

Collection #
SC 3355
DVD 1221–1222

FREDERICK RUIZ MARAVILLA ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2016

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Processed by

Paul Brockman
September, 2017

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder; 2 DVDs

COLLECTION
DATES: 2016

PROVENANCE: Frederick Ruiz Maravilla, Hobart, Indiana, September, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Frederick "Fred" Ruiz Maravilla was born, March 8, 1918 in Guarachita, Michoacán, Mexico to Ignacio Garcia Maravilla and Margarita Ruiz Ochoa. The Maravilla family immigrated to the United States on May 19, 1922. They settled in the Indiana Harbor area (East Chicago), Indiana. His brother, Joseph Ruiz Maravilla was born soon after their U.S. arrival. Ignacio worked for Inland Steel Corporation (now ArcelorMittal USA) and the New York Central Railroad. His mother, Margarita was primarily a homemaker but contributed to the home front effort during World War II by working in a garment factory and later at Universal Atlas Cement Company (a subsidiary of U.S. Steel).

Fred graduated from Washington High School in 1935. He married Sabina "Sophie" Medrea in July of 1942 and in October of 1942 was drafted and served in the United States Army; through which he earned his U.S. Citizenship. He was a part of the 450th Bombardment Group of the United States Army during World War II in the European Theatre. After his service to his country, he worked for Inland Steel Corporation while earning his Bachelor (Indiana University, Extension Campus) and Masters Degree (University of Loyola University, Chicago) in Foreign Language. Fred taught High School Spanish at Thornton Fractional North High School (Lansing, IL) and Washington High School (East Chicago, IN). Additionally, he served as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Spanish at the following Universities: Loyola University (Chicago, IL), St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer, IN) and Purdue University Calumet (now Purdue Northwest) (Hammond, IN). Early on in his teaching career he developed basic English and citizenship curriculum for the many immigrants working at Inland Steel Corporation.

He and Sophie had five children: Marguerite, Don, Rod, Debbie and Sandra. After 69 years of marriage, Sophie passed away in 2011. Four years later, Fred met Gail (Cosby) Baeza and both were married in September 2015 in Portage, Indiana. Fred and Gail reside in Hobart, Indiana.

On the date of his interview, Fred was 98 years old

Sources: Information in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally audio recorded interview conducted on September 24, 2016 at the Hobart Public Library in Hobart, Indiana in Lake County. This interview was conducted by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) Multicultural Collections Coordinator for the project. The transcription has been lightly edited in March 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.

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