Guide to the San José State University Chicano Oral History Collection
MSS-2005-10-03

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: San José State University Chicano Oral History Collection
source: Freimark, Bob
Identifier/Call Number: MSS-2005-10-03
Physical Description: 6 boxes (2.5 linear feet)
Date (inclusive): 1968-2005
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.
Language of Material: 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. The focus of this project was 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. 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 Contents
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 transcribed 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.
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.

**Arrangement**
This collection is arranged into five series: Series I. Audio and Visual Tapes; Series II. Project Documentation; Series III. Newsclippings; Series IV. Confederación de la Raza Unida; and Series V. Transcripts.

**Processing Information**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Chicano movement -- Santa Clara County (Calif.)
Community activists -- Santa Clara County (Calif.)
Mexican American leadership -- Santa Clara County (Calif.)
Oral history
Oral histories
Carrasco, José, 1922-
Chavez, Lela
Coronado, Rudolfo
Garza, Humberto
Gascon, Salvador
Holscher, Louis M.
Jaques, Jess
Jimenez, Randall, 1943-
Laustanau, Charlie
Mendoza, Sofia
Michel, Pete
Palacios, Frances
Perez, Vicente
Reyes, Gabriel
Rivera, Eliodoro
Robinson, Bea
Vargas, Adrian
Villa, Jose
Do, Hien Duc, 1961-
Imera, Nehonda
Dominguez, Simon
Freimark, Bob
Liu, Susana
Paul, Jeff
Morris, Teresa
Cobrera, Adriene Garcia
Garcia, Ernestina
Graham, Joe
Valdez, Luis
**Series I. Audio and Visual Tapes 1978-2003**

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged into four subseries: Subseries 1. Interview Recordings; Subseries 2. Meeting Recordings; Subseries 3. Chicano Library Resource Project Recordings; and Subseries 4. Chicano Movement Videos.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains audio tapes of interviews, recordings of meetings, Chicano movement videos, and recordings of interviews done by the Chicano Library Resource Center in 2003.

### Subseries 1. Interview Recordings 1978-2000

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<tr>
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### Subseries 3. Chicano Library Resource Center Project Recordings 2003

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Series I. Audio and Visual Tapes 1978-2003
Subseries 4. Chicano Movement Videos

Box 3
- Alma Chicana Revisited 1989
- 25th Anniversary Chicano Movement in Santa Clara Valley 1993
- Maral Dedication Nuestra Herencia Indígena 1993
- 25th Anniversary of the Chicano Movement en el Valle de Santa Clara 1993

Series II. Project Documentation 1987-2005

Scope and Contents
This series contains documentation relating to the oral history project. It includes agreements, proposals, biographies, summaries, and indexes. Indexes include two copies on CDs.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 4, Folder 1
- Biographies and Summaries 1988-2003

Box 4, Folder 2
- Indexes 2005

Box 4, Folder 3
- Project Proposals 1985-1988

Series III. Newsclippings 1968-1977

Scope and Contents
This series contains newsclippings on the Chicano movement.

Arrangement
This series consists of one folder. Materials in the folder are arranged chronologically.

Box 4, Folder 4
- Chicano Movement Newsclippings

Series IV. Confederación de la Raza Unida 1969-1977

Scope and Contents
This series contains materials related to Confederación de la Raza Unida, including correspondence, court documents, speeches, newsletters, press releases, and documents.

Box 4, Folder 5
- Correspondence 1975-1977

Box 4, Folder 6
- Court Documents 1975

Box 4, Folder 7
- Newsletters 1970s

Box 4, Folder 8
- Press Releases 1970s

Box 4, Folder 9
- Reports and Planning Documents undated 1969

Box 4, Folder 10
- Speeches 1969-1977

Series V. Transcripts 1987-1991

Scope and Contents
This series contains transcripts of the oral history interviews.

Box 5, Folder 1
- Chavez, Lela 1989

Box 5, Folder 2
- Chicano Commencement Speech 1991

Box 5, Folder 3
- Coronado, Rudolfo 1988

Box 5, Folder 4
- Garcia, Ernestina 1988

Box 5, Folder 5
- Garza, Humberto 1989

Box 5, Folder 6
- Gascon, Salvador (1 of 3) 1989

Box 5, Folder 7
- Gascon, Salvador (2 of 3) 1989

Box 5, Folder 8
- Gascon, Salvador (3 of 3) 1989

Box 5, Folder 9
- Jaques, Jess 1989

Box 5, Folder 10
- Jimenez, Randall (1 of 2) 1990

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- Jimenez, Randall (2 of 2) 1990
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