

Collection #  
P 0886

**FRANCISCO AND CONSUELO FIGUEROA FAMILY COLLECTION,  
1920S-2017**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 half-size photograph box; 1 OVA photograph folder; 1 OVB graphics folder; digital image files; digital audio files
COLLECTION DATES:	1920s–2017
PROVENANCE:	Gifts from Lydia Castillo of Munster, Indiana (2017, 2018); and Irene Osorio of Crown Point, Indiana (2017, 2018, 2024). Loans for Digitization from Lupe Figueroa of Highland, Indiana (2017); Irene Osorio (2017, 2023); and Lydia Castillo (2017).
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	<i>El Amigo Del Hogar</i> (OMB 0182)
ACCESSION NUMBERS:	2017.0258, 2017.0284, 2017.0285, 2017.0286, 2018.0053, 2018.0054, 2018.0231, 2023.0152, 2023.0153, 2024.0010
NOTES:	<i>See also:</i> Castillo's Realty Collection (P 0768)

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Francisco Figueroa and Consuelo Carrillo Figueroa grew up near Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. They married in 1923 and soon immigrated to the United States and settled in the Indiana Harbor section of East Chicago, Indiana. That same year, Francisco and his brother, Benjamin, both steelworkers, established Figueroa Printers at 3604 Deodar Street in Indiana Harbor. With the local chapter of the mutual aid society called *Círculo de Obreros Católicos "San José"* (Catholic Workers Circle "St. Joseph"), the Figueroa brothers began to publish a weekly newspaper called *El Amigo Del Hogar* (*Friend of the Home*). This was the first Spanish-language newspaper in Indiana.

Francisco "Frank" Figueroa was born 30 April 1896 to Celestino Figueroa and Isabel Manriquez in Tuxpan, south of Guadalajara. In 1924 he joined his older brother, Benjamin, in Indiana Harbor to work for the Inland Steel Company. Areas such as Indiana Harbor and Gary, Indiana, began to see a dramatic increase in Mexican immigrants in the late 1910s due to turmoil from the Mexican Revolution (1910–1920) combined with the growing need in the United States for more workers in certain industries sparked by World War I. Indiana Harbor alone saw an increase in the Mexican population from about 300 people in 1920 to more than 5,300 by 1930.

Consuelo was born 14 June 1905 to Mariano Carrillo and Guadalupe Leños. The family owned two haciendas. Because of this, some of the family members were publicly targeted and executed during the Mexican Revolution. In 1925, Consuelo and her infant son, Francisco Jr., joined her husband in Indiana Harbor. She had little of the life she once had except her education as a graduate of El Colegio Renacimiento de Mujeres in Guadalajara. In Indiana Harbor she worked in the family printshop and performed with a dramatic arts group called Cuadro Dramático. Consuelo became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1953. She passed away the day after her ninetieth birthday, on 15 June 1995, in East Chicago.

Francisco and Consuelo had nine children: Francisco "Frank" Jr. (1924–1976); Gustavo "Gus" (1925–2018); Consuelo "Connie" (Castillo) (1927–2000); Carmen (1928–1990); Jorge "George" (1930–1974); William "Willie" (1933–2016); Luis/Louis (b. 1936); Guadalupe "Lupe" (1941–2023); and Irene (Osorio) (b. 1948).

*El Amigo Del Hogar* informed the local Mexican community about the changing political and economic climate in Mexico, world events, and what was happening in the Indiana Harbor area. It included essays on Catholicism, education, the arts, and Mexican culture. This newspaper was published beginning in 1925 through 1929. The Figueroa printshop also served as one of the many early meeting places for the *Círculo de Obreros Católicos* and eventually housed a small library for the Mexican community and hosted a literary and arts group.

After publication of the newspaper ceased, the Figueroa printshop continued doing work for individuals and for local businesses, such as for the local Mexican American food brand, El Popular. Benjamin Figueroa returned to Mexico after the Great Depression, but Francisco and his family stayed in Indiana Harbor. Francisco Sr. continued to work in the steel mill as well as running the printshop. He died on 4 February 1951.

Around 1956, three of the sons of Francisco and Consuelo – Gus, Willie, and Luis – began publishing a newspaper again, called *The Latin Times*, which was printed in Spanish and English. It ran until the late 1970s. Figueroa Printers remained in business until the late 1980s, doing commercial printing for local government and businesses until the sons retired.

In 2024, the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame posthumously inducted Francisco Figueroa Sr. as a new member. His daughter, Irene, accepted the award on his behalf.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 17 June 2024):

- Find a Grave
- Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944
- Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
- Indiana, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1892–1992
- Jalisco, México, Civil Registration Births, 1857–1948
- Jalisco, México, Civil Registration Marriages, 1861–1961
- United States Federal Census, 1930–1950

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. “IJHF welcomes newest members,” 30 April 2024  
<https://www.ijhf.org/news/ijhf-welcomes-newest-members> Accessed 17 June 2024.

Martinez-LeGrand, Nicole. “Francisco Figueroa,” *Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame*  
<https://www.ijhf.org/members/2024/francisco-figueroa> Accessed 17 June 2024.

Martinez-LeGrand, Nicole. “The Legacy of Figueroa Printers, Indiana’s First Spanish Language Newspaper” <https://indianahistory.org/blog/the-legacy-of-figueroa-printers-indianas-first-spanish-language-newspaper/> Accessed 17 June 2024.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of materials pertaining to the family of Francisco and Consuelo Figueroa of the Indiana Harbor section of East Chicago, Indiana. Items include photographs, correspondence, manuscripts and printed materials, and oral history interviews. There are materials relating to the Figueroa Printers business and the newspapers it produced, including *El Amigo Del Hogar* (*Friend of the Home*), which was the first Spanish-language newspaper in Indiana, and later *The Latin Times*. There are also several photographs of El Ballet Folklorico de Chicago dancers in the 1960s.

The collection is arranged into five series:

**Series 1: Photographs and Graphics** – This series includes photographs of Figueroa family members, Fiestas Patrias events, Figueroa Printers, and Los Obreros Band, and a campaign poster for Frank J. Figueroa’s run for councilman.

**Series 2: Digital Images** – This series is composed of scanned images made from photographs that were loaned to the Indiana Historical Society for digitization. They depict family members, Figueroa Printers, El Ballet Folklorico de Chicago dancers, Fiestas Patrias events, members of *Círculo de Obreros Católicos "San José"* (Catholic Workers Circle “St. Joseph”), family friends, and Michael Castillo in front of his real estate office.

**Series 3: Correspondence** – This series contains three letters to Consuelo Figueroa, including one regarding microfilming *El Amigo Del Hogar* and another offering condolences upon the death of her son, George; one letter to Lupe Figueroa about an upcoming dance performance; and a copy of letter from Young Latin Democrats of East Chicago, addressed to Mayor Robert A. Pastrick and other city officials that is critical of the handling of crime and police in the city.

**Series 4: Manuscripts and Printed Materials** – This series includes photocopies of newspaper obituaries for Francisco and Consuelo Figueroa; a partial subscription list for *El Amigo Del Hogar*; a brief history of *El Amigo Del Hogar* and *The Latin Times*; scripts for WJOB radio commercials for Pepe’s Restaurant in Indiana Harbor; a 1968 program for a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, including a brief history of the church; a 1973 issue of *Latin American Theatre Review* printed by Figueroa Printers; and a short manuscript titled *North of the Border: Mexican History in East Chicago* (1989).

**Series 5: Oral History Interviews** – This series is composed of three oral history interviews conducted in 2017 by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Multicultural Collections Curator for the Indiana Historical Society. The interviewees were Irene Figueroa Osorio, Guadalupe “Lupe” Figueroa, and Michael Castillo. Digital audio files are available for all three, and a transcript is available for the interview with Irene Figueroa Osorio.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Photographs and Graphics

#### CONTENTS

Portrait of Francisco and Consuelo Figueroa in formal attire, ca. 1930, East Chicago, Indiana [copy photo; appears to have been cropped from a photograph including other people].

Los Obreros Band, Indiana Harbor, [ca. mid- to late-1920s]. Photo shows Francisco Figueroa in second row from front, third from right, with approximately 41 other men, some holding musical instruments (photo by Oak Leaf Studio of Indiana Harbor).

Two photos of front pages of *El Amigo del Hogar* – one dated 17 April 1927 and the other 24 July 1927.

Comité Patriótico (Patriotic Committee), including Mr. Arredondo, José Anguiano, Lilly Arcos, Henry Barbosa, Juan de la Rosa, and three other men; Indiana Harbor [1930s], (real photo postcard).

Five small snapshots of Fiestas Patrias parade floats, 1949.

Connie Figueroa (fourth woman from the right, standing) with approximately 32 others at Fiestas Patrias event [ca. late 1940s]. Connie and some of the other women are wearing sashes that say “Indiana Harbor, Ind.”

Connie Figueroa appearing in a window above the entrance to Figueroa Printers [ca. 1940s–1950s] [reproduced photo].

Michael A. Castillo leaning on motorcycle, with other people behind him on a street, ca. 1950s [reproduced photo].

Gus Figueroa and Willie Figueroa, ca. 1960 – two photographs show them with equipment in the Figueroa printshop.

#### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 1

Frank J. Figueroa [Jr.] campaign poster for his run for Councilman for the 6<sup>th</sup> district [ca. 1955–1959].

OVB Graphics,  
Folder 1 of 1

## Series 2: Digital Images

### CONTENTS

Lupe Figueroa and five men during a swearing-in ceremony, ca. 1960s. [Lupe worked as a court recorder and interpreter for the East Chicago City Court and later as a probation officer at the Lake County Juvenile Court.]

Five images of Ballet Folklórico dancers posing in costumes, ca. 1960s.  
[Lupe Figueroa was a dancer with El Ballet Folklórico de Chicago in the 1960s.]

Lupe Figueroa [third from left] and five other women posing with Edward “Ted” M. Kennedy while he was in East Chicago to campaign for Robert F. Kennedy for president (26 April 1968).

Image of newspaper article titled “Mexican ‘Fiesta’ Will Open Show” including photo of Lupita Figueroa and Oscar Fortis, members of Chicago’s Ballet Folklórico Mexicano, demonstrating Mexican hat dance (clipping from *Chicago Tribune*, 16 June 1963).

Portrait of Francisco and Consuelo Figuero in formal attire, ca. 1930, East Chicago [appears to be a cropping of a photo that originally included other people]. (This image is also included in Photographs, Folder 1.) (Front and back of photo were scanned.)

Portrait of Connie Figueroa Castillo as a young woman.

Connie Figueroa [the woman on the right] with another woman in traditional Mexican dress in celebration of Mexican Independence Day [ca. 1940s]. They are shown standing on a street in East Chicago with three men in military uniforms.

### CONTAINER

2017\_0258\_01  
**LFD**

2017\_0258\_02, 2017\_0258\_03  
2017\_0258\_04, 2017\_0258\_06  
2017\_0258\_07  
**LFD**

2017\_0258\_05  
**LFD**

2017\_0258\_08  
**LFD**

2017\_0284\_01

2017\_0286\_01  
**LFD**

2017\_0286\_02  
**LFD**

Frank Maravilla (in suit) and Caesar Bonilla [Figueroa family friends] leaning on a car in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in East Chicago [ca. 1950s].	2017_0286_03 <b>LFD</b>
Connie Figueroa [on the right] with a friend, both in traditional Mexican dress in celebration of Mexican Independence Day on a street in East Chicago [ca. 1940s].	2017_0286_04 <b>LFD</b>
Michael Castillo with the woman who was his first customer at his real estate business on Main Street in East Chicago, ca. 1940s.	2017_0286_05_85_MICHAEL... <b>LFD</b>
Michael A. Castillo standing in front of his real estate office on Main Street in East Chicago, ca. 1940s.	2017_0286_06_85_MICHAEL... <b>LFD</b>
Portrait of Consuelo Figueroa in her First Communion dress, 1935.	2017_0286_07_CONSUELO... <b>LFD</b>
Connie Figueroa leaning out window above Figueroa Printers [ca. 1940s–1950s]. (This image is also included in Photographs, Folder 1.)	2018_0053_WOMAN_LEANING...
Image of a newspaper clipping showing a woman [Lupe Figueroa] and man with the Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Chicago in Griffith, Indiana, performing the Michoacan Syrup dance, ca. 1960.	LFD2023_0153_OSORIO_CLIPPING_OF_GUADALUPE_FIGUEROA_001 <b>LFD</b>
Image of a newspaper clipping in Spanish [the back side of the clipping listed above].	LFD2023_0153_OSORIO_CLIPPING_OF_GUADALUPE_FIGUEROA_002 <b>LFD</b>
The Figueroa Printers building, front exterior, at 3505 Deodar Street in East Chicago, n.d.	LFD2023_0153_OSORIO_CLOSE-UP_OF_FIGUEROA_PRINTERS <b>LFD</b>
Figueroa Printers business card, n.d.	LFD2023_0153_OSORIO_FIGUEROA_PRINTERS_BUSINESS_CARD_CONSUELO... <b>LFD</b>



Figüero Printers business card with phone number changed by hand, n.d.

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_  
FIGUEROA\_PRINTERS\_  
BUSINESS\_CARD\_FRANK...

**LFD**

Calling card for Francisco M. Figüeroa, n.d. (front and back were scanned).

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_  
FRANCISCO...

**LFD**

Eight Folklorico dancers in costume, posed outdoors [ca. 1960s].

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GROUP\_  
OF\_FOLKLORICO\_DANCERS

**LFD**

Francisco Figüeroa, in front, fourth from left in light-colored hat, with six other men in coats and hats who are members of Círculo de Obreros Católicos "San José" (Catholic Workers Circle "St. Joseph"), standing in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Pennsylvania Avenue, East Chicago, ca. 1927–1939.

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GROUP\_  
OF\_LOS\_OBREROS

**LFD**

East Chicago Mayor Walter M. Jeorse [third from right] seated at table with two priests and three other people at what appears to be a banquet [ca. 1950s–early 1960s], (front and back were scanned).

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GROUP\_  
WITH\_MAYOR\_JEORSE

**LFD**

Lupe Figüeroa in Folklorico costume, standing outdoors [ca. 1960s], (front and back scanned).

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GUADALUPE\_  
FIGUEROA\_IN\_FOLKLORICO\_DRESS

**LFD**

Lupe Figüeroa and male dancer with black hat posing in Folklorico costumes outdoors [ca. 1960s]. (duplicate of 2017\_0258\_07)

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GUADALUPE\_  
FIGUEROA\_WITH\_MALE\_DANCER\_  
BLACK\_HAT

**LFD**

Lupe Figüeroa and male dancer with white hat posing in Folklorico costumes outdoors [ca. 1960s].

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GUADALUPE\_  
FIGUEROA\_WITH\_MALE\_DANCER\_  
WHITE\_HAT

**LFD**

Lupe Figüeroa and male dancer in Folklorico costumes sitting on grass [ca. 1960s].

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_GUADALUPE\_  
'LUPE'\_FIGUEROA\_WITH\_MALE\_  
DANCER\_SITTING\_ON\_GRASS

**LFD**

Portrait of Lupe Figueroa, close-up, looking over her left shoulder, n.d.

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_HEADSHOT\_OF\_GUADALUPE\_FIGUEROA  
**LFD**

Photo of front exterior of Figueroa Printers building and parts of neighboring buildings, n.d.

LFD2023\_0153\_OSORIO\_PHOTO\_OF\_ACROSS\_THE\_STREET\_VIEW\_OF\_FIGUEROA\_PRINTERS  
**LFD**

### **Series 3: Correspondence**

#### CONTENTS

Letter in Spanish to Consuelo Figueroa, from the Círculo de Obreros Católicos "San José" of East Chicago, 7 April 1931, two typed pages regarding an essay contest to celebrate the organization's anniversary, signed by the president and secretary of the organization.

Letter to Guadalupe Figueroa, from Charles M. Squarcy of East Chicago, 15 June 1960, one typed page regarding her upcoming dance performance at the Woodmar Country Club in Hammond, Indiana.

Letter to Consuelo Figueroa from the East Chicago Public Library, 28 July 1972, one typed page regarding microfilming *El Amigo Del Hogar* newspapers, signed by the Assistant Director, Robert J. Donovan.

Letter in Spanish to Consuelo Figueroa, from Union Benefica Mexicana of East Chicago, 3 June 1974, one typed page offering condolences upon the death of her son, George. Signed by the president and secretary of the organization.

Copy of letter from Young Latin Democrats of East Chicago, addressed to Mayor Robert A. Pastrick and other city officials, 9 September 1974, two typed pages critical of the handling of crime and police in the city.

#### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 2

## Series 4: Manuscripts and Printed Materials

### CONTENTS

“Fallece Distinguido Caballero de Indiana Harbor” (“Distinguished Gentleman from Indiana Harbor Dies”) – photocopy of obituary for Francisco Figueroa, from *ABC: Periodico Mexicano Independiente* (Spanish language newspaper from Chicago), 10 February 1951, p. 2.

“Vaya con Diós Consuelo C. Figueroa” (“Go With God Consuelo C. Figueroa”) – photocopy of obituary for Consuelo Figueroa, from *La Voz de Chicago*, 23 June 1995, p. 6.

*El Amigo Del Hogar* partial subscription list [ca. 1920s], one handwritten page.

A five-page typed manuscript about the history of *El Amigo Del Hogar* and *The Latin Times* [author unknown, ca. 1970s].

Two typed pages of news from *The Chicago Sunday Tribune*, 16 June 1963, regarding a Mexican fiesta during which the Ballet Folklorico Mexicano was supposed to perform but apparently did not.

Three scripts for commercials for Pepe’s Restaurant at 3449 Michigan in Indiana Harbor for WJOB radio in Hammond, Indiana, 19 February 1969 (with duplicates; six typed pages total).

Photocopies of three typed pages from *Kneipp herbs and their uses: Regeneration of the blood by herbal juices*, published 1 January 1968.

*Tus Hijos Te Vienen A Saludar (Your Children Come to Say Hello)*, program for a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12 December 1968. Included is a history of the church and lots of advertising from businesses in East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond.

### CONTAINER

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 6

*Latin American Theatre Review* printed by Figueroa Printers for the Center of Latin American Studies at the University of Kansas. This issue (Fall 1973) contains the article titled “Mexican Community Theatre in a Midwestern City” by Nicolás Kanellos and includes a handwritten dedication to Consuelo Figueroa from the author inside the front cover.

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 6

*North of the Border: Mexican History in East Chicago: The Ninth Historical Exhibit in the “Centennial Exhibition Series”* prepared by Ted Zagar, archivist, for the East Chicago Public Library, September 1989 (four typed pages plus front and back cover).

Photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 6

### **Series 5: Oral History Interviews**

#### CONTENTS

Interview of Irene Figueroa Osorio, in which she recounts growing up in Indiana Harbor and the growth of the Latino-American community through the perspective of her parents and older siblings. She also describes her experiences teaching at Indiana University Northwest and Valparaiso University and attending Notre Dame University to pursue her doctorate as a Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient. She also speaks about her Human Resources career at the following companies: Inland Steel, Valparaiso University, Progressive Rail (a Caterpillar Company) and Corn Products (now called Ingredion). Interview conducted by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand on 28 July 2017.

#### CONTAINER

Use digital files for audio (approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes) and transcript

Interview of Guadalupe “Lupe” Figueroa, in which she speaks of her family and growing up in Indiana Harbor, conducted by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand on 29 August 2017. Lupe was a dancer with El Ballet Folklórico de Chicago in the 1960s. She worked as a probation officer for Lake County; as a court recorder and translator for East Chicago City Court; and as a legal assistant with the law firms of Kirkland & Ellis and Foley & Lardner in Chicago. In her retirement, she became a member of the American Translators Association and provided interpretation services in a healthcare setting.

Use digital files for audio  
(approximately 55 min.)

Transcript not yet  
available

Interview of Michael Castillo (b. 1937), stepson of Consuelo “Connie” Figueroa Castillo, conducted by Nicole Martinez-LeGra on 22 September 2017.

Use digital files for audio  
(approximately 44 min.)

Transcript not yet  
available

