

1-5-2008

Interview no. 1600

Agustin Diaz Roldan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Labor History Commons](#), and the [Oral History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Interview with Agustin Diaz Roldan by Alma Carrillo, 2008, "Interview no. 1600," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at ScholarWorks@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Augustin Diaz Roldan

Interviewer: Alma Carrillo

Project: Bracero Oral History Project

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Date of Interview: January 5, 2008

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1600

Transcriber / Summary: Mayra L. Avila

Augustin Diaz Roldan was born in Mexico City, Mexico in 1932; he explains that he owned and operated a meat market but left as a bracero because he was told he would not, he was contracted in Chihuahua and worked in Las Cruces, New Mexico picking cotton; he states that he rotated working in Imperial Valley, Phoenix, Arizona, and Salinas, California from 1954-1960, renewing his contract eighteen months at a time with the same farm company, he picked cotton, lettuce, tomatoes, chilly, asparagus, and strawberries; he also worked as a cook for the farmers, he remembers men were given three meals with lunch being delivered to the fields, they were charged \$1.75 a day for all three meals, he would work seven days a week; he recalls in detail the procedure he went through to become a bracero; he used oil and dirt to make his hands look rough, during his health check they were examined and disinfected, it took him three days to get a contract and he had to rent a hotel; he explains that for fun men would play sports, go to the bar or movies, and that prostitution was everywhere, and that women would even go to the barracks; he also details how men got food poisoning from a can of chilies that had been dented open; additionally he recalls an accident that occurred that killed seventeen braceros burning them unrecognizable and injured many others; he concludes by explaining that he was not aware of the ten percent deduction, he holds Mexico responsible, and he has filled out his paperwork; to him a bracero is not an immigrant but help, help that the United States still needs.

Length of interview 92 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a