

Title

Argentine Community Project

Dates

1997-2001

Extent

18 interviews (7 in Spanish)

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

This study, conducted as part of a master's thesis, addresses the historical setting and cultural parameters of the Argentine community in the Los Angeles Basin, the San Fernando Valley, and Orange County. While every immigrant group to come to the United States has left its impact in one form or another as it adapted to the new country, the Argentine immigrant has generally blended unobtrusively into mainstream American society. These interviews explore the current social position of the Argentine immigrant in the greater Los Angeles area, the social contributions and difficulties encountered in an area that traditionally both encourages and hinders its Hispanic population, and the manner in which this group maintains its cultural integrity. The significance of the research is found in understanding not only how Argentines are perceived within the framework of the United States but also gives voice to individual histories.

Restrictions

None

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OH# 2622

Narrator: Albion, Silvia (1958-)
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Silvia Albion"
Date: October 9, 1997
Language: English
Location:
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Silvia Albion, an Argentinian immigrant who came to the U.S. in 1988. The purpose of this oral history is to discuss the Argentinian immigrant experience. Silvia discusses her family, including her father's life as a fisherman; her reasons for coming to the U.S.; meeting her husband, an American; cultural traditions that were brought over from Argentina, including family recipes; differences between Argentina and the U.S., including celebration of the New Year and pace of life; the importance of communication and value of learning the language of the country; worries of racial problems, drugs, and violence that are depicted on news stations; the lack of relaxation time in American society; awareness of Argentina internationally; and possible plans to return to Argentina.

OH# 2623

Narrator: Haider, Lucia (1927-)
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Lucia Haider"
Date: October 4, 1997
Language: Spanish
Location:
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio
Other:

Abstract:**OH# 2624**

Narrator: Barrera, Graciela (1960-)
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Graciela Barrera"
Date: October 28, 1997
Language: Spanish
Location:
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio
Other:

Abstract:

OH# 2623

Narrator: Bicer, Maria (1941-)
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Maria Bicer"
Date: November 10, 1997
Language: English
Location:
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Maria Bicer, an artist who immigrated to Southern California from Argentina in 1995. Her husband invented a cardiovascular valve in Argentina, and supplied doctors there with the valve until 1995 when they moved to the U.S. and established Bicer Medical. Her art is on display in the coop gallery Fine Art Gallery in Rancho Santa Margarita. Maria discusses her parents immigrating to Argentina; her husband's medical career; immigrating to the U.S.; experiences communicating with her neighbors; Argentina as an immigrant country; earthquakes; how she became an artist and how studying art in America is beneficial; teaching Spanish to her grandson; and the importance of roots over birthplace with regards to one's home.

OH# 3031

Narrator: Ipscher, Andrea (-)
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Andrea Ipscher"
Date: May 3, 2001
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Andrea Ipscher, a California State University, Fullerton student whose father is an Argentinian immigrant and mother is a Colombian immigrant. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Andrea gives family history, which includes Argentinean, Columbian, and German ancestors. Discusses communication with distant loves ones, and the advantages of email. Plans to travel to Argentina and see family and friends for the first time. Notes

cousins with one American parent have more American culture. Discusses father's efforts to pass on Argentine culture; mother gravitated from Columbian to Argentine accent and cuisine. When younger, Andrea resisted father's efforts to teach her Spanish; now she uses it with friends and at work, where she speaks Mexican-style to be understood. Observes that even Hispanics assume all Latinos use Mexican words and recipes; comfortable being called "Hispanic" but notes on her visit to Columbia people insisted she was "American." Says many Americans think all Hispanics are Mexican or Cuban. Wants to learn Argentine recipes. Notes it is strange dating an American who dislikes Argentine food; wants to pass culture on to children, but knows it may be hard if she marries a non-Hispanic. Wants children to have contact with her parents. Brother has Down syndrome, and only speaks Spanish to non-English speakers. Grandmother lives with them; cooks Argentine recipes and shares stories of past; she and husband came to U.S. over 30 years earlier; Andrea marvels at the difficult transition they had to make. Andrea is studying business management, but hopes to be a stay-home mom; discusses parents' child-rearing methods; feels American families are a little different, especially in expressions of affection. Andrea played soccer as a child and attended Catholic school; started noticing Hispanic stereotypes in public high school. Family used to be actively Catholic, but doesn't attend church now. Andrea feels her home life is more Latin than American. Notes neighborhood is becoming predominantly Korean; family has less contact with neighbors than before. Family involved with Argentinian Association; Andrea doesn't attend activities but did go to Argentinian school briefly in junior high. Family celebrates Argentina-style Christmas, Quincenera, and confirmation. She is curious to see how Argentina compares with her expectations. She goes to Argentine restaurants, and takes friends to introduce them to Argentine cuisine. Discusses Argentine foods she grew up with, and Argentine restaurants she likes; wants to take American boyfriend to one so he'll see what it's like.

OH# 3032

Narrator: Gomez, Ricardo
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Ricardo Gomez"
Date: June 1, 2001
Language: Spanish
Location: Pasadena, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Ricardo Gomez, a California State University, Fullerton professor who fled Argentina in 1976 to escape political repression. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Mr. Gomez recounts his family history, which includes ancestors from Spain and Italy. He also discusses his detention and interrogation by Argentinian authorities, and networking with fellow Argentinian immigrants to obtain postgraduate schooling in the U.S. Explains the subjects he teaches: philosophy of science and technology, and Latin American philosophy. Recalls having to close family business, and discusses extended family's closeness and continuing contact in spite of distance. Recounts in-laws' romance. Discusses travels to South America, how his opinion of the U.S. changed after moving there, and his love of teaching. Discusses contact with other Argentinians, help given to other immigrants, connection to Argentinian community through soccer, markets, and restaurants. Also the feeling that he was out of touch with Argentinian community in Indiana. Says no news is usually

good news from Argentina. Loves California climate in spite of cost and earthquakes. Maintains culture and contact with other Latin Americans by attending Latin American performances and exhibits. Wants descendents to keep speaking Spanish; says granddaughter attends Spanish school and fluency is beneficial in job market. Notes some immigrants forbid children to speak Spanish. Mentions diversity in some big American cities. Discusses stereotype that all Latin Americans are non-white. Declares that wider experience with people and places dispels prejudice, and that bigotry is fueled by feelings of inferiority.

OH# 3033

Narrator: Pieri, Alfredo
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Alfredo Pieri"
Date: March 11, 2002
Language: Spanish
Location: Los Angeles, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Alfredo Pieri, who has been involved with the Argentinian-American community since he immigrated to the U.S. in 1959, and who became an Argentine Consul in 1991. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Pieri was interviewed about the community on behalf of the mayor when the Argentinian president visited Los Angeles. He talks about several Argentinians who have achieved success in the U.S.: Jose Fulco, Pieri's son Alfredo, Eugenio Zanetti, and Alicia Macarone. Pieri appreciates the way America welcomes immigrants, and the opportunities available to those who come to the U.S. He recounts his family history. His ancestors were all Italian, and they formed a society to improve their new Argentine community. Pieri's wife is from Ecuador, and he has four children. He came to the U.S. to visit a friend, and liked California so much that he stayed. In Argentina he had not attended college, but had joined an organization that would allow him to get out of the obligatory two-year military service. In California he worked with the consulate carrying passports from Southern California up to San Francisco for renewal. He gathered enough signatures to get a consulate created in Los Angeles, and the new consul persuaded Pieri to continue helping him part-time as a secretary. Pieri kept working with the consulate for years, though the Argentine government rarely sent them enough money, and he was made Consul of Tourism for the Coast in 1991. He worked with National Geographic to produce a documentary about Argentina. In his years at the consulate, many people sought his help, some of whom were dishonest or a little crazy. Pieri talks about successful Argentine musicians, actors, car designers, and vendors of home improvement products. He mentions some tourist groups that went to Argentina, and says Argentina has the best polo players in the world. He talks about several Argentine associations in California, and recalls the suspicions of hotel managers which he had to overcome the first time he arranged a Latin festival at the Hilton. He says Argentinians don't gather in a single area; they adapt to their new country. The children, and many of their parents, become integrated in the community. Pieri likes the U.S. He discusses American/Argentine relations and some American misconceptions about Latinos. He says many professional or intellectual Americans distinguish between Latino cultures, but most

Americans just associate Latinos with drug dealing and assume all Latin countries are like Mexico. He discusses the sense of identity of those who are born in one country but raised in another. He also talks about Argentina's current difficulties, such as fighting, corruption, debt, robbery, and medicine shortages. He talks with the interviewer about her family's Argentine ranch that once belonged to Jesuits, and about that group's history in the western hemisphere. Pieri says Argentina is poor now because it did not industrialize. Pieri was almost made an ambassador, but his U.S. citizenship might have complicated things and he preferred to be a consul near his California home. He says the Argentinian-American community is not as organized as, say, the Jewish community, because Argentinians have diverse backgrounds and make friends with a variety of people. They do tend to gather for performances of Argentine music. Pieri worked on a Spanish TV program, and knows some Argentinians who work for the Spanish paper *La Opinión*. He also knows Argentinians who work in Las Vegas. Though he loves his adopted country, he will always feel that he is an Argentinian. His daughters are Americanized, but they have been to South America and are familiar with its music. Pieri knows some Koreans from Argentina who have completely adopted Argentine culture. He talks about Koreans in America and their dedication to academic success. He talks with Haider about her efforts to teach Spanish to her children. He also talks about children in other countries who begin learning a second language at a young age.

OH# 3183

Narrator: Almada, Patricia
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Patricia Almada"
Date: July 11, 1998
Language: English
Location: Whittier, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Patricia Almada, who immigrated to the U.S. from Argentina at age fifteen. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project, and its purpose was to discuss Argentinian-American identity. Almada recounts her family history; she is descended from Russians and Poles who moved to Buenos Aires. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. for financial reasons, and chose to settle in LA because her aunt lived there. Almada had studied English in school, but the cultural transition was hard until college. She became an elementary school teacher and principal. Her parents struggled at first, but eventually achieved financial security. The U.S. provides better services for her mother who has Multiple Sclerosis, and a brother who is legally blind. They spoke Spanish at home; now they switch between Spanish and English. She taught her daughters Spanish and helped create a Spanish Saturday school for them. She still cooks some Argentinian recipes, but has little contact with other Argentinians. She recently took her family on a trip to Buenos Aires to see relatives and to show her family her homeland. Most of her mother's family has moved to the U.S., and their children are more Americanized because they married Anglos (Almada married a Mexican). She thinks of herself mainly as a Jew, but also as Argentinian and Hispanic. She discusses cultural and religious holidays her family celebrates. Neither she nor her catholic husband were strongly religious growing up, but they tried to teach their children about both traditions. In recent years one daughter

asked questions about Judaism and they started attending a synagogue. Common history of struggle makes her feel more connected to Jews than Argentinians. Almada thinks her brother Gustavo struggled with drugs after they immigrated because her father was preoccupied with work and they had no extended family support system like they would have in Argentina. She was excited to come to the U.S. Years later she chose to get American citizenship so she could vote. Gustavo was forced to choose jail or the Army during Vietnam; he chose the Army, was assigned to an office stateside, and was later excused from Argentinian service because he had served in the U.S. Army. Almada feels more Hispanic than Argentinian because of her multicultural associations in the U.S. She recalls activities from her trip back, positive impressions of the people, and her daughters' adaptation to the customs. She prefers the openness and cleanness of California. One aunt visits from Argentina every few years and calls often. Almada would eat Argentinian food more if she knew where to locate it.

OH# 3184

Narrator: Ruggieri, María Verónica and Rubio, Claudio
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with María Verónica Ruggieri and Claudio Rubio"
Date: April 8, 1999
Language: Spanish
Location: Irvine, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with María Verónica Ruggieri and Claudio Omar Rubio, a married Argentinian couple who teach tango. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Ruggieri and Rubio tell where and when they were born. They come to the U.S. every year to teach tango for two months. They teach in Argentina, as well. They wanted to travel and visit relatives, so they came to the U.S. for the first time in 1996. They keep coming because of the affection they feel for people they've met in the U.S. They chose to come to California because Ruggieri has an uncle in Fullerton. A large majority of their students are Americans. Ruggieri and Rubio consider the reasons why people want to study tango. They get together with the Burbank Argentinian Association, which holds dinners and other activities. They talk about people they have met in the U.S. They think California is interested in the cultures that are coming into it. They mention the origins of tango. Their impression of the U.S. has improved as they have come to know Americans. They think many Argentinians hesitate to disclose their nationality because it carries political baggage, and don't feel much Argentine patriotism because they gathered to Argentina from many different places and then left it because there weren't many opportunities there. They talk about Argentine markets and restaurants. Many Argentinians make their travel arrangements with Alicia's Travel, and many live in the Burbank area. They discuss restaurants a bit more. They think Argentinians and Mexicans get along fairly well, but don't feel much of a cultural bond. They discuss international tango summits and the role of the Internet in disseminating information. They talk about tango in Europe and the U.S., and the use of tango in movies and commercials. Ruggieri and Rubio danced the tango in a commercial to promote a television program. They say tango is evolving, but they try to stay connected to its roots. In the U.S. Ruggieri and Rubio eat American food, though they do watch their diet to stay in shape. They talk about

food they have eaten in various countries. They would counsel other Argentinians to stay in Argentina. They discuss the difficulties Argentina is facing.

OH# 3185

Narrator: Farias, Valeria C.
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Valeria C. Farias"
Date: April 29, 2001
Language: English
Location: Santa Monica, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other: Photos

Abstract: An oral history with Valeria C. Farias, an Argentinian who is studying at California State University Northridge. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Farias relates her family history. She visited the U.S. as a tourist, then came back to study. She and her Argentinian boyfriend plan to go back. Her impressions of Americans. Doesn't know many Argentinians; sometimes can identify them by accent or the mate. More family history, ancestors Spanish. Socializes mainly with international students. Likes American educational system but not family system. Misses friends in spite of Internet contact. Discusses Argentinian eating schedule, food, music, *telenovelas* (soap operas), and other things that remind her of Argentina. Dislikes assumption that all Hispanic cultures are like Mexico. Discusses small town she's from, and extended family relations. Talks about her Catholic Church attendance. Copes by making her residence a safe little bit of Argentina, and by traveling home every year. More discussion of family relations. Plans to work in U.S. a year then find a job in Argentina that has ties to the U.S. and challenges her. Discusses Argentinian and American views of each other, and diversity in Argentina. Talks about Argentinian restaurants and cooking. Learned British English in Argentine bilingual school, discusses differences. Association with neighbors and their children made her feel less lonely, especially while boyfriend was out of town. The children are pleased at getting so much attention from an adult. Her dog comforts her, too. Boyfriend wasn't used to contact with children, but is getting more accustomed.

OH# 3186

Narrator: Joseau, Olga
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Olga Joseau"
Date: April 19, 2001
Language: English
Location: New Hall, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other: Photos

Abstract: An oral history with Olga Joseau, an Argentinian immigrant who is President of Unidas, a Latin American women's organization. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Joseau recounts her family history; her paternal grandparents came to Argentina from France, and her maternal grandparents came from Spain. Moved to U.S. in 1962. Mother limited her education in Argentina, but she went through college in U.S. Fled Argentina's political situation with first husband; husband had Argentinian friends already in California. She later divorced and married an American. U.S. lived up to her expectations. Didn't know any Argentinians in new town of Santa Clarita. Discusses learning English and getting a job. Parents never came but sister moved to U.S. Tells parent birth years and when mother died. Discusses history of Unidas, and its humanitarian efforts around the world. Joseau joined several years after group formed and quickly became part of leadership. Biggest donations go to a center in Santa Clarita that helps women in need. Sometimes coordinates with Argentinian association and Consulate. Joseau and non-Spanish-speaking husband visit South America every few years. Daughters speak some Spanish, and grandchildren speak none. Didn't try to maintain culture because wanted children to be American. Notes vocabulary has changed in Argentina. Says her accent still arouses prejudice in U.S., and Americans expect Hispanics to be darker than she is. Sees herself as Argentinian not Hispanic. Feels at home in Argentina but wouldn't move back there. Thinks crime in Argentina is no worse than in America, but is in the news more because it didn't used to happen as often. Discusses opportunities and obstacles for women when she arrived. Discovered she likes sports like softball and skiing. Also likes making porcelain dolls and painting. Grew up learning handicrafts at home. After term as Unidas President ends, she'll become Vice President of a social club called Newcomers and Friends, where she'll be the only Hispanic. Likes to travel and learn about other cultures. Little contact with Argentine restaurants and activities because husband is not Argentinian. Mentions family involvement in Unidas activities. Discusses daughters' Latin characteristics, and extended family relations involving Latin and non-Latin in-laws.

OH# 3187

Narrator: Ipscher, Norberto
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Norberto Ipscher"
Date: May 1, 2001
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Audio; Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other: Photos

Abstract: An oral history with Norberto Ipscher, an Argentinian immigrant who is a member of the Argentine Association Club of Los Angeles. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. Ipscher came to U.S. from Buenos Aires at age 21. Relates family history; father was a Romanian-born German. One of Ipscher's children has Down syndrome. Met his Colombian wife while she was in U.S. on vacation. Discusses education and jobs he has had. Father's friend persuaded the family to come to U.S. Mentions immigration proceedings. Discusses father's employment in Argentina and U.S., emigration from Europe to Argentina, and family experience in World War I. Before immigrating Ipscher viewed U.S. as technologically advanced. Adapted to American culture but retains Argentine customs. Wants children to adapt and not feel like foreigners, but he does share some

Argentine customs with them. His mother taught his wife to cook Argentine food; she has integrated into Argentinian-American community. Children speak some Spanish. Ipscher has returned a few times, and friends and family come to visit in U.S. Likes traveling. Helped found Argentina Association Club. Later moved away but maintained some contact, started attending again when children were grown. Involved in youth soccer association and Boy Scouts. Arranged showing of Argentinian soccer games, and Argentina Association Club persuaded him to be on Board of Directors. Club purpose is to share Argentine culture with community. Discusses club activities and holidays it commemorates. Mentions Alfredo Pieri's work with consulate. Ipscher is becoming involved with son's square dancing group. Discusses Club Board responsibilities. Argentinian club in Orange County only lasted a few years because Argentinians are spread out there. Discusses why LA Argentinians concentrated in San Fernando Valley. Talks about local Argentinian restaurants. Sent children to Catholic school to instill values. Mentions *telenovelas* (Spanish soap operas), Argentinian television channels, and American media he watches. Discusses Argentinian eating schedules.

OH# 3188

Narrator: Ferreyra, Mariana
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Mariana Ferreyra"
Date: May 5, 1999
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Mariana Ferreyra, a daughter of Argentinian immigrants who was born in the U.S. but lived in Argentina two years as a child. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. In the brief phone interview, Ferreyra says she associates Argentina with family ties, and the U.S. with opportunities for a better future. She says Argentinians think Americans are materialistic, and she says Americans confuse Argentina with Mexico. She does not participate in Argentinian cultural events.

OH# 3189

Narrator: Diaz, Clara Mercedes
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Clara Mercedes Diaz"
Date: May 4, 1999
Language: Spanish
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Clara Mercedes Diaz, an Argentinian who immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 33. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. She was interviewed over the phone. Her most positive memories of Argentina are from her childhood, before political changes took place. Came to the U.S. seeking economic opportunity. Identifies both with the province of Córdoba where she grew up, and with the U.S. where she matured. Discusses her positive expectations of the U.S., her current impressions of Argentina and the U.S., and her definition of “America” (there are three: North, Central, and South). Says the images of the U.S. presented in movies are false, and that citizens of the U.S. know little about Argentina or the rest of the world. Discusses her adaptation to life in the U.S. Explains her sense of identity. She only participates in Argentinian activities related to “El Tango.”

OH# 3190

Narrator: Ferreyra, Dr. Alfredo Marcelo
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: “An Oral History with Dr. Alfredo Marcelo”
Date: April 28, 1999
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (?? Pages)

Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Dr. Alfredo Marcelo Ferreyra, an Argentinian who immigrated to the U.S. in 1960 at age 34. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. He was interviewed over the phone. He associates Argentina with happy childhood, as well as some memories from youth and adulthood. Felt Argentina and America had much in common, so did not feel culture shock when arrived. Moved to U.S. to obtain better opportunities for children and self. Identifies more with native region than with Argentina, which he says has changed. Lists sources of info about U.S. before coming. Moved back to Argentina briefly, but was disappointed and returned to U.S. Now focuses on good memories of Argentina; prefers U.S. because of opportunities. Says most Argentinians respect U.S. Feels U.S. government is suspicious of Argentina, and citizens are ignorant of it. Adapted to new country by working hard and studying its language and history. Doesn't participate in local Argentinian events, but maintains contact with other Argentinians. Still identifies self as Argentinian. Feels descendents are Americans with respect for their Argentinian past.

OH# 3191

Narrator: Ferreyra, Beth Keller
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: “An Oral History with Beth Keller Ferreyra”
Date: May 19, 1999
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Beth Keller Ferreyra, a U.S. citizen of German descent who married an Argentinian raised in the U.S. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. She was interviewed over the phone. Notes that religion is an integral part of Argentine way of life. Says Argentinians often use humor in communication, and communicate between age groups more as equals than Americans do. Says Argentinians are loyal to each other and willing to help each other. Notes Argentine childrearing is strict but gives children more voice and responsibility. Likes closeness and openness of Argentine culture.

OH# 3192

Narrator: Ferreyra, Marcelo Antonio
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Marcelo Antonio Ferreyra"
Date: May 4, 1999
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (?? Pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Marcelo Antonio Ferreyra, an Argentinian who came to the U.S. with his family as an infant in 1961; also lived there from 1966-68. The interview was part of the Argentinian-American Community Project. He was interviewed over the phone. His images of Argentina involve family and Cordoba, as well as memories from trips there as an adult. Discusses politics' influence on his view of U.S. Too young to decide whether to move to U.S., but did decide to stay. Identifies with state/province more than countries. Sees Argentina as second home, U.S. as first. Says Argentina creates image of U.S. as powerful but cold country whose families are not close. Says U.S. citizens know little about Argentina, while U.S. government and corporations see it as a promising market. Explains how he integrated in American culture, while maintaining Argentinian identity.

OH# 3980

Narrator: Teiro, Nelida
Interviewer: Carlota F. Haider
Title: "An Oral History with Nelida Teiro"
Date: April 22, 1998
Language: Spanish
Location: Claremont, California
Project: Argentinian Community Project

Format: Verbatim (English 15 pages, Spanish 24 pages)
Other:

Abstract: An oral history with Nelida Teiro, an Argentinian who came to the US in 1967. She lived in New York for three years and then came to Southern California in 1970, where she started a family. After working as a secretary, and her husband as a jeweler, she and her husband opened an Argentinian restaurant in 1991. Nelida discusses running the restaurant, Argentinian traditions, and the importance of family. Her sons and husband created “The Four Gauchos”, a brand of traditional Argentinian *chimichurri* sauce. She also discusses differences between Argentina, New York, and California, both in landscape and culture; her upbringing; immigration between Argentina and the U.S.; family connections; and the pace of life as a restaurant owner.