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Interview no. 1587

Armando F. Salinas

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Armando F. Salinas

Interviewer: Mireya Loza

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: Oxnard, California

Date of Interview: August 8, 200

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Transcript No.: 1587

Transcriber: Mayra L. Avila

Armando F. Salinas was born in El Paso, Texas; he explains that he grew up in Oxnard, California because of the economic opportunities available to his family; his dad worked the fields, for the Housing Authority, and eventually opened a house repair business; Mr. Salinas began working in the fields at a young age, he picked strawberries and apricots during the summer, he was paid a dollar an hour and all his earnings were given to his parents except for five dollars; in his early teens he began seeing braceros besides family pickers in the fields; he explains that ten men would rent one room and they slept in cots; he describes their food as burritos and chips; he points out that braceros did the work American workers did not want to do such as ladder work; he explains that exploitation did occur, managers would call immigration in order to avoid paying illegal workers; he also recalls seeing braceros in the local bars and points out that prostitution was prevalent; he explains that local Anglos could not tell the difference between braceros and Mexicans; additionally, he remembers seeing Japanese labor camps but never seeing them around town; he concludes by stating that the program never left but decreased in numbers because of machinery.

Length of Interview 52 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a