Finding Aid for the Ron Lopez Sleepy Lagoon Research Collection 1921 - 1974 CSRC.6

Chicano Studies Research Center Library

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Finding Aid for the Ron Lopez Sleepy Lagoon Research Collection 1921 - 1974

Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Chicano Studies Research Center Library
Title: Ron Lopez Sleepy Lagoon Research Collection
Creator: Lopez, Ronald W., 1930-
Identifier/Call Number: CSRC.6
Physical Description: .4 linear feet(1 box)
Date (inclusive): 1921-1974
Abstract: This collection consists mostly of materials gathered by Ron Lopez for his research into the Sleepy Lagoon murder case.
Language of Material: Collection materials in English and Spanish.

Stored OFF-SITE at SRLF. Requests for viewing must be made two weeks in advance. Contact the CSRC Library for paging information.

Access
Open for research.

Acquisition Information
Papers donated by Ronald W. Lopez to the Chicano Studies Research Center. Deed on file at the CSRC Archive, 180 Haines Hall, UCLA.

Arrangement
The material is arranged alphabetically.

Biography
Ron Lopez has had a long career as an educator in Southern California. He has held teaching posts at UCLA, Occidental College, Pasadena City College, and Claremont College in Claremont, California. Ron Lopez has served the community as a drug counselor as well as a tax referee. He has also been a consultant in advertising as well as being in the food business.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ron Lopez Sleepy Lagoon Research Collection, 6, Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles.

Scope and Content
This collection consists mostly of materials gathered by Ron Lopez for his research into the Sleepy Lagoon murder case. Primary documents include statements and correspondence from various groups advocating for the rights of the defendants. Secondary documents include clippings and scholarly articles on the trials and the Zoot Suit Riots. There is also material from the 1920s-1930s and 1960s-1970s about the condition of Mexican Americans more generally. Virtually everything in the collection is a photocopy.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles (Calif.) Police Department
Mexican American youth
Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee
Sleepy Lagoon Trial, Los Angeles, Calif., 1942-1943
Zoot Suit Riots, Los Angeles, Calif., 1943

Box 1, Folder 1
The Alien in Our Midst - excerpts 1930
Scope and Contents
Includes:"Pachuco: An American Spanish Argot"; short pieces from Life, The Nation, Newsweek, and other publications.

Box 1, Folder 2
Articles - miscellaneous 1942-1970
Box 1, Folder 3  The Belvedere Coordinating Council Minority Group Committee report 1943
Box 1, Folder 4  Bilingualism 1967-1968
  Scope and Contents
  Includes Congressional Record excerpt; press release from Congressman George Brown.

Box 1, Folder 5  Citizens' Committee for the Defense of American-Mexican Youth circa 1942
  Language of Material: Spanish and English.
  Scope and Contents
  Includes "The Sleepy Lagoon Case."

Box 1, Folder 6  Congress of Industrial Organizations [CIO] 1942-1944
  Scope and Contents
  Includes resolutions; review of The Sleepy Lagoon Mystery by Guy Endore.

Box 1, Folder 7  Council for Civic Unity 1944
Box 1, Folder 8  Demographic data 1921-1960
  Scope and Contents
  Includes: map showing location of Mexicans in Los Angeles, 1921 [barely legible];
  "Tuberculosis Map of Los Angeles," 1921 [barely legible]; "Mexican Population as of June,

Box 1, Folder 9  Dimitroff, James Stephan - correspondence 1967-1968
  Scope and Contents
  Contains letters to a UCLA student writing a thesis on the Sleepy Lagoon murder case. Most
  of these are responses to research inquiries. Includes letters from Marvin Braude, Alice
  McGrath, Carey McWilliams, J. Edgar Hoover. The most substantive letter is the first four
  pages from an unidentified correspondent, possibly Guy Nunn.

Box 1, Folder 10  "Excerpts from the Decision of the Second District Court of Appeal of the State of
California In the Sleepy Lagoon Case" 1944
Box 1, Folder 11  "Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury of Los Angeles County for 1943,
Based Upon Its Inquiry into Juvenile Crime and Delinquency in that County" 1943
Box 1, Folder 12  Fraternidad - Publicacion Mensual del Comite Mexicano contra el Racismo 1944
  Language of Material: Spanish.
  Scope and Contents
  Includes "Wendell Wilkie, Antiracista."

Box 1, Folder 13  Grand Jury testimony 1942
  Scope and Contents
  Contains: statement by Walter H.C. Laves of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American
  Affairs; testimony of Carey McWilliams; "Tabulation of Facts on Conditions in Hicks' Mexican
  Camp"; testimony of Guy T. Nunn of the War Manpower Commission; "The Problem of Crime
  among the Mexican Youth of Los Angeles" bu Harry Hoijer; paper presented by Manuel
  Aguilar of the Mexican consulate; paper presented by Oscar Fuss of the CIO; letter from
  Sheriff E. W. Biscailuz.

Box 1, Folder 14  Handwritten notes 1939-1967
Box 1, Folder 15  "Information for the 1942 Los Angeles County Grand Jury" 1942
Box 1, Folder 16  Kenny, Robert W. 1944
  Scope and Contents
  Letter to Father Joseph Gutierrez.

Box 1, Folder 17  Los Angeles Department of Police - correspondence 1942
Box 1, Folder 18  Los Angeles Times - clippings 1942-1943
Box 1, Folder 19  Mexican Voice 1938-1939
Language of Material: In English and Spanish.
Scope and Contents
Photocopies of articles from the magazine of the Mexican Youth Conference.

Box 1, Folder 20  The New Republic editorials 1943-1944
Box 1, Folder 21  Pacific Reporter - People vs. Zamorra 1944
Box 1, Folder 22  "Report of Special Committee on Problems of Mexican Youth of the 1942 Grand Jury of Los Angeles County" 1942
Box 1, Folder 23  "Sinarquismo Is the Only Salvation of Mexico" undated
Box 1, Folder 24  Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee 1943-1945
Scope and Contents
Includes: letter from Chet Huntley; mailings from Carey McWilliams; report from Alice Greenfield about her trip to Folsom and Sen Quentin prisons; cartoon sketch of a zoot suiter by Delgado; "The Sleepy Lagoon Mystery" by Guy Endore; group photo of defendants inscribed "To Alice with love from her boys."

Box 1, Folder 25  Special Mexican Relations Committee 1942
Scope and Contents
Includes letters to various U.S. government officials; letter to the grand jury.

Box 1, folder 26  "Statistics" by Ed. Duran Ayres undated
Scope and Contents
Profoundly racist essay on the biological disposition of Mexicans to crime.

Box 1, Folder 27  Survey on television viewing and newspaper delivery circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 28  Youth Committee for the Defense of Mexican American Youth undated
Scope and Contents
Letter to Henry Wallace.

Box 1, Folder 29  "The Zoot Suit Riots" by Elizabeth C. Fahr 1971
Box 1, Folder 30  "Zoot Suiters And Mexicans: Symbols in Crowd Behavior" by Ralph H. Turner and Samuel J. Surace 1956-1967
Scope and Contents
Includes handwritten notes.