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Mining in Mexico
Oral History Project

Arturo M. Morales Domínguez
By W. Noel McAnulty

October 14, 1995

M: [Today's date is October 14], 1995. I'm at the University of Texas at El Paso with Arturo Morales, a graduate of the Texas College of Mines, Class of 1939. Thank you, Ingeniero Morales, for your time. I'd like to ask you some questions about your experiences in mining in Mexico. First, what was your education and what have been some of your professional experiences in Mexican mining?

D: I don't want to get too involved in my background, but I was born in Santa Eulalia, Chihuahua, which is an old mining town. My father was probably one of the first accountants, auditors, in the mining business. I got acquainted with the English language when I was very young because my father was sent to audit some mines in Kentucky, coal mines, in Greasy Creek, Kentucky, so I learned English as early as I did Spanish. At the time I was six, seven years old.

Anyway, I came to high school here in El Paso. I graduated from Cathedral High School in 1933. I couldn't attend Texas College of Mines there because I didn't have the thirty-five dollars, I think, it took for tuition, so I stayed out of school for about a couple of years. I did odd work around wherever I could get them and I saved a little money. I gave my mother about seventy-five percent and I kept about twenty-five percent.

And one day I told my family, I said, "I'm going to go to school. I'm not going to be this way all my life. And I'm going to school." You wouldn't believe it, but at the time I knew about mining camps and whatnot, but I felt like I wanted to be a doctor and I enrolled here in summer school with the flunkies. And I took chemistry and english in summer school and passed both of them in such a short term with a C, which was very good for not taking the term study. Anyway, I tried taking calculus in summer school, but I failed. It's the only subject I've ever failed, ever. (chuckles) I flunked calculus in summer school, but I later passed it well. Anyway, I graduated from Texas Mines here in 1939. I had lots of time because I had taken subjects in summer school and I was a little ahead of my class in subjects. And I almost finished the two options, the mining and the metallurgical options.

When I got out of school I went to work with the AS&R [later, ASARCO] people in Vanadium, New Mexico as a miner, mucker, from the mucker and driller, whatever they assigned to me. From there on I went to work with Minas de Rayón, which was an American company in the sierras of Chihuahua, in Ocampo, Chihuahua, to be specific.

M: And what year would that have been?

D: That would have been in 1940. Prior to my going to work, as a junior I went to work in Pachuca with the U.S. Smelting and Refining Company. There I met up with several old Texas Miners. One of them was Allen Sharp. The other one was Bob Emmett. I'm trying to think. At least three old Texas Miners

were with U.S. Smelting and Refining, which was then the biggest silver mine worldwide.

M: This is at Pachuca?

D: At Pachuca, but I jumped. In the [19]40s I went to Ocampo with Minas de Rayón. And I was superintendent of a small gold mining venture that some people from New York owned. I only know that I had contact with a fellow by the name of Friday. At the time, it was very tough to get to Ocampo. It took, sometimes, a couple of days to get to Ocampo. Now, it takes about five hours, five or six hours.

M: Driving from Chihuahua?

D: Driving from Chihuahua. But in 1940, late 1939, it took...we sometimes got stranded on the road because of rain or swollen rivers. And when I worked there all our materials, of course, came from Chihuahua. And when the Rio Verde was swollen we had to use, oh, a method of crossing the river with canastillas. They're cable-strung baskets.

And, of course, everything was expensive for our mine. All our ingredients and balls for the mills and parts and whatever, we had to get from Chihuahua and El Paso. Our cutoff at the mine was ten grams per ton. Ten grams is about a third, roughly, a third an ounce per ton.

M: Ten grams of gold per ton?

D: Yes. And to give you an idea, I guess, in Moris, [Chihuahua], they're opening a mine right now. And they're going to mine something like one or two grams of gold [per ton]. In the places where they're going to go open-pit, I think, they're going to make it with less than one gram of gold per ton and

heap-bleaching.

M: Okay. Well, later after Ocampo, is that when you worked at Pachuca?

D: No. I worked in Pachuca both as a non-graduate, as a student, and then I worked at Ocampo and then I went back to Pachuca, but I was also...

M: As a graduate engineer?

D: As a graduate. And I worked in Pachuca for, oh, I guess, let's see, two years is all I worked. Then I cut my mining ties. I got a scholarship from the U.S. and Mexican government because of the war effort. And I went to MIT and started aeronautical engineering, so for about four or five years I left the mining end of my career.

I came back to Mexico, of course. And aeronautics in Mexico is...if you worked for an airline. But it wasn't aeronautics. This gets a little out of mining, but I was instrumental in founding the Civil International Aeronautical Center there in Mexico City. It was a U.S. government-funded school for Mexicans and Central Americans and the northern part of South America to teach them aeronautics right after the war had ended. Anyway, that is about the time I spent outside of the mining profession.

I came back to the mining profession. I founded my own engineering company, totally mining oriented, and, as such, I was able to visit most of the mines in Mexico.

M: What year did you start your own company?

D: That would have been about 1948 or [19]50. And I sold Canadian bits, throwaway bits, to the mines. And I visited

the mines in Parral, in La Bufa, [Chihuahua], oh, just about all over the country, so I was able to keep in contact with... for instance, Bob Emmett was a Texas Miner, great football player here in the early [19]30s, and I knew him in Pachuca and then I saw him again in La Bufa, Lord, the hardest place on earth to get to.

M: This is La Bufa in Chihuahua?

D: Yes, La Bufa in Chihuahua. You had to go up to Creel then... . Anyway, I played golf there with Bob Emmett in La Bufa. (chuckles)

M: You played golf in La Bufa?

D: Yes. You wouldn't believe it.

M: Where?

D: Bob Emmett was an avid, I don't know if that's a correct word, but he had always played golf in Pachuca. And he had some holes built among the rocks and, oh, Lord, (chuckles) with Tarahumaras, actual Tarahumaras, carrying our sticks. So, I'll always remember that with Bob Emmett. But I don't know if this is what is required in this interview, but...

M: Yep. Well, how long then did you continue to have your own engineering firm?

D: Until about twelve years ago. That would be about 1982 or [19]83.

M: So then did you retire at the end of that time?

D: Well, retire is...

M: In relative terms?

D: Yes, roughly retired because I'm still doing some mining activity. I'm on the board of a few companies and I head the

technical committees for the board in all the areas that I work. That's one of the things that I like to do, is head the technical committee for the board.

M: And you have been involved very much in some of the academies, the technical academies, trying to improve education.

D: Yes, that is correct. That is the thing I would like to do in Mexico in the education. I feel that our basic engineering is neglected in most of our schools. In fact, today at the engineering breakfast I wasn't surprised about the math shortcomings of some of the students. We're having the same thing. And I have been trying very hard to upgrade the entrance requirements in the sciences at the universities in the mining schools. I've found over my years of contacting the young engineers that they were deficient in what I call the basics of engineering. They knew their mining and whatnot, but whenever they got into a deeper problem that involved basic engineering I was surprised at the lack of their training.

M: Let's go back for a minute and talk about just some of the living conditions, working conditions, in the early years as you remember Mexico. You mentioned some of the logistical, the travel difficulties, of getting to a place like Ocampo in the early 1940s. What were the actual working conditions like in the mine? For example, was this an underground mine?

D: Yes. It was an underground mine.

M: Did you have a mill?

D: Yes, we had a mill and we violated all the rules of the game, I guess, by today's standards. We ran the mill with steam and

our steam was wood.

M: Cut locally?

D: Cut locally. Our fuel was wood. And we had two trucks constantly cutting down trees to fuel the mill. Whenever we needed more cells, I had two workmen that I showed them a picture of a Denver cell. I think we only bought one Denver cell and the rest we built ourselves. We infringed (chuckles) on patents. That's why I said, to start with, we broke all the environmental rules and all the patent rules. And we were the only ones at the house in the mill to have electricity. Ocampo had no electricity. No one else had electricity except Minas de Rayón and Minas de Chihuahua. Minas de Chihuahua became a bonanza, but no Texas Miner was working at Minas de Chihuahua. They were just downstream, at a little creek, from us.

M: Were the mines mechanized at all?

D: No. We hand drilled, no air. Well, we had a compressor, but that was mostly used to siphon water with what we called a sifón. We always used the compressor to keep us dry and keep the shaft dry wherever we had water. And all the drilling was done by hand.

M: Then you mentioned, in retrospect, of violating what we would consider today as basic environmental standards. But what was the attitude toward the environment in those days?

D: Well, when I think of it, we didn't think about the environment. We just thought it was normal whatever we did. Our tailings dams were in any lower spot that we could put up that didn't interfere with water supplies. And that's about

all we cared.

M: It was just standard operating practice?

D: It was just standard operating practice.

M: Not only with your group, but with the whole industry?

D: The whole industry. And I think that was also true here in the U.S. It wasn't only us. But we thought very, very little or we didn't even use the word environment.

M: Well, of course, another part of that was that there were probably very few options about other fuels. Could you even have bought coal?

D: No.

M: Because of the transportation difficulties?

D: The transportation from Coahuila or from here, from Texas, to get coal would have been terrible. We got diesel. We had diesel for our compressors and gasoline. And that was about the fuels that we used in Ocampo.

M: Well, in the [19]40s the petroleum fuels must have been in short supply as well.

D: The fuel supply from Chihuahua was, I guess, adequate, but it was so expensive to get it up to Ocampo that it would have shut off our mine. I traveled when I was in engineering. And a few years later I traveled into southern Mexico, in Guerrero, where it was just as bad even though it wasn't mountainous, but it was just as bad traveling because of rivers, lack of roads, lack of facilities. Oh, anyone that was involved in mining in the early [19]40s up to, I would say, [19]60s in Mexico had a hard time.

M: Just from a logistical standpoint?

D: Just from a logistical standpoint.

M: Later, when you went to work at Pachuca...now, Pachuca was a very large mine.

D: Yes.

M: What were the main differences that you noticed coming from a small mine in Ocampo to working at a big mine in Pachuca?

D: Well, the main difference was that I was head honcho in Ocampo. And when I got to Pachuca (chuckles) I went back to being a junior engineer, to surveying for the contractors, surveying stopes, surveying, and sampling. Whenever the engineering office wanted special samples I'd take a crew out and sample stopes or sample in the mine, but mostly I was involved in surveying.

M: What was the makeup of the technical staff with U.S. Smelting and Refining in Pachuca in the [19]40s? In the sense of they were Mexican nationals, but there were also a lot of foreigners involved.

D: Oh, yes. I think the main staff in the [19]40s at Pachuca were Americans with a sprinkling of English engineers. And some of the practical miners were "Cousin Jacks". They were not engineers, but they were from the old mining families in Pachuca that had come across from England.

M: From the English involvement there in the 1830s?

D: Yes, from the English involvement. In the Real del Monte area there was some beautiful Cornish engines. And, oh, it was a beautiful museum for us. And some of them were not working anymore, but some of them were still working.

M: Was there a mining camp or a residential area for the

technical workers at Pachuca?

D: Yes. Yes, we lived in an area where all the unmarried individuals lived and we had a Chinese cook there. It was very nice. And the married staff lived in this same compound, but in their own little houses. We socialized mostly by groups. The married groups were always together and the unmarried were in a separate group there where we lived.

M: Now, later, when you had your own company and did a lot of traveling to mining camps all over Mexico you saw a variety of the camps. Did most of the bigger mines maintain a compound or a mining camp for their personnel? And what were those camps like?

D: Well, all the bigger mines had mining camps for their personnel. And the one that stood out and was controversial was the San Francisco del Oro compound. And that had a lot to do with dissension and controversy in the mining industry because San Francisco del Oro had two camps: one strictly for foreigners and the other one for the Mexican engineers. And there was quite a difference between the two camps. When I visited San Francisco del Oro, because of friendship with Henry Hanson, who was the head man in San Francisco del Oro, I always stayed at the foreigners', but lots of times I wanted to stay at the other camp, but Henry would always say, "Oh, the facilities are not...we don't have any facilities outside of the people that are already there." So he'd always have me in the foreigners' group.

M: What they called the San Antonio camp?

D: The San Antonio camp, yes.

M: Well, what were camps like, for example, at Fresnillo or Santa Bárbara?

D: In the Fresnillo camp, Hacienda Proaño and the...they were very good, very good, and there wasn't any division, foreigners or Mexican engineers. The residence there in Fresnillo was called the Arizona Building, I don't know why, but Arizona, and that's where we slept. And the place was called Proaño. And there were quite a few Texas Miners at the time there. One of them was Arturo Maese. I think he's way in the early [19]30s. And the other one was Juan Holguín, which was from my class in [19]39. Who else was in...

End of Side A

Beginning of Side B

M: What was the technical makeup? What I was curious about is, were all of the higher level technical positions held by foreigners and what were the attitudes of the Mexican nationals toward foreigners?

D: Well, there I would have to sort of separate things, the way I was brought up and the way some of the Mexican engineers from the Mexican mining schools, okay? First off, in Fresnillo the engineers that went there from Texas Mines or from Colorado or any of the U.S. schools for practice in the summer were given a hundred dollars per month. Room and board came out of there. And the Guanajuato School of Mines boys were given, I think, what amounted to about forty or fifty

percent of that in pesos. And some of them, I remember talking to one in particular and he said, "By the time we pay our room and board we have nothing left." So those things were...created, what, controversies or dissensions or...

M: Were there disparities in the rates of pay for the foreign engineers, the graduate engineers, professional engineers, between the foreigners and the Mexican nationals, as well?

D: Yes. There were huge disparities. Mexican national, I'm a Mexican national. I was born in Mexico, but the fact that I was from Texas Mines got me a better pay than the Mexican national that came from Guanajuato. And that was a general thing. Of course, when I worked in Pachuca, the Guanajuato engineers were openly against me because I spoke English and because I had a better paid. And, somehow, looking back I can't blame them.

M: Were there opportunities for the Mexican national engineers to progress up the hierarchy? Could they obtain higher level jobs?

D: They mostly stayed at the engineering level. They were able to become chief engineers and whatnot, but a few went into production. Later, by 1950, more were getting into production, that is, shift bosses and superintendents. And, again, there was a disparity between the locally trained, or the Mexican universities, and the Mexicans trained in U.S. universities. Again, you could always notice it. This brought on the Mexican law that every mine had to have a Mexican national as a responsable.

M: A responsable was?

D: A responsible was...he had to be involved in the safety measures of the whole mining group and he had to see that the mining laws of Mexico were adhered to in the mines.

M: Now, that was a federal law and dates way back from the Calles administration as I remember.

D: Well, I really can't answer that, when, but I thought that it was a...because, at first, we never had responsables and in the [19]40s or early [19]50s every mine started getting a responsible. Maybe the law was there, but it hadn't been implemented or adhered to.

Incidentally, I was pretty much against the law of Mexicanization. And I've always said that Mexico is a country of overprotection. We've always protected people that manufacture poor goods, we've protected engineers that are not really qualified, we've protected workmen that are unskilled, we've protected our rich people from competition. And you can't run a company, you can't run a nation, you can't run anything with overprotection. And I felt that the Mexicanization law set the table for a few chosen people and brought up a crop of, not all, maybe not even a majority, but a good section of unprepared Mexican engineers.

M: What were some of the major changes you saw in the mining camps after the Mexicanization?

D: Well, of course, (chuckles) the outstanding example is Frisco. The first thing they did was tear down the San Antonio wall and whatnot and integrate both camps. And the other camps that I can remember, which were the Pachuca, the Fresnillo, the a- oh, what other big camp?

M: Santa Bárbara?

D: Santa Bárbara. Santa Bárbara wasn't that...desegregated or segregated?

M: Segregated.

D: Segregated. The San Antonio camp is, of course, the number one example of the segregation between the foreigners and the Mexican nationals.

M: But the makeup of the technical staff also changed after Mexicanization?

D: Oh, yes, gradually, gradually. It didn't change overnight except some of the foreigners, mostly Americans, they got, I thought, afraid, afraid of something that wasn't there and they left, but a good many of them stayed on for a few more years and finally left. But it wasn't an overnight exodus. But when I talked to some of the Americans remaining, I thought they had some sort of fear for their safety. And I never saw that. I think that was not true. Most of them were really, really welcome as a good influence and training for our local engineers. I'm sorry my memory on names is...I should have been prepared because I would have liked to name... . There's one particular older, older fellow that was in Naica [Chihuahua], maybe Salvador can remember his name, Howard... . Oh, he was instrumental in forming some very, very, very good mining engineers in Mexico. And he stayed until his death. And I can think, I know, there were at least, maybe ten, fifteen others that never left the country.

M: Were there enough adequately trained engineers and other professionals to staff the mining industry after

Mexicanization?

D: Yes, I think so. Guanajuato and the University of Mexico, in fact, were graduating mining engineers and geologists that had gone in to other fields because of, number one, they didn't see a future in the mining business the way it was originally set up with foreigners commanding the top positions. And mining schools began to open in all the states in Mexico, whereas in the early [19]40s, [19]50s, I can remember only three mining schools. At present, there's a mining school here in Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Coahuila, in Hidalgo. Just about every state has a mining school now.

M: After the Mexicanization there were, also, some changes that went on in the Mexican government that influenced the mining industry. For example, several agencies and programs within the government agencies and government programs became much more funded, much more active than they had been. The Comisión de Fomento Minero, what was some of the history of that? What was the rationale? What was the government reason for expanding the activities of an agency like Fomento de Minero?

D: Well, Fomento Minero was founded to aid the small miner. The history of Mexican mining is that most of the areas that we are mining at present were known in the early 1500s and 1600s. Most of the big mines were opened by the Spaniards. The history of Mexican mining is that the small miner has made the areas. It has started almost in a grub stake, gambusino we call, area. I mean, here is a man that sees an outcrop, samples it, brings it. He stakes, and he sells this to a

bigger company and then it flourishes.

The idea of the Comisión de Fomento Minero was to help this small miner keep his mine, work it, develop it, by aiding him with technical help and even money, loans, in the way of equipment, lease, sell, or even sometimes just plain lending the equipment. So the Comisión de Fomento Minero was based on that principal.

The Comisión de Recursos [Naturales] Renovables, which started just about the same time, was mostly geologically oriented to help develop zones and look for new areas for the mining people. These were later changed by socialistic deals and the Comisión de Fomento Minero went in to owning mines along with the Consejo de Recursos. They took entire areas and made them reserves.

M: National reserve areas?

D: National reserves.

M: The main impetus of that was during the Luis [Alvarez] Echeverría years?

D: Just prior to Echeverría. But Echeverría, of course, was the main pusher in national reserves and the Comisión owning the mines. You know, the Mexicanization came about. We had a direct production tax on mining. It was an aberration to... whether you lost money or you made money you paid a production tax off the top. And they promised us, "If you Mexicanize we take a percentage of"- this was an arranged deal- "of your production tax."

M: Okay. There was a reduction in production taxes for Mexicanized companies?

D: Yes.

M: That was one of the prods to make sure everyone got Mexicanized.

D: That was the prod. Otherwise you didn't have to because it wasn't retroactive. But it was such an incentive when you were barely making it with low prices. That was designed to Mexicanize the properties.

M: The expansion of agencies like Consejo de Recursos Minerales and Fomento de Minero, those have run their course and most of that, now, has been...they're greatly reduced in their activities. Do you think, in your opinion, is that because those programs weren't particularly efficient or they have outlived their usefulness?

D: Thank God they've been reduced. As far as I'm concerned, way back when the Comisión de Fomento Minero got started, were they useful and well oriented. Later on, as I started to say, in our socialistic tendencies they became owners of mines and they were the most inefficient and corrupt- (chuckles) I don't care- corrupt agencies that I could come across. And I said it before, and I will say it again, that Mexicanization was helpful, but I was deeply against it.

M: In what ways do you think it was helpful?

D: Well, it was helpful in that mining had been stifled- is that the word, stifled- by government regulations, by that production tax. The government looked for all ways to squeeze mining. And Mexicanization sort of opened that up. I mean, it cut the production tax almost to nothing. And then here, a few years now, we don't have any more production tax. Well,

lots of doors were opened and the law was even better. I was instrumental. I was on the committee on this new Mexican mining law.

M: In what year? Recently?

D: Recently, recently. I had to go before the committee of Congress, our Mexican Congress, our federal congress, to try and sell the law. I spoke before the committees for the new Mexican mining law, which was, again, much, much better than what we had.

M: What were the principle new changes in the new Mexican law?

D: The principle change was getting away from the bureaucracy of the old law, getting the Consejo out from the mining, getting the Comisión de Fomento Minero from owning mines, making it much, much easier to stake claims. Then, although it wasn't in our realm, the committee made a strong recommendation for Hacienda to lift the fifty-one percent. And we finally got it, but we revamped that mining law.

M: What were the principle bad points about the Mexicanization?

D: Well, what I consider is that the table was set up for a few people. They got the whole pie. And the other one is the one that I mentioned, that we were, in fact, protecting engineers or workmen or whatever that weren't as well prepared as they should have been.

M: What do you see? What is your personal opinion about the more recent changes in investment laws in Mexico that essentially allow foreign corporations, allow any corporations, particularly, and foreigners, to operate as a hundred percent foreign-owned companies in Mexico? What will be the long-term

effects of that for Mexican mining?

D: As far as I can see, and as far as I look at it, the long-term effects will be very, very beneficial. I would like to see some sort of system where, okay, a foreign company comes in to Mexican mining, mines, takes a reasonable profit, and not only leaves labor income. I would like to see some sort of system where we could get the country to get a little more benefit than just labor.

M: And what would that additional benefit be? New technology?

M: Well, that's one of the things that I saw bad about Mexicanization. We lost a source of new technology, but I would like to see something more than just new technology. I'm really not prepared, I wish I were, to say in what way because if we say taxes we come back to the production tax which was terrible for Mexican mining. I would like to see a mechanism that would help the country, that is, or otherwise somebody is going to come back and say what they said in the [19]30s and the [19]40s, "Here the companies come up, come here, and they take all our resources and they take the money and they go back..." and pah, pah, pah. Some of that is inevitable and what we need is some sort of, I'm repeating myself, some sort of mechanism that would leave something more than just labor for the country. That's my thinking.

End of Tape One

Side B

Beginning of Tape Two

Side A

M: Arturo, we've have some conversations more in a serious vein. Do you have some anecdotes, some of your favorite stories, of just mining life in Mexico?

D: One little story that I think is very quaint and peculiar is José Soseya, who was a Texas Miner, I think Class of [19]40, and I journeyed to a prospect in Chihuahua that, specifically at Concheño [Chihuahua], that U.S. Smelting and Refining Company was drilling and looking at. And we had to journey. Concheño is in the mountains of the high sierras of Chihuahua. And we had to journey a good deal by foot. And Edmundo Arguelles was running the exploration work there for U.S. Smelting. Edmundo Arguelles was a Texas Miner, I believe, from the Class of [19]35 or [19]36. I'm not sure, but he was a Texas Miner. And we walked, oh, I don't know, about eighteen hours. It was dark when we got to the exploration site. And they had a little cabin and we were greeted by barking from dogs and whatnot, so we were a little bit scared. Anyway, they woke up Mundo Arguelles and he let us in and said, "Oh, you must be tired..." and blah, blah, blah, and we went to sleep.

And in the morning we had breakfast and here's this...he had a Chinese cook and two big Great Danes. And when we finished breakfast this Chinese cook took our plates and laid them on the floor and the two dogs came and licked them clean. Then he got the plates. And he had a bucket of water and he

just rinsed them out (laughs) in the bucket of water, dried them, and put them back on our table. We said, "Mundo, how the hell can you stand this?" He said, "Well, we haven't got any water. That's all we can do." But that's a true story.

M: Life was a little bit rudimentary in some of the mining camps

D: Oh, Lord, yes!

M: Now, some other people I've talked to have mentioned that during this period, even the [19]40s and [19]50s, that in a lot of the traveling that they did that Mexico was really very tranquil at the time, that they never had problems with robberies and things like that. Was that true in your experience?

D: Oh, Lord, yes. We had no problems traveling by night, on foot, or whatever. Of course I traveled, particularly in the mountainous area of Chihuahua, and never, never had a problem. I traveled by foot or horseback.

And I had some people from Canada and Kansas, Kincaid, Kansas. They were in the oil business. And we went down to southern Mexico in the state of Guerrero. And the state of Guerrero has always been a sort of lawless state, even to this day. And I was traveling with a Canadian geologist and this Ray Yant [?], which was the oil man. We traveled to Guerrero, one of the outlying places and we had to stay at a place. You couldn't call it a hotel. It was just a hut there. And we stayed overnight. We'd been traveling all day.

And about midnight we heard gunshots. (mimics sound of gunfire) They said, "Lay low. Forget it. Go back to sleep." (chuckles) I tried to tranquilize my foreign friends. Oh, we

lasted the night. We got up early next morning and I asked the local people what was going on. And they said, "No, it was just some fellows celebrating and they got drunk and they started firing into the air, but no one was killed, no one was hurt."

But the state of Guerrero was, and today is, a place where families feud. They have family feuds every time. And hopefully- that isn't what I meant, not hopefully. At least we weren't only not harmed, we weren't...nothing came about. Nothing came of it and we were able to travel into the mine site to where we were going. And that is another incident that I recall. Otherwise, oh, I have, maybe, a lot more stories like that, but some of them are not as funny or peculiar as the first one. (chuckles)

M: The mining business certainly has been an interesting business for you through the years.

D: Yes, yes. You know, the mining business still carries a sort of aura about it. You tell somebody that you're a mining engineer..."Oh! And you've been out to mine. You go underground!" Like if it were something. I was underground here, I'm eighty years old, and I was underground here a month ago. So what's... (chuckles)

M: What's the big deal?

D: What's the big deal?

M: It's just part of your life.

D: Part of my life.

M: Arturo, thanks very much for your time. I appreciate it.

D: You're quite welcome. I'm happy to be here and happy to

cooperate with you in my limited sense.

M: Thank you.

End of Interview