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December 2000

MSS 0092 Héctor García
Dates: bulk 1973-1978
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Héctor García was executive director of the Catholic Council on Community Relations, Diocese of Galveston-Houston, and an officer of Harris County PASO.

Reports, correspondence, clippings about discrimination and the advancement of Mexican American; correspondence and notices of meetings and activities of PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations of Harris County).

MSS 0093 Alfonso Vázquez Collection
Dates: bulk 1960-1979
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Alfonso Vázquez was a professional photographer and political cartoonist. He was also a member of the Civic Action Committee, established in 1958 as an organization to support the candidacy of State Senator Henry B. González for Governor of Texas.

Photographs of Mexican American Community of Houston, P.A.S.O. Leaders, La Raza Unida, G.I.Forum, Political Cartoons, Minimum Wage March of 1966, Father Antonio González leader of the Minimum Wage March 1966, P.A.S.O. Programs, El Sol 2 issues 1966, The Texas Observer 1966, clippings re politics, flyers re P.A.S.O., G.I. Forum 1969-1973, The Cougar, University of Houston 1973, El Mexica, 1977, Para la gente, 1977, Tejanos de Houston flyers 1970s.

MSS 0094 Chairez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1919-1970s
Approximate volume: 6 lin. in.

Feliciano Chairez and family founded a drama group at Magnolia Park, ca. 1929. He also was one of the founders of Sociedad Mutualista Benito Juarez in 1921. Feliciano Chairez's son, Francisco Chairez graduated from Rice Institute in 1928.

History of the Chairez Family settling at Magnolia Park neighborhood in 1919, Biographical data, clippings, photographs, correspondence, typescript on

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Francisco Chairez 1920-1970s, Clippings re Mimi Ypina vocalist 1920s, Club Recreativo Mexico Bello, clippings 1935, Mutualista Benito Juarez membership, 1919, clippings and photographs re Francisco Chairez, the first Mexican American to graduate from Rice Institute 1928, Albino Torres Memorias by Joaquín Lorenzo and María C. Puente, México Bello Scrap Book 1930s, Certificates of Sociedad Mutualista Mexicana Unión y Progreso 1923, Sheet Music entitled "Palabras de Amor" (vals), Evangelina, (vals) by M. P. Fraga, Handbills advertising Spanish plays at "Salón del Campo" theater in Baytown, Tx, in 1929.

MSS 0099 Rodríguez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1920s-1960s bulk 1930s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. ft.

Victoriano Rodríguez settled in Houston during the 1920s, his son Salvador Rodríguez was born in Houston. He was president of a Mexican American Club in Conroe, organist and choir director of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Houston, Chief anesthetist at Montgomery County Hospital in 1967.

Letters to Víctor Rodríguez from relatives in Mexico, Personal documents of Adbón Rodríguez as president of the Partido de la Revolución Mexicana in Topezala, Mexico, Booklets about Masonry 1960, Booklet about religious topics 1929, Book about agriculture in Mexico 1933.

MSS 0101 Gregorio Torres Valerio
Dates: inclusive 1950s
Component: Photographic
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Gregorio Torres Valerio was a Houston professional photographer who captured in his pictures the everyday life of postwar Mexican American community.

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MSS 0103 Ben T. Reyes
Dates: inclusive 1970s

Approximate volume: 38 lin. ft.

Houston City Council Member for District I, President of Jones Lumber Company, Representative of Texas House of Representatives District 87, leader of many other Civic Societies.

1974 Political campaign papers, campaign contributions & expenditure, statements, correspondence 1974, correspondence 1974, correspondence on industrial districts, MALDEF 75-77, Harris County correspondence, Houston-Galveston area council, governor, city controller, civil service, research, newsletters, Ben's bills 63rd legislature, liquors regulation, democratic national committee 1974-1976, correspondence, 1978, police community relations 1977-1978, House of Representatives 65th Legislature 1977, election results 1976-1978, SER Job for Progress 1978, Houston Council on Human Relations 1978, LULAC 1978, State voters registration 1978, Houston Higher Education 1978.

MSS 0107 Ernesto Rodríguez Collection
Dates: bulk 1934-1940s
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Ernesto Rodríguez was a carpenter and entrepreneur. In 1916, he came to Houston from Piedras Negras, Mexico. Circa 1930 he owned a grocery store in Houston later he bought a furniture factory.

Family Photographs, Financial documents, Emerson Radio dealer franchise 1948, and Money orders, Handbills advertising "La Casa Verde" grocery store photographs, and negatives.

MSS 0108 Felix Tijerina, Sr. Family Papers
Dates: inclusive 1941-1975 bulk 1950s-1970s
Approximate volume: 3.5 linear feet
Whole collection except photographs is on microfilm.

Felix Tijerina (1905-1965), son of an itinerant farm worker, had no formal education but was motivated to learn English as a teenager in Sugar Land, Texas. He became a highly successful Mexican American restaurant owner, civic leader, and champion of education for underprivileged Mexican American children. One

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of Tijerina's greatest achievements was his sponsorship of the "Little School of the 400" in the late 1950s, in which Mexican American children were taught 400

basic words to help them in English-speaking schools. This activity began through Tijerina's involvement in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). He served as the national president of this organization for four consecutive terms beginning in 1956.

Janie González was born in Sandyfork, Texas, on December 20, 1908. In 1928 she moved to Houston and in 1933 married Felix Tijerina. Together they developed a successful restaurant business, became involved in civic activities, and were leaders of Houston's Mexican American community. After the death of her husband, Janie Tijerina established a scholarship foundation in Felix's memory to help students attend college. She continued to be an active participant in civic and business groups.

The collection contains papers such as correspondence, publications, articles, minutes, and programs that detail the varied activities of Felix and Janie Tijerina. Material on the "Little School of the 400" represents a large portion of the collection. Other areas covered include the restaurant business, civil rights, LULAC, the Republican Party, and the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, and the Rotary Club.

MSS 0122 Felix H. Morales Collection
Dates: inclusive 1890-1980 bulk 1930-1960
Approximate volume: 8 lin. ft.

In response to refusal by the city to allow Mexicans to be buried in cemeteries within the city limits, Felix H. Morales and his wife Angelina established the Morales Funeral Home in 1930 on Canal Street near the Houston Ship Channel. In 1935, he established a notary public service, which assisted the Spanish monolingual community in translating official documents and minor legal work. This service was quickly incorporated as part of the funeral home business. Mr. and Mrs. Morales also founded a mutual aid society in 1940. La Sociedad Union Fraternal. This organization provided death benefits to survivors of deceased members of the community as well as to survivors of was casualties to help defray the expenses of burial. Within a few years the organization took on a more civic-minded complexion, sponsoring English and citizenship classes and becoming actively involved in a number of causes such as protesting the continued segregation of Mexican children in the public schools. In 1950 the Morales' applied for and were granted a broadcasting license under the call letters KLVV. This was to become the first Spanish-speaking radio station in the Gulf Coast area.

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The Morales Collection contains approximately 500 pictures that include family, business, travel, hunting and fishing, KLVL radio station, religion, the Morales

funeral home in Houston an areas that pertain to the childhood of Mr. and Mrs. Morales. There are also documents pertaining to the family business, the Morales Funeral Home and the notary public service, to Union Fraternal and to KLVL.

MSS 0123 Lydia Mendoza Collection

Dates: inclusive 1930s-1980s

Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

Popular singer and guitarist, Lydia Mendoza was born in Houston in 1916. She began her career as a singer at an early age. Since 1927, she traveled with her family around the United States performing for Mexican Americans. During the 1930's, she performed in several Houston theaters and clubs. She was acclaimed in presidential inaugurations as well as in the barrios.

Photographs of Lydia Mendoza and Mexican American artist, interview with Lydia Mendoza 1979, clippings, programs, handbills 1930-1940, poems dedicated to Lydia Mendoza 1930's? letter of appreciation from President J. Carter to Lydia Mendoza 1979, contracts, letters from fans.

MSS 0130 Mariano Rosales Ypina

Dates: inclusive 1920-1970

Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

Mariano Rosales Ypina, an employee of Southern Pacific, came to Houston from Mexico in the early 1920s. He and his wife Esperanza Rosales, David Casas and Irene P. de Casas founded in 1948 the club "Familias Unidas", a social and cultural club for the Mexican American Community of Houston.

Rosales Ypina Family personal papers, correspondence, poems, invitations cards, defunction cards, financial documents, Club Familias Unidas Statutes, 1972, postcards, letters, "El Sol" clippings, 1972, re LULAC Council.

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MSS 0133 Teodoro Castro Family History

Dates: bulk 1900's

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

The Castro Family settled in Houston in 1903.

Castro Family Photographs.

MSS 0135 Melesio Gómez Family Collection

Dates: inclusive 1919-1950s bulk 1940's

Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Melesio Gómez arrived in Houston from San Luis Potosí, Mexico in 1919. He worked in the Houston Ship Channel, built in part with Mexican labor. In 1930 he was owner of "La Consentida" a popular café at 1708 Washington Avenue. Estella Gómez, Melesio's Gómez daughter was one of the first Mexican Americans who graduated from High School during the 1920s.

Photographs re Gómez Family, Lone Star Creamery Co, Gómez restaurant, "La Consentida", Diplomas, Certificates, Correspondence to Mrs. Estella Quintanilla from members of the YWCA of Houston 1944, newspapers clippings 1950, sheet music of song for Elvira Gómez as elected queen of 16 de Septiembre Celebration in Houston, 1924, Handbills announcing dances for the Mexican American Community of Houston 1934-1935 at La Consentida Café, Rosa's Coronado Cooking Book, Club Chapultepec Minutes Book 1931, Invitations Cards, Speech given by Stella Gómez at the Federation of Mexican and Latin American Societies re legal counseling to end labor discrimination against Mexican Americans 1941, clippings re La Casa Coronado restaurant, Plays Programs and Handbills 1933, Financial documents, Mexican Houstonians in World War II, John Herrera Campaign, 1947, Chapultepec correspondence, Estela Quintanilla letter re Social conditions of Mexican Americans in Houston 1937, documents re Tortilla Factory 1931, Mexican passport of Melesio Gómez, 1919, Club Chapultepec Scrap Book, 1930.

MSS 0147 Leonel J. Castillo

Dates: bulk 1970's

Approximate volume: 30 lin. ft.

Houston City Controller, President of Houston International University. Board Member and founder of the Diocesan Catholic Credit Union, Member of Board of Directors of American Red Cross, Board Member of Bread for the World, Member of the Advisory Board of Houston Business Journal.

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Resumes of Hispanic Community Leaders, Correspondence 1970's, Working File, Job Studies, Organizations; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Council on Municipal Performance, Democratic Party of Harris County, University Without Walls, Houston Federation of Teachers, Manpower Education and Training, Municipal Finance Officers, SER Minority Business & Trade Associations Developers, Texas Catholic Conference on Community Religion, Texas

Association of Chicanos Higher Education, United Fund, Financial Accounting System, Federal documents, clippings, Current Projects 1977, Department of Justice Employment 1976.

MSS 0159 Alfred J. Hernández

Dates: inclusive 1932-1980 bulk 1966-1979

Approximate volume: 13 lin. ft.

Collection available on microfilm.

Alfred J. Hernández was born in Mexico City in August of 1917. At age four, his parents immigrated to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas as farm workers. He graduated from high school and during World War II enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in the African and European war operations as a technical sergeant. Hernández received his American citizenship while he was serving in Europe. On his return to the United States, he enrolled at the University of Houston, where he studied pre-law and obtained an LLB degree from South Texas College of Law in 1953. He married the former Minnie Casas and they have two sons, Alfred Jr., and John Joseph, and a daughter, Annie Marie. Hernández was president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) from 1965-1967 and became a civil rights leader, working for the improvement of the social and economic conditions of all American citizens of Spanish speaking descent in the United States. On March 28, 1966, Judge Alfred J. Hernández, together with delegates of LULAC, organized the "Albuquerque Walkout" in protest of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) discriminatory hiring practices against Mexican Americans. He also was the one of the organizers of the Selma (Texas) Minimum Wage March of 1966, a two month trek from the Rio Grande Valley which began as a labor strike of the United Farm Workers Association against local agri-business and ended in a confrontation with Governor John Connally on the highway near Braunfels. The march to Austin received national coverage and brought national attention to the social conditions of Mexican Americans. Judge Hernández was chairman of the Board of Project SER (Jobs for Progress, Inc.) created in 1965 as a job training center for unemployed Mexican Americans. He also served in the GI Forum Job Opportunity Program and was a member of the Houston Crime Commission.

The Alfred J. Hernández Collection consists of private and organizational records dealing with Judge Alfred J. Hernández life and civic activities; LULAC's organization, Reports, Projects, and documents concerning the welfare, health and

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education of Mexican American citizens in the United States. The collection also includes photographic materials of Judge Alfred J. Hernández and LULAC's membership.

MSS 0160 John J. Herrera
Dates: bulk 1940s-1970s

Approximate volume: 8 lin. ft
Collection available on microfilm.

John J. Herrera (1910-1986) practiced law in Houston from 1943 to 1986 and was a leading civil rights advocate for Mexican Americans in Texas. He participated in cases which ended separate schools for Mexican Americans children in Texas (Delgado vs. Bastrop I.S.D., 1948), ended the systematic exclusion of Spanish-speaking citizens from juries (Pete Hernández vs. State of Texas, 1954), and protested employment discrimination against Mexican Americans in Houston shipyards during World War II. Herrera joined the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in 1933. He served as national president of LULAC in 1952-53. He was appointed national legal counsel for LULAC in the late 1970s and served in that capacity until the early 1980s. Herrera was a lifelong Democrat and an active supporter of the party.

The materials in this collection document John J. Herrera's civic, legal and political activities through correspondence, speeches, and other records. The largest portion of the collection concerns his involvement with LULAC.

MSS 0161 Juvencio Rodríguez Collection
Dates: inclusive 1930s-1950s bulk 1936
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Juvencio Rodríguez came to Houston in 1908; he became a civic leader for the Mexican American Community. He was a founding member of the Latin American Club of Harris County (LAC) formed in 1935 and headed by John Duhig. LAC took on political overtones as it endorsed candidates and tried to register the city's Latin voters. Later, he became Chairman of the Tuberculosis League Drive, and organized a protest against the Social Security Office discrimination of Mexican Americans. He was the first Mexican American citizen hired by the Civil Service to work for the City of Houston.

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Correspondence re Protest of the Latin American Club Committee of Houston against the practice of classificate Latin American citizens into a color by the Social Security Office, 1936, Constitution of Latin American Club, 1935, Military documents, Democratic Party of Texas, documents, 1941, Juvencio Rodríguez resume, Programs of Sociedades Mexicanas 1944.

MSS 0167 Navarro Family Collection

Dates: inclusive 1862-1970s
Approximate volume: 10 lin. in.

Gabriel Navarro, originally from Michoacan, Mexico, came to The United States in 1915. Some of his children settled in Texas. Porfirio Navarro, an artist, was a Houstonian who served in several wars.

Copies of document certifying the participation of Francisco Salinas in the Revolution which separated Texas from Mexico, Bexar, Texas, 1862, Correspondence 1957, Genealogy of Gutierrez Family, Marine Corps documents of Porfirio J. Navarro, Copies of Porfirio J. Navarro drawings, 1943.

MSS 0179 Houston Mexican American Family History Collection

Dates: inclusive 1981-1984 bulk 1981
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Consist of papers written for a class taught by Dr. Cary Wintz, Texas Southern University, 1981.

MSS 0189 John Coronado Collection

Dates: inclusive 1965-1991 bulk 1965-1971
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

John Coronado founded the Houston Mexican Chamber of Commerce in 1963. He served as editor of the "Latin Observer" and "Cinco Revista Histórica" and as president of the Spanish News Bureau.

This collection contains two letters to John Coronado concerning the Human Relations Committee and the Latin Scholarship Group (1970-1971); several copies of "Cinco Revista Histórica" (May 5, 1991); back issues of the "Latin

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Observer” (1965-1969); a City of Houston historical brochure (1969); and letterhead from the Spanish News Bureau.

MSS 0191 Eloy Pérez Family Collection

Dates: inclusive 1931-1981

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Eloy Pérez was a Mexican American musician who helped introduce Tex-Mex music in Houston. Eloy Pérez and the Latinaires played at weddings, ballrooms, and farms and for benefit societies. The youngest of four brothers in the original orchestra developed after the war, Eloy Pérez toured his group across Texas and the Southwest, influencing an entire generation of Mexican American musicians. Eloy Pérez’ grandfather founded a school for Mexican Americans in Bastrop County, Texas.

The History of Pérez Family, by Alice Pérez Moreno, 1981, school records of Pérez children, clippings, photographs.

MSS 0194 Carmen Cortes Collection

Dates: bulk 1900-1960

Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

In 1940, Carmen Cortes was the first Mexican American hired to work in a white-collar position at the courthouse. She was active in LULAC in the 1950s.

Gutiérrez-Garza photographs, 1900-1960, Reyes and related family photographs 1900-1920s, 1970s, Garza Cortes photographs, 1930s-1950s, Cortes Family/LULAC photographs 1950-1960s, Martínez/U.S. Army WWII, Korea photographs 1940s-1950s, Navarro-Family photographs WWII 1910-1940s, Cruz Family photographs c. 1910s. scrapbook photograph identification.

MSS 0202 Frank and Ventura Alonzo Collection

Dates: inclusive 1920-1982

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Frank and Ventura Alonzo were longtime residents of Houston and Magnolia Park. They were big band musicians from the 1930s until they retired in the late 1960s. Originally from San Antonio, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas respectively, they met in Houston and married in 1931. Discovering a mutual love for music, they began their first band in the late 1930s and played for local

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gatherings in Magnolia Park. Frank played guitar and Ventura played the accordion. Their orchestra developed into “Alonzo y sus Rancheros” during the 1940s with Frank as the leader and Ventura as lead vocal. From the 1940s through the 1960s, the band was popular in Houston as well as in many other areas of Texas where they traveled to perform. They specialized in “música ranchera,” a form of music from Texas roughly equivalent to a Mexican American country western sound. Over these three decades, few Mexican American dance bands enjoyed the popularity and acclaim of “Alonzo y sus Rancheros.”

This collection is mainly composed of photographs with a folder of biographic data compiled by Frank and Ventura Alonzo’s granddaughter, Linda Alonzo Saenz and Thomas H. Kreneck. It also contains a handbill announcement and a page from Woodmen of the World publication. Some of the photos deal with their sons, Frank Jr. and Alonzo Alonzo and various community activities in which the family participated. There is also an oral history with Frank and Ventura Alonzo in the oral history collection.

MSS 0205 Guadalupe Quintanilla/ “Little School of the 400” Collection
Dates: inclusive 1958-1971
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Guadalupe Quintanilla is an educator and a civic leader active in the Mexican American community. Her 1976 dissertation was written on the “Little School of the 400.” “Little School of the 400” was a program specifically designed to acquaint the Latin American children of this state with the basic English vocabulary necessary for them to enter their first year in school with greater ease and confidence. Advocates reasoned Mexican American children would not fall behind in their early school years and become discouraged and drop out at the alarming rate, which characterized the Texas Mexican community at the time. Pilot projects were established in the Texas towns of Ganardo and Edna in 1957 and by the following year spread to other places in the state. The overwhelming majority of the project’s preschoolers went on to successfully finish the first grade, a dramatic contrast to the appalling failure rate of children who did not receive such instruction. The name was derived from a list of 400 vocabulary words deemed necessary for Basic English skills. Felix Tijerina was chairman of the LULAC educational Fund, Inc. through which the “Little School of the 400” was run. Tijerina and LULAC worked to spread the program across the Southwest and ultimately it became a model for Project Headstart under Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration.

This collection contains gathered materials by Guadalupe Quintanilla from various sources for her 1976 dissertation. “Little School of 400” Reports, Financial documents, correspondence, LULAC Educational Fund, Texas Educational Agency Programs, List of Spanish Program Radio Stations, List of

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Schools which qualified for "School of 400 Program", "Little School of 400" Registers.

MSS 0208 John Castillo Collection

Dates: bulk 1960's

Approximate volume: 4 lin. ft.

John E. Castillo was very active in PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations) at both the country and state levels. He was also involved in a variety of programs that dealt with political, labor and educational issues in the Mexican American community.

Records of PASO activities, especially conventions, voter education and registration, and support of candidates for local, state, and national offices. Also includes materials on: Project V.E.R. (voter registration), Joint Conference of Mexican Americans, Project SER/Jobs for Progress, OLE Inc., Mexican American Education Council, and other organizations. Contains materials on the campaigns of local figures such as Fred Hofheinz, Leonel Castillo, and Tina Reyes.

MSS 0228 J. A. 'Tony' Alvarez Collection

Dates: inclusive 1963-1970 bulk 1965-1966

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A prominent LULAC and PASO supporter who participated in the Minimum Wage March of 1966.

Assorted newspapers. LULAC news, LULAC Prensa, Enterprise of Beaumont, Caller from Corpus Christi, El Sol, clippings, 1966, photographs re Minimum Wage March 1966 and President John F. Kennedy's last night in Houston at a LULAC function at the Rice Hotel.

MSS 0237 William (Canales) Gutierrez Collection

Dates: bulk 1970

Approximate volume: 5.25 lin. ft.

Major Fred Hofheinz appointed William Gutierrez as Coordinator of community activities for the mayor's citizen's office. Gutierrez was director of SER Educational Talent Search, Director of Wesley Community Center, District director of LULAC.

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Equal Employment in Government, 1975, correspondence, personal papers, reports, photographs, District Attorney's Office Grand Jury Manual, certificates, Project Sears, LULAC correspondence, Houston Community College, MAPC (Manpower Area Planning Council) reports, minutes, recruitment HISD, United Fund LULAC, clippings, 1975-1976.

MSS 0255 Alex Arroyos/John Kennedy Collection

Dates: inclusive November 21, 1963

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Photographs taken by Alex Arroyos of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy at a LULAC function at the Rice Hotel on November 21, 1963, the night before President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

MSS 0256 María Reyna

Dates: inclusive 1935-1970s bulk 1935-1948

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A Mexican American journalist, businesswoman and civic leader, Reyna participated in Mexican Patriotic Committees during the 1950s through the 1970s and mothers' clubs in the Magnolia Park neighborhood of Houston.

Collection deals with the civic and cultural activities of a prominent Mexican-American woman in Houston. Assorted newspapers; El Sol, 1975, La Crónica de Tejas, 1974, El Presente, 1973, La Vida Latina en Houston, 1974, photographs, Hispanic Clubs and Societies Programs, correspondence, certificates.

MSS 0278 Mexican American Oversize Collection

MSS 0282 Mexican American Family and Photograph Collection

MSS 0352 Mexican American Small Collections

These three collections consist of a variety of small donations, each usually a folder's worth of material. Total volume for all three collections is approximately 4.5 lin. ft. full descriptive inventories for these three collections are presently being compiled.

MSS 0284 Luis Cano Collection

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Dates: bulk 1970s

Approximate volume: 16 lin. ft.

Executive director of AAMA (Agency for the Advancement of the Mexican American), a nonprofit youth service agency, 1970. Luis Cano was also High School principal at the Sanchez High School, 1981 and a teacher at the Houston I.S.D., and elected Trustee at the H.I.S.D., 1987. In 1972, Luis Cano organized the Hispanic Teachers Caucus within the Houston Teachers Association.

“Our brothers to the East, Baytown, Texas”, by Luis Cano, correspondence, clippings, documents re Chicano community, Chicano education, Chicano employment, Chicano training, AAMA correspondence, articles re drug prevention, reports, surveys on “Self-Concept Scale for Mexican American Students,” Agenda magazine, 1970, AAMA journal, articles on Urban and Chicano issues, El Chicano magazine, 1975, Regeneration, 1970s Dissertation Proposal by Luis Cano, 1976, History of Houston’s “Barrio Mayo”, 1960-1970, reports, publications, dissertations, speeches, notes, correspondence, photos, film.

MSS 0294 Mamie García LULAC Collection

Dates: inclusive 1960s-1980s bulk 1970s

Approximate volume: 3.25 lin. ft.

Long an active member in LULAC, Mamie Garcia, has served as director of District 8, which comprises the Houston area. She received a national award for her civic accomplishments.

The collection contains a voluminous amount of correspondence covering a period when LULAC addressed pressing social and political issues, including the issue of police brutality in the death of Joe Campos Torres. The collection includes By Laws of Latino Center, “Concilio de Organizaciones de Houston”, Hispanic magazines re employment, education, housing, civic programs, clippings, correspondence, Washington lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, 1981, LULAC State Women’s Affairs, WICS (Women in Community Service) 1973, Project Head Start, 1969, clippings, 1980.

MSS 0306 Fernando Salas A. Collection

Dates: inclusive 1896-1980s

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A native of Chihuahua, Fernando Salas A. was a Mexican American Jeweler who was an expert on diamonds. He won international recognition with his jewelry designs. He was a member of LULAC and in August 1944 became the first Mexican American to become a member of a Harris County Grand Jury.

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Photographs, 1896, clippings, 1980's, Newboys Club, 1965, Houston TX,
Optimist Club of downtown, Houston, TX, 1959, correspondence, certificates.

MSS 0320 Luz Vara Collection of Early Mexican-Texan History
Dates: inclusive 1700-1800
Approximate volume: 10 lin. in.

The Luz Vara Collection consists of typescripts of the burials and confirmations of San Fernando Church in San Antonio, Texas. 1700-1800.

Typescripts of the San Fernando Church burials and confirmations, San Antonio, TX, 1703-1800.

MSS 0321 Augustina (Tina) Reyes Collection
Dates: bulk 1970s
Approximate volume: 1.25 lin. ft.

Augustina Reyes served as Secretary of HISD Board of Education and head of HISD's Bilingual Program. She was a member of the Houston Community College System and was elected to the HISD Board of Trustees representing district #8 in 1981 and again in 1983. In 1984, she became President of the Board. Augustina Reyes earned a Master of Arts degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was a recipient of a Kellogg National Fellowship Grant and a member of Texas Association of School Boards.

HISD correspondence, reports, agenda, legal papers re school desegregation, Tina Reyes closed session agenda, HISD House Bill 72, Origin and development of Texas Southern University by Dr. William E. Terry, AIDS a guide for survival, Harris County Medical Society and Houston Academy of Medicine, 1978, HISD report agendas, meetings.

MSS 0326 Arnolde De Leon Manuscript Collection
Dates: bulk 1980s
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

A copy of the manuscript, "Ethnicity in the Sunbelt: A History of Mexican Americans in Houston" by Arnolde de Leon. This collection also contains drafts of the manuscript and a Houston "Chronicle" index of items relating to Mexican Americans.

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MSS 0328 Ernest Eguia Collection

Dates: inclusive 1952-1970s

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Ernest Eguia was a LULAC Council #60 leader.

Newspapers clippings, correspondence, LULAC news, LULAC handbills, Jobs for Progress, speeches, minutes, reports, LULAC membership, lists, photographs, LULAC National Convention programs, 1958-1970, financial papers, medical correspondence.

MSS 0330 Isidro García Collection

Dates: inclusive 1928-1985

Approximate volume: 3 lin. in.

Isidro Garcia was a civic leader and member of LULAC.

Photographs of Garcia's family and friends, 1928-1985.

MSS 0340 Juan P. Rodríguez

Dates: inclusive 1906-1953 bulk 1930-1940

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Handbills advertising plays at the "Teatro Azteca" 1940, Typescript of original poem written by Juan P. Rodriguez's uncle, clippings re Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Boletin Parroquial Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Houston, Tx, 1928, Memorabilia of the Iglesia of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, 1923, Prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe by the Rev. Esteban de Anta O.M.I. Houston, Tx, 1931, marriage invitation 1939, School certifications, poems by Antonio Rodriguez circa 1933, Correspondence 1939-40, Certificates of U.S.A. naturalization of Juan Perez Rodriguez 1953, Proceedings of Mateo Felix, over lands in Garcia, State of Zacatecas, Mexico, 1906.

MSS 0353 LULAC Regional Collection

Dates: inclusive 1963-1990 bulk 1980s-1989

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

LULAC District Eighth 10th Annual Scholarship luncheon, correspondence, 1989, LULAC 50 years serving Hispanics, 1935-1979, LULAC News (J.F.K. Memorial edition) 1963, statements re LULAC Foundation controversy, 1990.

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MSS 0355 1910 Census of Harris County Hispanics

Dates: inclusive 1910

Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Twenty-four folders containing worksheets from a 1910 census of Harris County Hispanics. Information on the form includes name and address, number of family members, relation of each person to the head of the family, sex, race, age, marital status, children, place of birth and place of birth of parents, year of immigration to the United States, whether naturalized or alien, English or Spanish speaking, employment information, education and literacy information, whether own or rent home, whether veteran of Civil War and disability information.

MSS 0356 1900 Census of Harris County Hispanics

Dates: inclusive 1900-1986

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

One volume containing data sheets on each recognizably Hispanic person in the microfilm roll of the 1900 Federal Census for Harris County. The Federal Census of 1900 for Harris County comprises one full microfilm roll and is in two parts. The data sheets in this collection were completed by the members of History Class 3332, Chicano History Before 1910 taught by Thomas H. Kreneck during the fall semester of 1986. These sheets were part of the class's research project. The eight members of the class were assigned an equal number of pages to examine. The sheets are arranged in order as the names appeared in the census. Each contains all the data in each census entry. Also included in the collection are papers written by the students regarding their findings.

MSS 0358 Abraham Ramirez, Jr. Collection

Dates: inclusive ca. 1970s

Approximate volume: 3 lin. ft.

Abraham Ramirez, Jr., was the spokesman and legal advisor for the Mexican American Education Council (MAEC). He worked in Houston as an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). He was also a municipal judge. Ramirez, along with MAEC, called for the boycott against the Houston Independent School District for the district's plan to desegregate by using between black and Hispanic schools. The ensuing court case was known as Ross vs. HISD. Judge Ben C. Connally's ruling on the case created the Bi-Racial Committee, later the Tri-Ethnic Committee, to monitor the racial desegregation procedures and plans of HISD.

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The materials in this collection include newspaper clippings about the school boycott; documents recording the activities of MAEC, MALDEF, the Bi-Racial Committee, and others; legal documents used in preparing for the Ross case; and information about HISD's desegregation plans.

MSS 0360 Tony Campos Collection

MSS 0363 Ruth T. Bello Collection

Dates: inclusive 1890-1989

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Ruth Bello has written several papers on Mexican American Presbyterianism.

Music Book; "Excells's Anthems for the Choir", correspondence, photo negatives, photographs of "Borden Ranch People", Mackey, Texas, Photographs of La Cruz Azul, Victoria, Texas, First Mexican American Presbyterian Church, 1949, The Broden ranch and the Presbyterian Church of Mackey, Texas by Ruth Bello.

MSS 0366 Constable Raul C. Martinez Collection

Dates: bulk 1973

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Raúl C. Martínez is a Mexican American civic leader; he fought in World War II. Raul C. Martinez was the first uniformed Mexican American officer in the Houston Police Department, entering the police academy in 1950. He later became a highly respected Harris County Constable.

Clippings, photographs.

MSS 0367 Ramón and Delfina Villagomez Family Collection

Dates: inclusive 1928-1930s

Approximate volume: 6 lin. in.

Ramón and Delfina Villagomez, originally from Morelia Michoacan, were some of the first Mexican Americans to settle in the Magnolia Park neighborhood. Mary Villagomez became a sister of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

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The Texas Catholic Herald, Villagomez Family photographs, Programs of Mexico Bello Club, El Almanaque del Dr. J.H. Mclean, in Spanish, 1957. History of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1950, Portrait of Mary Villagomez, 1928.

MSS 0369 Gregorio Salazar Papers
Dates: bulk 1968-1970
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Member of MAYO organization, Chicano activist who promoted Mexican American rights during the 60s and 70s.

Copies of newspaper articles and clippings re MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization), 1968, correspondence, Barrio program, Transportation proposal, La Raza Unida Legal Defense, Training programs, press releases, High School Students Rights, Trash pick up Petition, Crusade for Justice, conference, Equal Employment Opportunity, Poems by "Spanky", Chicano newspapers; La Causa, El Yaqui, El Deguello, 1970.

MSS 0411 Joe Orlando/LULAC Collection
Dates: bulk 1988
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Flyers re Fiesta supermarket, miscellaneous, LULAC magazine, Hispanic magazine, 1988, America G.I. Forum of the U.S. 1988, magazine, clippings, LULAC News magazine, financial papers.

MSS 1308 Pauline Oliveros Papers
Dates: 1951-1970
Approximate volume:

Correspondence between Pauline Oliveros and her mother, Edith Oliveros Gutierrez dating from 1951 through the 1970's.

MSS 1316 Edith Gutierrez Collection
Dates: 1907-1996
Approximate volume: 2.75 lin. ft.

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The collection contains correspondence of Edith Gutierrez, her mother, Pauline Gribbin, her grandmother, Pauline Viglini and other family members. Items collected by Edith Gutierrez throughout her life, including poetry that she wrote and items she acquired on trips to various places. There is also information pertaining to her daughter, Pauline Oliveros.

Related collections: RG 1307, MSS 1308, SC 1309, and OH 293

MSS 1369 Thomas L. López Collection

Dates:

Approximate volume:

Proclamation from the Mayor honoring Dr. Thomas López Day. Army Certificate Thomas L. López Reserve Commissioned Officer. Ph. D. Dissertation of Dr. Thomas L. López.

RG D 020 El Mexica

Dates: inclusive 1974-1980

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

This collection contains almost a complete run of back issues of "El Mexica" from December 12, 1974 through 1978. There is also a 30 minutes oral history interview with Rogelio Noriega, the publisher of "El Mexica" on his background and the objectives of the paper.

RG D 021 La Prensa

Dates: inclusive 1978

Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

"La Prensa" existed for around nine months in 1978 under the direction of Rosa America Cotto, from Central America. Also on the staff were John Penas, a Puerto Rican from New York and Orlando Boudini, and an Argentinean. Rosa went to work on a newspaper in Dallas in January 1979, Penas returned to New York and Boudini went to work on the Houston "Chronicle".

This collection contains all the back issues of "La Prensa."

RG D 022 La Voz del Barrio

Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Dates: inclusive 1977-1978
Approximate volume: 1 lin in.

A Mexican American newspaper published in Houston by Macario Ramirez. It contains articles in both Spanish and English.

This collection contains Volume 1, Number 12 and Volume 2, Numbers 1-5 of "La Voz del Barrio".

RG D 025 Compass

Dates: inclusive 1968-1973
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A politically oriented newspaper containing both Spanish and English-language articles dealing with Mexican American issues.

This collection contains back issues from 1968 to 1973 plus an oral history with Felix "Ramrod" Ramirez, the editor of "Compass" regarding his activities and the newspaper.

RG D 027 La Vida Latina

Dates: inclusive 1971-1979
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A monthly Spanish-language magazine published in Houston.

This collection contains back issues of "La Vida Latina" from 1971 through 1979.

RG D 030 La Gráfica

Dates: inclusive 1975-1976
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A Spanish-language newspaper published in Houston.

This collection contains six copies of four issues of "La Gráfica de Houston."

RG D 031 La Crónica de Texas

Dates: inclusive 1974-1975

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Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

Ten copies of seven issues of “La Crónica de Texas,” a Spanish-language newspaper.

RG D 036 A.D. Salazar Printing Company Collection
Dates: inclusive 1927-1981 bulk 1935-1938
Approximate volume: 7 lin. in.

Issues of “El Puerto” newspaper from 1935 and 1938, and advertising materials for businesses and community events, all published by the A.D. Salazar Printing Company. Includes an oral history interview with A. D. Salazar taped July 2, 1981.

RG D 043 Papel Chicano
Dates: inclusive 1970-1972
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

The newspaper Papel Chicano was started in 1970 by a group of Mexican American youth activists in Houston. The group included Johnny Almendarez, Carlos Calbillo, Leo Tanguma, Kris Vasquez, Enrique Perez, Al Duran, and others. Papel Chicano was headquartered in Houston’s Magnolia Park subdivision, which had a large Mexican American population. The paper was part of the Chicano Movement, taking a militant political stance. The paper reported on grass roots activism, protested discrimination (from individual incidents to the lack of city services in the barrios), and freely criticized both Anglo politicians and more conservative Mexican American groups.

Back issues of Papel Chicano from 1970 to 1972.

RG D 080 El Sol
Dates: inclusive 1969-1989
Approximate volume: 13 lin ft.

Back issues of El Sol, a newspaper printed in Houston containing articles printed in both Spanish and English. The collection is incomplete, however there is a nearly complete run from 1977 to 1980 and all the issues from 1981 to 1987 are included.

RG D 082 Gaceta Mexicana

Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Dates: inclusive 1928
Approximate volume: 3 lin. in.

Collection available on microfilm.

La Gaceta Mexicana was a Spanish-language literary magazine published bimonthly in Houston beginning in 1928. It featured essays, poetry, and society news, and contained advertisements for local business and for cultural and community events. La Gaceta Mexicana was published by the Sarabia family, who operated several successful local businesses including the Hispano Americana bookstore. The editor of the magazine was Lorenzo Yañez. Houston's Mexican American community began to produce its own Spanish-language publications for the first time during the 1920s, including the newspapers El Anunciador, La Tribuna, and El Tecolote as well as La Gaceta Mexicana.

RG E 015 Political Assoc. of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO)

Dates: bulk 1960-1968
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

In 1961, The Civic Action Committee organized PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations) with Genaro Flores and John Castillo as a chairman and vice-chairman.

Membership list of Harris County PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organization) 1967, copies dealing with the Civic Action Committee, Houston, Tx, 1959-1962, PASO Endorsement Convention, March 1968, correspondence.

RG E 021 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #60

Dates: inclusive 1933-1979
Approximate volume: 21.5 lin. ft.

Council #60 was founded in 1934 as the first LULAC Council in the Houston area and has a distinguished record. It developed as a response to the trying conditions faced by the Hispanic Community during the first part of the twentieth century. At that time the Houston Mexican American populace suffered from many of the problems encountered by Hispanics across the United States. In particular, prejudice and discrimination placed numerous obstacles in the path of Hispanic advancement. Mexican Americans found little access to public facilities as well as the private sector where they found barriers to housing and equal employment. Likewise, the language barrier and lack of education stood in the way of Mexican American advancement. Therefore, it was that in 1934 a group of men from Houston and Magnolia Park, a predominantly Mexican American suburb of the

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city, founded Council #60 just a few years after LULAC began in Corpus Christi. This early group of men was determined to do their best to facilitate the full participation of their people in the wider society. LULAC Council #60 became their vehicle for civic action. The goals of LULAC became the code they would live by. By the end of the 1930s, Council #60 was already widely known in the LULAC organization. In 1937, it hosted the first LULAC National Convention, held in Houston. It would later host national conventions in 1946, 1966 and 1979, the golden anniversary of LULAC. The Council has helped to foster the proliferation of LULAC chapters in the Texas Gulf Coast. LULAC Council #60 has produced many community leaders on the local, state and national levels. Four national presidents come from its ranks: John Herrera, Felix Tijerina, Alfred J. Hernandez and Roberto Ornelas. These men each in their own way symbolize Council #60's commitment and struggle to foster education, employment and civil rights for the Hispanic community. Council #60, now over a half-century-old is proud of its history and hopeful for the future.

This collection contains an incomplete run of "LULAC News" from 1933 to 1979. It also contains correspondence, programs, minutes, scrapbooks and clippings, membership information and business records from LULAC Council #60.

RG E 024 Club México Bello
Dates: inclusive 1924-1970s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. ft.

Club Cultural Recreativo México Bello (or México Bello) began in Houston in 1924 as a social, recreational and civic outlet for individuals of the Houston Mexican American community. It was composed primarily of aspiring, upwardly mobile young adults from across the city. Although it was men's group, it soon developed women's auxiliary, which was composed mainly of member's wives. The membership was exclusive and the number limited. Membership in the organization was highly sought after by people in the Houston community. México Bello functioned as a social and civic group as it sponsored dances and many forms of community interaction, including the annual "blanco y negro" ball. It also developed other affairs such as the yearly quinceañera. In addition, the club was very interested in cultural preservation as its motto stressed "Patria, Raza, Idioma." From its inception the club was prestigious and counted in its membership many of the leaders of the Houston Hispanic community. They stressed a wider civic consciousness among the Houston colonia and endeavored to create a positive image of the Mexican American people in the minds of the larger Houston community. México Bello has worked over the years with other organizations in the Hispanic community, as many of its members have been active in other groups as well.

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The records include minutes of the meetings of Club México Bello, attendance rolls, correspondence, membership lists, programs, sheet music "Bellas Quinceañeras" by Pedro Castañeda, 1950, assistance book, 1953, 1955, minutes, 1958, publications and literature, 1971, newspapers, correspondence, 1962-1969. The records are available on microfilm in the Texas Room.

RG E 025 Harris County Hispanic Caucus

Dates: bulk 1979

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

In 1978, The Mexican American Hispanic Advisory Council was organized by the Harris County Hispanic Caucus (HCHC) to discuss with Houston's mayor, Jim McConn, employment, economic and political problems that the Hispanic Community faced in Texas.

Correspondence, reports, drafts.

RG E 053 Chicano Family Center (formerly Chicano Training Center)

Dates: bulk 1980s

Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

The Chicano Family Center was established in July 1971 as a non-profit agency with an emphasis in education, social services and research.

Flyers of the Chicano Family Center concerned with prevention and treatment of drug abuse, CFC financial statements, 1983-1984, monthly activities agenda, 1984, Marketing Management for Minority Treatment Services; Texas Department of Community Affairs, CFC Board Handbook, CTC Bicultural Treatment Frame Work, Agency History Board in Service 1982, Board of Directors Annual Meeting, 1981.

RG E 084 Tejano Association for Historic Preservation

Dates: inclusive 1986-1990

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Tejano Association for Hispanic Preservation is a non profit organization which strives for the preservation of sites that have Tejano/Mexicano historical significance and that are in danger of being lost due to natural or human causes.

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Tejano Association for Historical Preservation, correspondence, minutes, founding documents, De Zavala papers, copies re De Zavala, Hispanics Medal of Honor Recipients Civil War, Boxer rebellion, World War II.

RG G 003 Huelga Schools of Houston
Dates: inclusive 1970s bulk 1970-1975
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

On August 31, 1970, a three-week-long, strike was initiated by the Mexican American community in protest to Houston Independent School District's (H.I.S.D.) pairing plan. The plan paired black and white elementary schools, with students to be used between the paired schools in order to achieve court-ordered integration in the district; however H.I.S.D.'s so-called white student were mainly Mexican Americans. The strike was called for by the Mexican American Education Council (MAEC) and was intended to keep the Mexican American elementary students from attending H.I.S.D. schools. The school district officials negotiated with MAEC and ended the strike in September. Nevertheless, just as everything was in order, H.I.S.D. presented another version of the original pairing plan in January 1971, which was also disapproved by MAEC. In response to the plan, MAEC renewed the strike. In February, the strike evolved into a boycott when MAEC created the huelga schools. These schools were held at three churches where volunteer teachers, along with room mothers, helped teach the Mexican American students. José Torres, who was later appointed as the superintendent of the huelga schools, headed the Huelga School at Juan Marcos Presbyterian Church. The other two were at Denver Harbor Presbyterian Church and El Mesias Methodist Church. The boycott would eventually go on until the end of the 1972 school year.

This collection contains printed and manuscript materials pertaining to the huelga schools. Among the topics documented are support for the boycott by MAEC and the community, teaching materials and policies for the huelga schools, H.I.S.D.'s response to the boycott, and information on related court cases. Of particular interest are the diary of Principal Joe Torres, and a number of Photos of the huelga schools by Ed Gaida.

RG I 017 Casa Juan Diego
Dates: inclusive 1980-1990s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Casa Juan Diego was founded in 1981 by The Catholic Community of Houston to help refugees and the poor.

Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
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80 issues of The Catholic Worker, 1980s to 1990s

RG Q 001 Mexican American for Better Transit

Dates: inclusive 1978

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Mexican Americans for Better Transit was created in 1978, to mobilize support of the Mexican American community for the passage of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and to emphasize had better transit services for the Mexican American Community.

Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Mexican American-Community, correspondence, reports, Mexican American voting registration list, Harris County, The Mexican American and the Metropolitan Transit Authority an Analysis, By Raúl Castillo, MTA and its Importance to Houston Hispanics, by Ninfa Laurenzo, MTA Board member, La Prensa newspaper, 1978, El Mexica, 1978, clippings, flyers from MABT.

RG 0943 Tejas News

Dates: inclusive May 14, 1978

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

One issue of Tejas News, an English-language newspaper containing information on the riot in north Houston following the murder of Joe Campos Torres by the Houston Police Department.

RG 0944 Con Safos

Dates: inclusive 1971

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

One issue of Con Safos, a magazine published in Los Angeles containing essays and articles in both Spanish and English on Mexican American issues.

RG 0945 La Raza

Dates: inclusive 1970

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

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Three issues of La Raza, a Los Angeles based magazine containing articles in both English and Spanish on Mexican American issues. Volume 3 is a special issue dealing with the murder of Rubén Salazar.

- RG 1013 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Inventory
- RG 1314 LULAC News
- RG 1322 Houston Hispanic Forum
- RG 1392 Viva Magazine
- RG 1393 Nuestra Palabra