

2-26-1994

## Interview no. 865

Cornelio Ramírez

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Cornelio Ramírez

INTERVIEWER: John R. Moore

PROJECT: Big Bend National Park Oral History Project

DATE OF INTERVIEW: February 26, 1994

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 865

TRANSCRIPT NO: \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSCRIBER: \_\_\_\_\_

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Please see attached.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Please see attached.

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 15 min. Length of Transcript \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
ORAL HISTORY INSTITUTE

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, 1994

**INTERVIEWEE/ADDRESS:** Cornelio Ramirez, 606 North Orange, Alpine, Tx., 79830. Phone: 915-837-5688.

**INTERVIEW BY:** John R. Moore

**DATE:** Feb. 26, 1994

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW/LANGUAGE:** 1 hour, 15 minutes/English

**SUMMARY:** Ramirez was born at Castolon but raised at Terlingua, where his grandfather and father worked in the mines. He began work as a seasonal employee for the National Park Service in 1948, eventually gaining permanent status until his retirement from the service. He also worked extensively in the park for private contractors building roads and bridges. He worked on the Tornillo Creek bridge near Rio Grande Village.

He recalls his childhood and education at Terlingua, relating that he earned money by delivering meals to miners. He was involved in the rescue and recovery of several hikers, climbers and tourists stranded in the park. He was a member of the Park Service crew that hand-carried three-inch water pipe to Oak Springs (near the Window) for construction of a water supply system to the Chisos Lodge and basin area.

He recalls the destruction by the Park Service of pre-park ranch homes and other structures. He was involved in construction of Panther Junction and Rio Grande Village, where he helped plant 1900 trees.