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**California Polytechnic State University
Special Collections & Archives**

**Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Collection
MS0120**

Collection ID: MS0120

Title: Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Collection

Dates: 2003-2004

Creator: Guadalupe Speaks Project

Extent: 1 LF, 2 boxes

Abstract: The Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Collection contains transcriptions, audio cassette, and video tape interviews of long-time residents of Guadalupe, California recorded in 2003 and 2004 by California Polytechnic State University students and faculty. The stories reflect history, culture, and life in Guadalupe and reflect the multicultural mix of residents including Swiss-Italian, Portuguese, Filipino, Chumash, Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese ancestry.

Language: English and Spanish

Repository: California Polytechnic State University
Robert E. Kennedy Library
Special Collections and Archives
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
Phone: 805-756-2305
Email: archives@calpoly.edu
URL: <http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/>

Provenance: Gift

Accessions: 2016.0065, 2017.0021

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Preferred Citation: Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Collection, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University



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Indexing Terms:

Boydston, Shirley -- Interviews.
Dolcini, Henry -- Interviews.
Galvan, Helen -- Interviews.
Harris, Mary -- Interviews.
Saucedo, Jesus -- Interviews.
Masatani, Harry -- Interviews.
Maxon, Alice -- Interviews.
Minetti, Clarence S. -- Interviews.
Perry, John, Jr. -- Interviews.
Talaugon, Joe -- Interviews.
Agricultural laborers -- California -- Guadalupe.
Central Coast (Calif.) -- History.
Chavez, Cesar, 1927-1993.
Civil rights movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century.
Filipino Americans -- California -- Guadalupe.
Guadalupe (Calif.) -- History.
Japanese Americans -- California -- Guadalupe.
Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945.
Mexican American agricultural laborers.
Mexican Americans -- California -- Guadalupe.
Migrant labor -- California.
Oral history -- California -- Guadalupe.
Portuguese Americans -- California -- Guadalupe.
Race relations -- California -- Guadalupe.
Santa Barbara County (Calif.) -- History.
Swiss Americans -- California.
Swiss-Italians -- California.
United Farm Workers of America.
World War, 1914-1918.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans.



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Historical Note:

Guadalupe Speaks! was a collaborative project grant-funded by the California Council for the Humanities as part of "California Stories", a multiyear initiative designed to connect Californians through stories that document multicultural communities in present day California. Planning for the project began under the leadership of Project Director Larry Alkire. Project partners included the City of Guadalupe, Guadalupe Union School District, Comité Civico Mexicano de Guadalupe, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Center, Cal Poly Ethnic Studies Program, Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives, and others.

The project plan included collecting and preserving oral histories, distributing the stories via public art installations, and special events, and a project webpage. Ten stories were collected and recorded by Cal Poly Ethnic Studies students under the guidance of professor Marian Perales. Recordings were later transcribed by the students. The stories reflect history, culture, and life in Guadalupe and reflect the experiences of residents including those of Swiss-Italian, Portuguese, Filipino, Chumash, Mexican, Chinese, and Japanese ancestry.

The City of Guadalupe, incorporated in 1946, is situated at the northern border of Santa Barbara County on Highway 1 near Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. It was once a principal agricultural growth and distribution center in California attracting both migrant agricultural and railroad laborers to the area. At one time Guadalupe provided one-third of all lettuce grown in California.

The area was originally inhabited by central coast tribes of Chumash. In 1769 a Spanish land expedition led by Gaspar de Portola reached the Santa Barbara Channel. Spanish missionaries settled the area, establishing five missions throughout the central coast including La Purisima to the south of what is now known as Guadalupe and the area became pasture land for the mission. After Mexico declared independence from Spain the pressure for secularization resulted in the 1834 Decree of Confiscation issued by Governor Figueroa. Mission lands were redistributed by sale or land grant by the government, primarily to *Californios* (citizens who had been born in Alta California) in the years before the Mexican-American war. Rancho Guadalupe was an 1840 land grant from the Mexican government by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Diego Olivera and Teodoro Arellanes. As a result, the pueblo of Guadalupe grew around the rancho and is one of the earliest established California communities on the Central Coast.

United States migrants (of European descent including Anglo, German, Basque, Italian, and Irish) began settling the area during the gold rush shortly before California gained statehood. In 1895 the Southern Pacific Railroad completed the section of railroad from Guadalupe to San Luis Obispo. By 1898 Southern Pacific had completed a route from San Francisco to Los Angeles creating opportunity for population and industry growth on the central coast. During this time the Chinese and Japanese populations grew with the demand for labor in mining, railroads, and agriculture as agriculture was becoming central to the area's economy. By the 1930s Guadalupe was the center for produce growth and distribution. Guadalupe provided the majority of produce to the state, primarily via the recently completed railroad. Later, changes in migration policies and the bracero program allowed for an influx of professionals and laborers from China, Japan, the Philippines, and Mexico and South America.



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After incorporation in 1946, the city continued to focus on agriculture and it is still center to the city's economy. Many efforts have been made to preserve the city's history and culture. The 2003-2004 Guadalupe Speaks! project was a collaborative community-led effort to record the history, culture, and diversity of the city.

Scope and Content:

The Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Collection contains interviews of Guadalupe residents recorded in 2003-2004 by California Polytechnic State University students and faculty. The collection includes printed and electronic (PDF) transcriptions and interviews on audio and video tape.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged alphabetically as a single series. Original organization of the records has been retained where possible. Materials may have been reorganized or rehoused for preservation and access purposes. Transcriptions have been cataloged in the online public access catalog <http://lib.calpoly.edu/> under the series: "Guadalupe Speaks Oral History Project" for access purposes.

Related Collections:

MS0026 Manzanar Collection

MS0098 Central Coast Farm Labor Organizing Collection

MS0102 Viva La Causa: A Decade of Farm Labor Organizing on the Central Coast - Traveling Exhibit

MS0105 Ethnic Studies Oral History Collection

Sources:

"Guadalupe". California Japantowns. www.californiajapantowns.org. Accessed 21 June 2017.

Hoffman, Naomi C. *Colorful Guadalupe*. 2002.

Perales, Marian. *Guadalupe Speaks! Project Manual*. California Polytechnic State University, 2003.

Access:

Collection is open to researchers by appointment only. For more information on visiting, access policies, and reproduction requests, please visit our [Reference Services](http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/) page online at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/>.

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- Box 1 Folder 1** Boydston, Shirley. Interviewed by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Guadalupe, World War I, World War II, Central Coast, California, San Luis Obispo Regional History. Interview transcript. 51 pages. English. 26 May 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 2** Dolcini, Henry. Interviewed by Cameron Islas. Subjects include Dolcini Family History, Pearl Harbor, Japanese Internment, Southern Pacific Train Wreck, Guadalupe, Central Coast. Interview transcript. 26 pages. English. 5 December 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 3** Galvan, Helen. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Farm Labor, United Farm Workers, Guadalupe, Betteravia, Agriculture, Braceros, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Interview transcript. 28 pages. English. 22 November 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 4** Harris, Mary. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Education Programs, Buffalo, New York, Guadalupe, CA, Civil Rights, United Farm Workers, Sexism. Interview transcript. 34 pages. 24 April 2004.
- Box 1 Folder 5** Masatani, Harry. Interview by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Japanese Americans, Guadalupe, CA, Japanese American Internment, World War II, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Interview transcript. 72 pages. English. 11 June 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 6** Maxon, Alice. Interviewed by Lucia Stone. Subjects include Japanese Americans, Guadalupe, CA, Japanese American Internment, World War II, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Interview transcript. 28 pages. 1 August 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 7** Minetti, Clarence S. Interviewed by Adam Matschek. Subjects include Central Coast, CA, Agriculture, The Far Western, WWII, Cesar Chavez, Development of the Central Coast. Interview transcript. 37 pages. English. 3 December 2003.



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- Box 1 Folder 8** Perry, John. Interviewed by Ariana Zamora. With Comments by Tom Neuman. Subjects include Portugal and Azore Islands, Agriculture, Farming, Japanese Internment, Guadalupe, CA, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Interview transcript. 34 pages. English. 31 January 2004.
- Box 1 Folder 9** Saucedo, Jesus Interviewed by Esmeralda Galvez. Subjects include Guadalupe, California, Braceros, Migrant Labor, Japanese Americans, and Filipino Americans. Interview transcript. 27 pages. Spanish. 14 March 2004
- Box 1 Folder 10** Talaugon, Joe. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Guadalupe, CA, Chumash, Talaugon family history, Race and culture, Santa Ynez, CA, WWII, Japanese Internment. Interview transcript. 33 pages. English. 19 November 2003.
- Box 1 Folder 11** Interviewer Project Manual, Marian Perales, October 2003.
- Box 2**
- Box 2 Folder 1.1** Boydston, Shirley. Interviewed by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Guadalupe, World War I, World War II, Central Coast, California, San Luis Obispo Regional History. Audio cassette. English. 26 May 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 1.2** Boydston, Shirley. Interviewed by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Guadalupe, World War I, World War II, Central Coast, California, San Luis Obispo Regional History. Audio cassette. English. 26 May 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 2.1** Dolcini, Henry. Interviewed by Cameron Islas. Subjects include Dolcini Family History, Pearl Harbor, Japanese Internment, Southern Pacific Train Wreck, Guadalupe, Central Coast. Audio cassette. English. 5 December 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 2.2** Dolcini, Henry. Interviewed by Cameron Islas. Subjects include Dolcini Family History, Pearl Harbor, Japanese Internment, Southern Pacific Train Wreck, Guadalupe, Central Coast. Audio cassette. English. 5 December 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 3.1** Galvan, Helen. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Farm Labor, United Farm Workers, Guadalupe, Betteravia, Agriculture, Braceros, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Audio cassette. English. 22 November 2003.



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- Box 2 Folder 3.2** Galvan, Helen. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Farm Labor, United Farm Workers, Guadalupe, Betteravia, Agriculture, Braceros, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Audio cassette. English. 22 November 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 4.1** Harris, Mary. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Education Programs, Buffalo, New York, Guadalupe, CA, Civil Rights, United Farm Workers, Sexism. Audio cassette. English. 24 April 2004.
- Box 2 Folder 4.2** Harris, Mary. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Education Programs, Buffalo, New York, Guadalupe, CA, Civil Rights, United Farm Workers, Sexism. Audio cassette. English. 24 April 2004.
- Box 2 Folder 5.1** Masatani, Harry. Interview by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Japanese Americans, Guadalupe, CA, Japanese American Interment, World War II, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Audio cassette. English. 11 June 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 5.2** Masatani, Harry. Interview by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Japanese Americans, Guadalupe, CA, Japanese American Interment, World War II, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Audio cassette. English. 11 June 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 5.3** Masatani, Harry. Interview by Lucia Stone. With comments by Marion Perales and Tom Neuman. Subjects include Japanese Americans, Guadalupe, CA, Japanese American Interment, World War II, San Luis Obispo Regional History, Central Coast California. Audio cassette. English. 11 June 2003.
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- Box 2 Folder 10.4** Talaugon, Joe. Interviewed by Stevie Ruiz. Subjects include Guadalupe, CA, Chumash, Talaugon family history, Race and culture, Santa Ynez, CA, WWII, Japanese Internment. Audio cassette. English. 19 November 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 11** Harris, Mary. Interview. Video tape. VHS. [damaged video]. 24 April 2004
- Box 2 Folder 12** Galván, Helen. Interview. Video tape. VHS. [damaged video]. 22 November 2003.
- Box 2 Folder 13** Talaugon, Joe. Interview. Video tape. VHS. [damaged video]. 19 November 2003
- Box 2 Folder 14** Talaugon, Margie. Interview. Video tape. VHS. [damaged video]. 11 April 2004.
- Box 2 Folder 15** Talaugon, Joe. Interview transcript. 3.5" Floppy Disk. 1 June 2004.
- Box 2 Folder 14** Harris, Mary. Interview transcript. 3.5" Floppy Disk. 1 June 2004.