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## **Guide to the Santiago "Jim" Meza / Campo Indian Reservation Papers MS 276**

Finding aid prepared by Aimee Santos

Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.

San Diego History Center Document Collection

1649 El Prado, Suite 3

San Diego, CA, 92101

619-232-6203

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**Title:** Santiago "Jim" Meza / Campo Indian Reservation Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS 276

**Contributing Institution:** San Diego History Center Document Collection

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.5 Linear feet(1 box)

**Date (inclusive):** 1901-1984

**Abstract:** This collection contains papers of Santiago "Jim" Meza and the Campo Indian Reservation, including tribal administration and welfare, Meza's homestead land disputes, and personal papers of Meza and family.

**Language of Materials:** Collection materials are in English and Spanish.

**creator:** Meza, Santiago

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession number 850612A.

**Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

**Arrangement**

Items in collection are arranged by subject.

**Biographical / Historical Notes**

The Campo Indian Reservation is located on 15,000 acres in southeastern San Diego County. In 1893, the first portion of the Campo Indian Reservation's territory was patented. The Campo Constitution was passed by the tribal community on July 13, 1975. In 1974, there were 40 people recorded living in Campo Indian Reservation.

Santiago "Jim" Meza was a Spokesman for the Campo Indian Reservation. He communicated with the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Field Service of the Mission Indian Agency regarding land conflicts and inheritance, and the request for the election of Spokesmen and Committee Members to represent Campo. Meza also requested welfare assistance for food, clothing, and financial assistance from the Mission Indian Agency, as well as structure repairs and installation of a well to provide a closer source for drinking water.

Francisco "Frank" Cuero, son of a Campo Indian Reservation Chief and brother of Santiago "Jim" Meza, owned a homestead of 160 acres. Upon Cuero's death, conflicts arose over the land and its inheritance. Meza eventually inherited the land.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains papers of Santiago "Jim" Meza and the Campo Indian Reservation. Tribal papers include correspondence with federal and local Indian agencies regarding welfare assistance and the election of spokesmen and committee members. Documentation is included of Meza's homestead land dispute and inheritance. Personal papers of Meza include medical welfare assistance correspondence and bills, finances, personal correspondence, and photographs, as well as some involving his brother, Francisco "Frank" Cuero.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Aimee Santos on January 3, 2012.

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**Preferred Citation**

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

California. Dept. of Social Welfare.

Cuero, Francisco

Meza, Marquita

Meza, Santiago

Mission Indian Federation.

San Diego County (Calif.). Dept. of Public Welfare.

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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United States. Dept. of the Interior.  
United States. Mission Indian Commission.  
United States. Office of Indian Affairs. Field Service.  
United States. Office of Indian Affairs. Mission Agency.  
Williams, John, Mrs.  
Williams, John  
Campo (Calif.)  
Campo Indian Reservation (Calif.)  
Campo Indians  
Indian reservations  
Kamia Indians  
San Diego (Calif.)

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- Box-folder 1:1           **Tribal administration, 1936 November 20-1959 August 17**  
                                  **Includes:**  
                                  Communications with Mission Indian Agency  
                                  Electing Spokesmen and Committee Members  
                                  Campo Indian Reservation Voters  
                                  Newsletter from Field Representative
- Box-folder 1:2           **Santiago Meza land disputes and inheritance documents, 1915 July 10-1935 October 7**  
Box-folder 1:3           **Santiago Meza land disputes and inheritance documents, 1935 October 14-1961 July 12**  
Box-folder 1:4           **Miscellaneous land documents, undated**  
                                  **Includes:**  
                                  Jim Meza notes on land division  
                                  California Laws of Descent and Distribution
- Box-folder 1:5           **Welfare assistance, 1931 September 8-1964 April 24**  
                                  **Includes:**  
                                  Requests and responses to requests for clothing, house repairs, and financial assistance,  
                                  including those for Jim Meza and family.
- Box-folder 1:6           **Medical welfare assistance (Meza), 1952 December 1-1968 October 1 and undated**  
                                  **Includes:**  
                                  Correspondence with San Diego County Department of Public Welfare, Department of  
                                  Health, Education, and Welfare, State Department of Social Welfare, and Department of the  
                                  Interior.
- Box-folder 1:7           **Medical bills (Meza), 1958 September 2-1967 July 26**  
Box-folder 1:8           **Financial documents (Cuero and Meza), 1922 July 15-1969 November 14 and undated**  
                                  **Includes:**  
                                  Correspondence and receipts regarding payments.  
                                  Letter from Montgomery Ward & Co. to Jim Meza in response to his request for value of a  
                                  coyote skin, November 21, 1929.
- Box-folder 1:9           **Personal correspondence (Meza), 1963 December 14-1968 April 14**  
Box-folder 1:10          **Francisco Cuero Mexican Military discharge letter (in Spanish), 1901 February 13**
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Box-folder 1:11

**Photographs, 1918 September 18-1944 June 10**

**Includes:**

John Williams, Bonita, Calif., September 18, 1918  
Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Jim Meza, June 10, 1944

Box-folder 1:12

**Correspondence: miscellaneous, 1932 May 5-1947 April 2 and undated**

**Includes:**

Letter from C.L. Ellis, Superintendent of the Mission Indian Agency, to H.H. Scott, Chief of Police, regarding Jim Meza's nephew, Manuel Perez, May 5, 1932.  
Letter and advertisement from Viscose Company to Jim Meza, May 22, 1936.  
Letter from unknown author to Department of Public Health regarding application for delayed birth certificate, April 2, 1947.  
Easter and Christmas greeting cards.

Box-folder 1:13

**Empty envelopes, 1905 July 1-1938 May 9 and undated**

Box-folder 1:14

**Miscellanea, 1919-1984 April 28 and undated**

**Includes:**

Joe Williams' application for National Service Life Insurance, January 30, 1945  
Names and addresses, December 31, 1948 and undated  
"Pharyngitis routine" by Bruce A. Sanderson, M.D.  
Word lists, including note on Social Service office  
Assessment List, County of San Diego, 1919 (blank forms)