

Collection #
SC 3473
DVD 1451–1453

**RAUL AND ROGELIA PIÑON
LATINO ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW,
19 AUGUST 2016**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder 3 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 19 August 2016

PROVENANCE: Raul and Rogelia Piñon, Mt. Summit, Indiana, July, 2018, with children Horace Piñon and Hope Logston

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0232

NOTES: This forms part of the Latino Oral History Project

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Raul and Rogelia Piñon were both born in Techaluta de Montenegro, Jalisco, Mexico. They did not meet until later in life while they lived in Texas. Raul was born on 24 September 1919 and Rogelia on 9 September 1932.

Raul began working in Texas in the 1940s during World War II as a part of the Bracero Program (1942–1964), which allowed temporary foreign workers to fulfill the U.S. domestic worker shortage and aided the steadily growing agricultural industry. Rogelia later made her way to Texas in the 1950s. They were introduced by cousins of Rogelia in Mission, Texas, and were later married. While in Mission, they both worked at the same restaurant, De La Rosa. Later they traveled across the Texas, the South, and Midwest following seasonal agricultural work while their family grew. Their children were born in Texas, Georgia, Florida, and Indiana.

Initially the Piñon family arrived and briefly lived in Pumpkintown, Indiana, which is located on the outskirts of Mount Summit. In the winter of 1962, they permanently settled in Mount Summit. The Piñons were the first and only Latino family to permanently settle in this area of Indiana.

In 1964, they had their final and seventh child. Their children are Felipe, Celestina, Raul Jr., Hope, Alberto, Maximiliana, and Horace. While living in Mount Summit, Raul and Rogelia both worked for Brooks Foods, picking and canning tomatoes. Raul worked for Brooks Foods briefly, but primarily worked at Gaar Nursery in Cambridge City, Indiana, retiring at the age of eighty-eight after over forty years of employment. Rogelia also worked at Brooks Foods for a brief time as well.

At the time of the interview Raul was ninety-seven and Rogelia was eighty-three years old.

Sources:

Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This interview captures Raul and Rogelia Piñon's travels across the Midwest and South following seasonal agricultural work, raising a family of six and settling in Mount Summit, Indiana, in the winter of 1962.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally audio recorded interview conducted on August 19, 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 the transcript in March of 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. Raul and Rogelia Piñon understand and speak English, but felt comfortable responding in Spanish. For the purposes of this interview, their children, Horace Piñon; their son and daughter; Hope Logston translated their answers in English for purposes of this transcript. At the beginning of the interview the interviewer (Nicole Martinez-LeGrand) responds in English and some Spanish to Raul and Rogelia, which has been translated in the transcription. The remainder of the interview is translated in English with the assistance of their children. When Raul or Rogelia are speaking in Spanish it is noted with a timestamp on the transcript and not transcribed. The audio recording remains unedited.

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