

SUMMARY
Bracero History Project

Name of interviewee Guadalupe R. Duran

Date of interview 11-18-08

Location/city of interview Fillmore, CA

Name of interviewer Davielle Healey

Length of interview 47 min, 31 sec No. of discs/tapes tracks 3

Spanish English Images Scanned? Yes No

Biographical synopsis of interview:

Worked as a Bracero 1954-1962 in Union City, King City, and Patterson, CA. Never learned to read or write, returned to Mexico after working, then became a U.S. citizen in 1996. Currently involved in other programs to capture Bracero history (did a newspaper interview).

Summary of interview:

Guadalupe R. Duran was born in Caballerias, Jalpa, Zacatecas in March of 1942. He never attended school and never learned to read or write, but began working in agriculture beginning around age 8-9. His family had seven children, all of whom are still living in the Los Angeles, CA area.

He described his experience as a Bracero in great detail, saying that he worked with dozens of Braceros at a time and more than a thousand over the years that he worked in the U.S. (1959-1962). He described the living conditions in the barracks, as well as the food, the grueling day's work, and how he communicated with his family in Mexico (since he was unable to write). He returned to Mexico when his contract was finished, but later came back to the United States, and became a citizen in 1996. He is married with several children and grandchildren, and lives with his wife in Fillmore, CA. He said that the Bracero program was a good experience, overall, and that other than the hard work and low pay, he felt well-treated by the foreman, although he never had contact with the owner or landlord of the farms where he worked. He is still very active in the Bracero community, and is struggling to get some money he is owed by the Mexican government.

* Technical note: The interview includes a period where Sr. Duran showed the interviewer pictures of his grandkids. He also got up several times to act things out, or point things out, but mostly seemed to adequately describe what he is doing. He makes reference to both the country of England (the interviewer's family's country of origin) and nursing (the interviewer's field of study).