

6-21-2016

Interview no. 1706

Alicia Marentes

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



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Interview with Alicia Marentes by Yolanda Chávez Leyva, 2016, "Interview no. 1706," 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: Alicia Marentes

Interviewer: Yolanda Chávez Leyva

Project: Latina Leaders El Paso

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: June 21, 2016

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1706

Transcriber: Andrea Santos

Summary of Interview:

Alicia was born in Ciudad Juarez Chihuahua, Mexico. When Alicia was 16 years old she got married and crossed the border thru the river and head to Albuquerque, New Mexico with his husband. As a young immigrant she couldn't get a job so she started cleaning houses and her first cleaning job was at a Doctors house. With the money that she earned she saved a portion every month and used to send it to her mother back in Juarez.

Alicia then moved back to Juarez while his husband went and worked in Los Angeles. After a couple of moths her husband came back and moved back again to Albuquerque with him, during this period of time Alicia was pregnant with her first child. Once in Albuquerque the border patrol went and knocks on her neighbor's door when she was there drinking coffee. They started asking them questions and were undecided of taking Alicia because she was pregnant, the border patrol decided to let her stay in Albuquerque because she was very young and pregnant. Once she gave birth to her baby, Alicia and her husband went back to Juarez and lived there for a year. While in Juarez Carlos Alicia's husband worked in a newspaper from 6 pm to 6 am and they didn't see him that much. Alicia got tired of not seeing her husband so she decided to go to the Consulate and ask what she needed to make her baby a US citizen. After 15 days they all got her citizenship and went back to Albuquerque and Alicia had a second baby.

After a couple of years they moved to El Paso and joined a committee who then evolved into an organization to help agricultural workers, during this time they already had three children. While on the organization, Alicia helped organized the food and transportation in protests. After a couple of years the organization started focusing in different things, but always to help workers. They also started including the Bracero Project. Alicia felt a great satisfaction by being able to help many workers with very little resources.

When Alicia was asked if she felt like she was a leader, she describe herself as a person who helped many people because she wanted to and because she did it by heart. Alicia thinks that you should do everything by heart without expecting something in return. All of the workers saw Alicia as family, because they were able to talked to her about everything and felt a close connection with her and her experiences.

Alicia mentioned during her interview that education is very important for her, but she says that sometimes education is not needed to succeed in life and she sees herself as an example. Alicia mentioned that back in the day it was very difficult to get an education and now a day you receive more help if you want to study. Her children got scholarships and went to college, while talking about college Alicia mentioned that it doesn't matter if you are a men or woman you can always receive an education no matter what and that back in the day no one used to finished their education.

Alicia feels that she really got to accomplish everything she wanted to in her life without having an education and she want to continue helping workers fight for their rights.

Length of interview 48:03

Length of Transcript n/a