

# Hispanic Oral History Collection

These oral interviews with various members of the Kansas City Hispanic community were done in the 1970s-1980s. The project was under the direction of Irene Ruiz, a librarian with the Kansas City Public Library.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Irene Ruiz

**Title:** Hispanic Oral History collection

**Dates:** 1977-1982

**Size:** 6 boxes, 65 sound cassettes (ca.90 minutes), 36 typed guides, 61 CDs, 2 MP3 discs

**Location:** SC69-1

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** Donor imposed restrictions may apply to reproduction of interviews.

**Additional physical form available:** Typewritten extracts for most of the interviews available in collection folder as well as in the Local History Database entry for each interviewee.

**Related collections in other repositories:** MYgration stories: the oral histories of Hispanic immigrants in Kansas City, Kansas (RH MS 565), Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas; Oral history project regarding the Hispanic Community in Kansas City, Kansas (RH MS 752), Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

**Acquisition information:** Department's copy of cassette tapes transferred from Kansas City Public Library administrative office, circa 1990s. Cassette tapes transferred to CD format, May 2008.

**Custodial history:** Formerly located solely at the Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas branch of the Kansas City Public Library. A duplicate set remains at that site and may be checked out by library customers.

**Citation note:** Hispanic Oral History collection (SC69-1), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Scope and content note**

The collection was originally comprised of 65 audiocassettes containing interviews of 59 people from Kansas City's Hispanic community. It was also referred to as the Mexican-American archives project. In 2008, CDs were produced from the audiocassettes. Subjects interviewed cover a substantial cross-section of the population, ranging from state legislators to persons who were unemployed at the time of the interview. The interviews follow a common structure, beginning with the subject's origins and largely moving chronologically through their life. Six of the interviews are in Spanish and 51 of the interviews have a printed guide which summarizes the contents of the tapes. There are also 55 handwritten summaries from which the printed guides were produced. Several of the manuscript summaries do not have tapes in the collection. The interviewer

was Irene Ruiz, former librarian of the West Branch (Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas) of the Kansas City Public Library.

### **Collection Inventory**

#### **Tapes and CDs With Guides**

**Alonzo, Severiano** – Tape 1, CD 1, MP3-1  
Associate, Tradition Hales Realtors

**Barbosa, Jess** – Tape 2, CD 2, MP3-2  
Executive Chief, Alameda Plaza Hotel

**Botello, Rita, Mrs.** – Tape 3, CD 3, MP3-3  
Director, Guadalupe Parish Center

**Bustamante, Mary, Mrs.** – Tape 5, CD 5, MP3-4  
Homemaker

**Cardenas, Elida** – Tape 6, CD 6, MP3-5  
Employment Opportunity Specialist, Office of Civil Rights, Federal Aviation Admin.

**Cedillo, Jose Pedro** – Tape 7, CD 7, MP3-6  
Employee, State of Missouri

**Cortes, Carlos F.** – Tape 8, Parts 1 & 2, CD 8, Parts 1 & 2, MP3-7  
Executive Vice-President, Haffman-Cortes Construction Co.

**Cortez, Julio, Jr.** – Tape 9, CD 9 (in Spanish), MP3-8  
No apparent occupation

**Estevez, Lydia** – Tape 10, CD 10, MP3-9  
No apparent occupation

**Estevez, Richard** – Tape 11, Parts 1 & 2, CD 11, Parts 1 & 2, MP3-10, 11  
Principal, Douglas Elementary School

**Gaitan, Ramon, Rev.** – Tape 14, CD 14, MP3-12  
Prior, Saint Augustine Monastery

**Garcia, Hector J.** – Tape 15, CD 15, MP3-13  
Pastor, Alta Vista Christian Church

**Garcia, Ruben** – Tape 16, CD 16, MP3-14  
Artist

**Garza, Ninfa** – Tape 17, CD 17, MP3-15  
Site Manager, Casa Feliz

**Gutierrez, Julia** – Tape 19, CD 19, MP3-16  
Parent Visitor, Switzer Follow-Thru #2 Program

**Gutierrez, Salvador** – Tape 20, CD 20, MP3-17  
Buildings Manager, West High School & Switzer Elementary

**Hernandez, Asencion** – Tape 21, CD 21, MP3-18  
Government Employee

- Hernandez, Frank** – Tape 22, CD 22, MP3-19  
No apparent occupation
- Hernandez, Mary Lou, Mrs.** – Tape 23, CD 23, MP3- 20 (has duplicate tape)  
Teachers Aide, West High School
- Hernandez, Robert** – Tape 24, CD 24, MP3- 21 (Not complete)  
City Councilman
- Infante, Henry** – Tape 25, CD 25, MP3- 22  
Associate, Kiene & Bradley, Architects
- Lopez, Alfonso** – Tape 26, CD 26, MP3- 23  
Director, Bilingual Programs, Kansas City School District
- Lopez, Josephine, Mrs.** – Tape 27, CD 27, MP3- 24  
Homemaker
- Lopez, Ladislao** – Tape 28, CD 28, MP3- 25  
Unidentified Doctor
- Lopez, Lucy, Mrs.** – Tape 29, CD 29, MP3-26  
Preschool Teacher and Secretary, *Dos Mundos*
- Lopez, Robert E.** – Tape 30, CD 30, MP3- 27  
Federal Employee
- Lopez, Ruth, Mrs.** – Tape 31, CD 31, MP3- 28  
Grocery Store owner
- Lozano, Manuela Cruz** – Tape 32, CD 32, MP3- 29  
Teacher, HRC West Side Day Care Center
- Medina, Agustin** – Tape 34, CD 34, MP3- 30  
Operator, El Taquito restaurant
- Medina, Chris** – Tape 35, CD 35, MP3-31  
Director, Guadalupe Center
- Mesa, Robert** – Tape 36, CD36, MP3-32  
Police Officer, KCMO
- Montes, Henry** – Tape 37, CD 37, MP3- 33  
Artist
- Mora, Maria, Mrs.** – Tape 38, CD 38, MP3- 34  
No apparent occupation
- Morales, Marciano** – Tape 39, CD 39, MP3-35  
Director, Rockhill Care Center
- Parra, Josefa, Mrs.** – Tape 40, CD 40, MP3-36  
Homemaker
- Parra, Robert** – Tape 42, CD 42, MP3-37  
Parish Center Manager of Employment & Training Systems at Westside Center

- Prospero, Tomas Angel** – Tape 43, CD 43, MP3- 38  
Unemployed
- Quiroga, Pete** – Tape 44, CD 44, MP3- 39  
Real Estate Assistant, First National Bank
- Ramirez, Elvira** – Tape 45, CD 45, MP3- 40  
Director of Spanish-Speaking Office, Kansas City, KS; Assistant Professor,  
University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare
- Ramos, Salla Magana** – Tape 46, CD 46, MP3-41  
Teacher, KCMO
- Reyes, Catherine** – Tape 47, CD 47, MP3-42  
Librarian Clerk at the Media Center at Switzer Elementary School
- Reyes, Ramon** – Tapes 48 and 49, CD 48 and 49, MP3- 43,44  
Chef
- Rocha, Agustin** – Tape 50, CD 50, MP3- 45  
Proofreader, *Kansas City Kansan* (ret.)
- Rocha, Esther** – Tape 51, parts 1 & 2, CD 51, MP3- 46  
No apparent occupation
- Rodriguez, Dolores** – Tape 52, CD 52, MP3- 47  
No apparent occupation
- Rodriguez, John A.** – Tape 53, CD 53, MP3- 48  
Executive Educational Coordinator of Community Relations, Midwest Center  
of Equal Education Opportunity, UMKC
- Rodriguez, Magdalena** – Tape 54, CD 54, MP3- 49  
No apparent occupation
- Rojas, Paul** – Tape 55, CD 55, MP3- 50  
Missouri State Representative, 23rd Legislative District
- Ruiz, Felisa** – Tape 56, parts 1 & 2, CD 56, MP3- 51  
Post Office Employee
- Sandoval, Antonio, Dr.** – Tape 57, CD 57, MP3-52  
Chemistry Professor, UMKC
- Soltero, Louis** – Tape 58, CD 58, MP3- 53  
Retired Captain of Waiters and Room Service, Muehlebach Hotel
- Torres, Dan** – Tape 59, CD 59, MP3- 54  
Teacher, Rockhurst High School
- Villarreal, Henry** – Tape 60, CD 60, MP3- 55  
Owner, Villarreal Theatre

**Tapes without Guides**

- Bowersox, Arrendondo** – Tape 4, CD 4, MP3- 56  
Restaurant Operator

**Flores, Salomon** – Tape 12, CD 12, MP3- 57

Associate Professor of Education University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**Franco, Ester** – Tape 13, CD 13, MP3- 58

Director of Elementary Counselors for Kansas City School District; Director Bilingual Program K-12; Director ESSA Elementary Magnet Programs

**Gonzalez, Ester** –Tape 18, CD 18, MP3-59

Reg. Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Manager for the Social Security Admin. in Kansas City

**Maya, Agapito** – Tape 33, CD 33, MP3- 60

No apparent occupation

**Parra, Richardo** – Tape 41, CD 41, MP3- 61

Neighborhood and Affairs Representative of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; past Executive Director of Midwest Council of La Rosa

### **Guides without Tapes**

#### Printed

**Johnson, Elizabeth** – (not part of the Mexican American Archives project; former librarian for Kansas City Public Library)

#### Handwritten

**Gonzalez, Florenico**

**Lapien, Rafael**

**Morado, Mike**

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Stuart Hinds, July 1998.