

6-1-2019

Interview no. 1714

Cecilia Marquez

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Recommended Citation

Interview with Cecilia Marquez by Alex Garcia, 2019, "Interview no. 1714," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Cecilia Marquez

Interviewer: Alex Garcia

Project: Asarco Project

Location: El Paso, Texas

Date of Interview: June 1, 2019

Terms of Use: Unrestricted

Transcript No.: 1714

Transcriber: Andrea Santos

Summary of Interview:

Cecilia Flores Marquez was born in April 11, 1945 and she grew up in Smelter Town. Her father worked in Asarco for 44 years and her mother worked in JCPenny for 11 years. Everyone in Smelter Town lived a happy life and everyone knew everyone. Back in the day the houses weren't in condition like they are now. Cecilia Also mentioned that her family and her went to a church named Cristo Rey Church one thing that she remember was that almost everyone in Smelter Town went to church with their kids.

Cecilia went to an elementary and middle school there in Smelter Town, but once she got to High School she started attending El Paso Tech High School and during her free time she played baseball with a team she made up with her friends, but soon she had to quit because she got married. The first years of her marriage she lived in a small house in Smelter Town. The house was across from the church she used to go when she was a kid. When she turned 24 years her and her husband bought a house in El Paso and moved out of Smelter Town.

Some of Cecilia's relatives were buried in the Smelter Town cemetery. This cemetery was not exactly in Smelter town but people in Smelter town consider it like it was theirs.

Some memories that Cecilia has of his father working at Asarco was that she used to wash his working clothes because they didn't have uniforms in Asarco. A few years pass and they were given uniforms and that was when Cecilia remembers that all the people started getting sick. One of the persons that got sick was Cecilia's father who latter passed away from lung cancer. Cecilia thinks that Asarco caused his father's lung cancer.

Cecilia also talked about how people in Smelter Town didn't really left Smelter Town; they used to stay they forever and sometimes they used to visit scenic drive or just drive around

El Paso. In Smelter Town there was only a postal office, 3 bars and maybe a grocery store, but she doesn't remember it.

Length of interview 31:19

Length of Transcript n/a