1962-1969
Box 1, Folder 11	Orange Blossom (Yearbook), 1954
Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs