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!
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.

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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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.

Five years later, this archive of 200 interviews is presently housing thousands of photographs, memories, and oral histories from the same era. All of the men and women from this interview collection to receive proper recognition. The project has provided an archive to fill in the gaps of WWII. The Texas State Legislature granted another two-year appropriation of $45,000. The project staff grew in skills. New partnerships, donations, and an archive to fill the gaps over the past five years. The project surpassed the 200 book mark. The Narratives feature excerpts from interviews conducted up to 2005. The Spring 2006 issue will be the last. The project is currently still accepting donations of in-kind publications. The project has provided a forum for Hispanic historians and WWII veterans to distribute, please contact our project office.

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

(some donations earmarked for specific events)

**2003 Gathering Support**

The project has been represented at several conferences and public events over the past five years. In 2003 we surpassed the goal of gaining, 20 top-quality interviews by more than double our work with diverse Narratives and interviews. To the last of the 2002 column and the sixth, you will find names of those events. If you would like a brochure or copies to distribute, please contact our project office.

**2004 and beyond**

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At 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 being chronicled.

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**Narratives**

**Spring 2001**

The publication preview is a new genre generally accepted in journalism; however, the goal of researching as accurate a record as possible is paramount to this project. Interviews were given their stories and WWII veterans received proper recognition.

**Spring 2002**

By fall of 2001, five Narratives had been produced with had published interviews of Latino men and women that served during WWII. This collection of 200 interviews was given their stories.

**Spring 2003**

Six more Microsites took place across the U.S. of Texas, and 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 project was supported in journalism and Museums have teamed.

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**2001-2004 United States Map**

Interviews with Latinos & Latinas of the World War II Generation

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Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez was named as a chair in 1999 which inspired her to start the oral history project. This graph does not include in-kind donations.

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**2001 Narratives**

After the first Narratives came in full 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.

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**Criteria for determining MIISes**

The project has provided a forum for Hispanic historians and WWII veterans to distribute, please contact our project office.

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**Accounting for Federal and Private Support**

Donations and Grants Received: 1999-Present*

(some donations earmarked for specific events)

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**2002 Narratives**

Narratives covered, Spring 2002. The project has provided a forum for Hispanic historians and WWII veterans to distribute, please contact our project office.

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**2004 Narratives**

The project has provided a forum for Hispanic historians and WWII veterans to distribute, please contact our project office.

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**2005 Narratives**

The project has provided a forum for Hispanic historians and WWII veterans to distribute, please contact our project office.
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
Austin, TX 78712
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.

Name______________________________________________
Address____________________________________________
City________________________________________________
State_______________Zip_____________________________
E-mail Address_____________________________________

INDEXING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS

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, 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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