

McLean County Museum of History

**Manuel B. Mendoza
State Farm Collection**

Processed by
Kathryn Kerr
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 Boxes of papers including correspondence and office memos, office information, etc.
COLLECTION DATES:	1950 – 2000
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	none

Brief History

Manuel Mendoza was a lawyer at State Farm Insurance Company, beginning as a Claims Representative with the company in Wichita, KS in 1958. In 1964 he became a Claims Superintendent in St. Louis, MO, and then a Division Claims Superintendent in Shawnee Mission, KS, in 1969. In 1973 he moved to State Farm's Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, as a General Claims Superintendent. In 1985 he became a Senior Claims Counsel. He retired on January 1, 2001. This collection of papers primarily reflects his time working at State Farm.

Mendoza was born Bentura Mendoza, August 28, 1930, in Independence, KS. His parents, Antonio Mendoza and Francisca Viscarra Mendoza, were natives of Mexico who became citizens. Bentura, called "Manny," spoke only Spanish until he was seven years old. As an adult he changed his legal name to Manuel Bentura Mendoza.

Mendoza attended Independence, KS schools, including Independence Junior College, 1950-1952. He received a BA in Business Administration from Baker University in Baldwin, KS in 1954. He played football through high school and college. At Baker University, he joined two fraternities.

In 1954 Mendoza attended Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, KS, receiving his JD degree in 1958. During that time, he served in the Army Reserves. After graduation he was admitted to practice before the Kansas Supreme Court and the US District Court for Kansas.

In 1956, he married Margot de Leon. They had three children, Noelle, Lisa, and Marcos.

Mendoza was active in his retirement. A strong believer in education and in civil rights, he served on the McLean County AIDS Task Force and as Prairie Pride Coalition's representative to the McLean County Jail. He was a member of American Civil Liberties Union. Manny served on the Washburn Law School Board of Governors and Baker University President's Advisory Council. His interest in the arts and history were reflected in his memberships in McLean County Art Association and McLean County Historical Society.

Manuel Mendoza died in Bloomington, June 25, 2015, after a brief illness.

Scope

This collection is largely business correspondence and office information from the years Mendoza worked for State Farm Insurance, 1958-2000. Information, scripts and handouts he used in professional presentations and training information are included. It includes Mendoza's evaluation and promotion documentation. Information about Mendoza's salary, insurance, loans, and retirement are included as well.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1: State Farm Insurance Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information

Folder 1: Deed of Gift and obituary.

Folder 2: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 1950 – 1959

Folder 3: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 1960 – 1969

Folder 4: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 1970 – 1979

Folder 5: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 1980 – 1989

Folder 6: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 1990 – 1999

Folder 7: Office Correspondence, Memos, and Employee Information, 2000

Folder 8: Appointment Calendar, 2000

Box 2: Personal Financial Information and Professional Presentations

Folder 1: Salary Records

Folder 2: Retirement information

Folder 3: Insurance information and records

Folder 4: Savings, Loans, Miscellaneous financial information

Folder 5: Nevada Claims Conference, Reno, 1976

Folder 6: Legal Trends Seminar, Material for talk by Mendoza and correspondence, Bloomington, IL, 1986

Folder 7: NSSTA Conference, Orlando, FL, 1991

Folder 8: Lawyer Jokes

Folder 9: Mouse Pad

Hardbound material from Vale Institute Training Conference, 1961