

# Insider NARRATIVES



**FREE  
PREMIERE  
ISSUE**

Presented by the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project

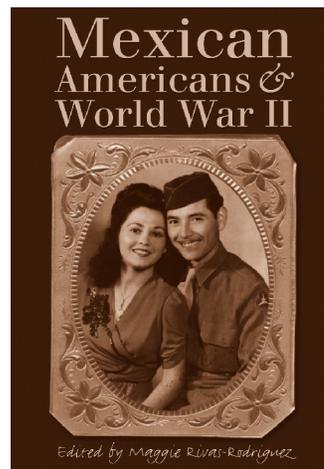
Issue No. 1, Winter 2005

## Welcome Readers, To Our First Newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project quarterly newsletter. As promised we will be continuing to keep you in the know and up-to-date with the latest goings-on with our project. We have named our newsletter "Narratives Insider" since it has been Narratives (the newspaper series created to showcase the interviews gathered) that has kept our supporters most updated on the progress of the project. Even though the Narratives chapter has closed, the project is still going strong. In fact, we continue to accept and conduct some interviews as our resources allow. We will be summarizing those interviews in future newsletters.

*So, where have we been and where are we going?* On the inside of this first quarterly newsletter you will find a fold-out time line showcasing the last five years of the project. Subsequent *Narratives Insider* newsletters will feature bios and photos of recent interviews, updates of the project's staff and duties, and an updated list of contributors. Donations, contributions, and partners are still a major component of our project.

Since the publication of the eighth and final issue of Narratives in the summer of 2004, 36 interviews have been gathered and added to the project archive. The next issue will feature interviews from individuals such as Mr. Hank Cervantes, who grew up working in California's farm fields and went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force during WWII as a fighter pilot. We will also feature several interviews from New Mexico mine workers, including women. For more stories and updates on exciting initiatives within the project, be sure to subscribe!



cover of the project's first book

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Narratives, the newspaper, was the part of our project that attracted the most attention. Through its publication, we were able to announce the richness of stories in our archives, impart to our students a new perspective on history, and give our interview subjects a portrait in words within the pages of a newspaper.

But after eight issues, it was time to refocus our resources on completing the archives and readying them for transfer to the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection. We'll still be writing stories from interviews -- those will be included in a compilation of all the Narratives editions that we're working on. Our project's goals remain the same: to include the stories of U.S. Latinos of the WWII generation within our historical accounts.

**Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez** Project Director

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### PROJECT'S FIRST BOOK

We are proud to announce that the project's first book is coming out April, 2005, called Mexican Americans and WWII. This book of manuscripts was edited by project director, Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez.

#### FIVE-YEAR PROJECT TIME LINE ▶

Five years have passed since the project began. We walk you through some important milestones inside.

## Steps to Prepare Interviews for Public Access

Our aim is to make our interviews easily accessible so that the stories of U.S. Latinos and Latinas will make their way into magazines, newspapers, journals, other publications and any other media. We also want to make sure that our interview subjects and their loved ones can visit the archives at Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection on the UT campus, where the interviews will be housed beginning this fall. We are taking several steps in our office to get our interview tapes and files ready for that transfer.

Once we conduct or receive interviews from volunteers, the real work begins. The steps we outline below are aside from the work required to publish the stories in Narratives, or in the upcoming compilation.



**1. RECEIVING** — We receive the videotaped interview, pre-interview form, signed permission slip and other documentation. We then send a receipt form back to the person who sent us the material, letting them know what we received. We assign each interview a record number and label each tape.

**2. COPYING** — We make copies on VHS (for indexers and student writers), as well as on audio tape (for transcription). We also make copies of any written documentation. We scan photos at high resolutions and return the originals to the interview subject. Photographs are returned to the interview subject via overnight carrier.

**3. CREATING FINDING AIDS** — In an oral history project, it is necessary for researchers to know what is on the interview tapes. The tapes are broken down in different ways. Librarians call the various kinds of indexes, catalogs and transcriptions, “finding aids.” We are hard at work on all three of those finding aids.

We have the beginnings of a catalog that will give details of each interview conducted. The newspaper, Narratives, and subsequent news stories we are writing, are also finding aids. We have created our own index form that provides details of what the interview subject said on a variety of topics and tells at what point (by hour, minute and second) on the tape that information was given. Lastly, many academic researchers rely mostly on very high-quality transcripts -- a word-by-word document of what was said on the tape. Transcribing is very labor-intensive; it generally takes eight hours to transcribe, edit and format a 2-hour interview.

**Who does the work?** We are fortunate to have eight dedicated and knowledgeable students available to help. Our office is small, so our student indexers and transcribers work in computer labs, viewing labs, or at home.

**How much does it cost to index and transcribe each interview?** It costs \$50 apiece to index a 2-hour interview. We have indexed 220 interviews so far, just less than half. Transcriptions costs \$240 for a 2-hour tape which includes costs for transcribing, editing and formatting. Find out more about donating money for indexes and transcriptions on the back page of this newsletter.

### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- Steps to interviewing...what you need to know to gather an accurate and newsworthy interview
- Volunteer spotlight on our military fact-checkers, Bill Davies and Richard Brito

### ★Volunteer Spotlight

## Paul Zepeda [Interviewer]



**Birth date:** June 8, 1936

**Residence:** Houston

**Occupation:** Retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 34 years

**Activities:** Local board member for the Selective Service

### How did you learn about the project?

Read an ad in the Houston Chronicle about it, then attended a volunteer interviewer training class in Houston in fall 1999.

### Why were you interested in the project?

I had four brothers who were WWII vets. Two were German POWs I wanted to make sure that their experiences were preserved. I very much admired them and looked up to them as heroes. I would sit entranced when they related all they went through. (He interviewed three brothers for the project.)

### After conducting the interviews of your brothers you went on to complete 23 more interviews. Why do you enjoy interviewing?

The reason I like to do these interviews is that it is so rewarding to be able to preserve all these experiences from the Latinos who served. They contributed so much for our country. They deserve to be honored and remembered for all their sacrifices. When I listen to them telling their stories I sense the immense historical significance that that era projected. It's like reliving history and in some way becoming a part of it. I feel their sorrow and their pain and the joy when the war ended and they got to come back to their families.

## YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TOO

You can still interview a loved one, or send us info about a person who has passed on. We have training materials for both conducting interviews and compiling tributes. You may find the materials on our website (web address in top bar). If you would like a hard copy of our training manual and training video, please send us \$10 to cover duplication and postage.

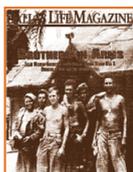
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# Project Time Line 1999-2004

## U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project

### 1999



Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez wrote an article in 1992, which inspired her to start the oral history project.



A class, J352 Community Journalism, served as the catalyst for the project.

Five years later, eight newspapers called Narratives were published, and 450+ interviews had been collected.

### FIVE YEARS IN REVIEW

The U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project has experienced tremendous growth over the past five years. The project began in the year 1999 with a goal of creating an archive of 200 interviews of Latino men and women that served during WWII. The goal was attained, but several other new milestones have also been met.

As time passed and interest grew, it became more apparent that this project was important in both the historic and journalistic sense. With more funding the project staff grew in skills. New interview methods emerged, new oral history techniques were developed. And the heroic actions of an important group of people are finally being chronicled.

### 2000



Narratives cover, Spring 2001

After the first Narratives came out in Fall of 1999, people took notice of the project. Volunteers from across the U.S. offered to conduct interviews as well as submit their stories to the collection. Interview guidelines were created, training sessions began, and training materials were produced. A conference was held in 2000, on Latinos and WWII.



Narratives cover, Spring 2002



Narratives cover, Spring 2003

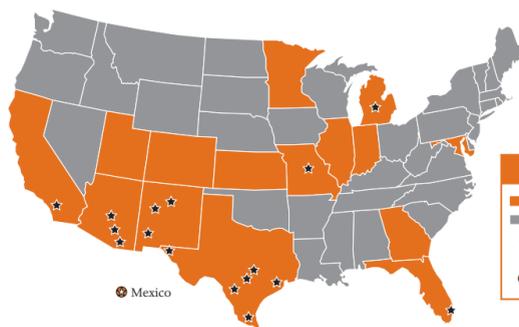


Narratives cover, Spring 2004

### 2001

By fall of 2001, five Narratives had been produced, with in-kind publishing donations from the **Austin American-Statesman** and the **San Antonio Express-News**. The newspapers traded off publishing eight Narrative newspapers. The project also accrued partners, donations, and an appropriation from the **Texas State Legislature** in the amount of \$100,000 over two years.

### 1999-2004 United States Map Interviews with Latinos & Latinas of the World War II Generation



**Map Legend**

- States we've gathered interviews
- No interviews gathered yet
- Locations of MIISes (Multiple Individual Interview Sessions)
- Interviews off U.S. mainland

● Puerto Rico

### PRESENTATIONS

- National Association of Hispanic Journalists, June 2000
- National Council of La Raza 2000 and 2004
- Oral History Association October 2001 and October 2004
- American GI Forum, August 2002
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, August 2002

### 2002

#### Spring 2001

The pre-publication preview is not generally accepted in journalism; however, the goal of preserving as accurate a record was paramount to the project, thus interviewees were given their stories ahead of publication to edit. The preview was suggested by interview subject Virgilio Roel, of Austin.

#### Narrative Notables

Narratives surpassed the goal of obtaining 200 top-quality interviews. Several universities and groups, as well as individual volunteers, also collected interviews. The 2002 issue was the first issue large enough to include an index of interviews. The newspaper is distributed at conferences and mailed to donors and interview subjects.

#### Spring 2002

By this time the project had support from five national and 12 regional partners. Also, Multiple Individual Interview Sessions (MIISes) were created to collect up to 13 at one location. MIISes took place in FL, TX, MI, AZ, and NM in spring of 2002, yielding 100+ interviews. Most MIISs took place at Vet Centers.

#### Spring 2003

Six more MIISes took place across the US. Talk of holding a forum began. The **Texas State Legislature** allotted another two year appropriation of \$94,600. The project was represented at nationwide panels and lectures. A full-time Assistant Director was hired for the project.

#### Spring 2004

The Narratives newspaper had grown in size from 20 pages in the first issue to 112 pages in the final issue. Professors and graduate students researched themes that emerged in interviews. They made short presentations, with video clips from interviews, at an all-star forum held in Washington D.C. on September 12, 2004.

### 2003

#### Gathering Support

The project has been represented at several conferences and public events over the past five years. By 2003, we surpassed the goal of gaining 200 top-quality interviews by more than double. At each event we've distributed Narratives and brochures. To the left of the 2001 column and this entry you will find partial lists of those events. If you would like brochures or newspapers to distribute, please contact our project office.

### Donations and Grants Received: 1999-Present\*

(some donations earmarked for specific events)



### PRESENTATIONS

- National Chicana and Chicano Studies Association, April 2003
- National Archives and Records Administration, May 2004
- Texas Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations August 2004
- U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute September 2004
- WWII Reunion, Memorial Day weekend, Washington, DC, May 2004

### 2004 and beyond

#### Year End, 2004

With over 450 interviews, thousands of photographs and an archive to fill, the project has been indexing, transcribing and cataloging the interviews into an archivable format.

We are also exploring other creative outlets for the men and women from this interview collection to receive proper recognition. We have listed several of those outlets.

#### Creative Outlets

A forum took place September 12, 2004, in Washington, D.C. which served to showcase selected interviews, grouped around particular topics. Those manuscripts will be developed into a second edited volume.

Playwright James Garcia along with Arizona State University Public Events and the UT Center for Performing Arts have teamed



Playwright, James Garcia

up to create a stage production based on interview excerpts to premiere in 2006.

Three books are in the works, the first of which is due for release in April of 2005 titled **Mexican Americans and WWII**. This book is comprised of select manuscripts from the 2000 conference.

The second book is excerpts from interviews collected over the past five years, the working title is **No Greater Patriots**.

We are currently still accepting interviews that

may be included.

Another book will feature photos from the WWII period, tentatively called **Treasures of Our Past**.

The project has provided images to the Air Force History and Museums Program for exhibits scheduled for: the San Antonio exhibit will take place in April. The Washington, D.C. exhibit in May. Details as to location and exact dates to come.

# Insider NARRATIVES

**Yes!** Please send me 3 more issues of Narratives Insider  
(That's a full year subscription)

I have enclosed a donation of \$10 cash, a money order, or a check for the quarterly Narratives Insider newsletter.

I would like (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ indexes documented in honor of loved ones. I have enclosed \$40 for each index. (We will send you a subscription to the newsletter.)

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

I would like (quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ transcriptions created in honor of loved ones. I have enclosed \$240 for each transcription. (We will send you a subscription to the newsletter.)

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Honoree \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to:**

U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project UT  
School of Journalism  
1 University Station A1000  
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**or donate online, see next column.**

If you would like multiple newsletters sent to more than one address, please write the other names and addresses on a separate piece of paper along with a donation of \$10 for each additional subscription.

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original form not needed for subscription or donation

## IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE

Indexing and transcribing each interview is costly, yet necessary to the project. By donating either \$40 per index, or \$240 for a transcription, we will attach the donor's name -- or the name of a designee -- to the cover page of the index or transcript.

For more information on the purpose of indexing and transcribing, please refer to the article "Steps to Prepare Interviews for Public Access" on the inside of this newsletter.

You can now make a donation online. From the left-hand side of the UT main webpage: [www.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu), choose "Support UT: Make a Gift Online" and follow the instructions. Be sure to select "Communications, College of" when asked to "select an area." When you do select "Communications, College of," you will get a drop-down menu with the name of the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project. For further assistance, please call our office at (512) 471-1924.

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