

University of California, Santa Barbara  
Davidson Library  
Department of Special Collections  
Californian Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

**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**

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**Processing Information: Processed by Alexander Hauschild, March 2002.**

**Location: Del Norte.**

## COLLECTION BACKGROUND

In early 1980 Mario García 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 García 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

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	1	Articles, announcements and reviews, 1994-1995
1	2	Correspondence, 1990-1994
1	3	Papers about Corona by Mario T Garcia, 1991
1	4	Materials related to interview with Blanche Corona and tribute to Blanche Corona (Compiled as background research for Bert Corona interviews)
1	5	Notes by Mario Garcia, 1989

### SERIES II ORAL HISTORY AND ITS TRANSCRIPTION

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
		<b>Transcripts of Interview</b>
2	1	July 8, 1988
2	2	July 15, 1988
2	3	July 28, 1988
2	4	July 29, 1988
2	5	August 3, 17, 1988
2	6	August 24, 1988
3	1	July 14, 1989
3	2	July 21, 1989
3	3	July 25, 1989
3	4	August 8 & 9 1989
3	5	August 16, 1989
3	6	August 24, 1989
3	7	September 7, 1989
3	8	October 18, 1989
3	9	October 27, 1989
3	10	November 1, 1989
3	11	November 10, 1989
		<b>Manuscript drafts</b>
4	1-3	Introduction
4	4	Chapter 1
4	5	Chapter 2
4	6	Chapter 3
5	1-2	Chapter 4
5	3	Chapter 5
5	4-5	Chapter 6
6	1-2	Chapter 7
6	3	Chapter 8
6	4-5	Chapter 9
6	6-7	Chapter 10
7	1-2	Chapter 11
7	3	Chapter 12
7	4-5	Chapter 13
8	6	Chapter 14
8	1-3	Chapter 15

8	4-5	Chapter 16
		<b>Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona Draft</b>
9	1	Correspondence on footnotes, structural discussion notes.
9	2	Acknowledgements
9	3	Introduction- Chapter 3
9	4	Chapter 4-7
9	5	Chapter 8-11
9	6	Chapter 12-14
9	7	Chapter 15-16 afterward
9	8	Miscellaneous Loose Papers,
10	1	Incomplete Copying manuscript
10	2-3	Memories of Chicano History The Life and Narrative of Bert Corona Copy of Completed Manuscript

11 **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**

12	1	Xerox copies of photos of Corona with Christian endeavor Group, 1937 (19 photos)
12	2	#1. Bert Corona making opening statement at National Chicano Political Caucus press conference at Lee Mathson School. San Jose April 23,1972. On right is Arturo Vasquez of Mid-West delegation (Chicago). Photo by Steve Ramirez. #2. Bert Corona as a member of the Longshoremen's Local 26 basketball team. Los Angeles, 1939. #3. Members of the Mexican American Movement (MAM). Left to right: Bert Corona, David Morales, Charlie Peña, unidentified, and Chief Carrasco. 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. #6. Bert Corona and César Chávez. 1968. #7. Bert Corona's father, Noe Corona. Ciudad Juárez, 1916. #8. Bert Corona's mother, Margarita Escápita De Salayandía. Ciudad Juárez, 1912. #9. Ynes Salayandía De Escápita, Bert Corona's grandmother. Chihuahua, 1907. #10. Bert Corona, at the age of 1 year. El Paso, Texas, 1919. #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. #16. Bert Corona. Los Angeles, 1942. #17. Bert Corona with Margo and David. Orinda, California, 1950. #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.  
 #22. Soledad "Chole" Alatarre, Hermandad Mexicana Nacional/ C.A.S.A. Los Angeles, early 1970's.  
 #23. Bert Corona, Cuauhtémoc, and Blanche Corona at an American for Democratic Action banquet. Santa Monica, California, May 1990.  
 #24. Bert Corona, Josefina Fierro, and Blanche Corona. Los Angeles, 1991.  
 #25. Bert Corona, Chloe Alatorre, Josefina Fierro, and Mario T. Garcia. Los Angeles, 1991.  
 #26. Photo by Ross Rivera- Bert Corona is honored at a MAPA banquet. Los Angeles, September 9, 1992.  
 #27. Bert Corona and Mario T. García 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
A4347/CS	Side A: #3, July 28, 1988, Side B: #4, July 28, 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- Jorlena #4
A4353/CS	Side A: #3, July 29, 1988, Side B: #4
A4354/CS	Side A: #3, July 29, 1988, Side B: #4, July 29, 1988
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, 1988k, #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 Vietl
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

A4370/CS #5, August 24, 1988, #6, Jim Vieth  
A4371/CS Side A: #5, August 24, 1988, Side B: #6, Jim Vieth #3012  
A4372/CS Side A: #7, August 24, 1988, Side B: Jim Vieth #3012  
A4373/CS #7, August 24, 1988, Jim Vieth #3012  
A4374/CS Side A: #3, July 25, 1989  
A4375/CS Side A: July 14, 1989, #3 & #4 July 21, 1989  
A4376/CS Side A: #5, July 21, 1989, Side B: #6, July 21, 1989/July 25, 1989  
A4377/CS Side A: #1, July 25, 1989, Side B: #2, July 25, 1989  
A4378/CS Side A: #1, July 14, 1989, Side B: #2, July 14, 1989  
A4379/CS Side A: #1, August 8, 1989, Side B: #2, August 8, 1989  
A4380/CS Side A: #3, August 8 & 9, 1989 Side B: #4, August 9, 1989  
A4381/CS #5, August 9, 1989 (in box 4) #6 August 9, 1989  
A4382/CS Side A: #1, August 16, 1989, Side B: #2  
A4383/CS Side A: #3, August 16, 1989, Side B: #4  
A4384/CS Side A: #1, August 24, 1989, Side B: #2, August 24, 1989

A4385/CS Side A: #3, Aug. 24, 1989, Side B: #4  
A4386/CS Side A: #5, Aug. 24, 1989  
A4387/CS Side A: #1, Sep. 7, 1989, Side B: #2  
A4388/CS Side A: #1, Oct. 18, 1989, Side B: #2, Oct.18, 1989  
A4389/CS Side A: #3, Oct. 18, 1989, Side B: #4, Oct.18, 1989  
A4390/CS Side A: #1, Oct. 27, 1989, Side B: #2, Oct.27, 1989  
A4391/CS Side A: #3, Oct. 27, 1989, Side B: #4, Oct.27, 1989  
A4392/CS Side A: #1, Nov.1, 1989, Side B: #2  
A4393/CS Side A: #3, Nov.1, 1989  
A4394/CS Side A: #1, Nov.10, 1989, Side B: #2, Nov. 10, 1989  
A4395/CS Side A: #3, Nov.10, 1989, Side B: #4, Nov. 10, 1989  
A4396/CS Side A: #1, Dec. 13, 1989, Side B: #2, Dec.13, 1989  
A4397/CS Side A: #3, Dec. 13, 1989, Side B: #4, Dec.20, 1989  
A4398/CS Dec.20, 1989, #1&2  
A4399/CS Feb.14, 1990, #1&2  
A4400/CS Mar.7, 1990, #1&2  
A4401/CS April 10, 1990, #1&2

A4402/CS April 10, 1990, #3  
A4403/CS June 13, 1990, #1&2  
A4404/CS June 22, 1990, #1&2  
A4405/CS Interview, July 16, 1990  
A4406/CS July 16, 1990  
A4407/CS August 8, 1990  
A4408/CS Side A: #1, July26, 1991, Side B: #2, July 27, 1991  
A4409/CS Side A: #4, July27, 1991, Side B: #3, July 27, 1991

A4410/CS Side A: #5, July27, 1991, Side B: #6, July 27, 1991  
A4411/CS Side A: #7, July27, 1991, Side B: #8, July 27, 1991  
A4412/CS Side A: #9, July27, 1991

#### **Blanche Corona**

A4413/CS #1, 1&2 July 17, 1991  
A4414/CS #2, 3&4 July 17, 1991  
A4415/CS #3, 5 July 17, 1991

A4416/CS Longhorn Radio Network, Latino USA Airing October 29 1993  
(Segment one profiles Bert Corona)

**V0504/VHS** CEMA 51 Corona (Bert) Association Nacional Mexico Americana (ANMA) 1952

**17:00 film transfer**