GUIDE TO
CORONA, BERT ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION,
1937-1995

Collection Number: CEMA 51

Size Collection: 5 linear feet. 11 boxes including 85 audio tapes.

Acquisition Information: Donated by Bert Corona and Mario T. Garcia.

Access restrictions: None

Use Restriction: Copyright has not been assigned to the Department of Special Collections, UCSB. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Department of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which also must be obtained.


Location: Del Norte.
COLLECTION BACKGROUND

In early 1980 Mario Garcia began work on a seminal biographical piece of American history, to illuminate the life history of Bert N. Corona, a Mexican American labor leader whose life and work embody the remarkable character of Mexican American communities in the United States from the 1930’s and beyond. The career and experience of this pioneer were documented through a series of interviews, then transcribed into what Garcia calls an autobiographical testimonio. The project eventually culminated in the autobiography Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona. This collection documents that work, it’s process and evolution.

BIOGRAPHY

Bert Corona was a political activist, union organizer and professor, born in May 1918 in El Paso Texas. He grew up in Southern California, attended the University of Southern California and it was during his college years working as a stevedore that he first became active in a union. Between 1936 and 1942 he was heavily involved in union organizing for the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) and its affiliate, the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America.

In 1938, Corona campaigned for the election of Latino politician Eduardo Quevedo and later Edward Roybal. By 1950 he was regional organizer for the National Association of Mexican Americans and was passionately involved in opposing the McCarran-Walter Immigration act. In 1959, he and Quevedo among other activists gathered to organize the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) and in 1960 he served on the national Viva Kennedy campaign committees and then on the Viva “Pat” Brown and then again in 1964 on the Viva Johnson campaigns. In 1967 he was appointed to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. During the mid 1960s Corona was deeply involved in the immigration issue as a consultant to the Labor Department. He continued that leadership through the 1970’s and 1980s. In addition to the groups listed above Corona organized or helped to organize the Hermandad General de Trabajadores, the national Congress of Spanish-speaking People, the Community Service Organization, and the Mexican Youth Conference. In many cases he served in an authoritative role in each of these organizations. As a Professor he has lectured at Stanford, San Diego State University at Northridge, California State University, Los Angeles, and was President of the Association of California School Administrators.

SCOPE NOTE

The Bert Corona Oral History Collection is unique. By definition it is an oral history that was then transcribed into an autobiography by Mario T. Garcia. As a collection it is archived as a manuscript while still preserving the fidelity of the oral history itself. In order to do this, the transcription of the interviews has been preserved as if it were a draft of the manuscript rather a complete and finished oral history in and of itself.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning with Series I Author’s Preparation: occupying one box, the series has been arranged chronologically from most recent to earliest according to its original order. Series I includes papers related to the death of and subsequent tribute to Blanche Corona who was also a dedicated political activist. The second series entitled Series II Oral History and its Transcription contains both the oral history transcripts as would normally be included with any oral history, and edited revised drafts of those transcripts as the author prepared them for use in his autobiography of Corona. The series ends with the copies of the manuscript for Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona the product of the oral history itself. The entire series is arranged chronologically according to its order of creation. Series III Photographs. One box. The photographs are numbered on the back and any annotations found on the photographs are listed in this guide. Series IV Recordings; contains the taped interviews with Bert and Blanche Corona which would be used as the foundation for the autobiography. They have been arranged chronologically from the beginning interviews in 1980 to the final interviews with Bert Corona’s wife Blanche in 1991 that were done as background research for the book. These originals are preserved for future reformatting. Listener copies will be made upon request. There is a single videotape in the collection.
## CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES I AUTHOR’S PREPARATION

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<td>Correspondence, 1990-1994</td>
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<td>Papers about Corona by Mario T Garcia, 1991</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Materials related to interview with Blanche Corona and tribute to Blanche Corona</td>
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<td>Notes by Mario Garcia, 1989</td>
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### SERIES II ORAL HISTORY AND ITS TRANSCRIPTION

#### Transcripts of Interview

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#### Manuscript drafts

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Chapter 16

Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona Draft

Correspondence on footnotes, structural discussion notes.

Acknowledgements

Introduction - Chapter 3

Chapter 4-7

Chapter 8-11

Chapter 12-14

Chapter 15-16 afterward

Miscellaneous Loose Papers,

Incomplete Copying manuscript

Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona
Copy of Completed Manuscript

Floppy Disks

17 5.5 inch floppy disks have been retained for future electronic preservation. Their contents have been printed out and provided in the manuscripts above. Currently stored at off campus annex.

SERIES III PHOTOGRAPHS

Xerox copies of photos of Corona with Christian endeavor Group, 1937 (19 photos)


#2. Bert Corona as a member of the Longshoremen’s Local 26 basketball team. Los Angeles, 1939.


#4. Bert Corona and his mother, Los Angeles, 1943

#5. Members of International Longshoremen’s and Warehouse Union, Local 26: Bert Corona, second from left, back row, Lloyd Seeliger, fourth from left, back row. Los Angeles, 1940.


#11. Standing, Aurora Corona. Left to right, Orlando Corona, Horacio Corona, and Humberto (Bert) Corona. El Paso, Texas, 1924.

#12. Bert Corona (left) and his cousin Kiko Fonseca. Los Angeles, April 4, 1937.

#13. Luisa Moreno, California, 1940.

#14. Josefina Fierro, California, 1940.

#15. Wedding picture of Burt and Blanche Taff Corona, 1941.


#18. Blanche Corona, David, Margo and Frank (Panchito?). Orinda, California, 1953.

#19. Left to right, Jose Gordillo, Frida Kahlo, Bert Corona, and Diego Rivera. Mexico City, 1951.

#20. Organización Mexicana. Left to right: Miguel Camberos (Treasurer), J.P Fernández (President), and Bert Corona (Secretary). San Francisco, 1957.

#21. MAPA rally at San Francisco State College with Senator Robert F. Kennedy,
middle of photo; from Kennedy’s left to the right of the photo: Eduardo Quevedo, Bert Corona, Herman Gallegos, and Lino López. San Francisco, December 1967.


#23. Bert Corona, Cuauhtémoc, and Blanche Corona at an American for Democratic Action banquet. Santa Monica, California, May 1990.


#27. Bert Corona and Mario T. Garcia conducting an interview in Corona’s home. Los Angeles, July 1989.

#28. Bert Corona.

#29. No description.

SERIES IV RECORDINGS

Bert Corona Audio Tapes

A4334/CS Side A: #1, March 7, 1980
A4335/CS Side A: #3, July 15, 1980,
A4336/CS Side A: August 13, 1983, Side B: Cengur Ruiz & ANMA
A4337/CS Side A: #1, July 8, 1988, Side B: #2, July 8, 1988
A4338/CS Side A: #1, July 8, 1988, Side B: #2, July 8, 1988
A4339/CS Side A: #3, July 8, 1988
A4340/CS Side A: #3, July 8, 1988
A4341/CS Side A: #1, July 15, 1988, Side B: #2, July 15, 1988
A4342/CS Side A: #1, July 15, 1988
A4343/CS Side A: #3, July 15, 1988, Side B: #4, July 15, 1988
A4344/CS Side A: #5, July 15, 1988
A4345/CS Side A: #5, July 15, 1988
A4346/CS Side A: #5, July 24, 1988, Side B: #6, July 24, 1988
A4350/CS Side A: #3, July 28, 1988, Side B: #4, July 28, 1988
A4351/CS Side A: #5, July 28, 1988, Side B: #1, #2, July 29, 1988
A4352/CS Side A: #5, July 28, 1988 & #1, July 29, 1988- Jolrena #4
A4353/CS Side A: #3, July 29, 1988, Side B: #4
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A4355/CS Side A: #5, July 29, 1988, Side B: #6
A4356/CS #1, August 3, 1988 #2, August 3, 1988
A4357/CS Side A: #1, August 3, 1988, Side B: #2, Chicano Studies #3012
A4358/CS #3, August 3, 1988
A4359/CS Side A: #3, August 3, 1988, Side B: #4, Chicano Studies #3012
A4360/CS Side A: #5, August 3, 1988, Side B: #6, Chicano Studies #3012
A4361/CS #5, August 3, 1988, #6, August 3, 1988
A4362/CS #1, August 17, 1988, #2, August 17, 1988
A4363/CS Side A: #1, August 17, 1988, Side B: #2, Chicano Studies #3012
A4364/CS Side A: #3, August 17, 1988, Side B: #4, Chicano Studies #3012
A4365/CS #3, August 17, 1988, #4, August 17, 1988
A4366/CS #1 August 24, 1988, (in box 3) #1 Jim Vieth
A4367/CS Side A: #1, August 24, 1988, Side B: #2, Chicano Studies #3012
A4368/CS #3, August 24, 1988, #4, Jim Vieth
A4369/CS Side A: #3, August 24, 1988, Side B: #4, Chicano Studies #3012
17:00 film transfer