

3-27-1998

Interview no. 1662

Roberto Flores

Pedro Flores

Romelia Flores

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Roberto, Pedro & Romelia Flores

Interviewer: Dr. Monica Perales

Project: Smelertown Oral History Project

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: March 27, 1998

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Transcript No.: 1662

Transcriber / Summary: Vanessa Pantoja

Mrs. Flores was born and raised in Smelertown, her husband was a resident as well. She describes the lead poisoning problem, which Mrs. Flores believes was an attack against ASARCO. Their daughter was diagnosed with lead poisoning and had to seek medical treatment. Both family members remember there being smoke and pollution but did not see it as a risk because none of them suffered any illnesses. Mrs. Flores also describes healthy children and recalls being healthy, she is very skeptical of the lead poisoning cases. She also discusses the community being skeptical of poisoning. Flores discusses her daughter being healthy and a large baby and still questions her being sick. Her daughter did receive a check until she was 18. Mr. and Mrs. Flores discuss their love of Smelertown and did not want to move, but they were being forced out by ASARCO. They would still be living there if they were not forced out. They discuss the everyday life of ASARCO and Smelertown where Mrs. Flores would make food with her family. The Flores family was then joined by Mrs. Flores' brothers who still worked at ASARCO. They are not being provided safety equipment, they also have better pay and a good insurance. Mrs. Flores describes how the town has changed over time but Mrs. Flores still keeps in touch with those she grew up with. She feels that Smelertown is still alive.

Length of interview 71 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a