

Collection #  
SC 3387  
DVD 1298-1299; 1302

**INDIANA LATINO HISTORY PROJECT,  
ORAL HISTORY OF EDWARD MEDINA, 2016; 2017**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	4
Contents	6

Processed by

Nicole Martinez-LeGrand  
Multicultural Collections Coordinator

January 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder; 3 digital disks

**COLLECTION DATES:** 2016; 2017

**PROVENANCE:** Indiana Latino History Project, 2017; 2018

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**COPYRIGHT:**

**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** CD and DVD with wav. And mp3 file format

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2017.0398; 2018.0023

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edward Medina was born in October 1929, about two weeks before the stock market crash that set off the Great Depression. He was born to Maria de Jesus Medina (nee Reyes) and Antonio Gordiano Medina. His parents both emigrated from Mexico at different times and later met and married in Indiana Harbor (East Chicago), Indiana. Edward's mother came to the United States as a teenager with her parents, Jose Reyes and Maria Picon Reyes in 1922. Jose Reyes arrived to the United States first in 1918. Antonio Medina came to the United States alone shortly before World War I. Both families came from the State of Jalisco in Mexico. Both Jose and Antonio worked for Inland Steel Corporation (now ArcelorMittal). Edward's grandmother, Maria Picon Reyes was integral to the community that began of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (OLG), established in 1927.

Edward graduated from Washington High School in 1948. After High School he worked as a translator in the Foreign Department at the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company (now Bank of America). Later he began to work at the "76 Hot Strip" at Inland Steel. Shortly after starting his employment at Inland he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the time of Korean War (1950-1953). In the United States Army, he was first assigned to the heavy weapons company and due to previous tutoring of one of the priests at OLG; he knew how to type and was a clerk while serving in West Berlin in the American Sector as a part of the Army of Occupation. While in the service he learned the principles of photography and use of a 35 millimeter film. After returning from his service, he married his long time, long distance girlfriend Aurora Cavasoz, who he met during a family trip to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. They married in February 1954 in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Shortly after his wedding while still in Mexico, his mother (Maria de Jesus Reyes) passed away. A short time after the wedding he and Aurora returned to the Indiana Harbor area. Edward returned to work at Inland Steel and he and Aurora began their family. As their family grew, they moved to Gary, Indiana. Later they returned to the Indiana Harbor area. In total, he and Aurora had six children.

In the 1960s Edward began to do professional photography work; weddings, quinceañeras, city events, school events, personal and promotional portraits. Later he began to take photos of the happenings around East Chicago for the local print publication called the Latin Times. The Latin Times was owned and operated by the Figueroa family. A few years after his retirement from Inland Steel in 1986, he and Aurora moved to Indianapolis, Indiana to be closer to their two children in the mid 1990s.

At the time of this interview, Edward is 86 years old

### Sources:

Manifest, U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration Service, Mexican Border District. Serial 414, Line 16, Serial No. 2701, El Paso, Texas, August 15, 1918

U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration Service, Mexican Border District, Manifest List 89, Line 21, El Paso, Texas, September 17, 1921

Border Crossing Nonstatistical Manifest, Laredo, Texas, Serial Number 13732, May 3, 1925

Indiana State Board of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Birth, October 1929

Application for Resident Alien, Border Crossing Identification Card No. 5900, Laredo, Texas, March 23, 1950

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a series devoted to collecting life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana Latino community. Through these stories we are able to gain a deeper sense of the diversity of the Latino community throughout the State of Indiana. We will learn what brought these individuals or their families to settle in Indiana from their respective home state or home country. More importantly we will learn about what kept these individuals in Indianapolis and areas of Indiana. We hope to gain a sense of regional identity as well as cultural or ethnic identity.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally audio recorded interview conducted on September 1, 2016 at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) Multicultural Collections Coordinator for the project. The transcription has been lightly edited, in October 2017. The interview, which includes the audio recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Readers of this oral history interview should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word. Although the transcript has been lightly edited, IHS has diligently sought to preserve its informal, conversational style, as well as the integrity of the interview's content. While some attempt has been taken to explain through footnotes some of the facts given by the interviewee, IHS is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the interview's content or for the views expressed within. The audio recording remains unedited.

The interview may be used for private study, scholarship, or research. Permission to reproduce or publish this interview, whether in whole or in part, must be obtained from the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202-3269. The table of contents for the transcript is listed below.

Preface.....	i
Biography.....	ii

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Recording No. 1]

Transcript.....	1
Birth.....	2
Parents and Their Reason for Migration.....	3
Neighborhood: Ethnic Breakdown and Surviving The Depression .....	4-8
Going to School and Siblings	

Employment: Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. and Inland Steel Co. ....	9-12
Drafted into the U.S. Army - Serving in Germany (1950s) .....	12-15
Influence of Priests during his Upbringing .....	16
Remembering the Effects of the Repatriation Movement (1930s).....	17
Meeting and Later Marrying Aurora Cavasoz .....	18-19
Unexpected Death of Mother.....	20
Family Life: Starting a Family.....	21-23
Moving Out of the Harbor to Gary and Moving back to the Harbor .....	23-25
Beginning Photography Career: Influences, Freelance and Latin Times .....	26-28
Community Involvement, Social Clubs and the Church .....	29
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; Grandmother and Others .....	29-31
	[Recording No. 2]
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; Grandmother and Others, con't .....	32
Adult Children .....	32-34
Reflecting on Latino History in Indiana and Future of Latinos in Indiana .....	35
Remembering Simplicity of His Youth: Recycling for Weekend "Movie Money" .....	35

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Oral History Transcript

DVD Master Copy

CD-User Copy

Digitized Military Photos, ca. 1951–1952

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

DVD 1298

DVD 1299

DVD 1302