

July 21, 1981
Interviewer - Irene Ruiz
Interviewee - Mrs. Lucy Lopez

SIDE A

- 005-006 Mrs. Lopez is a preschool teacher and secretary at Dos Mundos, a local bilingual newspaper.
- 007-019 Born September 16, 1934. Father worked for the Railroad Ice Company, an affiliate of the railroad which supplied ice for shipping perishables before refrigeration was invented. Family moved to Armourdale in 1941.
- 026-025 Father was Jose Pinuelas Reyes, Mother Maria Gomez Inda Mejillas.
- 026-037 Lived in Armourdale until 1951 flood. Oldest of 4 children. Attended about 1 month of school at Clara Barton before transferring to John J. Ingalls. Finished elementary school there, attended Central Junior High.
- 038-076 Most neighbors were Mexican, next door neighbor pure Mexican Indian. As was Mrs. Soltero's paternal grandmother. Father left railroad to work in packing houses. Mother, other relatives worked at Swifts. Grandmother worked for WPA, then Fred Harvey's - Union Station. Grandmother lived next door. Maternal Grandmother was strictly a homemaker, never learned English.
- 077-100 Parents both educated. Father born in Chihuahua, Mexico. Mother born in El Paso, Texas. Father came with family to Kansas City while very young. Parents met, married. Mother's relatives from New Mexico.
- 101-119 Good memories of school. School staff was experienced in teaching Hispanic children. Had same teacher for 6 years.
- 120- Brothers played outside but as a girl she stayed home to learn embroidery, crochet, etc.. Recalls grandmother's stories of the Mexican Revolution, evenings of father reading classic novels aloud in Spanish while women sewed. Grandmother was head of the household rather than father.
- 178-186 Attended Mt. Carmel Church in Armourdale, then Sacred Heart. Parents returned to Kansas side in late 1950's.
- 187-240 Flood of 1951 - Mother left children with relatives in Rosedale and returned to rescue clothing before the flood hit. Family divided, parents moved in with relatives on the West Side. Parents and other relatives slept in Penn Valley Park after being evacuated from homes following a chemical fire on Southwest Blvd. Obtained a house on 27th and Belleview. Lived with family there until marriage.
- 241-255 Commuted last 2 years of high school back to Argentine to avoid transferring schools.

- 256-285 Father encouraged all children to graduate from high school, all 4 succeeded. Children never had extras like bikes and skates but father made sure they had books, school supplies.
- 286-320 Remembers gang rivalries between West Side, Argentine, Armourdale areas.
- 321-364 Graduated from high school in 1953. Worked final year in school as a bus girl at the Terrace Grill in the Muehlebach Hotel. Met people like Glen Miller, Dorsey Brothers. Father made her quit when her grades began to fall.
- 365-396 Had difficulty finding a job after high school. Feels there was prejudice against Mexican-Americans. Finally went to work in a factory, began buying parents furniture.
- 397-437 Married Jesse Lopez of Kansas City in 1956, moved to Chicago. Husband was an only child.
- 438-458 Lived in Chicago until 1963, when she and husband separated. During that time, had 2 children, one born at home.

SIDE B

- 004-016 Details of daughter's birth in 1956 under a special home-birth program.
- 017-022 Son born 2-1/2 years later in hospital.
- 023-028 Mother-in-law took her in when she left husband, cared for children while she worked. Reconciled with husband 2 years after returning to Kansas City.
- 029-035 Gave birth to twins in 1966, another son in 1969.
- 036-069 Began volunteering in Head Start when her youngest children attended the program at Douglas School. Took job as a transportation aide, then as teacher's aide for Head Start. Has worked there 7 years. Four years prior to interview, was promoted to undergrad teacher. Takes night courses at Penn Valley.
- 070-117 Details of how brother, his wife, and other Hispanic friends started DOS MUNDOS, a bilingual local newspaper. She helps out in summer doing secretarial work.
- 118-135 Oldest daughter and son both married, with children. Twins attend Northeast High, youngest son in Our Lady of the Americas.
- 136-149 Divorced husband in 1969. Head Start budget secure for 2 years, after that she is unsure about her job.
- 150-165 Cooks during annual Mexican fiesta in Crown Center.
- 166-199 Future goal to get Childhood Development Associates degree. Hopes to continue teaching pre-school. Sees it as an important time to instill positive educational attitudes.

- 200-251 Credits an elementary school teacher and an uncle with being positive influences on her life. Uncle taught her to seek answers to her questions by using encyclopedias, other reference books.
- 252-300 Doesn't read much in Spanish, feels more comfortable in English. Took high school Spanish but found it difficult to unlearn all the incorrect grammar she was used to hearing in the neighborhood.
- 315 End of interview.