

Baltiera

Reyes, ramon

no tape number

March 24, 1981

7- Born in Zacatecas in small town named Sain Alto. B. 1903 Aug. 31. 2 children, a brother 8 years older. Father JOSE Pilar Reyes. ~~Mother~~ Diaz. Florencia Valtierra-Marujo. ~~Bla Baltiera.~~

22-Lived in the small village. During the revolution it was impossible for father to do business, because he was a traveling salesman. They had no protection or guarantees from either government, to father decided to come to US.

30-Grandmother lived in El Paso, and was always writing and asking father to come. Went in 1917. Crossed the border June 15. Has been in US since.

36-Lived in el paso a year and then came to Marceline, Mo. from there to Florene (Florence?) Mo. Floyd. Father worked for the Santa Fe RR, rr moved him there. Was there May-Nov. 1918. Came to KC in 1918 and has been here since.

50-Went to night school here. Family lived then in Cortney (Cortland)?? Mo. Father did not like the way of life in US and returned to Mex. in 1932. Father died in 1959 in Zacatecas. Mother died in KC in 1927.

65-Was working at Wilson packing house, while attending school. First lived in a boarding house in Armourdale, moved to Mo. in 1920. 2125 Summit Attended Adams School at night. Mainly to learn English.

83-Not too active in church at that time, occasionally attended Guadalupe.

86- Belonged to several social clubs. Helped organize a recreation club in 1920 of men from several areas in Mex. Also a club called Casino Mexicano. This was a group of primarily older men who had belonged to various political parties in Mexico and were in the US temporarily.

107-thinks there was more social life then than now among the Mex people.

113-As more and more people returned to Mex. the clubs gradually disbanded. Then in 1924 Union Cultural Mexicana was formed. Still exists.

127--recalls some of the club members who became well known in Mex. after returning.

158-Worked for Wison for 2 years. Then changed and wne to Cudahys. Wanted to learn a trade and saw ther was no opportunity to learn there. Went to work at the Savoy Hotel as kitchen apprentice in 1921. Latee became cook. Made his living cooking. Worked at the Savoy 10 years, then for the 9beldrike?? *Beldria RR* for a short time Village hotel 1932-36. Then for the Kansas Citian Hotel. They changed names to the Continental until 1942. Then began working for the Kansas City Club. Stayed til 1944.

198- Married in 1932, 4 children, one died. 2 daughters 1 son. Two children attended school college for 2 years.

213--Wife was born in Monterrey, Nueva Leon but has been in Us insince 6.
Named Elisa Jimenez y sosa dde Reyes.

224- During WWII worked at the KC club. Since he was too old for the draft, the govy tried to ~~frce~~ force him to go to work for a steel company. Reyes refused becauss he was making more money at the club.

240-Became head chef at the Famous bar. Restaurants were paying more than hotels. There for 3 or 4 years. Still lived on the West side.

256-Many young men from the West side were drafted, but mahy women went into the service also. Men had to carry their registration card for the draft at all tones.

290-West side lacked political representation, very few became involeved in politica. Fells those who did got involved for themself, not for whole community This is one of Reyes goals--to obtain rep for whole community.

328-Bar was sold, so he went to work at Putches 210 on country Club Plaza. Continued there from 1947 to 1968. R tired from there. The Putch restaurants were bought by Montgomery Wards, and then purchased by a group of business men including ^Mr. Putch.

357-Flood. Was in ^Mex City in July 1951. Was very surprised when he returned to see fthe flood. Recalls only one life. Most of the people who lived in Armourdale moved to Missouri. Many stayed to Mo.

398-Still active in Union Cultural Mexicana. Belonged to the Inteenational Geneva Assn, an organization world-wide of cooks, chefs, etc. waiters head In 1937 belonged to cooks union, was active for 15 yea s. Then became chef so could no longer be in union. Helps out at Casa Feliz, run by the Guada Par Center Inc. which provides daily meal for elderly people. Also occasionally helps with cooking at social functions

479-end.

4-Was president of a savings and loan organization in 1938 to 1976. This was the UCM credit union. No longer exists.

23-Would like to travel. Goes to ^Mexico occasionally.

37 end.

March 24, 1918
Interviewer - Irene Ruiz
Interviewee - Ramon Reyes

SIDE A Note: Tape is in Spanish

- 007-021 Born in village of Sain Alto, Zacatecas, Mexico, August 31, 1903. Father was Jose Pilar Reyes Diaz. Mother Florencia Valtierra Marujo. Has 1 brother, 8 years older.
- 022-029 Father was a peddler. During the revolution it became impossible to travel. No protection or guarantees from warring factions. Came to U.S.
- 030-035 Grandmother in El Paso constantly urged them to come. Left Mexico in 1915 and has lived in U.S. since.
- 036-049 Lived in El Paso for 1 year. Moved to Marceline and then Floyd, Mo. with Santa Fe Railroad. Came to Kansas City in 1918.
- 050-064 Attended night school. Father did not like life in the U.S.. He returned to Zacatecas, where he died in 1959. Mother died in Kansas City in 1927.
- 065-082 Worked at Wilson's packinghouse. Lived in a boarding house in Armourdale before moving to the Missouri side in 1920. Learned English at night school.
- 083-085 Attended Guadalupe, not overly active.
- 086-106 Belonged to several social clubs. Helped organize a men-only recreation club in 1920. Also belonged to Casino Mexicano, a group of primarily older Mexican men who were politically active in Mexico and fled to Kansas City during the revolution.
- 107-112 Feels there was more social life among Mexicans in those days.
- 113-126 Groups gradually disbanded as more and more people returned to Mexico. Helped form Union Cultural Mexicana in 1924, still exists.
- 127-157 Details of some of the Casino members.
- 158-197 Worked at Wilson's for 2 years, then Cudahy's. Wanted to learn a trade, saw no chance for advancement in packing houses. Became kitchen apprentice at the Savoy Hotel in 1921. Became a cook. After 10 years left to work for the Beldrake. Then the Village Hotel, Kansas Citian (now called the Continental), and the Kansas City Club.
- 198-223 Married in 1932, had four children, one deceased. Wife named Elisa Jimenez Y Sosa, born in Monterrey, Mexico, but had lived in the U.S. since 6 years of age.

- 224-239 Worked at the Kansas City Club during World War II. Was too old for the draft but the government tried to persuade him to work at a steel factory. Refused because he made more money as a cook.
- 240-255 Became head chef at the Famous Bar downtown. Was there 3 or 4 years.
- 256-289 Many young men from West Side were drafted, young women also volunteered for service. Men all had to carry draft registration cards.
- 290-327 West Side lacked political representation. The few who got involved did so for personal gain. Reyes hopes to see this change.
- 328-356 Bar was sold, Reyes went to work at Putch's, 210 on Country Club Plaza. Worked there 1947-1968 when he retired.
- 357-397 Was visiting in Mexico City at time of 1951 flood. Various recollections.
- 398-479 Still active in Union Cultural Mexicana. Belongs to International Geneva Association, a world-wide organization of cooks, chefs, waiters. Joined cooks' union in 1937, belonged 15 years before becoming a chef.

Now helps out at Casa Feliz, a daily meal center for the elderly at the Guadalupe Center, Inc. Also occasionally cooks for banquets, social functions.

SIDE B

- 004-022 Was president of the UCM credit union from 1938-1976. Union no longer exists.
- 023-037 Hopes to travel more in the future. Goes to Mexico for occasional visits.