

SC 69-1 Tape 32

MEXICAN-AMERICAN ARCHIVES

Interviewee: Mrs. Manuela ("Nellie") Cruz
Lozano
Date: July 30, 1978
Interviewer: Irene Ruiz

#210353

Side 45A

- 013-016 Mrs. Lozano teaches at the HRC West Side Day Care Center.
- 017-031 She was born on Mercier Street, but moved soon to an apartment on Circle, above the Johnson and Johnson grocery. She is the oldest child of Benito and Maria Luz Fuentes and has 7 brothers and 2 sisters.
- 036-057 Recollections of West Side neighborhood where she grew up.
- 058-067 Her parents were born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. Her father immigrated at age 18 and came to Kansas City to work on the railroad. Her mother paid 5¢ to cross the border when she was 15.
- 068-088 Early home life: She did not know any language but Spanish existed until she began school.
- 089-101 She became seriously ill and was told she would never walk again. She was taken to the Rosedale steam baths for therapy and regained use of her legs. Afterwards, she was always behind in school.
- 102-111 She attended Guadalupe School and recalls crying often because the nuns forced her to speak only English. She attended Switzer for 6th grade and returned to Guadalupe and then West Junior High up to 9th grade.
- 112-120 Her parents belonged to the Guadalupe Church.
- 135-147 Recollections of World War II.
- 148-207 The flood of 1951: She married Lozano in 1950 and was living with her in-laws in Kansas City, Kansas. She remembers that no one believed the flood warnings because there had been several in past years which never materialized. So many sightseers jammed the 23rd Street Viaduct that no one could get through to salvage any possessions. Her husband lost a relative in the flood because the man refused to leave his home. The husband worked at Swifts & Co. packing plant.
- 203-207
- 209-266 Mrs. Lozano reached a point where she no longer could help her children with homework. She began a GED class at Penn Valley and stressed the importance of education to her children.
- 267-357 She describes her job now as a day care teacher's aide. She attends college part-time also.

- 376-425 She is active each year in the Guadalupe Church Fiesta. She feels her hobby, dancing, is a way to express pride in her Mexican heritage.
- 426-466 She works on the Guadalupe Parish Center Board.
- 467-485 The trafficway built through the West Side disrupted the neighborhood. She feels people would move back if the city fathers would rebuild in the area.
- 486-532 Future: Mrs. Lozano will finish her degree and continue her education at Avila. She plans to specialize in the needs of children. Sometimes she thinks instead she should counsel Mexican-American children to stay in school and develop their talents.
- 534- She thanks her family for the encouragement they gave her.

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