

# The Annals of Iowa

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## In This Issue

JANET WEAVER, assistant curator at the Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, traces the emerging activism of a cadre of second-generation Mexican Americans in Davenport. Many of them grew up in the barrios of Holy City and Cook's Point in the 1920s and 1930s. By the late 1960s, they were providing local leadership for Cesar Chavez's grape boycott campaign and lending their support to the fiercely contested passage of Iowa's first migrant worker legislation.

KARA MOLLANO analyzes the campaign led by minority residents of Fort Madison in the 1960s and 1970s to oppose a plan to rebuild U.S. Highway 61 that would have included rerouting the road through neighborhoods disproportionately inhabited by African Americans and Mexican Americans. The multiracial and multiethnic coalition succeeded in blocking the highway plan while exposing racial, ethnic, and class divisions in Fort Madison.

## Front Cover

Ernest Rodriguez (right) was born in a boxcar in Davenport's "Holy City" in 1928. By 1963, he was meeting with U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy (center) at the American GI Forum convention in Chicago, along with (left to right) Augustine Olvera, Mary Olvera, and Juanita Rodriguez. For more on the emerging activism of Davenport's Mexican Americans "from barrio to 'boicoteo!" see Janet Weaver's article in this issue. Photo courtesy Ernest Rodriguez.

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