GC 1363
J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency Records

Finding Aid Appendix A

Seaver Center for Western History Research
GC 1363 Appendix A

J.V. RHOADES EMPLOYMENT AGENCY COLLECTION

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EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES HISTORICAL MONUMENT

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Special thanks to Dr. Juan Gómez-Quiñones, Department of History, UCLA; Dr. Luis Arroyo, Department of Chicano and Latino Studies, CSU Long Beach; and Dr. Antonio Ríos-Bustamante, University of Arizona, Tucson for their insightful comments on this manuscript.

Often they entered the city with the idea of earning money quickly, then returning to their families in Mexico. Living in the central Plaza made this plan more possible. A male worker traveling alone could find employment through the various employment agencies with offices near the Plaza, or simply stand around in the early morning and wait for a prospective employer's call. [1]

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1. Sanchez, George J., Becoming Mexican American Ethnicity Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945, Oxford, (1993): 139.

Introduction

The historic manuscripts in this collection primarily concern the Los Angeles records of the J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency. They were discovered by the crew of American Construction Co. in July, 1995, while conducting seismic retrofitting in the Jones Building, located at 606 N. Main Street (also W-7 Olvera Street). Mr. George Sherman, proprietor of "Bazar de Mexico", the present business in the building, which enters from W-7 Olvera Street contacted William Estrada of El Pueblo History, who began the process of identifying and curating the collection.

According to Labor Historian Luis Leobardo Arroyo:

> *Employment agencies played important roles in linking prospective employers and workers in early twentieth-century America. They aided countless workers of all skill levels in finding employment. In California and the Southwest, employment agencies were especially key in recruiting Mexican immigrant workers for employment in agribusiness, mining, railroads, construction, and light manufacturing.*[2]

In Los Angeles, the Plaza was the prime recruiting center for Mexican workers during this time. As a result of large scale immigration to Los Angeles due to the rapid growth of agriculture, light industry, and the transportation infrastructure, as well as the political and economic turmoil of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917, the Plaza became the heart of a revived Los Angeles Mexican community. The Plaza was the scene of intense political organization and heated contention between Mexican revolutionary and anti-revolutionary groups. During this same period the Plaza was a rallying place for radical labor and political activity in the city. Thus, the resurgence of the Los Angeles Mexican community enhanced the stature of the Plaza as a powerful symbol and center for Mexican cultural, political, religious, and economic life. The location of employment agencies within the Plaza community was therefore crucial to this development.

The Rhoades Agency was in operation at three locations: Los Angeles, Denver, and Salt Lake City, from 1907 to about 1932,.[3] which is consistent with the gradual decline of most small fee-charging employment offices due to the impact of the Great Depression of the 1930's and the rise of large public employment agencies, which were partially in response to the various abuses of private fee-charging agencies.[4] There were three main types of private "fee-charging" employment agencies during this period: the small agency which specialized in placing unskilled males; the small agency

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2. Letter from Luis Arroyo to Author, 1/11/96.
3. This twenty-five year period is based on business cards contained in this collection (see folder 1-5, item #32).
4. Shelby, Harrison M., Public Employment Offices, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, (1924):19.

with a small staff dealing almost exclusively with domestic female day workers; and the larger agencies serving clerical and other office workers, both male and female. The businesses dealing chiefly with unskilled male workers, such as the J.V. Rhoades Agency, were the most common of the "fee-charging" employment agencies.[5]

The Rhoades Agency was co-owned and operated primarily by two brothers, Joseph V. Rhoades, who managed the Denver office, and Louis M. Rhoades, who was also based in the Denver office. Joseph "Jose" Alfredo Pacheco, whose name appears on the Los Angeles letterhead, owned 1/6 of the company and served as both Manager and Interpreter at the Los Angeles office.

Based upon the earliest receipts found within this collection, the Rhoades Agency in Los Angeles appears to have originally bought out the "Gunn Supply Company/Employment Agency", around 1926, which was located at 310 N. Los Angeles Street. The J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency first appears in the Los Angeles City Directory in 1928, with JA Pacheco listed as Manager.[6] In the same City Directory, Jose A. Pacheco's private residence is listed as 111 N. Bunker Hill Avenue, with his occupation reported as "interpreter."[7] Before 1928, Pacheco's private residence is listed as 1008 W. 11th Street, which is considerably further away from the Plaza than his later address, and his reported occupation is "clerk".[8] There is very little information in this collection regarding the Salt Lake City office, however it appears that it did not yield as many clients as the Los Angeles or Denver offices.

The Rhoades Agency specialized in the placement of "Mexican laborers" in various urban jobs. Judging from their employment applications, only a very small percentage of the job seekers were in the skilled trades and crafts, such as "tailor" or "backer." Most clients, however, generally fell into the following categories: laborer (usually railroad track workers); general laborer; restaurant/hotel worker (i.e. dish washer, waitress, and an occasional cook); agricultural/farm laborers; and domestic workers (i.e. house cleaning).

The majority of the clients who sought the services of this business were male-Mexican workers, as evidenced by the slogans on various J.V. Rhoades letterhead, which read: "Men Finders" or "Mexican Employment Agency". Women were also served by this agency, however in much smaller numbers, and were usually referred to domestic work, such as house cleaning.

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5. Shelby, Public Employment Offices,pp. 30.
6. Los Angeles City Directory, (1928):1762.
7. Ibid:1636.
8. Ibid:1514.

It is also important to understand that as migrants, the clients who were served by this agency were seasonal, urban-rural workers. In terms of the service offered by J.V. Rhoades, however, most of their job referrals were within the urban environment.

Prospective employees would pay J.V. Rhoades a required "service fee" in order to be placed into a particular (usually short-term) job. The service fee ranged from $2.00 to $2.50. Wages also ranged, depending on the job, from 35c to 75c per hour, or from $4.00 to $6.00 per day. In one case, a female domestic worker was referred to a house cleaning job at a rate of $9.00 per week. The agency also made it very clear on their office letterhead that their service, which included transportation of the employee to the job site, was "free" to the employer. Consequently, any service fee was charged to the applicant. Often this service fee could not be paid up-front by the applicant and would subsequently be taken out of the employees first wages. Thus, it appears that a level of cooperation existed between fee-charging employment agencies and employers.

The majority of the items in the collection are written in English, while some items, such as personal letters or J.V. Rhoades "job recruitment flyers" are in Spanish. The collection can be generally divided into two separate categories. The first contain various documents and some artifacts related to the daily business of the agency, such as business letters, telegrams, bank statements, invoices, receipts, and miscellaneous papers. A total of 122 individual items are in this portion of the collection and are located in box 1-6. The second part of the collection has several bound 8 x 5" x 6" J.V. Rhoades receipt books or work order forms. There are about 170 complete books, with several loose receipts, which would make the total number of books to be about 190. They are presently located in boxes 2-6, 3-6, 4-6, 5-6, and 6-6.

Each receipt book has about 50 carbon copied receipts which contain basic information on individual J.V. Rhoades clients, such as name of client; age; amount of fee; type of work to be recommended for; rate of wages; hours per day; name of employer; location of job; lodging (if provided); board (if provided); length of employment (see example of this form on page 7). While it has not yet been determined how many individual clients used the employment agency more than once, the total number of individual client receipts is estimated to be about 9,500, and covers a four year period from 1927 to 1931. A data base, such as "Filemaker Pro" by Claris Inc., would expand the academic significance of this collection by allowing researchers to sort and cross reference numerous categories of information.

Conclusion

This collection offers new and vital information concerning life within the Plaza and its environs during the 1920s and early 1930's. Recent scholarship on the Mexican American experience in Los Angeles has found that for the male Mexican migrant during the 1920s, the central Plaza area remained the most important area of introduction to the city. Thus, the Rhoades collection is an important addition to the El Pueblo History Division.

Finally, as a primary source, this collection will be of particular interest to scholars of Los Angeles history, labor history, immigration and migration studies, and Chicano/a history. Historian Luis Leobardo Arroyo concludes by stating:

> *The discovery of the Rhoades Agency records for the late 1920s is truly an exceptional find. Labor and social historians in particular will find its data on thousands of semi-skilled and unskilled workers and their employers in several states a treasure trove for studies of Mexican immigrants, "casual" workers, and working class life during the 1920s.*[9]

A list of each item follows.
Accession number is 96-1

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9. Letter from Luis Arroyo to Author, 1/11/96.

THIS AGENCY IS LICENSED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order No. 249

MUtual 2648

J. V. RHOADES
Employment Agency
606 North Main Street

Receipt 1384

Total Amount of Fee $ 2.00

Los Angeles, Calif., 30-1-, 1927

In consideration of the sum of Two, Dollars to be paid by Fermin Acero Dollars of which is hereby acknowledged as received, we agree to furnish correct information by which he or she shall be enabled to SECURE EMPLOYMENT as Farm Laborer with Victor Venes located at Goleta Calif.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Rate of Wages $ 3.00 per day Board self Lodging self

Transportation $ 1.00 { Advanced the By whom Free Refunded

Hours per day 9 Work will last and Monday
(Employment to be deemed permanent only if lasting 90 days or more)

Sanitary Conditions yes (According to statement of employer) Compliance with labor laws (According to statement of employer)

Amount of fee, if any, paid by employer Amount of fee, if any, advanced by employer yes

Other terms or understandings

Employment authorized by Venes (Name) (Address) How Person Date 9-28

Report for position to (Name) (Address)

It is hereby agreed that the person licensed to operate this agency will repay to the applicant his fee and expenses in the event of failure to procure employment pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 of the Act Regulating Private Employment Agencies, and will refer any controversy between the applicant and the Employment Agency regarding the terms of contract to the Commissioner of Labor for adjustment.

Signed, J. V. RHOADES EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

By Frank K. Gustenson.

(OVER)

This contract is the property of the APPLICANT and must not be taken from him or her. If applicant is not employed or is discharged in less than 7 days EMPLOYER must so state in the space provided on the back hereof.

Signature of Applicant Fermin Acero

Age years

J.V. RHOADES COLLECTION
BOX 1 of 6

FOLDER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF ITEMS
1-1	Business Letters from J.V. Rhoades	17
1-2	Letters: Personal/Business	10
1-3	Business Letters/Announcements	9
1-4	Telegrams: Western Union	10
1-5	Invoices, Bills, Receipts	35
1-6	Bank Statements: Citizens Trust & Savings Bank	10
1-7	Advertisements	11
1-8	Matriculation Document from the Mexican Consulate of Detroit, Michigan	1
1-9	Photograph: Unidentified Woman	1
1-10	Misc. Ads, Apps, Certificates	9
1-11	Miscellaneous	9
	TOTAL	122

J.V. RHOADES COLLECTION
Box 2, 3, 4, 5,and 6 of 6

ITEM	DATE	BOX #	NUMBER OF ITEMS
Receipt Books	4/'27-6/'27	2 of 6	23
" "	4/'27-7/'27	3 of 6	20
" "	8/'27-11/'27	4 of 6	18
" "	1/'28-12/'28	5 of 6	53
" "	1/'29-1/'31	6 of 6	76
		TOTAL	190

J.V. RHOADES COLLECTION
Box 1 of 6

FOLDER	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
0-0 Name of File			
	0/00/00	(0)	Letter from...
1-1 Business Letters From J.V. Rhoades			
	1/14/27	(1)	Letter from L.M. Rhoades in Denver to Pacheco regarding the lack of business at the Denver office. Rhoades is informing Pacheco that he paid $25.00 for front page ads in the Denver News and Times.
	1/14/27	(2)	Letter from George Kerr (?), who appears to be a J.V. Rhoades employee, to Pacheco regarding office remodeling.
	2/24/27	(3)	Letter from L.M. Rhoades to [Joe] Pacheco, advising him that he is in debt $550.00. His monthly payment of $150.00 from Los Angeles to Denver was due on 3/1/27.
	2/24/27	(4)	Letter from L.M. Rhoades in Denver to Pacheco regarding why Pacheco wants to keep office open since there is no business?
	3/14/27	(5)	Letter from J.V. Rhoades in Denver to Pacheco, advising him that he [J.V. Rhoades] is broke and that no one [in Denver] is doing anything.
	3/19/27	(6)	Letter from L.V. Rhoades & J.V. Rhoades to "Joe Pacheco" regarding lack of business in Denver and hints about selecting a new Los Angeles location.
	6/5/27	(7)	Letter from J.V. Rhoades in Denver to Pacheco, advising that business is bad-"everybody hear wants to go to California." Meeting with Gunn [Supply Company] today.

8/3/27	(8)	Letter from L.M. Rhoades in Denver to J.Pacheco. Rhoades is offering to sell his 1/6th share of the company to Pacheco for $500.00 or offers to buy his [Pacheco's] 1/6th share for the same price,feeling that 1/6th share is not enough for one person. L.M. Rhoades also appears to be upset with his brother, who presumably owns the majority share of the business: "You know Joe you and I were to receive equal shares but he wont give me a cent of that money."
8/19/27	(9)	Letter from J.V. Rhoades to Pacheco thanking him for his check and informing him that the Gunn Company is interested in buying the business. J.V.is also trying to convince Mr. Pacheco not to sell his interest in the company or buy any interest from his [J.V's] brother Louis, he is going to try to work things out so they can all make some money.
9/5/27	(10)	Letter from J.V. Rhoades to Pacheco. J.V. is reporting to Pacheco that business is apparently picking up,"lots of [work] orders have come in". Mr.Rhoades is also trying to convince Mr. Pacheco to come to Denver. Rhoades also contradicts his earlier statement by explaining that he is not pleased with the work orders- "men are hell to get", "I'm worried to death".
9/17/27	(11)	Letter from L.M. Rhoades to "Joe" [Pacheco] in Los Angeles, informing him that business is not going very well due to a lack of men. He also notes that the near future also seems doubtful for the business because "it is going to be hard winter" [in Colorado].

9/28/27 (12) Letter from J.V. Rhoades in Denver to "Dear friend Pechico". Business is not looking very good, orders are dropping, except for corn husking-"we will need a lot of them [workers], every body has corn". J.V. also wants Pacheco to sell in order that he [Pacheco] will not be hurt financially.

10/12/27 (13) Letter from J.V. Rhoades to "Pachico" (he seems to always misspell Pacheco) stating that work orders have never been better, however "men are hell to get". "If you can get him any men we could clean up here" It appears that L.M Rhoades (rather than J.V.) is Pacheco's close friend.

11/19/27 (14) Agreement between J.A. Pacheco and H.J. Wilken, who represents another employment agency in Los Angeles,to share ownership and profits in a 1917 eight passenger car to be used in the transportation of clients to work sites.

12/5/27 (15) Letter from L.M. Rhoades (in Denver) to brother J.V. Rhoades (in Los Angeles) informing him that "we O.K. but not doing much business","Pipeline work is available at 45 cents per hour". Apparently, the two brothers had some interest [ownership] in a saloon (in the Denver area). L.M. is concerned that heat, rent and water have not been paid [on the saloon] for two months.

1/13/28 (16) Letter from J.V. Rhoades to Pechico. J.V.states that when he returned from his brief stay in Los Angeles, the office was in bad shape, no business. He regrets coming to California. He also states that his brother (L.M.) cannot run the business like he can: "loie lost a hundred and seven dollars".

UNDATED (17) Letter from J.V. Rhoades to" Mr. J.A. Pechico".(circa.early 1928). J.V. informs Pacheco that he has traded the 1928 Chrysler. [car] for a Stutz. He is also advising Pacheco that "I will sell that office down there [Los Angeles] for i nead you hear"..., "think we can do mo good hear then you can there".

1-2
Letters:
Personal/Business

1/7/27 (1) Letter (in Spanish) from R.B. Montoya, who appears to be an employee at the Denver office of J.V. Rhoades (perhaps the Translator), to J.A. Pacheco. Montoya relates how much he enjoyed his recent trip to California [Los Angeles]. Montoya reports on business matters in Denver, especially work orders which range from "ganges" [laborers], cooks, carpenters, and "flunkys". Montoya also informs Pacheco of the suicide (by gas) of a well known Denver businessman, Mr. Mellinson of the Western Beef Company on New Years Day (1927). Montoya also makes a rather candid observation of L.M. Rhoades, who is described as spending lots of time gambling (playing "rumy") at the "Hicky Dinky," denying his losses and "bursting out in laughter when he wins".

1/18/27 (2) Letter (in Spanish) from Adolfo Rael to J.A.Pacheco. Mr. Rael, who appears to be a laborer, is explaining to Pacheco that he has received his [Pacheco's] letters, but has not been able to send any money (perhaps payment of a loan) because his family in Albuquerque, N.M., have been stricken with illness, resulting in costly doctor bills. Rael is asking for Pacheco's patience in the payment of the money in question.

2/3/27	(3)	Letter (in Spanish) from Adolfo Rael to J.A. Pacheco.Rael is giving an update of his letter of 1/18/27; trying to clear any misunderstanding (false statements) that he has money. Rael tells Pacheco that he is well aware that he has "un seguro de" [security] $60.00 in the form of his wife's diamond [ring]. She [his wife] is tired of hearing that he [Rael] is not an honorable man,and suggests that perhaps it is you [Pacheco] who is not honorable for not assisting me when I was not in Denver? "If you need the money that much, take it from the ring (which he is enclosing), or you will have to give me more time because my family is still sick". Rael concludes by stating he continues to have difficulty finding work. He is leaving Santa Fe (presumably to find work elsewhere) while his family remains in Albuquerque. He has had financial problems with his boss.
2/3/27	(4)	Letter (in Spanish) from "Antonio" (no last name indicated) to "Nieto Alfredo" (Grandson Alfredo). Antonio is Alfredo Pacheco's uncle. Antonio is reporting on general family conditions in Denver, in particular are his efforts to sell what appears to be a family "ranchita" [ranch], however the offers are too low. Concludes by sending his regards to Margarita [Pacheco's wife].
UNDATED	(5)	Letter (in Spanish) This is an incomplete letter, one or more pages are missing and is without a signature. This letter may have been written by " Antonio", J.A. Pacheco's uncle (see item #4 above) because the writer is making reference to a desire for installing an electrical light transformer at the "ranchito" [ranch].

2/16/27	(6)	Letter (in Spanish), severe damage to letter). Letter from R.B. Montoya at the Denver office to J.A Pacheco in Los Angeles. Montoya just received Pacheco's letter and is expressing how much he enjoyed the company of Mrs. Pacheco and hopes that his [Pacheco's] uncle [Antonio] arrives without any incident. He is also reporting that Joe [J.V.] Rhodes is in the hospital where he had an operation. Montoya is generally reporting that business is slow and describes some specific problems which they have encountered.
8/27/27	(7)	Letter from J.V. Rhoades to J.A. "Pechico" [Pacheco]. J.V. reports that the business is receiving lots of orders, but has a shortage of men to fill the need. He also informs Pacheco that his [J.V's] brother, Evert, is not expected to live. Brother Loie [L.M. Rhoades] is back home on the farm taking care of Evert. Rhoades also clarifies some misunderstanding with Pacheco regarding money owed.
2/15/28	(8)	Letter (in Spanish, with envelope) from Mrs Servero Pacheco to her son, Alfred (J.A.) Pacheco. She informs her son that she received his letter and was very pleased to learn that he is doing well. She also informs Pacheco that someone by the name of Carlos has died from an illness known as "Diabitas". She closes by commenting on the weather, lots of snow and very cold, and please do not forget to send me the oranges that you promised. Please say hello to Margarita and the girls.
4/6/28	(9)	Letter (in Spanish) from Juan Trujillo in Utah, to J.A. Pacheco. While Pacheco's name does not appear on the letter, it is presumed that this letter is for him since the 606 North Los Angeles address is on the small envelope.

4/26/28	(10)	Postcard (in Spanish) from "Frank" in San Francisco to J.A. Pacheco.

1-3
Business Letters/
Announcement

12/30/26	(1)	Letter from Walter G. Mathewson, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics of the State of California to J.V. Rhoades Agency. This is an official notice that a business license is being granted, with an explanation of the conditions.
2/25/27	(2)	Letter (with envelope) from Southern Surety [Insurance] Company in Denver, Colorado, to J.A. Pacheco, informing him that his policy premium payment has not been paid.
3/28/27	(3)	Letter (with envelope) from the Hanlin Supply [Employment] Company of El Paso, Texas to J.V. Rhoades (Los Angeles office) informing them that they [Hanlin] have secured "all the laborers we are in need of," and therefore cannot use any referrals from J.V. Rhoades. This letter indicates that such employment agencies had a system for referring workers to other agencies throughout the Southwest and Midwest.
11/30/27	(4)	Letter (with brochure and envelope) from the St. Mungo Manufacturing Co. of Newark, N.J. to Messrs. Baily & Himes (perhaps J.V. Rhoades employees) at the 606 North Los Angeles address. St. Mungo is sending information on their 1928 line of golf balls, with an offer to put their company name on the balls.

12/13/27	(5)	Letter (with envelope) from Conrad H. Mann, Chief Auditor, Fraternal Order of Eagles, to J.A. Pacheco, informing him that his dues are delinquent. While this letter is very formal, there is no clear indication as to the purpose of this organization was.
2/23/28	(6)	Letter (in Spanish) from [presumably] J.A. Pacheco to Mr. Angel Gonzales in Parlier, CA., which is an agricultural community slightly southeast of Fresno. Pacheco is reporting an incident concerning Mr Francisco Romero who came in yesterday (2/22) and filled out a work order for three men that he [Gonzales] requested. Apparently Romero left the J.V. Rhoades office with the three men about 1pm. They arrived (by car) in Bakersfield about 8pm and stopped to have dinner. Apparently Mr. Romero left the restaurant without explanation, drove off by car and never returned, leaving the three men stranded. Romero also took their tools, blankets and luggage with him. The men arrived in Los Angeles later that evening and attempted to reclaim their tools. Pacheco concludes by giving a description of Romero as having the appearance of a young 25 year old man and drives a 1924 Hupmobile. Pacheco further adds that Romero previously worked for the Elba Land Company in Tulare,CA, and, previous to that he brought people (workers) "here to my office" (606 North Main Street). Letter ends with a salutation but no signature is evident because bottom half of page is missing.
3/15/28	(7)	Letter (with envelope) from Walter G. Mathewson, Chief of the California Division of Labor Statistics and Law Enforcement to "Mexican Employment Agency" [J.V. Rhoades] informing them that their employment agency license will expire on 3/28/28.

6/12/28 (8) Agreement between J.A. Pacheco, Frank W. Smith and F. Ascasio to enter into partnership for the co-ownership of a restaurant at 4 North Main Street. Pacheco appears to be providing the start-up cash.

5/11/29 (9) Letter (with envelope) from the Community Welfare Federation (who operate the Community Chest) addressed to the J.V. Rhoades Agency soliciting a donation to the Community Chest as a way of "simplifying the problem of helping needy people." The letter is directly asking for donations to the Community Chest as opposed to offering "assistance to every individual who asks it of you." The letter also states that an information poster is being enclosed.

1-4
Telegrams:
Western Union

5/26/27 (1) Western Union Telegram from F. Giannini in Tulare, CA to J.S. Rhoades: "Can use two Italian laborers if you can get them."

6/9/27 (2) Western Union Telegram from Frank Giannini in Tulare, CA to K.V. Rhoades: "If you have few good Italian laborers send them."

9/13/27 (3) Western Union Telegram from J.V. Rhoades in Denver to J.A. Pacheco: "Sell Emery 1/3 [of business?] for $500.00."

9/17/27 (4) Western Union Telegram from Elba Land Co. of Tulare, CA to J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency: "Need families for picking prunes about five weeks work..."

9/15/27 (5) Western Union Telegram (in Spanish) from Val J. Gonzales in Salt Lake City, Utah to Frank Gutirrez (an employee of J.V. Rhoades in Los Angeles): "Send word if there are any families or singles for beet

work under the same conditions that you wrote to me in the month of July. They pay the travel to the site and to Salt Lake it is free to the work site."

9/20/27 (6) Western Union Telegram (with envelope) from Elba Land Co. of Tulare, CA to J.V. Rhoades in Los Angeles: "Cannot advance [travel] fares."

3/14/29 (7) Western Union Telegram from WD Shaw of Ogden, Utah to JA Pacheco in Los Angeles: "Have you the thirty five families lined up wire me."

5/23/29 (8) Western Union Telegram from SRA (perhaps Señora?) Vacas: "If girl is still with you send up at once at my expense."

6/7/29 (9) Western Union (with envelope) Telegram from Margaret Pacheco (wife of JA) from Monte Vista, Colorado to JA Pacheco (in Los Angeles): "Wait for me Wednesday morning".

UNDATED (10) Western Union Telegram from Rhoades Brothers in Denver, Colorado to JA Pacheco in Los Angeles: "Offer fifty month (rent?) lease if possible..."

1-5
Invoices, Bills, Receipts

UNDATED (1) Invoice for 400 Blanks (forms?) for $4.00 from the Sonora Printing Co., which was located at 627 N. Main Street. Apparently this company produced various daily office forms for J.V. Rhoades.

UNDATED (2) Invoice for "1000 Caras #70" for $3.50 from the same above Sonora Printing Co. The back of this invoice contains notes concerning a job for a waiter at $15.00 a week.

12/11-18/26	(3)	Financial report from L.M. Rhoades (who is at the Los Angeles office) to his brother, J.V. Rhoades in Denver. Cash on hand is $117.75.
12/14/26	(4)	"Cancellation Certificate," City of Los Angeles Business License Permit. The J.V. Rhoades name appears on this application, however it was never signed. Therefore it may be assumed that it was never submitted since the business continued to operate.
12/15/26	(5)	Invoice from McKee & Slack [calendar makers] of Denver, Colorado for costs for mailing 374 promotional calendars.
3/8/27	(6)	Note (apparently written by J.V. Rhoades personnel) to Los Alamitos Sugar Co. requesting that they deduct $2.00 from the wages of two employees, Pedro Carillo and Antonio Martinez, for "office fee" and [travel] "fare." The money from this deduction would in-turn be transferred to J.V. Rhoades. Carillo and Martinez both signed their names to this document. NOTE:This memo may be an indication of how the J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency operated. For example, if a prospective employee could not afford to "buy" a job directly by paying the required J.V. Rhoades service fee (which may have been common for migrant laborers), the client might have been placed in a job on the condition that money would be paid to J.V. Rhoades by the employer, who would make a deduction from the employees wages.
3/8/27	(7)	NOTE:(see item #6 above) to Los Alamitos Sugar Co. for deduction of $3.00 from the wages of Ramon Diaz and Antonio Martinez. Also on this page is a separate request to deduct $1.25 from the wages of Vicente Rodriguez. All three employees signed this document.

3/9/27	(8)	NOTE: (see item #6 above) to Los Alamitos Sugar Co. for deduction of $3.00 from the wages of eight employees (who appear to be J.V. Rhoades clients). The employees who signed this document are: Juacin Moreno, S. Cisneros, C. Lugo, Juan L. Martinez, Cruz De La Cruz, Moreno Reyes, A. Dominguez and Filio Reyes.
3/19/27	(9)	Receipt from Ray Heurit (or Henrit) of the L.A. Police Dept. to J.A. Pacheco confirming a $25.00 payment on a 26 Model Ford Touring car. This car may have not been for personal use, but rather for the transportation of J.V. Rhoades clients (workers) to job sites.
UNDATED	(10)	Envelope from J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency to addressed to Fred Oakes at the Oxford Hotel in Denver, Colorado.
UNDATED	(11)	Expense list: telephone; rent; bond; license; newspaper. On the back of this list is an expense tally, seemingly for the month of September (no year). Another smaller, undated 3 1/2" X 10" tally sheet is attached.
UNDATED	(12)	Expense list: rent; stamps; cards; calendars; heat; telephone. On the back of this list is an interesting note which indicates that much of the office money is "out," spent on [travel] "fares."
3/10/28	(13)	Invoice from the City Business Directory Association (Publishers) (two envelopes included) to J.V. Rhoades for a listing in the City Business Directory. The cost for this service is $2.00. Envelope to J.V. Rhoades and return envelope to Publishers is included.

6/24/27 (14) Bill from American Typewriter Exchange, Inc., to J.V. Rhoades for a $5.00 payment on a Royal [typewriter].

NOTE: The next five items (15-19) are bills for the same typewriter purchase.

7/25/27 (15) Bill is for $5.00.

9/1/27 (16) Bill is for $5.00.

2/1/28 (17) Bill is for $10.00 (with envelope).

3/1/28 (18) Bill is for $5.00 (with envelope).

4/1/28 (19) Bill is for $5.00 (past due).

NOTE: All telephone bills are for telephone # 2648 and # 5446, which are the numbers of the employment agency at 606 North Main Street. The first date is taken from the Post Office stamp on the envelope.

6/1/27 (20) Telephone Bills from AT&T/Southern California Telephone Co., covering the period December,1926-June, 1927.

8/31/27 (21) Telephone Bills from AT&T/Southern California Telephone Co., covering the period July-August, 1927.

10/3/27 (22) Telephone Bills from AT&T/Southern California Telephone Co., covering the period August-September, 1927.

1/17/29 (23) Telephone Bills from AT&T/Southern California Telephone Co., covering the period from September, 1927 to March, 1929. While the bills cover this period, not every month is present.

3/26/28 (24) Invoice from Pacific Coast Sales Book Company, which was located at "Slauson at Avalon". Envelope included.

4/26/27	(25)	List of 66 workers shipped from Sacramento (judging from the attached envelope) to the Los Alamitos Sugar Co.
5/26/27	(26)	Expense tally by J.A. Pacheco for J.V. Rhoades' daily operations, covering the period March 19 to May 26, 1927. Apparently this report was sent to Denver and was returned with additional expense notations and a note from J.V. Rhoades, who reports on business in Denver.
9/27	(27)	Expense report from J.V. Rhoades to J.A. Pacheco (in Los Angeles). Rhoades reports that "business is bad hear." "We have lots of corn shucking orders, not many corn huskers"- "cold hear and no coal miners".
UNDATED	(28)	Note from E.S. Quan (presumably an employer) stating that "these two boys reported to me from the County Charities Outdoor Relief Division. They say they paid $2.00 for the job. "We have not any more work for them". There is also a notation regarding a $1.45 fee refund for E. Gutirrez.
5/21/29	(29)	Reference Slip signed by P.R. Aguirre of the Department of Charities-County of Los Angeles Outdoor Relief Division to "Mr.Pacheco" of Rhoades Employment Agency, indicating that Joe Rodriguez and Manuel Flores are being referred (perhaps back) to J.V. Rhoades because the job for which they were sent to was filled by the time they arrived. This Reference Slip appears to be related to the undated note (see item # 28 above).
1/20/2?	(30)	Bank statement from First National Bank of Denver to Joseph A. Pacheco. Note of $280.73 is due.

4/24/29	(31)	Bill from Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation for $2.81 to J.A. Pacheco. The address for Pacheco is listed at 126 So. Eline, which may have been his private residence. A Gas Co. solicitation for improved lighting is attached with this bill.
10/7/29	(32)	J.V. Rhoades job referral card for Maria Ruiz. Ruiz is being referred to Mrs. B. Fuss for house work at 728 W. 52nd Street. Her wages are listed at $9.00 per week for 9 hrs of work per day. Board will be provided by the employer and lodging (food) will be furnished by the employee. 7 cents will also be deducted from her wages (to be paid to J.V. Rhoades) to cover transportation to the job site. On the front of this card the J.V. Rhoades Agency indicates that they have been in business for 20 years, since 1907. However it is not clear from this entire collection where the business began in 1907. It is presumed that Denver was the first site.
10/9/29	(33)	J.V. Rhoades job referral card for Jose Mendoza. Mendoza is being referred to the Mattei and Vesco Co. to work as a cement finisher at 2833 N. Main Street. Wages are listed to be "open" and based on an hourly scale for 8 hrs per day. Mendoza will provide his own board and lodging. 7 cents will also be deducted from his wages (to be paid to J.V. Rhoades) to cover transportation costs. On the front side of this card it states that C. Mattei will pay $6.00 per day.
UNDATED	(34)	Ten blank forms of the Theatre and Merchants Advertisers, with offices in Los Angeles and Pasadena.

UNDATED	(35)	Price breakdown for office furniture apparently done by a J.V. Rhoades employee (perhaps Pacheco). The total price is $56.50 and may have been purchased/shipped from Long Island, New York.

1-6
Bank Statements: Citizens Trust & Savings Bank

1/27	(1)	Bank Statement/Cancelled Checks (January 13-February 24, 1927) for J.V. Rhoades (signed by J.A. Pacheco) from Citizens Trust and Savings Bank, "Plaza Branch S.W. Corner North Main Street & Sunset Blvd". This appears to be J.A. Pacheco's personal account. Balance is $55.00. NOTE: Items 2-10 are the same Bank Statements/Cancelled Checks from Citizens Trust and Savings Bank for different months.Items 2-10 are J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency bank statements.
7/28	(2)	July 1-28, 1927. (balance is $315.97)
8/27	(3)	August 1-31, 1927 (beginning balance is $406.47)
9/27	(4)	September 1-27, 1927 (beginning balance is $536.42)
10/27	(5)	October 1-31, 1927 (beginning balance is $553.82)
11/27	(6)	November 5-29, 1927 (beginning balance is $605.52)
12/27	(7)	December 1-28, 1927 (beginning balance is $660.23)
1/28	(8)	January 3-31, 1928 (beginning balance is $637.66)
2/28	(9)	February 1-March 10, 1928 (beginning balance is $354.46)
3/28	(10)	March 12-30, 1928 (beginning balance is $273.21)

1-7
Advertisements

12/28/26	(1)	Advertisement Flyer for J.V. Rhoades. This flyer was apparently written to be sent to prospective employers. On the back of this flyer is a hand written memo dated 9/20/28 indicating that a worker, Ventura Sanchez, apparently lost his receipt for the "job he bought." Based upon the difference between the signature and the text, Mr. Sanchez did not write this note.
12/28/26	(2)	Duplicate of the same above advertisement/flyer as item # 1.
12/28/26	(3)	Duplicate of the same above advertisement (however only half of document). The back of this half flyer also contains a few notes regarding an August 20th (no year) balance for the business.
1/4/27	(4)	Advertisement/flyer for J.V. Rhoades addressed to the East-West Refining Co. of Long Beach, CA. Letter also has a returned envelope from the same company.
5/21/29	(5)	Letter from L.A. Examiner to J.V. Rhoades with an attached sample of J.V. Rhoades Classified Ad., which appeared in the Examiner announcing "Sheep Shearers Wanted."
UNDATED	(6)	J.V. Rhoades business card: "Mexican Labor Our Specialty," "J.A. Pacheco, Interpreter."
UNDATED	(7)	J.V. Rhoades business card (similar in format to above card), with A. Simbeck also listed with J.A. Pacheco.

UNDATED (8) J.V. Rhoades business card: "Spanish and Mexican Labor our Specialty, Male & Female for All Kinds of Work." It is presumed that "Spanish" may have indicated a distinction between a local (Mexican-American) labor pool and a "Mexican" (immigrant/migrant) labor pool.

UNDATED (9) J.V. Rhoades Job Announcement (in Spanish): "Necesitamos Hombres" (Men Needed) for general farm labor at 38 cents per hour.

UNDATED (10) Advertisement/Flyer for Southern Pacific Stages [automobile] describing "direct service" to Phoenix and El Paso. J.V. Rhoades is listed as a venue where travel information can be obtained.

UNDATED (11) Job Announcement/flyer (in Spanish) from the Amalgamated Sugar Company of Ogden, Utah, calling for experienced Mexican sugar beat workers [families] to work in Missoula, Whitehall, and Hamilton, Montana. The J.V. Rhoades Los Angeles address is listed as one of the employment agencies where workers can obtain more information.

1-8
Matriculation Document from the
Mexican Consulate of Detroit, Michigan

11/22/26 (1) Matriculation document from the Mexican Consulate of Detroit, Michigan. This certificate is an application (approved) for stay in the United States for Samuel Rojas, (photo included) a 41 year old Artist from Durango, Mexico. The certificate is being granted for a two year period. It is signed and sealed by the Counsel General of Detroit, Michigan, Alejandro V. Martinez.

1-9
Photograph: Unidentified Woman

UNDATED	(1)	Mounted black & white photograph of unidentified woman found with the Rhoades collection. The photographer is identified on the photo as "Hartsook" of California.

1-10
Misc. Ads, Apps, Certificates

4/7/28	(1)	Letter (2 pgs) from the National Salesmen's Training Association of Chicago, Illinois to J.A. Pacheco. Letter is basically a solicitation for Pacheco to consider buying a mail order training course in sales. What is interesting about this letter and enclosures addressed to Pacheco, (see items # 2 ,3 & 4 below), is that they might serve as some indication of the tenuous nature of the "fee charging. "Employment Agency business from the perspective of management. Half of National Salesmen's envelope is included.
1928	(2)	Application for Membership in the National Salesmen's Training Association. Presumably, this application was part of the same mailing with item #1, above. Application has a 4/23/28 expiration date.
1928 (?)	(3)	Application (promotional) for a free leather portfolio (valued at $5.00) for those who enroll in the National Salesmen's Association.
1928 (?)	(4)	"FACTS": An information brochure on "salesmanship" by the National Salesmen's Training Association.
UNDATED	(5)	Application (blank) from the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles for a Permit for a License to Conduct Business in the city.

5/26/27	(6)	Insurance Policy (with envelope) for Margaret Pacheco (misspelled as "Pacheca") from Continental Life Insurance Company. Envelope is attached.
UNDATED	(7)	A brief directory of emergency services in Los Angeles published by The Community Chest.
UNDATED	(8)	Post Card size route of the Union Pacific System (in English & Spanish) produced by the Gunn Supply Company (Employment Agency).
UNDATED	(9)	Post Card: Same as item # 8 above.

1-11
Miscellaneous

6/8/29	(1)	Travel Ticket for Union Pacific System with "Gunn Supply Co., Los Angeles Calif" label. It is presumed that this ticket would be used by a worker to travel to a job location.
UNDATED	(2)	Match Book Cover with the Wrigglys Double Mint Quality Gum label.
4/15/28	(3)	Coupon Book for "Lincoln Amusement Park", valued at $3.00. Coupons contain admission tickets to the Luna Park Zoo, Alligator and Ostrich Farms, as well as other attractions. This is the present site of Lincoln Park and Plaza de La Raza. On the back of this coupon book is the J.V. Rhoades Employment Agency stamp. Thus, it is assumed that this coupon book was used as a promotional item for the Employment Agency.
UNDATED	(4)	Twelve "fold-out" color post cards of various scenes from Salt Lake City, Utah.
1/30	(5)	3 1/2" x 4 1/2" yearly calendar for 1930 with the Fac-Simile Letter Co. of Boston, Mass. listed.

UNDATED	(6)	Brochure for a line of Ford Model A Light Delivery Cars. Brochure also has penciled in figures, possibly prices of cars.
UNDATED	(7)	Brochure for Bowman's "No-Smok" incinerator, valued at $27.50. This product was manufactured in Los Angeles and was endorsed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
UNDATED	(8)	Order Form for the Los Angeles Evening Herald Classified Ads. On this form it appears that J.V. Rhoades made an unrelated notation regarding two workers who were not employed by Jose A. Castro.
8/9/29	(9)	Invoice from L. Ottina, Dr., Watchmaker and Jeweler, located at 610 N. Main Street. However a reading of this invoice form appears to indicate that this is not a record of watch or jewelry repair, but rather a "work order" for "house cleaning" at 922 West 7th Place, Apt 17. The name (perhaps of the worker being referred or the resident at 7th Place) Bert Medina appears. On the back of this invoice is a penciled map with 7th Place indicated.