

Collection #  
SC 3472  
DVD 1449–1450

**IRENE OSORIO  
LATINO ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW,  
29 JULY 2017**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 folder, 2 DVDs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 29 July 2017

**PROVENANCE:** Irene Osorio, Crown Point, Indiana, July 2018

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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2018.0231

**NOTES:** This forms part of the Latino Oral History Project

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Irene Grace [Figuroa] Osorio was born in September of 1948 in East Chicago, Indiana. Her parents were Consuelo Carrillo Figuroa and Francisco Figuroa. Irene is the youngest of nine children.

Francisco and Consuelo Figuroa immigrated to the United States to get away from the turmoil of the Mexican Revolution (1910–1920) and its after affects. Consuelo and Francisco both came from a large land- or Hacienda-owning families around Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. They were married in Mexico in 1923 and soon immigrated and settled in Indiana Harbor (East Chicago). Francisco arrived in 1924 and Consuelo in 1925. Francisco is said to have come to Indiana Harbor (East Chicago) in 1919 to work in the local steel mills to replace striking workers during the Great Steel Strike of 1919.

Soon after arriving, Francisco and his brothers started a printing press, and with the *Circulo de Obreros Catolicos de San Jose* (Circle of Catholic workers of Saint Joseph), they began to produce a weekly newspaper called *El Amigo Del Hogar* (A Friend of The Home). This newspaper informed the local Mexican *Colonia* (colony) of the changing political and economic climate in Mexico, world events, and local information in their newly adopted hometown. This publication ran for only five years.

The Figuroa print shop continued to do local print jobs, such as printing paper wrappers for local proprietor V.F. Garza of the Indiana Mexican-American food brand El Popular. In the late 1950s, three sons of Consuelo and Francisco resurrected the local print publication under a new name, *The Latin Times*. *The Latin Times* ran until the late 1970s/early 1980s. *The Latin Times* reported heavily on national politics as well as local East Chicago developments and politics. It served as a critical voice of the Latino-American community of Indiana Harbor (East Chicago).

Sources:

Information in Collection

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In this interview, Irene recounts growing up in Indiana Harbor and the growth of the Latino-American community through the perspective of her parents and older siblings. Additionally, Irene describes her experiences teaching at Indiana University Northwest, Valparaiso University, and attending Notre Dame University to pursue her doctorate as a Ford Foundation Scholarship recipient. The interview concludes with Irene recounting her Human Resources career at the following companies; Inland Steel, Valparaiso University, Progressive Rail (a Caterpillar Company) and Corn Products (now called Ingredion). On the day of the interview, Irene was 68 years old.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally audio recorded interview conducted on July 28, 2017 at the home of Irene Osorio in Crown Point, Indiana, by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) Multicultural Collections Coordinator for the project. The transcription has been lightly edited, in February 2018. 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.

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