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Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Public Library Hispanic oral history collection Collection 292

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Department

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Grand Rapids Public Library Hispanic oral history collection
ID:	Collection 292
Date [inclusive]:	2001
Physical Description:	1.8 Linear Feet Seven boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This devised collection contains oral histories of Grand Rapids, Michigan Hispanic immigrants, coming from a variety of Spanish speaking countries. The interviews were conducted by various individuals, through several different forums. Several of the interviews were conducted by college students of Calvin College or Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Audio tapes and some form of transcriptions are available in most cases. Also, ancillary data, photographs, student interviewer essays and other documents may accompany the interview. Material may be temporarily restricted, in some cases, awaiting receipt of the Oral History Release form.

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Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Public Library, through the programs conducted by Gordon Olson, City Historian, has reached out to ethnic communities, in a variety of ways, to record their history.

This collection documents the immigration and experiences of Hispanic immigrants to Grand Rapids, through interviews taken directly by Olson, student interviewer programs that he managed but were conducted by faculty at Calvin and Aquinas Colleges, and independent interviews by others.

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History of the Calvin College Interviews

The Latin American Oral History Project of Calvin College, 2001, contains a series of seven interviews with Latin American immigrants who live in West Michigan. The countries represented are Cuba, Honduras, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, and the territory of Puerto Rico. The interviews tell the stories of the Hispanic immigrants' lives in their native countries and life as they perceive it in America.

Nine different students in the Latin American History course at Calvin College conducted the interviews. Professor Daniel Miller taught the course. All of the interviews were conducted between February and April of 2001. The students were instructed to answer questions on a historical biographical questionnaire they were given. They also had to include a Works Cited Page and most included a photograph. Some transcriptions are in Spanish, others in English. Most students conducted at least three interviews.

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Scope and Contents

Series I. It is not known whether all of the students in the Latin American History class were involved in this project. Transcriptions were not taken for all interviews. Individual dates were not given for some interviews.

Series II. Two interviews are currently closed, due to lack of Oral History Release Forms. For one interview there is no audio tape available.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Calvin College, Professor Dan Miller; Aquinas College, Dr. Anna Bates; Gordon Olson.

Accession numbers 2001.083; 2001.110; 2002.091; 2004.007.1-20.

Processing Information

These following codes indicate a portion of the collection for each subject: UT = Tape (Usage tape, available for review by public MT = Master tape (not for use) TR = Transcription of tape S = Synopsis/index/abstract of contents of tape D = Computer Diskette. MacIntosh format. A = Ancillary materials related to the subject, such as a resume, biographical notes, or clippings B = Biographical data R = Release (filed with the Accession files)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Hispanic Americans -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- oral histories
- Immigrants -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

Collection Inventory

Series I. Calvin College, 2001

Date: 2001

Ancillary Data

Fernandez, Luisa

General

Contains no photograph, a summary report in English, and one transcription in Spanish. Interviewed by Kate Schramm

Biographical / Historical

Born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, attended school to 3rd grade, married Pio Fernandez, came to US in 1955, became cherry picker, worked for Sara Lee, received discrimination throughout the years.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-16 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-16	Box 1	Folder 1
Interview., 2001-04-10 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-10	Box 1	Folder 1

Mejía, José

General

Contains two photographs of José, a summary report in Spanish, and two transcriptions in Spanish. Interviewed by Kevin VerBeek and Kristin Azkoul

Biographical / Historical

Born in Lima, Honduras, came to US at age 19, traveled by train through Mexico, lived in Texas, Georgia and Florida for 3 years, came to Grand Rapids in 1991, works on building construction and as a landlord.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-02-22 <u>Date:</u> 2001-02-22	Box 1	Folder 2
Interview., 2001-03-15 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-15	Box 1	Folder 2
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 1	Folder 2

Quesada, Carlos

General

Contains summary report in English containing one embedded picture of Carlos, and two transcriptions in Spanish. Interviewed by Dustin Brewer and transcribed by Adam

Biographical / Historical

Dehoek: born in Havana, Cuba, studied in province of Camaguey for 7-8 grades, taught agriculture in Cuban Public schools, received bachelors degree from University of Camaguey, tells of Cuban economy and oppression by the Cuban government, came to United States in 1971, worked for Keeler-Brass, tells of cultural and language barrier he has faced in the U.S.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-02-21	Box 1	Folder 3

Date: 2001-02-21

Interview., 2001-02-28

Box 1

Folder 3

Date: 2001-02-28

Interview., 2001-03-07

Box 1

Folder 3

Date: 2001-03-07

Silva, Norma

General

Contains a summary report in English, no photograph, and two transcriptions in Spanish. Interviewed by Aubrey Wise

Biographical / Historical

Born in San Pedro de Marcoris, Dominican Republic, attended school up to the sixth grade, worked as secretary in Dominican Institute of Santo Domingo for thirty years, came to U.S. in 1996.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-29 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-29	Box 1	Folder 4
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 1	Folder 4

Solano, María Ester

General

Contains a summary report in English, seven photographs of María & family, and one transcription in English. Interviewed by Marie Scheffers

Biographical / Historical

Born in San Salvador, El Salvador, attended school up to grade six, attended La Escuela Normal España de Maestras, became a school teacher, came to U.S. in 1988, worked part time at AARP and Latin American Services.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-04-16 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-16	Box 1	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-20 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-20	Box 1	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-30 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-30	Box 1	Folder 5

Tiscareño, Berenice

General

Contains a summary report in Spanish, one transcription in Spanish, and ten photographs (two of Berenice). Interviewed by Angela Anderson and transcribed by Selena Erickson

Biographical / Historical

born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, studied business administration at the college level, tells of difference in US and Mexico schooling, works as administrative assistant at Parapro.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-01 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-01	Box 1	Folder 6
Interview. Spring 2001	Box 1	Folder 6
Interview. Spring 2001	Box 1	Folder 6

Valdes, Rogelía

General

Contains summary report in English, two transcriptions in English and one photograph of Rogelia. Interviewed by Catherine Hanna

Biographical / Historical

Born in Mattancas, Cuba, achieved high school education, he worked as a Secretary, came to US five years ago.

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-30 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-30	Box 1	Folder 7
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 1	Folder 7
Interview., 2001-04-14 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-14	Box 1	Folder 7

Interviews. Audio.

Fernandez, Luisa. [2 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-16 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-16	Box 2	Folder 1
Interview., 2001-04-10 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-10	Box 2	Folder 1

Mejía, José. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-02-22 <u>Date:</u> 2001-02-22	Box 2	Folder 2
Interview., 2001-03-15 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-15	Box 2	Folder 2
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 2	Folder 2

Quesada, Carlos. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-02-21 <u>Date:</u> 2001-02-21	Box 2	Folder 3
Interview., 2001-02-28 <u>Date:</u> 2001-02-28	Box 2	Folder 3
Interview., 2001-03-07 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-07	Box 2	Folder 3

Silva, Norma. [2 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-29 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-29	Box 2	Folder 4
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 2	Folder 4

Solano, María Ester. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-04-16 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-16	Box 2	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-20 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-20	Box 2	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-30 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-30	Box 2	Folder 5

Tiscareño, Berenice. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-01	Box 2	Folder 6

Date: 2001-03-01

Interview. Spring 2001

Box 2

Folder 6

Interview. Spring 2001

Box 2

Folder 6

Valdes, Rogelia. [2 Tapes]**Title/Description****Instances**

Interview., 2001-03-30

Box 2

Folder 7

Date: 2001-03-30

Interview., 2001-04-05

Box 2

Folder 7

Date: 2001-04-05

Interview., 2001-04-14

Box 2

Folder 7

Date: 2001-04-14**Fernandez, Luisa. [2 Tapes]****Title/Description****Instances**

Interview., 2001-03-16

Box 3

Folder 1

Date: 2001-03-16

Interview., 2001-04-10

Box 3

Folder 1

Date: 2001-04-10**Mejía, José. [3 Tapes]****Title/Description****Instances**

Interview., 2001-02-22

Box 3

Folder 2

Date: 2001-02-22

Interview., 2001-03-15

Box 3

Folder 2

Date: 2001-03-15

Interview., 2001-04-05

Box 3

Folder 2

Date: 2001-04-05**Quesada, Carlos. [3 Tapes]****Title/Description****Instances**

Interview., 2001-02-21

Box 3

Folder 3

Date: 2001-02-21

Interview., 2001-02-28

Box 3

Folder 3

Date: 2001-02-28

Interview., 2001-03-7

Box 3

Folder 3

Date: 2001-03-7**Silva, Norma. [2 Tapes]**

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-29 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-29	Box 3	Folder 4
Interview., 2001-04-5 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-5	Box 3	Folder 4
Interview., 2001-04-5 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-5	Box 3	Folder 4

Solano, María Ester. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-04-02 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-02	Box 3	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-16 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-16	Box 3	Folder 5
Interview., 2001-04-30 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-30	Box 3	Folder 5

Tiscareño, Berenice. [3 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-01 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-01	Box 3	Folder 6
Interview. Spring 2001	Box 3	Folder 6
Interview. Spring 2001	Box 3	Folder 6

Valdes, Rogelia. [2 Tapes]

Title/Description	Instances	
Interview., 2001-03-30 <u>Date:</u> 2001-03-30	Box 3	Folder 7
Interview., 2001-04-05 <u>Date:</u> 2001-04-05	Box 3	Folder 7
Interview., 2001-04-14	Box 3	Folder 7

Date: 2001-04-14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II. Aquinas College course interviews****General**

Transcription [TR], Master Taper [MT], and User Tapes [UT] all match their corresponding counterparts. Patrons should request user tapes and not the master tapes

Transcriptions. 2001.110

Title/Description	Instances	
TR8. Simon Aguliar & Irma Garcia / interviewed by Laura Retherford & Christina Miller	Box 4	Folder TR8
TR9. Marina Cardenas / by Joe Fortier & Dorene Zervas	Box 4	folder TR9
TR10. Dr. Ricardo Garza-Quintero / by Amy Piercefield & Lupita Garza Grande	Box 4	folder TR10
TR11. Carmen Parra / by Meghan Lockett & Sarah Ward	Box 4	folder TR11
TR12. Luis Rameriz, Senior / by Juston Miller & Doug Austin	Box 4	folder TR12
TR13. Luis Rameriz, II / by Tom Huizing & Ryan Burke	Box 4	folder TR13

Master Tapes

Title/Description	Instances	
Simon Aguliar & Irma Garcia / interviewed by Laura Retherford & Christina Miller. NO RELEASE, OR TAPES.	Box 5	Cassette MT8
Marina Cardenas / by Joe Fortier & Dorene Zervas	Box 5	Cassette MT9
Dr. Ricardo Garza-Quintero / by Amy Piercefield & Lupita Garza Grande	Box 5	Cassette MT10
Carmen Parra / by Meghan Lockett & Sarah Ward	Box 5	Cassette MT11
Luis Rameriz, Senior / by Juston Miller & Doug Austin	Box 5	Cassette MT12
Luis Rameriz, II / by Tom Huizing & Ryan Burke	Box 5	Cassette MT13

User Tapes

Title/Description	Instances	
Simon Aguliar & Irma Garcia / interviewed by Laura Retherford & Christina Miller. NO RELEASE, OR TAPES	Box 5	Cassette UT8

Marina Cardenas / by Joe Fortier & Dorene Zerfas	Box 5	Cassette UT9
Dr. Ricardo Garza-Quintero / by Amy Piercefield & Lupita Garza Grande	Box 5	Cassette UT10
Carmen Parra / by Meghan Luckett & Sarah Ward	Box 5	Cassette UT11
Luis Rameriz, Senior / by Juston Miller & Doug Austin	Box 5	Cassette UT12
Luis Rameriz, II / by Tom Huizing & Ryan Burke	Box 5	Cassette UT13

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Series III. Student Interns Interviews

Transcriptions

General

The following interviews were conducted by Maria G. Garza-Grande, a student at Aquinas College, as an internship which she did with City Historian emeritus, Gordon Olson.

Title/Description	Instances	
TR14. Pastor Ruben & Patty Rivera. 2002.091., 2001-08-12 <u>Date:</u> 2001-08-12	Box 4	Folder TR14
TR15. Luis Roberto Pena. 2002.091., 2001-08-26 <u>Date:</u> 2001-08-26	Box 4	Folder TR15
TR16. Manuel Cardiel. 2002.091., 2001-09-08 <u>Date:</u> 2001-09-08	Box 4	Folder TR16
A/S17 SAFE. Francisco Vega. Copyright Reserved. Use only with permission of Archivist. 2002.091., 2001-11-14 <u>Date:</u> 2001-11-14 <u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Legal Status: Copyright Reserved. No release form.	Box 4	Folder A/S17

Master Tapes

General

The following interviews were conducted by Maria G. Garza-Grande, a student at Aquinas College, as an internship which she did with City Historian emeritus, Gordon Olson.

Title/Description	Instances	
Pastor Ruben & Patty Rivera. 2002.091., 2001-08-12		

<u>Date:</u> 2001-08-12	Box 5	Cassette MT14
Luis Roberto Pena. 2002.091., 2001-08-26 <u>Date:</u> 2001-08-26	Box 5	Cassette MT15
Manuel Cardiel. 2002.091., 2001-09-08 <u>Date:</u> 2001-09-08	Box 5	Cassette MT16
SAFE. Francisco Vega. Copyright Reserved. Use only with permission of Archivist. 2002.091., 2001-11-14 <u>Date:</u> 2001-11-14	Box 5	Cassette MT17

Conditions Governing Access:

Legal Status: Copyright Reserved. No release form.

User Tapes

General

The following interviews were conducted by Maria G. Garza-Grande, a student at Aquinas College, as an internship which she did with City Historian emeritus, Gordon Olson.

Title/Description	Instances	
Pastor Ruben & Patty Rivera. 2002.091., 2001-08-12 <u>Date:</u> 2001-08-12	Box 6	Cassette UT14
Luis Roberto Pena. 2002.091., 2001-08-26 <u>Date:</u> 2001-08-26	Box 6	Cassette UT15
Manuel Cardiel. 2002.091., 2001-09-08 <u>Date:</u> 2001-09-08	Box 6	Cassette UT16
SAFE. Francisco Vega. Copyright Reserved. Use only with permission of Archivist. 2002.091., 2001-11-14 <u>Date:</u> 2001-11-14	Box 6	Cassette UT17

Conditions Governing Access:

Legal Status: Copyright Reserved. No release form.

Oral Histories. Ancillary Materials.

Photographs & Negatives. Garza Grande. 2004.077.1-20

Title/Description	Instances	
Couple & toddler in old Zonta Lounge with Frederick Stuart Church painting behind them. 2004.077.1-4	Box 4	Folder A16
(non-project related. Removed from collection). 2004.077.5-6	Box 4	Folder A16

Family group, interior. 2004.077.7-10	Box 4	Folder A16
Same Family group + 1, exterior. 2004.077.11-14	Box 4	Folder A16
Man. 2004.077.15-18	Box 4	Folder A16
Man seated. 2004.077.19-20	Box 4	Folder A16

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