

Montes, Henry

Aug. 24, 1982

04-young aspiring artist

6-b. in 1956 in kcmo, never met his father, believes his grandmother is from chihuahua. Mother is Mary Montes. Moved to chi. from mex, mom b. in chi. moved to kc when young.

21-spoke sp at home, grandma and mom both speak sp.

25- attended Switzer ele, except for one year at a school named cathedral a school which only lasted one year, returned to switz. High school to west until 10th, then to westport through 11th gr, quit school, worked awhile then went into service.

42-Mom sewed for Gay Gibbbon, grandma lived with them. One sister.

50- active in sports, but main interest was art. 2 cousins were very good in art, looked up to them, and got started because of them. took art classes in hs.

69- worked after quitting but was waiting to get into marinew. Stationed in Calif for 3 years. Did portraits for money in service, for guys to give to girlfriends. Was in infantry, tried to get into another area to learn art. Unsuccessful.

90-before service, was unsure which type of art he liked. In service got into murals, latin art.

100-returned to kc immediately after service. Married when he came back, to girl from Mex. city. Has 2 boys now, both under a yr. old. Wife has been in kc for 10 yrs.

113-has had a few jobs, but all temporary. Hopes to get his GED so he can go to college with service benefits.

123-knew ruben garcia since they were children. Montes knew garcia was into cartooning, but did not know him well until after service. Go garcia interested in murals.

136-Director of quad center has been to calif, he was willing to give montse and garcia a chance. Now are working for channel 9, have working have 3 to do for the channel. for different angles. Done sunday afternoon every mo.

166-quad center mural was 6 feet by 9 feet. Main mural for ch 9 is 6 ft by 10 or 12 feet long.

190 eventually would like to go into both murals and portraits. Will be entering his art work in a latin am exhibit at the fed building in Sept. for hispanic week.

August 24, 1981  
Interviewer - Irene Ruiz  
Interviewee - Henry Montes

(No Tape #A)

- 004-005 Montes is a aspiring artist.
- 006-020 Born in Kansas City, Mo., in 1956. Never knew his father. Mother, Mary Montes, born in Chicago, but grew up in Kansas City. Maternal grandmother from Chihuahua.
- 021-024 Spoke Spanish at home to mother and grandmother.
- 025-041 Attended Switzer elementary except for one year, when he attended a new school called Cathedral. School closed after one year. Returned to Switzer, then West Junior High and Westport High School. Quit high school in 11th grade and went into service.
- 042-049 Lived with mother, grandmother and sister. Mother was a seamstress for Gay Gibson.
- 050-068 Active in sports, but main interest was art. Two older cousins were good at art. Wanted to be like them.
- 069-089 Stationed in California for 3 years, in the Marines. Made extra money by drawing portraits for servicemen to send to their girlfriends. Tried to get out of the infantry and into another area of service where he could take art classes, but was unsuccessful.
- 090-099 Grew to like murals with Hispanic themes while in California.
- 100-112 Returned to Kansas City after service, married woman from Mexico City. Had 2 sons, both under a year old, at time of interview.
- 113-122 Has had a few temporary jobs since service, but nothing full-time. Hopes to get GED so he can attend college with service benefits.
- 123-150 Teamed up with Ruben Garcia, an old friend from childhood who also was interested in art, to do a mural for the Guadalupe Center.
- 151-165 Is now working on 3 murals for Channel 9, to be used as a back-drop for a local TV program.
- 166-189 Mural at Guadalupe Center was about 6' by 9'. Murals at Channel 9, are larger, perhaps 6' by 10' or 12'.
- 190-206 Eventually hopes to do both murals and portraits. Planned to exhibit work in the Federal Building in September 1981, for Hispanic Week.
- 207-220 Hopes to someday go to college for formal art training.