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## **Interview no. 1556**

Flora Garcia Villalva

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Flora García Villalva

Interviewer: Fernanda Carrillo

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: March 26, 2003

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Transcript No: 1556

Transcriber: Vanessa Macías

Flora García Villalva was born in El Paso, Texas; she had two sisters and one brother, and together they grew up in the Lower Valley area of El Paso; her father owned a grocery store where many of his clients were braceros; while still attending Ysleta High School, she began working as a clerk and typist at *Rio Vista*, a processing center for braceros in Socorro, Texas; she worked there from 1954 to 1958. Ms. García remembers the grocery store her father owned and operated for thirty-five years; because the store was in an area where there were a number of cotton fields, many of their clients were braceros, with whom they developed a close relationship over time; her father had a friend who worked for the El Paso Cotton Association, and recommended her for a job at *Rio Vista*, a bracero processing center in Socorro, Texas, where she later became a clerk and typist; he also recommended her for a job with the Department of Labor; while working at *Rio Vista*, she would type and process the paperwork necessary for bracero contracts; each bracero would take at least thirty minutes to complete the papers with her; she gives a detailed description of the various procedures she was aware of and comments that there were several departments the braceros had to go through, including immigration, health, labor, and transportation; she worked there only during the summers from 1954 to 1958; later, while working at the Department of Labor, she recalls that inspectors often visited with the contractors to ensure that the working and living conditions for the braceros were up to standards.

**Name of the interviewee:** Flora Garcia Villalva  
**Date of the interview:** March 26, 2003  
**Name of the interviewer:** Fernanda Carrillo

This is an interview with Mrs. Flora Garcia Villalva, on March 26, 2003, in El Paso, Texas. The interviewer is Fernanda Carrillo. This interview is part of the Bracero Oral History Project.

FC: Good morning, ma'am.

FG: Good morning.

FC: What is your full name ma'am, please?

FG: Flora Garcia Villalva.

FC: When and where were you born?

FG: I was born here, in El Paso, Texas.

FC: What year, ma'am, I'm sorry?

FG: I prefer not—

FC: Okay, sure. And did you grew up here, ma'am?

FG: I was raised in the Lower Valley, and I grew around cotton fields. I saw the agriculture all around me as I was growing up.

FC: What school did you attend and when?

FG: I attended Ysleta High School.

FC: What was your desk job during that time? What did you do for a living?

FG: I was a student, living at home with my parents.

FC: And was your dad a farmer?

FG: Well, he was a farmer, and he was born and raised in the Lower Valley.

FC: So, you lived in a farm?

FG: Not necessarily a farm, but around farm areas, near Ysleta. My father owned a grocery store, he was a grocer, and he owned a store for thirty-five years.

FC: How many sisters and brothers do you have?

FG: I had two sisters and one brother. My brother passed away, and I have two sisters right now.

FC: Do they still live here in—

FG: They live here in El Paso.

FC: Okay. Were you the only one in your family that got involved with the Bracero program?

FG: Yes, um-hm.

FC: What about your father? You said he owned a grocery store right there in the Lower Valley. Did he at any time have any contact with the braceros, the ones that were working on the farms?

FG: Yes, he did because, fortunately, since our store was in the Lower Valley, our business, we had many, many braceros that came to the store, did their purchasing at our store. My father got to meet a lot of them and visit with them, and so we got pretty close to all these man that were coming from Mexico.

FC: So the braceros were able to leave the facilities of the ranches they were working—

FG: To go to the store, to go do their buying—

FC: Would you happen to remember mostly what they wanted to eat or what was their favorite foods?

FG: It's amazing, because most of them would be living in barracks, and they'd seem like one of them would end up being the cook, and most of those men would kind of let him do the buying, and he knew exactly what he wanted to do and what they were going to fix for meals. We would just kind of step back and watch them, see how they were helping each other, and how they depended on each other to do well and carry on what businesses they were doing here.

FC: During your years at Ysleta High School, you said you started working as clerk-typist at the Rio Vista.

FG: At the Rio Vista, yes.

FC: How did you get involved with this program? Did you read an ad in the newspaper or did someone else told you?

FG: My father was a friend of one of the supervisors at the El Paso Cotton Association, and he encouraged him to let me go work at the bracero center.

FC: Would you please describe your role in the bracero program during that time? What year was that, ma'am, when you started working?

FG: I worked there from 1954, approximately '54 to '58, as a clerical worker. I used to do the processing of the *micas*, they used to call *micas*, where you would keep all the information, who they were, and all this typing that we need to find out, as far as the original contract, while entering the United States was necessary for them to have in file.

FC: This job you did there, did you ask them to show you proof of the information they were giving to you, like an ID or a birth certificate?

FG: At this time, I don't really recall whether we required to have that information, but I do recall long lines of men standing right in front while we were typing and getting all that information as to who they were, where were they born, and every other detail that the form required. I do not necessarily remember whether we required any identification other than what they were giving us.

FC: How many people were doing the same clerk-typing job at the Rio Vista center while you worked there? How many of you were [there]?

FG: Okay, at the Rio Vista center we had, first of all, different departments, which was immigration, I worked directly for the Department of Labor under the bracero program at Rio Vista, but there were in one department alone, I would say, at least a hundred people, that I can recall.

FC: How many people working there as clerk-typists, doing the same thing you did?

FG: I guess most of them.

FC: Were they ladies? Men?

FG: Men and women.

FC: Were they studying high school as well or different?

FG: Some were students; others were people working as full-time employment.

FC: Was your job a full-time?

FG: No, not at the time I was first started, no.

FC: You worked there during the summers or all year?

FG: During the summer.

FC: How many hours a day did you work there?

FG: Up to twelve hours, twelve, even fifteen hours if someone wanted to stay double shift.

FC: Oh, okay, and you worked Monday through Friday or—

FG: It was seven days a week. The processings were, on the peak season, we would work seven days a week.

FC: When was the peak season, ma'am?

FG: I would say between May and September.

FC: So, during this time, you were able to work in double shifts?

FG: Yes.

FC: How many applicants were there on a given day, let's say, like average of people that you attended, only you?

FG: That I attended?

FC: Uh-huh.

FG: How many, say thirty, every applicant would take at least thirty minutes to process.

FC: Thirty minutes to process, you mean like going through everything or just with you?

FG: With me, because the processing took at least a day, because they went from one department, Health Department, Immigration, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, so as they were being processed, there were different departments that they had to go through.

FC: Would you please describe the screening process of a bracero for me? Let's say, the bracero got there, how did they arrive to the Rio Vista?

FG: They were brought from Chihuahua to Juárez, from Juárez to the bracero center.

FC: Okay, in trucks or—

FG: Transportation trucks, I saw trucks, I saw buses.

FC: Okay, so they got to the Rio Vista center, what was the first step that they—

FG: Okay, let me, I'd have to, I wasn't really prepared to think in terms of how they [were being] processing, but they went to the Immigration Department, through the Health Department, through the Department of Labor, and the Department of Transportation, and we were working barracks ourselves, so there were different—

FC: Buildings for each process—for example, at the Immigration Department, that was the first one, what happened there?

FG: I have no idea, because I did not work those departments, I only handled—

FC: But I suppose they passed their medical examination and everything. Your department was the last step of the process for them, to fill out all this information, or did they still have to do some other things before they left?

FG: No, we were about the last.

FC: Okay, and once—so they go with you and fill out all this information. Did they receive any kind of copy of documents you filled out or—

FG: I don't really remember, I can't recall that.

FC: And after that, you filled out the contract as well or that was not part of the—

FG: We filled out contracts also, all the time, when we would be filling out contracts.

FC: After that, they were ready to leave the center or some of them stayed and passed the night?

FG: Some of them would stay depending on what areas they were going to, whether there was transportation available, or [they were] going out into Pecos, or Monahans, or wherever they were assigned to go.

FC: Do you remember what were the qualifications to become a bracero?

FG: I don't know.



FC: What role did the Mexican government have during the screening process? Were Mexican officials present at the time the braceros were going through it?

FG: I remember the *Consulado*, so they had representative. Yes, because I remember some names of some consuls. Ah, Benito was a consul, I can't, no, I don't—

FC: That's okay. So they were several of them at all times, and they were able to be present at any time during the screening process, they were not forbidden to be in certain areas?

FG: No.

FC: Okay. Where did you live while working at the Rio Vista center?

FG: I worked at home, I mean, I was living at home with my parents in the Lower Valley.

FC: How did you get to the Rio Vista center? By bus?

FG: At the time, my dad used to take me, I didn't drive, so he would take me there.

FC: You said the process lasted almost a day, so were there any meals provided to the braceros?

FG: Yes.

FC: Right there at the center?

FG: At the center.

FC: What about the employees? What about you? Did you eat at the same place?

FG: No, we took our lunch.

FC: Would you describe a typical workday at the Rio Vista center?

FG: Say a normal day would start at eight o'clock in the morning. We would go right into our assignments, which was either typing the *mica* cards, or typing contracts, or taking the fingerprints, because we used to fingerprint them, or other duties that were assigned to us.

FC: So, it varied, like the kind of duties you had to do?

FG: Yes.

FC: Okay. Is there any particular incident that stands out in your mind working as a clerk-typist at the Rio Vista center?

FG: I think the most impressive was Annette Coronela that brought her, that was something that was very impressive to me.

FC: What was the Coronela, ma'am?

FG: The one we talked about bringing in the group of men that she took care of, that she saw that they were processed correctly, that they were assigned to the area that they were supposedly have been assigned to.

FC: You mentioned that the Coronela mostly or only bring in Indians?

FG: Yes, they looked more like a group of Indians that were being led by her.

FC: You mentioned that she had several, kind of \_\_\_\_ (?) things in there, she even had guns, you said?

FG: Or a halter, I don't remember exactly if it was a gun or just halter, but she impressed me like she was a general in an army.

FC: She was Mexican lady?

FG: Yes.

FC: Was she young or—

FG: Middle-aged.

FC: And did they seem to obey her?

FG: Yes, they followed her orders or instructions.

FC: So when they, her group, was going through the screening process, was she present at all?

FG: At all times.

FC: Did she sleep with them at the—

FG: According to what we thought, we left at the end of the day, and she would be right there with them waiting to see when they were leaving.

FC: Do you know if she stayed at the Rio Vista, and then go back to Mexico to bring another group or probably she went with them?

FG: I think it was just that group that she brought in, I mean, I never saw her repeating the same.

FC: Okay, but you saw her several times during the time you worked there?

FG: Um-hm.

FC: How many times would you say?

FG: I would say yearly, I mean, I saw her (telephone ringing) on a yearly basis.

FC: Was it the same group over and over or it might be—

FG: I have no idea, no, I can't remember.

FC: In other things, how were the work contracts arranged? You worked, for example, with the employers, you said you filled out some contracts. Were the

employers there, they say, “We need so many braceros,” or how did you manage that?

FG: At Rio Vista, we were just processing the men as they were coming from Mexico into the United States. I don’t recall exactly in what time that they assigned them, say, to the different employer, but I believe that the assignment of the employer came like, if they went to Pecos, I don’t recall how they assigned them to the different employers, I don’t, I can’t recall that specifically.

FC: Do you remember, were the braceros allowed to keep their personal belongings?

FG: Yes.

FC: How do you say, they look in general? The braceros, were they young men or old men?

FG: They were young, and they were older men.

FC: Were they kind of serious or—

FG: They were very eager to work. They were, like I said here in my notes, they were men that were ready to take a challenge, they were ready to venture out, and more than anything, they wanted to be able to help their families in Mexico, and they all, to me, they all had a dream. They all were.

FC: Do you think they looked scared?

FG: I don’t think so.

FC: They were mostly eager to work, that was their main [goal]. All the time, people that you fill the forms for, was their first time or some of them wasn’t the first time at the Rio Vista center, so—

FG: No, most of them was not their first time. As the years went by, maybe like the first year, to me they could have been first, but to them it could have been the second year or third year or...

FC: And all the times they came to the United States, they had to go through the Rio Vista center?

FG: The same process.

FC: So you worked there, you mentioned, from 1954 to 1958 as a clerk-typist, but also, you worked there during the summers. The rest of the year you worked for the El Paso Cotton Association?

FG: The El Paso Cotton Association, I helped out, I assisted in clerical work there.

FC: What was the main role of the El Paso Cotton Association? What was their connection to the bracero program?

FG: They handled a lot of the contracts for the farmers in the surrounding area, in the El Paso area.

FC: El Paso Cotton Association was one of the contractors at the Rio Vista center?

FG: Yes.

FC: And this association covered what area, ma'am?

FG: It covered, I don't recall if it was limited to the El Paso area or it took care of Pecos and other, I don't recall exactly on that.

FC: After that, after working doing clerical work at the El Paso Cotton Association, you mentioned that you moved to the U.S. Department of Labor.

FG: Yes.

FC: This was around what time, ma'am?

FG: Nineteen fifty-eight.

FC: And what was your role there at the U.S. Department of Labor?

FG: I was again doing clerical work.

FC: What was it they do?

FG: We handled the inspections of the units of the braceros that were working out in Pecos or the El Paso Cotton Association, which was the El Paso area, Monahans, all the surrounding areas in the southwest that had bracero programs. As Department of Labor, our job was to oversee that those contracts that the employers signed were being met, whether it was through housing, through medical care, through other things that were specified in the contract. We were always checking to see that they were met. We checked for dishonest employers, to see that they were not exploiting any workers, and at anytime that we did find anything that was not being met, an investigation was made. We helped the braceros, we covered their lost wages, their benefits, and follow through to see that nothing was in violation, serious violation, for the contracts needed to be terminated.

FC: That was defined for the employer, if you found that they didn't actually meet all the requirements, their contracts were—

FG: They could, in other words, if an employer was found to be violating a contract, and it was a serious violation that could not be remedied, or taken care of, or there was back wages they needed to pay, or there's anything else that was serious and could not be taken care of, the contract for that employer could be terminated where they could not hire anymore braceros.

FC: What was the main things that the inspectors of the U.S. Department of Labor had to check? You mentioned wages, living conditions as well, were there any minimum requirements, like for the living conditions?

FG: Yes, they would check to see if they had screens in their doors, that they had water inside, that there were bathrooms, all of these general needs that were specified in the contract, that's what they were checking for.

FC: Okay, what about the minimum wage?

FG: They checked on wages, very closely on that, to see that they were being paid, and if there were any wages lost, they would see that they were recovered.

FC: What was the minimum wage back then?

FG: I believe at that time, it was 60¢ for Texas, per hour.

FC: Okay, what about the number of hours they were supposed to work at the field? Was there minimum or maximum number of hours that they—

FG: I don't, I cannot really say they had—they would, you know, we knew that this man was willing to work over there eight hours, but I don't know if the contract specified that or not.

FC: What about medical services? Was the contractor supposed to provide any kind of attention?

FG: Yes, they had medical care they had to—

FC: And what about the inspectors? They were supposed to be there, the inspections, doing randomly, I assume, and could be, how often would that inspection happen?

FG: The inspectors were out, like I said, every day of the week, but they would, I don't know whether they were assigned the area or they came back according to the length of the contract. If they were going to be six months there, they might check on them every two months, or every three months, or if need be, every month, but not necessarily because of the number of other contractors or employers that were in the areas.

FC: Did the employers knew in advance that the inspectors were coming to check the—

FG: Sometimes they did, other times they didn't, depending on what they were looking for.

- FC: Okay, perfect. You said if they found any dishonest employers or if some of the conditions were not the required ones, an investigation was made. Did they, inspectors talk to [employers] or how was—
- FG: The inspectors would talk to employers, they were notified as to what the findings were, and they were given, in writing, what they had to do to correct any deficiencies found during the inspections or check into the contracts. They were notified, they were given so much time to take care of it, and then our inspectors go back and follow up on those deficiencies that were determined at the time of the inspection.
- FC: And what about it they hadn't kept up with the braceros or person living in the community in order to, you know, to find out if they working.
- FG: They met with the braceros, talked to them, they would follow up to see whatever the contract was, if it was met, not only the side of the employer, they were also taking care of the bracero themselves. They would talk to them, they would check their housing and their living conditions, they would physically go and check.
- FC: And besides checking their working and living conditions, were the inspectors of the U.S. Department of Labor, did they require the braceros to show their papers, to show that they were working legally?
- FG: No, they knew. The inspector knew how many workers the employer had, who the workers were, and so it was not a matter of having someone that was not the person. The employers knew that immigration was constantly checking on places of employment. They knew exactly where the braceros were supposed to be, and that was on a regular basis, immigration was—
- FC: Was very often, so they did the—



FG: The checking. We knew this because our inspectors would come back and say, you know, "Immigration was there, and they came and followed through." It would seem like sometimes they would run into the immigration and—

FC: And the U.S. Department of Labor.

FG: Which is, what, Border Patrol? Is it that the one that goes into the—

FC: Even sometimes they would work together, I mean, at the same place.

FG: One was doing an inspection of contracts, the other was checking to see that these were legal workers.

FC: During that time, in general, the contractors met the requirements or the inspectors had, like, several problems?

FG: No, I think most of them were meeting their—

FC: The requirements.

FG: Their contracts.

FC: And you said, if there were minor things they can correct, and some deficiencies that were not that important would the inspector ask them to correct that? Were there any limit to times they could have these minor deficiencies?

FG: Yes, because the inspector would go back the following week, I mean, it was not a matter of giving them thirty or sixty days, it was a matter of weeks. A week, and they would be back, and that needed to be taken care of. Employees many times would call us, a day or two days later, and say, "It's already corrected, you don't need to wait the time, you can come and inspect." We would send an inspector right back and—

FC: So he can check. What about the relations between the U.S. Department of Labor and the Mexican government? Was there any kind of job relationship, like the

Mexican government also wanted to take the lead in the working conditions of the—

FG: I have no idea; I am not familiar with that.

FC: Did anytime during the years you worked for Rio Vista, the El Paso Cotton Association, and the U.S. Department of Labor, did the braceros cause any problems while working at the United States?

FG: I don't recall any.

FC: What about any incidents with the braceros, not necessarily good or bad, just accidents?

FG: Our inspectors would also check if there were any injuries or accidents, I mean, that is one thing that they would make sure that that was followed through. I don't remember what exactly process they did, but I know that they looked into it, whether it was reported to another department or our inspectors looked for injuries, to see they were getting the medical attention that was part of the inspections.

FC: Were they, the employers, supposed to have any kind of medical attention there, at the place, at the farm, or near the cities, or did they have to report to the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor would take care of it?

FG: What?

FC: Let's suppose, they were supposed to have medical attention there, at the place, at the farm or did they have to report it to the U.S. Department of Labor, and then they will take care of it?

FG: I believe it was already understood that the employer knew what to do in case of a medical incident or emergency, whether they took them to the facilities around there or whether they were at the job site, I don't know specific.

FC: Let's say an accident happened, and the employer took care of it, everything was okay, but still he had to report that accident to the U.S. Department of Labor?

FG: I don't, I can't recall how our inspectors found this out or how that was reported. I don't recall.

FC: We talked about the wages of the braceros working there. What about your wages working for the Rio Vista, El Paso Cotton, and the U.S. Department of Labor. In an average, how much did you make? But it was paid with check, right?

FG: Yes, because see we were working for the, it was government jobs, so I don't recall what the pay was at that time.

FC: During the time you worked at the Rio Vista center, the employees were there just for the summer, seasonal workers, or did most of them returned, like every—

FG: Most of them returned.

FC: So, it was most of the time the same people?

FG: The same people working there.

FC: How was the relation between employees at the Rio Vista center? Did you have a good relationship with your fellow [employees]?

FG: We all worked like family, we all got to know each other, just joined for coffee, ten o'clock breaks. (laughs)

FC: Oh, you had breaks during the day, because it was—

FG: Um-hm.

FC: Were you supposed to speak Spanish? Was it a requirement?

FG: I would say yes, because most of our questioning was in Spanish. Whoever had to work there had to know Spanish, be fluent.

FC: You speak Spanish at that time?

FG: Yes, uh-huh.

FC: How did you become familiar with Spanish?

FG: My parents, at home. (laughs)

FC: What about the braceros, were they friendly between them, with the employees at the Rio Vista center?

FG: I think they were all made to feel at home. I don't believe that I ever saw a bracero feeling out of place, at least that was my concept, that's what I felt, that it was like a family. They were all very respectful, I mean, I never saw anybody being disrespectful, you know, the bracero with the employee, or the employee with the bracero.

FC: And what about among them? When they arrive in groups, let's say from the same city, or even, you know, relatives, were they able to stay together?

FG: Most of them. Most got together, they congregated in different groups, and you knew that this group was going to an area that was assigned, and they were together.

FC: You said sometimes they spent the night, right there at the Rio Vista center. How would you describe the buildings for me? The Rio Vista center, how did it work? Like, they had buildings of the—

FG: They had cots, I remember those cots, and they were barrack building type.

FC: Next to the buildings that you work?

FG: Yes, and the staying overnight was very limited, because most of them, as they arrived at the center, the processing was as fast as they could, and they already had the transportation available to send them out.

FC: So most of them didn't spend the night?

FG: Um-hm.

FC: And if they did, was it for a day?

FG: Maybe a day.

FC: Two?

FG: A lot, two days.

FC: Let's say you worked there your shift, what if they close, the shift was over, and there were still people standing in line?

FG: No, we had to work right through, that's why I say we sometimes had twelve hour days.

FC: So probably was up until the last bracero was processed.

FG: Um-hm.

FC: Okay. And once the braceros, you said they would first to Chihuahua.

FG: They would arrive in Chihuahua, and from Chihuahua to Juárez, and from Juárez to El Paso.

FC: How did the Rio Vista was prepared, like, the same number of braceros arriving every day or did you have an idea of how many people was going to be at the center that day? Let's suppose, you—

FG: Okay, I don't think that I knew exactly what was going to [happen], because there were others, supervisors—

FC: Yes, but did the supervisors have an idea of how many people?

FG: I believe so.

FC: What was the busiest time of day or was it the same?

FG: It was the same.

FC: So, how was the place you worked at when you [were a] clerk-typist at the Rio Vista center? Was it a room? How were the offices?

FG: I just recall a long room, barrack type, a lot of desks, and men standing right in front of you, lines of men standing while you're processing.

FC: Oh, you would do them at your desk, the line of men?

FG: Um-hm.

FC: Were they supposed to sign any kind of documents?

FG: Yes, you asked questions, and they reviewed whatever paperwork, they were signing papers.

FC: Have you ever found a person who was not able to read or write at that time?

FG: Yes.

FC: In which case, how did they?

FG: We had translators, well, we had to translate the whole contract, whatever they were signing at the time.

FC: You say you don't remember any, what about any anecdote from that time, from the braceros in general?

FG: I can't.

FC: Because they were there almost all day, did they talk?

FG: Some were singing, a group would have a guitar, and they would get together, and they would sing. They would say jokes. Some of them were very friendly. Some

of them wanted to talk to you and tell you about their family back in Mexico or give you stories.

FC: Oh, they actually wanted to share?

FG: They did. You would see a group of men coming together, congregating, visiting, laughing, talking, singing, I mean, it was just an ongoing thing. Or you could see that they were very lonely and very, I guess, sad, because they left behind maybe for the first time. Sometime you could see them like—

FC: They didn't know what was going on.

FG: Like, "Where am I going?" I mean, "How's this going to end?" It was just a variety of people there.

FC: What about the ones that you say, some of them, it wasn't their first time as braceros? Did they ask to go to the same place?

FG: Yes, definitely. Some of them made lasting friendship with their employers or worked well, but they wanted to go back to the same town or same farm.

FC: Were you able to do it?

FG: Yes, and that went through, like if they went through the El Paso Cotton Association, they already knew what employers needed what workers, so some of them were able to go back.

FC: Let's say the employer knows they are going to come back, why did they go back to Mexico, because their contract was ended?

FG: Their contract expired.

FC: Or some of them went for vacation? Have you heard?

FG: No, it was mostly because their contract ended.

FC: What about the holidays? Did you have braceros during the winter, during the summer, that time of year?

FG: I think there were some of them that were working during the Christmas holidays or whatever, of course, I'm sure they were not working on the twenty-fourth, because their employers is not going to be watching them, or the twenty-fifth, but some that were too far, that were coming from very far places in Mexico, had to stay here.

FC: But the Rio Vista center was open during that time, during the winter? All year-round, was it open?

FG: Yes.

FC: So, I would like to know some personal opinions you have of this. What do you think were the effects of the bracero program, here on the United States?

FG: I believe that they were helping the economy of this country, as well as the business community with their buying power.

FC: What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of having the bracero program?

FG: The advantages I saw is that they kept the agricultural business thriving, and because we were at that time in need of that help, and these workers were eager and ready to go to work, so they helped our economy.

FC: Were they aware of the war situation going on in the United States? Did the braceros?

FG: I'm sure they were, yes.

FC: Do you think the bracero program should be revived?



FG: I believe so, I think so, if we really want the agriculture, specially, to go back and to do well, I believe we need these men, because, like I said before, they were the ones that kept our agricultural afloat and not let it die.

FC: Is there any final comment that you would like to do? Something you would like to add.

FG: What I said before, and what I saw, many of them became our friends. They left the United States *con un abrazo, que Dios los bendiga, y hasta pronto*, and the same men were the ones who came back year after year, and establish good working relations and lasting friendship.

FC: I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to interview you and to share all of your memories with us. Thank you very much.

FG: Thank you, I enjoyed this.

**End of interview**