

OH 5858

Narrator:	RICHARD CHAVEZ
Interviewer:	Ray Rast and Maria Cantero
Date:	December 15, 2010
Location:	La Paz, Keen, California
Language:	English
Project:	Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format:	Born-digital
Length:	02:24:46
Transcript:	Verbatim
Ephemera:	None

Abstract:

An oral history of Richard Chavez. A Mexican American migrant farm worker who experienced the Farm Workers Movement and had memorable recollections of Cesar Chavez. This interview was conducted as part of a mandate from Congress on creating background research for The Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton. Ray Rast and Maria Cantero conducted this oral history for the focus of examining the historical sites and properties relating to the Farm Workers Movement. This study will allow the National Park Service to make recommendations to Congress on creating a new unit of the National Park Service System that would allow the park service to tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farm worker movement through historically significant locations. Specifically, through the firsthand account of Richard Chavez, who had migrated among various locations throughout the American southwest. The interview examines Mr. Chavez's experiences as a migrant in Phoenix, Bakersfield, Delano, San Jose, and Los Angeles. Chavez describes his childhood, the geographical landscape, and his experiences leading up to the farm workers movement alongside Cesar Chavez. The majority of the interview describes the physical locations utilized by the farm workers as well as the locations used for the labor strikes and marches during the Farm Workers Movement.

OH 5859

Narrator:	DOLORES HUERTA
Interviewer:	Ray Rast
Date:	July 26, 2011
Location:	Bakersfield, California
Language:	English
Project:	Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format:	Born-digital
Length:	01:20:37
Transcript:	Verbatim
Ephemera:	None

Abstract:

An oral history of Dolores Huerta. A Mexican American born in Dawson, New Mexico and leading figure in the unification and organizing of the National Farm Workers Association. Ray Rast, an Assistant Professor of History at Cal State Fullerton, constructed this interview in correspondence to the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study with the National Parks Service. This interview was conducted for the purpose of addressing the importance of farm worker site gatherings and Huerta's efforts to unify farm workers from various backgrounds; this study will allow researchers to know the influences that Dolores Huerta had on the Farm Workers Movement throughout the 1950s and 60s through her interactions and commitment to the National Farm Workers Association alongside Cesar Chavez; she discusses the conversations with Cesar Chavez on the multitude of locations she visited throughout her involvement in the Farmer Workers Movement; she talks about the significance and historical integrity in which the locations contributed to critical moments during the Farm Workers Movement; she comments on maintaining a physical space for remembering and knowing what places can represent is a main attribute on how we acknowledge historical events. Specifically, through the firsthand account of Dolores Huerta, the importance of bringing together white, black, Filipino, Puerto Ricans and Mexican farm workers throughout various sites was essential for the movement's agenda; talks about the locations and places described and mentioned in the interview display the importance of why these geographical areas should be researched or documented as places of influence; her memory and recollection of several areas such as Stockton, Los Angeles, Orange County, and Gilroy all contribute to the legacy that the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study intends on demonstrating.

OH 5860

Narrator:	EUGENE BOYLE (DECEASED 2016)
Interviewer:	Ray Rast
Date:	August 28, 2011
Location:	Palo Alto, California
Language:	English
Project:	Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format:	Born-digital
Length:	01:07:54
Transcript:	None
Ephemera:	None

Abstract:

An oral history of Eugene Boyle. An American pastor and active participant of the Farm Workers Movement throughout the 1960s and 70s. Ray Rast, an Assistant Professor of History at Cal State Fullerton, constructed this interview in correspondence to the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study with the National Parks Service. This interview was conducted for the purpose of addressing the importance of farm worker site gatherings. This study will focus on the thoughts, memories, and perspectives about historical sites as well as properties associated with the life of Cesar Chavez. Specifically, this interview deals with the viewpoint from Eugene Boyle, meeting Cesar Chavez in 1966; his recollections on geographical sites of great importance; he comments on his involvement in Delano and the greater Bay Area on opening the first church to become a "boycott office" while also working in the basement of the Sacred Heart Church in San Francisco, circa 1968; he talks about the confliction with Catholic and Protestant faiths with his controversy on being involved during the Farm Workers Movement; he discusses the descriptions of these locations for the purpose of the common individual gaining a sense of the history that took place, he comments on the crowd sizes; celebrating mass which had been requested by Cesar Chavez; he talks about his memories and recollections on visiting Cesar Chavez in the Monterey County jail in 1970; he reflects on his personal relationship with Cesar Chavez as the head pastor of the Farm Workers Movement; his feelings toward his experiences describing the environment with the types of people that were put into the jail cells; his recollections of his own campaign to run for the legislature and not winning the election; he introduces his interactions and memories of Father McDonnell who was a colleague during the Farm Workers Movement; he intends on sharing his accounts and interactions of his time involved in the movement.

OH 5861

Narrator: DONALD McDONNELL (DECEASED 2012)
Interviewer: Ray Rast
Date: November 11, 2011
Location: Oakland, California
Language: English
Project: Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format: Born-digital
Length: 01:52:20
Transcript: Verbatim
Ephemera: None

Abstract:

An oral history of Donald McDonnell. An American pastor and active participant of the Farm Workers Movement throughout the 1960s and 70s. Ray Rast, an Assistant Professor of History at Cal State Fullerton, constructed this interview in correspondence to the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study with the National Parks Service. This interview was conducted for the purpose of addressing the importance of farm worker site gatherings. This study will focus on the thoughts, memories, and perspectives about historical sites as well as properties associated with the life of Cesar Chavez. Specifically, this interview deals with the viewpoint from Donald McDonnell, he talks about his origins of working in San Jose in 1950; he comments on how he came to be involved in working with Mexican Americans, due to the persecutions put upon the church by the Mexican government; he recollects on the issues he faced in the San Jose communities during the 1950s; he talks about his accounts of giving mass to groups of Bracero workers, including his responsibilities with the church; he recounts on how he came to meet Cesar Chavez; he describes the relationship that he had with Cesar Chavez in terms of going to public masses and the emphasis on introducing important concepts of social justice to Chavez; he continues by talking about the Our Lady of Guadalupe, a church that had been built in the 1950s in which a photograph is presented by the interviewer; he talks about the teachings of Pope Leo XIII and Pius X, the Catholic Social Doctrine, "we must respect one another and honor one another and help one another" which was introduced to Cesar Chavez; he recounts his classmate that taught him how to speak Spanish, a young man from Mexico who moved to San Francisco; discusses his memories of Cesar Chavez's parents; he finishes on commenting how Cesar Chavez was dedicated to the labor movement by any means necessary.

OH 5862

Narrator: RITA CHAVEZ MEDINA
Interviewer: Ray Rast
Date: November 22, 2011
Location: Morgan Hill, California
Language: English
Project: Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format: Born-digital
Length: 02:05:19
Transcript: Verbatim; pp. 91
Ephemera: None

Abstract:

An oral history of Rita Chavez Medina. An American pastor and active participant in the Farm Workers Movement throughout the 1960s and 70s. Ray Rast, an Assistant Professor of History at Cal State Fullerton, conducted this interview in correspondence to the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study with the National Parks Service. This interview was conducted to address the importance of farm worker site gatherings. This study will focus on the thoughts, memories, and perspectives about historical sites as well as properties associated with the life of Cesar Chavez. Specifically, this interview deals with the viewpoint of Rita Chavez Medina, the sister of Cesar Chavez. She discusses her childhood of being born in Yuma, Arizona in 1925, and her growing up with her family's farm and businesses in Gila Valley; she recounts on how her family lived at the homestead, and the impact the Great Depression had on her and her family; Medina attended school with her brother and explained the segregation she witnessed from Black students; in 1939, Medina and her family moved to California as migrant workers, harvesting crops in Oxnard, Delano, and San Jose, explaining how challenging the work was, and how she even worked alongside German prisoners during World War II; Medina remembers Cesar Chavez's early leadership qualities, such as organizing his family's work efforts and his eventual involvement in the Community Service Organization (CSO); she talks about her own participation in CSO, such as aiding in voter registration drives and citizenship assistance; she recounts her involvement in establishing the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Jose with Father McDonnell, and its importance in the community.

OH 5863

Narrator: HERMAN GALLEGOS
Interviewer: Ray Rast
Date: April 6, 2012
Location: Galt, California
Language: English
Project: Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement
Audio Format: Born-digital
Length: 02:26:59
Transcript: Verbatim; pp. 75
Ephemera: None

Abstract:

An oral history of Herman Gallegos. An American pastor and active participant in the Farm Workers Movement throughout the 1960s and 70s. Ray Rast, an Assistant Professor of History at Cal State Fullerton, conducted this interview in correspondence to the Cesar Chavez Special Resources Study with the National Parks Service. This interview was conducted to address the importance of farm worker site gatherings. This study will focus on the thoughts, memories, and perspectives about historical sites as well as properties associated with the life of Cesar Chavez. Specifically, this interview deals with the viewpoint from Herman Gallegos and his involvement with the early days of the Community Service Organization (CSO); in this interview Gallegos' discusses his upbringing in Aguilar, Colorado; his family moved to California and there he began to experience discrimination and social protest, including a walkout he participated in for the firing of Dr. John Beecher; in the early days of the CSO, Gallegos was elected as the President and Cesar Chavez was the Vice President; Gallegos discusses the role Father Donald McDonnell and how McDonnell Hall was a center of religious and intellectual activity, where discussions with Father TomCullough, Fred Ross, and Cesar Chavez on farm labor, social justice, and organizing strategies took place; he recalls CSO's early activities, such as creating voter registration drives, confronting the issue of racial profiling by the San Jose Mercury News, and attempting to improve his community's infrastructure; Gallegos reflects on the influence of Saul Alinsky and the Industrial Areas Foundation, learning about the responsibility of power and the importance of organizing with democratic principles; Gallegos reflects on the challenges that he faced during the Cold War era, such as people's fear of communism; he further reflects organizing dances at McDonnell Hall to raise awareness on the lack of recreational facilities, the lessons he learned from his early organizing days, and how much the Mexican American community has grown over the years.